

# UNFPA-UNICEF Intervention Program to Reduce Child Marriage in Zambia (2016-2019)

**Arta Salesta Br Munthe & Muhammad Farid**  
*President University*

## ABSTRACT

*Child marriage is a prevalent phenomenon in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Zambia is one with the highest rate of child marriages, with 1.7 million child brides. This study investigates the contribution of UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) and UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) to cope with child marriage issues in Zambia through the Global Program to End Child Marriage (GPECM). The writer employs the concept of Human Security as an analytical tool in addressing the risk of child marriage in Zambia. This article next explains the role of UNICEF and UNFPA as international organizations in handling human security cases in Zambia. The final result of the study revealed that UNICEF and UNFPA contributed significantly to handling child marriage cases as a human security issue in Zambia by empowering adolescent girls, advocating for policy, providing assistance to enhance the quality of social services, and creating guidance to address the challenges.*

**Keywords:** *Child Marriage, Human Security, GPECM, UNICEF, UNFPA*

*Perkawinan anak merupakan fenomena umum di negara-negara berkembang, terutama di sub-Sahara Afrika. Zambia adalah salah satu negara dengan tingkat pernikahan anak tertinggi di dunia dengan 1,7 juta pengantin perempuan kategori anak. Studi ini mengkaji kontribusi UNICEF (Dana Anak-Anak Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa) dan UNFPA (Dana Penduduk Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa) dalam mengatasi isu perkawinan anak di Zambia melalui Global Program to End Child Marriage (GPECM). Penulis menggunakan konsep Keamanan Manusia (Human Security) sebagai alat analisis dalam menangani risiko perkawinan anak di Zambia. Penulis selanjutnya menjelaskan peran UNICEF dan UNFPA sebagai organisasi internasional yang berinisiatif menangani kasus keamanan manusia di Zambia. Hasil akhir penelitian mengungkapkan bahwa UNICEF dan UNFPA berkontribusi secara signifikan dalam menangani kasus perkawinan anak sebagai isu keamanan manusia di Zambia dengan memberdayakan anak perempuan, mengadvokasi kebijakan, memberikan bantuan untuk meningkatkan kualitas layanan sosial, dan membuat panduan penanganan khusus atas kasus tersebut.*

**Kata-kata Kunci:** *Pernikahan Anak di Zambia, Keamanan Manusia, GPECM, UNICEF, UNFPA*

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Child marriage is a practice where a teenager under 18 marries an adult or another teenager, often before they are physically, physiologically, and psychologically ready for marriage (Walker 2013). This form of marriage is usually referred to as “early and forced,” as young girls are often unable to make independent decisions about their partners. Child marriage violates human rights, negatively impacting children’s education, health, and mortality. Pregnant girls tend to be socially avoided and dismissed from school, which is also particularly harmful to their mental health (Josse 2010).

Zambia ranks 16<sup>th</sup> globally in child marriages, with 1.7 million child brides (Reid 2022). An estimated 38 maternal deaths occur monthly due to pregnancy and delivery issues, with over half being teenage mothers (Girls Not Brides 2015). Children’s lack of educational options makes it challenging to prevent early marriage (Yowela 2016). In 2016, the Zambian Ministry of Gender and Child Development issued a five-year National Action Plan to End Child Marriage to reduce rates and promote prevention (UNICEF 2018). However, Zambia’s dualistic legal system, involving both statutory and customary law, makes it an inadequate solution (UNFPA & UNICEF 2017). Considering Zambia’s insufficient efforts, the country prioritizes releasing the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (GPECM) in Zambia in 2016.

Early marriage is a significant issue in Zambia, harming children and violating their rights (Nyamanhindi & Mukoyi 2023). To address this issue, researchers suggest collaborating with the government and NGOs, providing funds for girls’ education, and educating the community about the risks and consequences of early marriage (Phiri 2020). Additionally, collaborations with the commercial sector, NGOs, media, and women’s organizations can accelerate Zambia’s efforts to reduce child marriage rates (Ahmed 2015).

This paper will discuss the intervention of international organizations to deal with human security issues, especially in the child marriage case in Zambia, which highlights the role of UNFPA and UNICEF through the UNICEF-UNFPA GPECM. This program aims to reduce child marriage from 2016 to 2030. In this case, this paper takes a research time frame during the program’s first phase, which commenced in 2016 and was completed in 2019.

