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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Bandung City in Child Protection Efforts: A Review of Policy Implementation

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**Abstract:** This research analyses the implementation of child protection policies against child abuse in Bandung City in 2023 using qualitative methods and a narrative approach. Data was obtained through in-depth interviews with officials of the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) and the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for Women and Children Protection (UPTD PPA), supported by a literature study. The results showed that the Community-Based Integrated Child Protection (PATBM) program, Senandung Perdana application, and intensive socialisation had implemented child protection policies. However, policy implementation faces significant obstacles, such as limited human resources, only 16 counsellors and advocates, and inadequate budget allocations. The high number of reported cases of child abuse not only shows the complexity of the problem but also reflects the success of socialisation. This research emphasises the need for continuous evaluation, increased resources, and cross-sector collaboration to ensure child protection policies' overall and sustainable effectiveness in Bandung City.

### Keywords:

Child Protection, Child Abuse, Public Policy, Bandung City.

### About the Author

Rhaisa Indriani, now 21 years old, has been interested in social science since high school and majored in Government Science at Padjadjaran University. With plans to graduate in 2025. In addition, she is active in on- and off-campus activities. Apart from being a student, she does work activities as a freelancer model which makes her have to be good at managing time.

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## 1. Introduction

Children are generally described as the offspring of a male and female couple, whether in a marriage or not (Lubis, 2017). According to Law No. 35/2014 Article 1, individuals who have not reached the age of 18 years and who are still in the womb are categorised as children. Every child, whether in a family or a country, is considered an asset (Maulana & Fadhilah, 2024). Children are essential to the nation's progress (Hanafi, 2022). Children can contribute to the development of society and the state as they grow and develop naturally (Diana et al., 2024a). Thus, the responsibility of parents in the process of child development is significant (Carmela & Suryaningsih, 2021). Children have the same human rights as adults, so no human or other party can take away these rights (Panggabean et al., 2024).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child provides four fundamental pillars of children's rights: the right to life, the right to protection, the right to development, and the right to participation (Farras, 2024). These rights must be maintained without bias, so children need protection from parents, family, society, and the state (Tonglo, 2021). Physical and mental aspects, especially children's psychological development, are part of child protection (Hidayat, 2020). Children should be able to grow and develop appropriately while being protected from the threat of crime (Setiawan & Sumaryanto, 2022). The existence of the Convention on the Rights of the Child shows that globally, child protection is the focus of attention, along with the increasing cases of child abuse (Artauli et al., 2023).

Child abuse is defined as any form that causes children physical, mental, or psychological harm (Asy'ari, 2019). Cases of child abuse often become a hot topic in the mass media, so the role of the government is vital to run and act in dealing with this problem (Nalle & Fanggi, 2024). Bandung City is one area that pays great attention to child protection. Previous studies related to child protection policies in Bandung City include research conducted by (Rohayati & Kartini, 2019) with the title "Implementation of Policies on Child Protection in the Technical Implementation Unit of the Integrated Service Center for the Empowerment of Women and Children in Bandung City." it is known that in 2019 there were 129 case reports at UPT P2TP2A Bandung City with the most cases being violence against children. From this research, it is known that children are still a group that is vulnerable to violence and mistreatment.

The research entitled "Implementation of Policies on Child Protection in Bandung City" conducted by (Farhan et al., 2022) found that implementing child protection policies at UPT P2TP2A Bandung City was not optimal. Although all reported cases can be handled correctly and according to procedures, performance improvement is still needed. Then, research conducted by (Dana et al., 2023) titled "Implementation of Child Protection Policies from Violence in Bandung City" found that child protection efforts in Bandung City have been carried out thoroughly. However, there are still some problems, such as no mapping of areas prone to violence to reduce the risk of violence. Victim identification is a challenge when handling cases because victims are reluctant to tell stories or not attend counselling. Then, the lack of workforce, budget limitations, facilities, and cooperation between institutions related to child protection are some of the obstacles that hinder the implementation of this policy.

