

Conference Paper

UNICEF's Role in CPAP 2018-2022 To Combat Child Trafficking in India

Megahnanda Alidyan Kresnawati *, Faradillah Isnaeni Putri

Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Jawa Timur, 60294, Indonesia

*Corresponding author:

E-mail:

megahnanda.hi@upnjatim.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Child trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, smuggling, transfer, and receipt of children to exploit them through deception, violence, and coercion. Child trafficking is a violation of the rights and welfare of children, as well as denying them the opportunity to reach their full potential during their lifetime. International organizations exist to serve the needs of a nation with a specific issue. UNICEF is an international organization that focuses on upholding the rights of children around the world, especially those unfortunate enough to experience violence, discrimination, disease, and poverty. By presenting a 5-year program, the *Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) 2018-2022*, UNICEF is here to solve the problem of child trafficking in India.

Keywords: UNICEF, child trafficking, India, CPAP

Introduction

Child trafficking is a form of violence that occurs when children under the age of 18 are sold and can have long-term negative impacts. Child trafficking takes the form of recruiting, transporting, smuggling, transferring, and receiving children with the intent to exploit them through deception, violence, and even coercion. Children's rights and well-being are violated by child trafficking, which prevents them from growing up and realizing their full potential (UNICEF, n.d.).

India is one of the fastest industrializing countries in the world and is located in South Asia. India is home to children suffering from malnutrition and other humanitarian issues despite its industrial development. The World Bank estimates that there are more people in India living in severe poverty than before the 2019 pandemic, with an average monthly income of US\$1.9 or even less (HindustanTimes, 2022).

Many problems that violate the rights of Indian children result from this, and many parents choose to employ their children in this sector in the hope that they will have a more comfortable life afterward. However, the young children who will be employed end up becoming simple prey for traffickers who want to exploit them through child labor, sexual exploitation, and other means. The parents of these children themselves often sell them because their needs are not being met financially. Children in India are becoming more vulnerable to incidents of child trafficking as a result.

Human trafficking, especially of children, occurs not only within national borders but also beyond. This crime is now classified as a transnational crime because it involves many countries, including countries of origin, transit countries, and destination countries. Human trafficking has a global footprint and extensive international networks, which adds to its complexity.

UNICEF is an international organization that focuses on upholding the rights of children around the world, especially those unfortunate enough to experience violence, discrimination, disease, and poverty. As in India, a country that needs special attention to address child rights

How to cite:

Kresnawati, M. A., & Putri, F. I. (2023). UNICEF's role in CPAP 2018-2022 to combat child trafficking in India. *International Relations on Indonesian Foreign Policy Conference 2022*. NST Proceedings. pages 38-45. doi: 10.11594/nstp.2023.3406

issues in India, UNICEF plans and implements country-specific humanitarian programs for child rights in collaboration with governments in different regions of the world.

In India, there were more cases of child trafficking in 2018. The 2018 Global Slavery Index estimates that there were 7,989,000 slaves in India or 6.1 slaves per 1000 people. This makes child trafficking cases in India the second largest organized crime in India, which is quite a large number (GlobalSlaveryIndex, 2018).

Table 1. Child trafficking in India 2014-2018

No.	Child Trafficking in India	Child Trafficking in 2014	Child Trafficking in 2015	Child Trafficking in 2016	Child Trafficking in 2017	Child Trafficking in 2018
1.	States	93	372	669	415	536
2.	Union Territories	3	158	94	323	506
Total		96	530	763	738	1042

According to a data table from the *National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) (2019)*, child trafficking cases in India are increasing year by year (UNICEF, India Country Programme Action Plan 2018-2022, 2022). Although there has been a decrease, the figure is quite small compared to the increase in child trafficking itself.

The researcher wanted to take a deeper look at "UNICEF's Role In CPAP 2018-2022 To Combat Child Trafficking in India", as it saw a higher spike in numbers in 2018 and also coincided with the release of the CPAP in 2018-2022.

Material and Methods

To describe UNICEF as an international organization dealing with child trafficking cases in India, researchers use descriptive research to characterize the subject and object of research as a whole through data sources collected from the literature used in this study. While the analysis technique used is a qualitative analysis technique, which in this situation is expressed in verbal form or words, based on existing facts, which will then be correlated with each other to conclude the research.

Results and Discussion

According to the explanation Clive Archer in his book *International Organizations* explains that every activity carried out by international organizations is used as a benchmark to make it easier to classify international organizations, Archer also explains that international organizations have their roles that are carried out in the functions and systems that exist in international organizations. Archer explains that there are three important role concepts carried out by international organizations, namely instruments, arenas, and actors (Archer, 2001).