## Human Security

In the post-Cold War period, the military was regarded as a critical national and international security priority due to concerns about involvement in international conflicts or terrorism (Amonson 2018). However, in the post-Cold War era, many experts also stated that the concept of international security was broadened to include political, economic, social, and environmental aspects (Baylis et al. 2017). In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the focus of state security has shifted to human security, highlighting society's vulnerability, which needs protection from violence and injustice (Öjendal & Stern 2010). Baylis et al. (2017) state that human security is "the security of peoples, including physical safety, economic and social well-being, respect for their dignity, and protection of human rights."

Amartya Sen, winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, has several theories on the connection between human security, gender equality, and development. According to Sen (1999), threats to human life are not just military warfare, civil war, or persecution but also several issues with public health, such as the development of diseases like malaria and AIDS. In the book *Development as Freedom*, Sen (1999) emphasizes that development is a process to achieve true freedom. Sen (2000) added that development is a process to achieve genuine freedom in his book titled *Growth as Freedom*. In this instance, enhancing political and civil rights is a better indicator of actual freedom than GNP (Gross National Product) development (Dwiastuti et al. 2022). Sen (2000) highlights the necessity of employing women as agents of social change to raise both men's and women's living standards. Therefore, women's social status must be raised through empowerment, which includes allowing them to work outside the house, generate their own money, acquire ownership rights, pursue an education, and participate in family and community decision-making (Dwiastuti et al. 2022).

Human security is the belief that everyone, particularly the vulnerable, has the right to be free from fear and hunger, utilize all their rights, and achieve their full potential (UNDP 1994). In today's society, most cases are internal, making individuals uncomfortable. According to UNDP (1994), there are seven components of human security that must be addressed: (1) economic security, individuals are free from poverty and are guaranteed the fulfillment of life's needs; (2) food security,

individuals have accessibility to food resources; (3) health security, individuals receive healthcare services and protected from disease; (4) environmental security, individuals are protected from air and environmental pollution and have access to clean water and air; (5) personal security, individuals are ensured of their existence in the political, social, economic, and cultural fields; (6) community security, individuals have protection against culture and customs; (7) political security, individuals have protection of human rights and independence from political pressure.

This paper will use three elements of human security to address the issue of child marriage. First, child marriage is an issue of violence against individuals and communities and usually comes from local traditions that violate community security (Dwiastuti et al. 2022). Second, child marriage also threatens health security because immature reproductive organs and physical shape might cause maternal mortality in young girls (Walker 2013). Third, child marriage violates girls' rights to health, education, and equality, which challenges nationwide development and leads to a negative impact on economic security (International Center for Research on Women 2018).

### **International Organization in Humanitarian Intervention**

International organizations are established through agreements, charters, laws, or other key instruments that define their principles and objectives, roles and responsibilities, laws, significant constitutional institutions, member rights and obligations, and other important issues (International Law Commission 2011). According to Leonard (1951), international organizations are permanent units with specific duties and authority to conduct all international relations. Due to their membership, states can use international organizations to achieve their national interests.

International organizations play a crucial role in state diplomacy, serving as instruments for government policies, facilitating agreements, and connecting national interests (Archer 2001). They act as forums, providing consultations and initiating international agreements (Archer 2001). As autonomous actors, they operate on the global stage without external influences, allowing them to operate without substantial reliance on external forces (Archer

2001). They are often used to connect a country's national interests and to avoid or lessen the intensity of problems.

International organizations' contributions to international relations are increasingly recognized as assisting nations in addressing various challenges that indirectly influence state behavior (Simmons 2000). International organizations facilitate human cooperation and solve issues that arise from it. Human rights protection has been one of the fastest-growing areas of international law since WWII. International human rights defence can be compared to international institutions' direct defence of a person or group (Viljoen 2012).

International organizations undoubtedly have the power to decide matters binding on their members in ways that transcend national borders. According to Hartana & Dewi (2020), the power of international organizations to make laws usually starts with the following three prepositions: (1) member states authorize their international organizations to make laws as they see fit, which is reflected in the organization's constitution (the document granting the powers associated); (2) international organizations can only make laws through attribution in agreements; (3) the power to make international organizational law is limited to internal affairs.