This research differs from previous studies because it focuses on implementing child protection policies in Bandung City 2023 through DP3A and UPTD PPA. This research explores how the relationship between the government and the community affects the implementation of child protection policies and programs, using Van Meter and Van Horn's (1975) policy implementation theory, which includes six success variables: clarity of policy objectives, resources, characteristics of the implementing organisation, inter-organizational communication, implementing disposition, and the social, political, and economic environment (Anggara, 2014). Bandung City in 2023 still contributed high data on child abuse. Factors for the occurrence of child abuse in Bandung City in 2023 include internal factors in the form of family economic problems and negligent parents so that children feel abandoned. External factors include a non-conducive living environment and social media (Octaviani & Panjaitan, 2023). Cases of child abuse that occurred in Bandung City in 2023 were recorded at 302 cases of violence, with the highest case being sexual violence with 111 cases.

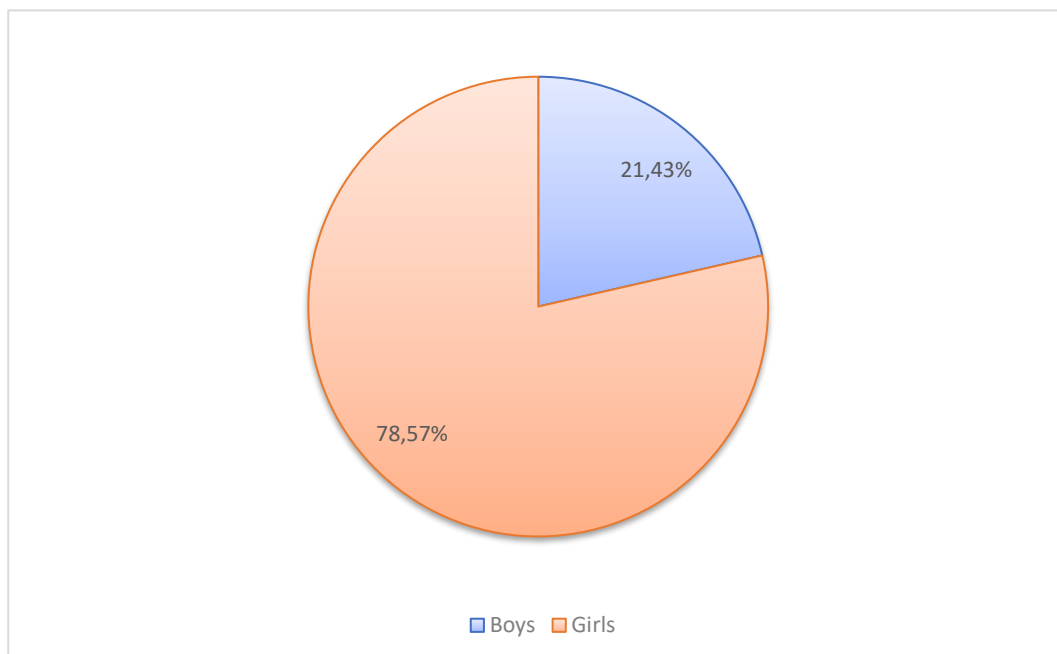
**Table 1. Child Abuse Data by Type of Abuse**

| Type of Violence     |     |
|----------------------|-----|
|                      | 50  |
| <b>Physical</b>      |     |
|                      | 97  |
| <b>Psychic</b>       |     |
|                      | 111 |
| <b>Sexual</b>        |     |
|                      | 12  |
| <b>Neglect</b>       |     |
|                      | 2   |
| <b>Trafficking</b>   |     |
|                      | 5   |
| <b>Child Custody</b> |     |
|                      | 13  |
| <b>Economic</b>      |     |
|                      | 12  |
| <b>Other</b>         |     |
|                      | 302 |
| <b>Total</b>         |     |

Source: Bandung City UPTD PPA document, 2024.

Sexual violence, based on the data above, is the most common case in Bandung City in 2023. Cases of child sexual violence that occurred in Bandung City in 2023 based on gender mainly occurred to girls, with a percentage of 78.57% or 88 cases; this figure is undoubtedly classified as a high and alarming number. Then, 21.43% or 24 cases occurred in boys.