The first role of an international organization is as an instrument, serving as a place for its member states to implement the goals they each bring to the organization. To implement a chosen policy, states will use the international organization as a standard. To understand an issue or problem that is worthy of attention and by the goals of each member state of the international organization, the international organization is also a mechanism used to equalize the goals and viewpoints of its member states (Archer, 2001).

The second role, the organization as an arena, is that international organizations serve as a forum for member states to create a forum to discuss and debate issues related to the problems of the member states of the international organization. Its role, the international organization also acts as a bridge between its member states and other international organizations, national organizations, governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have the same goal

in dealing with child trafficking cases. Through communication and collaboration on the issues raised, international organizations will be able to issue international policies that are anticipated to solve the problems faced by their member states. The role of international organizations as arenas also acts as a place to propose the opinions of its member states and can also be a diplomatic tool for the policies of its member states (Archer, 2001).

The final role of an international organization is that of an actor, where the organization has the authority to act for the purposes for which it was formed without being affected by power or coercion from outside the organization itself. As independent actors, international organizations are free to make decisions without being influenced by dominant external forces. Thus, international organizations can decide or offer advice neutrally without being influenced by the interests of other parties (Archer, 2001).

Concept of child trafficking

Human trafficking is a crime that mostly affects adults, it may also involve serious brutality and horrific treatment of children and young people. Children and adolescents are targeted by human traffickers due to their immaturity, inability to protect themselves, and difficulty in contacting support networks (Mortinho, 2020).

Child trafficking is the act of recruiting, coercing, transferring, harboring, and even receiving children under the age of 18 for exploitation. It violates their rights, endangers their well-being, and prevents them from having the opportunity to realize their full potential as children (UNICEF, n.d.).

Country Program Action Plan (CPAP) 2018-2022

The CPAP 2018-2022 is intended to support national flagship programs and targets to enable all children in India, particularly the disadvantaged and marginalized to have their rights fulfilled incrementally and develop to their full potential in an inclusive and protective society (UNICEF, India Country Programme Action Plan 2018-2022, 2022). There are eight programmes in the CPAP 2018-2022 that are expected to address these issues, including *Reduction of Child and Maternal Mortality* which aims to ensure that pregnant women, newborns, children and adolescents in UNICEF programme states have equitable access to and use quality health services at all levels, with a focus on marginalized groups, *Reduction of Undernutrition in Children and Adolescent Girls* by prioritizing the reduction of stunting and wasting in children under 2 years of age, as well as malnutrition in adolescent girls and women before, during and after pregnancy, *Safe and Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services* aims to support national flagship programs, including the *Clean India Mission* to eliminate open defecation, *WASH in schools* initiatives, including for preschools, health facility programs and rural water supply programs, *All Girls and Boys Learn* aims to strengthen the efforts of the Government of India to ensure that all children can enjoy quality education and learning, *Protection of Children from Violence, Abuse and Exploitation* aims to support the Government of India in strengthening child protection systems with governance and monitoring and effective implementation of legislation, national program policies, strengthening prevention strategies and response mechanisms through support to improve budget systems, etc., *Inclusive Social Policy* which will focus on support for guidelines and systems that ensure all children, especially the most disadvantaged and marginalized, gradually benefit from effective and inclusive social services and social protection systems, *Public and Private Sector Engagement for Child Rights* which is aimed at increasing public and private sector knowledge on the impact of business policies on children as well as society, and to promote responsible business practices, *Program Effectiveness* which aims to ensure that the CPAP 2018-2022, is efficiently designed, monitored, managed and supported. The CPAP 2018-2022 is aligned with the national targets set by the Government of India.

UNICEF's role as an instrument in CPAP 2018-2022

The role of the *instrument* in the *Reduction of Child and Maternal Mortality* program, the CPAP 2018-2022 itself, with UNICEF's engagement and collaboration with the Government of India in policy advocacy and dialogue on the unfinished agenda of *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs) 4 and 5 on maternal and child health and child health, can be seen as instrumental in reducing child and maternal mortality. Contextual support is also provided by UNICEF for maternal and child health programs in line with the *National Health Strategy, National RMNCH+A Strategy, and India Newborn Action Plan* (INAP). UNICEF advocacy and technical assistance to improve access to high-quality maternal and child health services, emphasizing the value of skilled labor and newborn health. Prevention and treatment of diarrhea, malaria, pneumonia, and HIV/AIDS are carried out with immunization, treatment of birth defects, and other therapies. In addition, UNICEF works to ensure that health insurance is in line with SDG No. 3 and calls for increased public investment in health.