The responsibility to protect principle could become a new international law with member states' political will (United Nations 2005). International organizations can actively and coherently create humanitarian intervention rules (UN Security Council 1999). Joining an international organization supports countries in delegating authority when they lack the skills, knowledge, information, time, or resources (Joint Inspection Unit 2004). International organizations can act as treaty makers to unite nations with different concepts of sovereignty, such as absolute respect and relational preservation when a state needs humanitarian aid (Alvarez 2006).

Based on that category, this paper will limit the discussion to the role of international organizations by exploring two roles. Firstly, as an actor, the UNICEF and UNFPA are contributing to Zambia's child marriage issue through intervention. Secondly, as an instrument, cooperation in ending child marriage with UNICEF and UNFPA is Zambia's tool for its national development. The intervention of UNICEF and UNFPA is not in accordance with the definition of international organization as an arena – provided by

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Archer (2001) – since neither of the international organizations provides activities such as forums and consultations.

### **Child Marriage in Zambia**

Marriage is a formal or legal recognition of a personal relationship between two individuals of opposite genders, aiming to establish and maintain a family unit (Eghafona 2021). Child marriage is a prevalent issue in lower socioeconomic countries, with the highest frequency in Western and Sub-Saharan Africa (International Center for Research on Women 2010). Zambia has the sixteenth highest prevalence rate of child marriages globally, with 1.7 million individuals in this category, and a number of 400,000 were married before 15 (UNFPA & UNICEF 2020). Child marriage is prevalent in Zambia, particularly in poor households and regions with low economic development.

Zambia's government is reviewing child and gender policies to combat child marriage (Girls Not Brides 2016). According to Youth, Sports, and Child Development Minister Vincent Mwale, government infrastructure development includes rural school construction (Zambia Daily Mail 2016). A group of 32 cyclists will cycle from Lusaka to Mfuwe for seven days to promote the campaign (Zambia Daily Mail 2016). Dr. Christine Kasesba-Sata, former Zambian First Lady, called for criminalization because the issue (child marriage) hinders development (World Vision International 2015). Former Minister of Gender and Vice President of Zambia, Inonge Wina, called for prosecution (Delphine 2018). The former first lady stressed the negative effects of child marriage on adolescents as future leaders, especially for girls. The First Lady has implemented women's empowerment programs, especially in rural areas where child marriage and early pregnancy are common phenomena, to increase school enrolment for diverse girls (Times of Zambia 2014).

In 2016, Zambia's government launched the Five-Year National Plan Policy, including the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage, to cope with the high prevalence of child marriage (Girls Not Brides 2016). The Ministry of Gender Zambia (2016) accentuates the plan to address developmental and human rights challenges associated with child marriage, accelerate the implementation of child protection services, and ensure child

rights. The policy aims to reduce child marriage rates by 40% by 2021.

### *The Dualistic Legal System and Unclear Constitution in Zambia*

Zambia's dual legal system, including customary and statutory laws, has been criticized for failing to protect children's rights adequately. The system acknowledges three types of marriage: (1) common law marriages, (2) customary law marriages, and (3) marriages established under the Marriage Act. The Zambian Law of 1998 allows for registered and monogamous marriages, but in rural areas, customary law often allows marriages at younger ages, making it more challenging to prevent child marriages.

The Zambian constitution lacks clear regulations for protecting children's rights and a clear definition of "child." This lack of comprehensiveness leads to contradictions and inadequate protection for children, making them vulnerable to harmful practices like child marriages (Nampemba 2020). The 2016 Constitution of Zambia also preserves aspects of traditional personal law, making it difficult to change harmful customs that lead to discrimination against women and children (Nampemba 2020).

The issue of child marriage cannot be fully addressed if the Constitution continues to protect customary personal law. External intervention is necessary to reform the constitution and strengthen children's rights. The Zambian government recognizes that child marriage is preventing its country's development and can use assets owned by UNICEF and UNFPA to cope with child marriage.