For the *Reduction of Undernutrition in Children and Adolescent Girls* program, to strengthen multi-sectoral governance and coordination in the implementation of maternal, adolescent, and child nutrition policies and programs through nutrition, WASH, poverty alleviation, and health response programs, UNICEF as an *instrument* supports the *National and State Nutrition Missions, Anganwadi Services, The National Health Mission, and Rashtriya Kishor Swashtya Karyakram* (RKSK), which are expected to improve nutrition coordination and offer targeted interventions in nutrition health programs in India, will all receive dedicated support from UNICEF.

The Safe and Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services program shows that UNICEF's role as an *instrument* is to support programs converging with nutrition to reduce stunting, WASH services in Anganwadi, *WASH in Health* to ensure child survival and reduce sepsis, WASH programs in schools, including menstrual hygiene management, to improve educational outcomes, especially for adolescent girls, and strengthen community resilience through water and sanitation.

As an international organization, UNICEF supports the Government of India in monitoring, budgeting, implementation, and planning by generating and using data and evidence to reach hard-to-reach children through improved coordination and multi-stakeholder engagement. This support is seen as UNICEF's role as an *instrument* in the *All Girls and Boys Learn* program. To improve early childhood care, nutrition, education, and school readiness and to ensure that all children receive a quality education, UNICEF is also promoting collaboration between the Ministries of Women and Child Development and Human Resource Development in India. The Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Human Resource Development will organize convergence and coordination to address adolescent girls' health issues. For the early childhood education sector, UNICEF is also promoting innovation and *e-learning* systems.

By assisting the Government of India's information system in producing and using data on child protection and other performance issues, UNICEF acts as an *instrument* in the fifth program *Protection of Children from Violence, Abuse, and Exploitation*. UNICEF also supports the improvement of public finance systems, such as costing and financing models, financial performance evaluation, and better budget planning and monitoring, for the implementation of child protection laws and policies. UNICEF played a key role in scaling up assistance to the *Ministry of Women and Child Development* (MWCD) for the implementation of the *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* and *Mahila Shakti Kendra* programs and assisted in the development of a national action plan to end child marriage.

The objective of UNICEF's *instrument* under the *Inclusive Social Policy* program is to support policies and systems that promote public funding for children, youth, and women to increase investments in policy implementation supported by efficient monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Using high-quality data for better governance and accountability and ensuring the participation of women and youth, support and strengthen national and decentralized systems for planning, implementing, and delivering social services for children as well as local governance

structures and *Panchayat Raj* Institutions. Support the *Data for Development Coordination Committee* for SDGs as one way to improve the Indian government's ability to track and assess progress towards the SDGs. To ensure that social services and protection reach the most vulnerable and marginalized people, UNICEF is assisting countries with strengthening civil registration and statistical systems and single registration systems.

UNICEF promotes increased collaboration between the public and commercial sectors as a tool under the *Public and Private Sector Engagement for Child Rights* program through synergistic methods and the provision of financial and non-financial resources. Here UNICEF as a tool becomes an actor that encourages collaboration between the Government of India and the public and commercial sectors to champion the rights of children in India and to assist in the immediate resolution of issues that violate these rights.

For the last program, *Programme Effectiveness*, UNICEF acts as a tool in this regard, helping to monitor and support the smooth implementation of CPAP 2018-2022. In addition, UNICEF offers cross-cutting support for all program components and coordination, social and behavior change communication, external and internal communication, advocacy, strategic positioning, and partnerships, all of which are intended to foster knowledge sharing, facilitate public dialogue and engagement, and foster an enabling environment for the realization of children's rights in India.

UNICEF's Role as Arena in CPAP 2018-2022

As part of its role in the *Reduction of Child and Maternal Mortality* program arena, UNICEF assists the Government of India in its collaboration with organizations such as WHO and *GAVI The Vaccine Alliance* to forecast vaccine demand and identify priority vaccine needs to guide Indian vaccine manufacturers in the manufacture of accessible vaccines. Under the direction of the Government of India, UNICEF also fosters relationships with the private sector, the medical community, bilateral and multilateral organizations, and NGOs. UNICEF acts as a bridge between the Government of India and its partners to address emerging issues in India, in line with its role as an arena.