### *Social and Cultural Factors that Lead to Child Marriage Practice in Zambia*

Cultural norms, especially in rural areas in Zambia, often perpetuate early marriage, leading to the issue of child marriage (Yowela 2016). This is attributed to customary practices, beliefs, and the lower status of females. Girls often engage in rituals to facilitate marriage and reinforce gender norms, such as polygamy, where young girls marry older males (American Jewish World Service 2015). In some rural areas, parents believe early marriage may prevent inappropriate behavior, such as multiple-partner sexual activity (Population Council 2016). Marriage at a young age is thought to uphold family honor and protect young girls from



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HIV or unwanted pregnancies (Krzych 2020). The issue is more prominent in Eastern and Western provinces, particularly in the Katete, Lusaka, and Senanga districts (UNICEF 2016).

It is a common practice in Africa for young females to enter into matrimony during their adolescence, primarily driven by the desire of their parents to achieve financial or social status (Delphine 2018). The practice of ‘dowry,’ also known as bride-wealth payment, is prevalent in Zambia and has been linked with negative consequences as it creates an excuse for patriarchy (Onyango 2016). In traditional African societies, such as Zambia, the concept of bride-wealth refers to a man and his family giving offerings and services to the bride’s family (Anderson 2007). The practice of marrying off young girls by parents and guardians living in poverty to obtain a bride price to ease their economic struggles is a common phenomenon. Still, parents and guardians are unaware that marrying off their daughters can impact their well-being and prosperity (Delphine 2018). At the same time, the specific communities lack understanding about the negative impact of child marriage (Delphine 2018).

Moreover, the traditional ceremony of the Chewa tribe, namely *Chinamwali*, contributes significantly to early marriage (Mkandawire et al. 2019). The *Chinamwali* ceremony marks the transition of girls from childhood to womanhood where the parents of the girls will hand them over to experienced women called ‘Anamkungwi’ or ‘Aphungu’ who will train them for two to four weeks (Mkandawire et al. 2019). The ceremony ends with the ‘Hyena’ ritual, where selected men will test the sexual skills of young girls through sexual intercourse (Phiri et al. 2020). Munthali & Zulu (2007) believe that sexual testing encourages the practice of early marriage because it encourages relationships with other men before marriage. The *Chinamwali* ceremony increases girls’ chances of getting married as they believe they are real mature women who can handle whatever happens in their lives.

### *Health Consequences of Child Marriage*

Child marriage can significantly impact girls’ and their children’s health, leading to malnutrition, gender-based violence, unfavorable sexual and reproductive health outcomes, and an increase in maternal mortality and morbidity (Girls Not Brides n.d). UNFPA (2015) stated that early marriage negatively impacts girls’ ability to communicate about their sexual and reproductive



health, leading to higher risks of unintended, early, and frequent pregnancies. Married girls often become pregnant before they are physiologically and emotionally ready, making them more likely to have complications during pregnancy and childbirth (OHCHR 2013). In contexts where abortion is not accessible through legal and safe means, unmarried and married pregnant girls face significant risks of adverse health outcomes such as hemorrhage, infection, genital trauma, long-term health complications, and mortality due to unsafe abortions and inadequate access to respectful post-abortion care (Sedgh et al. 2015).

Under the age of 20, individuals who identify as mothers may not have the required physical and mental maturity for safely navigating pregnancy and childbirth (Puspasari & Pawitaningtyas 2020). This age gap can lead to psychological disorders, such as baby blues syndrome, which is characterized by significant emotional and mood changes following childbirth, often leading to depression (Ningrum 2017). Additionally, engaging in sexual activity for the first time can stimulate the possibility of contracting sexually transmitted infections and transmitting HIV, often from direct contact with an infected sexual partner (Shaluhiyah 2020). Therefore, child marriage poses significant health risks for both girls and their children, including malnutrition, gender-based violence, and mental health issues like depression, isolation, and suicidal thoughts.

### *The Threat of Child Marriage to Social Welfare*

Child marriage has significant social and economic impacts on individuals and communities while perpetuating poverty (Wodon & Petroni 2017). Adolescent females who marry might face a lower quality of life, less financial security, higher school abandonment rates, and increased vulnerability to violence (ICRW 2018). It can lead to limited physical mobility, decision-making abilities, personal agency, and empowerment (ICRW 2018).

Child marriage also impacts women's future employment opportunities and productivity, as it reduces their chances of completing their education and diminishing their expected earnings as adults (Girls Not Brides 2017). Frequent breaks in employment due to childbearing and delivery can limit the types of jobs available to women, leading to lower wages and unclear career paths (ICRW 2018). Early marriage increases the likelihood of initiating childbearing and bearing more children, which may

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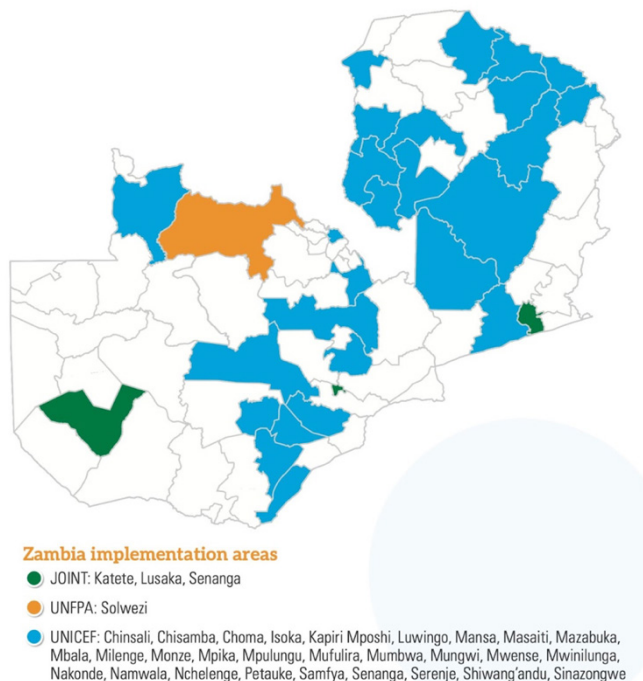
reduce household capacity to cover food, education, healthcare, and other expenses (Girls Not Brides 2018). Child marriage also significantly affects population growth, leading to increased fertility rates and placing a greater burden on governments to prepare essential services like education and healthcare to meet the needs of a growing number of children and youth over time (Girls Not Brides 2017).

Child marriage in Zambia is a community security issue due to traditional practices and low literacy rates among parents. It violates individual protection, particularly for girls, who face increased risks of death during pregnancy and the spread of diseases like HIV. Additionally, it limits girls' educational opportunities and prospects, making them vulnerable to domestic violence. The lack of freedom to express opinions and the fear of domestic violence further exacerbates the issue. Therefore, child marriage in Zambia is a significant issue for community, health, and economic security.

*Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage in Zambia*

Zambia utilizes its membership in international organizations, such as UNICEF and UNFPA, to achieve its national goals. The country aims to promote and reduce child marriage for national development, aligning with UNICEF and UNFPA's program's objectives. UNICEF and UNFPA implemented the Global Programme to End Child Marriage (GPECM) in several districts, with Katete and Senanga as specific focus due to high child marriage rates in Katete and high adolescent pregnancy rates in Senanga. The program addresses economic, social, and cultural factors contributing to child marriage, focusing on girls aged 10-19 who are either vulnerable to or already married. Therefore, the program will be explained in various outcomes.

**Figure 1.**  
**Zambia implementation area**



*Source: UNICEF (2016, 48)*

The first outcome is successfully empowering adolescent girls with skills and information. In 2016, UNICEF and UNFPA established “safe spaces” for adolescents in Zambia, particularly in Katete and Senanga districts, to ensure females can make informed choices and boys recognize them. Through GPECM, especially the Early Childhood Development education project, they facilitated the participation of 9,851 adolescent females in secure spaces with life skills interventions, including financial literacy, parenting to adolescent girls, and human rights. The U-Report mobile application also spreads information about harmful child marriage and pregnancies among adolescents and provides services for sexual and reproductive health and protection. UNICEF and UNFPA also gained support from the Alangizi community in Zambia, which plays a significant role in preparing young women for marriage. They also worked with the Office of the First Lady and non-profit organizations to improve secondary and college

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education support systems. By the end of 2019, 60 trained mentors provided life-skills education and information to 19,651 adolescent girls in community safe spaces and schools.