As part of the *Reduction of Undernutrition in Children and Adolescent Girls* program, UNICEF as an arena is working with the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to support the establishment of a center of excellence in India for the *National Rural Livelihood Mission* (NRLM). The center will offer technical assistance to the Indian government in the form of policies and guidelines, training and monitoring programs, and systems development for improved nutrition services.

In its role as an arena for the *Safe and Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Services* program, UNICEF offers its partners a way to contribute to solving problems in India. UNICEF partners such as civil society, academic institutions, and businesses like Unilever, Johnson & Johnson, and Lixil have raised approximately US\$776 million in donations for WASH facilities, communities, and institutions that benefit children. To implement the hand hygiene policy, UNICEF also works with NGOs for field interventions, WHO, *International Rescue Committee* (IRC), and *WaterAid*. Along with many other partnerships, UNICEF also collaborates on feces management and sanitation with the *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*.

By acting as a liaison between India, *Educate Girls*, and *Action Aid* and leading the mapping of India's out-of-school children in six high-burden states, including Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, UNICEF played an arena role in the *All Girls and Boys Learn* program in 2018.

To strengthen its commitment to child protection reform through dialogue and monitoring of state, regional, and national level policies, UNICEF is working with the Supreme Court of India on the role of the arena in the *Protection of Children from Violence, Abuse, and Exploitation*. To enhance its monitoring or coordination work at the state level and make the best use of the financial resources provided by child protection agencies, UNICEF also works closely with the High Court. By delivering essential services in the areas of health and child protection, UNICEF has reached 12

million adolescents, 70% of whom are girls, in collaboration with government partners and civil society groups. To eliminate harmful information aimed at children in the digital realm, UNICEF is working with MWCD to establish a national advisory board involving corporate sector stakeholders and other partners.

India's Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Rural Development, as well as *Panchayati Raj* and other institutions in India, can be considered as arenas for the *Inclusive Social Policy* program where UNICEF is building partnerships and institutional convergence. In addition, UNICEF is reviewing national and state data collection and monitoring systems in collaboration with the Indian Ministry of Statistics and program implementer *NITI Aayog*. With an emphasis on child statistics and program objectives, UNICEF is also working closely with ministries and state governments.

As the name of the seventh program suggests, *Public and Private Sector Engagement for Child Rights*, UNICEF serves as a forum by working with the public and private sectors to support and advocate for child rights in India.

To increase uptake of social services, encourage positive behaviors, and also promote advocacy for child rights in India, UNICEF as an arena for *Programme Effectiveness* serves as a venue through which cross-sectoral linkages are fostered.

UNICEF's Role as Actor in CPAP 2018-2022

With its role as an actor in the *Reduction of Child and Maternal Mortality program*, UNICEF offers assistance with catalytic programs, promptly identifying the most effective methods to reduce maternal and infant mortality, and publicizing the issue widely. In addition to advancing gender equality, UNICEF concentrates on the health and well-being of girls and marginalized communities. Much attention will be given to closing the gender gap in child survival. Integrated multi-sector initiatives relating to nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, and child protection are also being developed by UNICEF.

As an actor in the *Reduction of Undernutrition in Children and Adolescent Girls* program, UNICEF as a capacity-building organization in health and nutrition and other nutrition-related sectors is important to improve the quality of nutrition-related curricula and educational programs that will focus mainly on complementary feeding of breast milk and nutrition for adolescents, children. As an actor, UNICEF also facilitates the adoption of technology at the national and international levels to support the development of policies, plans, programs, and initiatives based on sound practices. UNICEF will provide acute nutritional restraint care in India to provide comprehensive education on the prevention and treatment of acute nutritional restraint in young children. In addition, UNICEF educates and facilitates innovation and offers courses on nutrition on *e-learning* platforms.

UNICEF's role as an actor in the *Safe and Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services* program, UNICEF assisted in building capacity to implement a district-wide implementation model that considers behavior change and incorporates effective strategies into operational guidelines. The social and behavioral change strategy used by UNICEF, which emphasizes handwashing with soap and toilet use, as well as improving the sustainability of open defecation-free outcomes, was also strengthened. In this initiative, UNICEF uses in-depth data analysis to generate and share evidence to improve country programs' effectiveness.