Besides that, GPECM changed social and behavioral communication to influence social and gender norms. In 2016, UNICEF and UNFPA in Zambia partnered with traditional leaders to combat child marriage. They recognized the significant role of social norms, customary laws, and rites of passage in shaping these norms. The goal was to enhance their awareness of the risks associated with child marriage, empowering them as agents of change. They aimed to equip them with the skills to refer girls and boys at risk to appropriate services. A multi-sectoral approach was adopted, including organizing dialogues and creating platforms for behavior change within communities. Mass media campaigns were used to encourage communities to change harmful social norms. Community-driven approaches were also employed, including discussions in houses, traditional events, and market engagement. Moreover, UNICEF and UNFPA implemented a communication and awareness model called 'Start Awareness Support Action' (SASA) to educate communities about harmful practices. By the end of 2019, 35,980 people in program regions participated in discussions supporting gender-equitable norms, with 22,456 successfully engaging using SASA.

Additionally, GPECM facilitated improvement in prevention and protection systems. UNICEF and UNFPA have been working with the Zambian Ministry of General Education to improve female student access and retention in school. They have established guidance and counseling guidelines in schools, improving girls' education retention and learning outcomes. They have also increased referrals to health and protection services and supported open learning and transit schools for out-of-school children. UNICEF and UNFPA have also trained community welfare assistance committees to identify adolescent girls requiring education and protection services. Zambia's Education Strategic Sector Plan has supported open learning and transit schools by providing more qualified mentors. The Adolescent Health Strategy, launched in 2017, encourages the establishment of adolescent-friendly spaces in healthcare facilities. In 2019, health and safety services regulations for teenage girls were adopted at 166 service delivery locations, enabling almost 46,000 adolescent girls to access health or protection services.

The program also enhanced legislative and policy frameworks. In 2016, Zambia issued the Five Year National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage and a costed national plan of action with the assistance of the UNICEF and UNFPA programs. The Education Strategic Sector Plan was developed with technical and financial support from UNICEF and UNFPA. The strategy intends to increase student retention and expand access to education for females, especially in rural regions. It also seeks to promote access to education for girls. Through the adoption of a re-entry policy, it also focuses on giving improved access to secondary education as well as improving alternative education alternatives for pregnant and married females who seek to return to school. This is done to enhance their educational options. This strategy aims to ensure that schools are in a position to provide informational and emotional assistance to teenage girls' health and well-being.

Furthermore, GPECM contributed to the strengthening of data and evidence. UNICEF and UNFPA have collaborated to develop an education sector strategy and implementation plan for Zambia's Ministry of General Education and Ministry of Higher Education. They engaged experts in a pilot study to identify vulnerabilities leading to child marriage, which assisted Zambia's National Plan of Action. The UNICEF and UNFPA collaborated to locate administrative data sources, enabling the Zambian government to monitor the contribution of various sectors to the fight against child marriage. The distribution of funding to districts for joint monitoring and planning has helped district leaders understand their role in preventing child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Local-level planners are also involved to ensure frequent updates on relevant information.

Therefore, UNICEF and UNFPA are playing their role as an *independent actor* since both organizations act in the initiative to address child marriage in Zambia through the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, aiming to reduce the rate of child marriage for the community, health, and economic security, without external influence or force. The program seeks to address child marriage as a community security issue by engaging traditional leaders, mobilizing adolescents through mentorship programs, using mass media campaigns to change harmful social norms, and raising awareness through the SASA approach model, door-to-door dialogues, customary ceremonies, friend visits, and market engagement. In addressing child marriage as a health security issue, the U-Report

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mobile platform was launched to raise awareness about teenage pregnancy and child marriage hazards, referring adolescents to sexual and reproductive health services. The system also aims to increase health referrals and create guidelines for health and protection services. The Adolescent Health Strategy is developed as an adolescent-friendly space, and over 100 healthcare workers are trained from 50 facilities. The program also aims to reduce child marriage as an economic security issue by improving resources for girls to finish secondary education and higher education, providing safe spaces for adolescents, implementing an Early Childhood Development education project, and establishing guidance and counseling guidelines in schools to support young mothers' child development.

In addressing the issue of child marriage in Zambia, UNICEF and UNFPA cooperate with some international and local NGOs besides Zambian government agencies, such as the Young Women Christian Association, World Vision, Action Aid, Catholic Medical Missions Board, Restless Development, Child Fund, Population Council, and Luapula Foundation. Through several parts of the global program to accelerate action to end child marriage (GPECM) in Zambia, it can be said that both UNICEF and UNFPA have performed their international organization role as instruments for Zambia in supporting the nation's development.

*Society Response to the Global Program in Zambia*

One of the factors that causes child marriage is the lack of financial needs for families in Zambia. However, the global program in Zambia does not provide scholarships for higher education and financial assistance to start small businesses for students. Therefore, many children leave the school as a result of this issue. In addition, many peer educators who were trained were less interested in becoming volunteers in implementing the program because no rewards were received (UNFPA & UNICEF 2019). In addition, in some rural areas of Zambia, the lengthy distances to school (approximately 2 to 7 kilometres) make it difficult for younger children to walk to school, leading to frequent absences (Daka et al. 2020).

According to Mulenga and Daka (2022), during the implementation of the program to educate children to delay marriage until legal age, many teachers received threats from students' parents, such as the sentence: "*What action can you take against me? That one is my*

*child! You have no right over my child. I can marry off my child*". That causes the school's fear of approaching parents to educate them about the risks of child marriage. There was also a lack of cooperation between schools and communities because some parents lacked interest in their children's education, especially for girls. The churches in Zambia also face many challenges in dealing with the issue because it is contrary to the traditional culture, which believes that when children reach adolescence/puberty, then they are capable of marriage. In addition, not all parents and chiefs comprehended the term "human rights." Consequently, they allowed children to enter marriage, claiming it was their right (Mulenga and Daka 2022).

Even though there are still many challenges in addressing child marriage cases in Zambia, UNFPA and UNICEF in implementing the End Child Marriage program for the first three years (2016-2019) are still getting significant results. Based on these data, it can be seen that approximately 19,651 girls ages 10–19 have taken part in at least one program that provides them with the skills and knowledge they need to prevent child marriage. Furthermore, 48 girls improved their business skills and saved enough money to start small businesses. Besides, child marriage and adolescent pregnancy-related school dropouts were reduced by 25 percent between 2016 and 2018, especially in Katete district and Senanga (UNFPA & UNICEF 2019).

## Conclusion

The case of child marriage in Zambia can be categorized into three elements of human security, namely: (1) *community security* because the majority of child marriage drivers come from Zambian custom; (2) The problem of child marriage also violates *health security* cases which can increase the risk of death during pregnancy and can transmit dangerous diseases such as HIV; and (3) Child marriage is also a threat to *economic security* because it limits educational opportunities and prospects for girls, increases the level of fertility which requires the government to fulfil basic needs such as education and health services. The dual legal system in Zambia, especially in marriage, tries to reduce child marriage in the number of child marriages considered slow. Its impacts on the economy, society, and health will continue to arise from the existence of child marriage practices.



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UNICEF and UNFPA, as international organizations, play two roles in addressing the human security issue in Zambia by implementing the Global Program to End Child Marriage. First, the initiative of both organizations in planning and executing the global program without being influenced by external forces as an effort to cope with the human security issue, especially in the case of child marriage, shows their international organization's role as *actors*. Second, during three years of the program, the government of Zambia used the presence of UNICEF and UNFPA as its way out to discover what drives child marriage and how to address the issue, which is part of their national interest to end child marriage. Therefore, it shows the role of UNICEF and UNFPA as *instruments* used by their member countries to achieve their national interest by receiving humanitarian assistance and long-term development by the mandate of these organizations.

Through the global program, UNICEF and UNFPA received various responses from the community. Several studies show that there are several challenges in dealing with child marriage cases in Zambia, such as parents' rejection of the material taught at school, the absence of financial assistance to students and volunteers, as well as customs that are rooted in the community. This research shows the efforts of UNICEF and UNFPA in intervening in the case of human security. It is expected to be a reference for further interventions focusing more on community-based programs. This research can be developed into an additional and more detailed study.

### **About the authors**

**Arta Salesta Br Munthe** is a graduate student majoring in International Relations, focusing on diplomacy. She obtained a bachelor's degree in 2023 from President University. She can be reached at [artasalestamoon@gmail.com](mailto:artasalestamoon@gmail.com).

**Muhammad Farid** is a Lecturer at the Department of International Relations, President University. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Universitas Indonesia in 2000 and his master's degree from the National University of Singapore in 2012. His research interests revolve around national and international politics. He can be reached via email at [mfarid@president.ac.id](mailto:mfarid@president.ac.id).

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