To fulfill its role as an actor in the *All Girls and Boys Learn* program, UNICEF is working to improve systems that generate reliable data, facilitate the linking of data systems such as *Anganwadi Services* and U-DISE, and generate evidence of gaps in access, participation and learning related to students' transition from primary to secondary school. The creation of more qualified teachers, encouraging supervision and monitoring, and improved evaluation are all services UNICEF offers to key state institutions and civil society organizations in the country to deliver high-quality pre-primary education. To change socio-cultural habits and norms that hinder

children's education, especially girls, children with special needs, and children from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, UNICEF also uses behavior modification tactics.

Concentrating on the *Central Adoption Resource Agency* and other partner support, UNICEF serves as an actor in the *Protection of Children from Violence, Abuse and Exploitation* program by building the capacity of Indian government agencies and service providers to promote parenting standards, prevent family separation, and family and community-based models of care to address child protection issues, including for children without family care. To create demand for youth empowerment and prevention programs and engage youth, parents, and community leaders, UNICEF also aims to strengthen the capacity and expertise of the Indian government and other key stakeholders. In addition, UNICEF created model programs for the prevention of violence against children, with an emphasis on improving parenting techniques and the functioning of community leaders. The programs cover child safety, child exploitation, and child pornography.

By enhancing the Indian government's ability to operationalize social protection systems, especially for children, UNICEF serves as an actor in *Inclusive Social Policy*, assisting in the planning, development, and implementation of research-based programs and policies.

As an actor in the *Public and Private Sector Engagement for Child Rights*, UNICEF is here to strengthen the initiative with targeted businesses and key stakeholders. For *Programme Effectiveness*, UNICEF played an active role in planning and overseeing the CPAP 2018-2022, which allowed it to directly monitor the results of the program and compare them with upcoming UNICEF initiatives.

Conclusion

The problem of child trafficking is influenced by economic issues. Such is the case in India, where poverty is high and the average household income is only US\$1.9 per day. India's high poverty rate forces many children to work to support their families. Targeting young children for exploitation either to be sold for physical labor or even for their organs to be sold on the black market makes these vulnerable children easy prey for traffickers. This has severely violated the rights of children in India, thus necessitating a special focus on the issue of child trafficking. As a global organization focused on empowering children, UNICEF is here to help address the issue of child trafficking in India. To assist the Indian government in addressing child trafficking cases, UNICEF created a 5-year follow-up program known as the CPAP 2018-2022. The CPAP 2018-2022 has eight flagship programs, including *Reduction of Child and Maternal Mortality; Reduction of Undernutrition in Children and Adolescent Girls; Safe and Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Services; All Girls and Boys Learn; Protection of Children from Violence, Abuse, and Exploitation; Inclusive Social Policy; Public and Private Sector Engagement for Child Rights; Programme Effectiveness*. According to Clive Archer's role theory, from the program, it can be observed that UNICEF as a global organization acts as an instrument, arena, and actor. From its role as an instrument, UNICEF serves as an example for India in dealing with child trafficking cases by using existing programs, one of which is CPAP 2018-2022. In its role as an arena, UNICEF will serve as a platform for its member countries to form a forum to address the issue of child trafficking and as a link between India and other groups and NGOs such as *Panchayati Raj, NITI Aayog, Anganwadi Service*, and other institutions in India. In its final role as an actor, UNICEF implements the agreed plan and evaluates its efficacy.

Acknowledgment

My gratitude goes to UPN "VETERAN" East Java, especially for the International Relations study program, and all lecturers and staff for their guidance during college.

References

- Archer, C. (2001). *International organizations: A comparative approach to the management of cooperation*. Greenwood Publishing Group.
- GlobalSlaveryIndex. (2018). *The Global Slavery Index 2018*. Walk Free Foundation.

- HindustanTimes. (2022). India has almost wiped out extreme poverty: International Monetary fund. India. Retrieved from <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-has-almost-wiped-out-extreme-poverty-imf-101649311909782.html>
- Mortinho, G. (2020). *Child trafficking, Comprehensive Needs and Professional Practices: A Systematic Review*. Children and Youth Services Review.
- NCRB. (2019). *Crime in India 2018*. New Delhi: National Crime Records Bureau. Retrieved from <https://ncrb.gov.in/en/crime-india-2018-0>
- UNICEF. (2022). *India Country Programme Action Plan 2018-2022*. UNICEF. Retrieved from <https://sites.unicef.org/about/execboard/files/2017-PL22-India-CPD-ODS-EN.pdf>
- UNICEF. (n.d.). *Child trafficking*. Retrieved from UNICEF USA: <https://www.unicefusa.org/child-trafficking-us#:~:text=Child%20trafficking%20is%20the%20recruitment,for%20the%20purpose%20of%20exploitation>