**Figure 1. Percentage of Sexual Violence Cases by Gender**

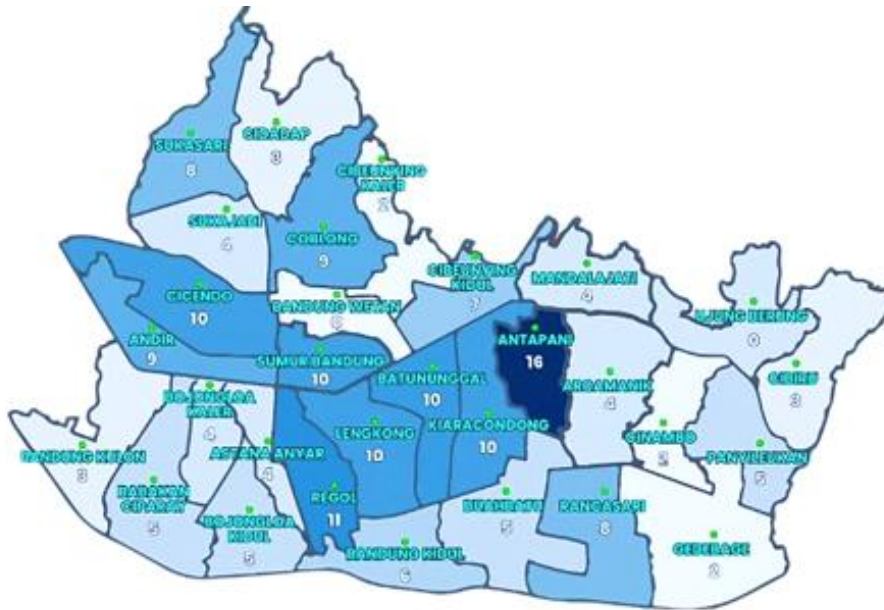


Source: Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Bandung City, 2024.

The data above shows that sexual violence in Bandung City in 2023 occurred primarily among girls. Women prone to victimisation can be grouped into several crimes, including sexual violence and sexual

harassment (Jamaludin, 2021). Therefore, groups of children, especially girls, need to be protected by the closest parties, namely the family, the neighbourhood, and especially by the government, from all forms of violence, especially sexual violence. This protection must always be pursued to reduce the increasing number of child abuse. Cases of child abuse in Bandung City are spread across several sub-districts in Bandung City. Based on data from the Bandung City Child Protection and Women's Empowerment Office, the highest number of cases of child abuse was recorded in the Antapani District, with 16 cases; the distribution data can be seen in the following figure.

**Figure 2. Distribution of Child Abuse in Bandung City in 2023**



Source: Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Bandung City, 2024.

The data above shows that the Antapani Sub-district contributed the most child abuse data in Bandung City in 2023. However, this data certainly does not represent all cases of child abuse that occur in Bandung City because there are still cases of violence that are not reported to the Bandung City Government (Krisnamurti & Kunyati, 2024). Child protection in Bandung City has been regulated in Bandung City Regional Regulation Number 4 of 2019, which amends Bandung City Regional Regulation Number 10 of 2012 concerning implementing Child Protection. Article 5(1) states that every child has the right to be protected and their needs met. This policy is a necessary foundation that ensures that every child has the right to be protected (Miyuki & Bonjol, 2023). All relevant parties must work together to protect child victims of violence and must be committed to implementing the policy (Alexander et al., 2023).

The implementation of child protection policies in Bandung City is critical to be understood by policy implementers, in this case, the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) and other related parties to understand child protection policies as the legal basis for implementing child protection policies in Bandung City. However, in the implementation of child protection policies by the Bandung City Government, in this case, DP3A, together with UPTD PPA, several obstacles still affect the implementation of child protection policies (Wulandari, 2024). The Head of the Women and Children Protection Division at DP3A Bandung City stated in an interview that these obstacles include inadequate employee and financial resources. The quality of UPTD PPA's human resources is considered to have met the standards; it is just that the quantity of UPTD PPA employees cannot meet the standards because UPTD PPA only has 16 counsellors and advocates who must be able to serve many reporters, so it is not ideal. Then he said the source of costs in implementing child protection policies is inadequate based on population, area, coverage of 30 sub-districts,

and coverage of 151 villages. Thus, child protection efforts by DP3A Bandung City experience challenges related to the number of employees and financial resources needed to implement child protection policies in Bandung City.

Community involvement in implementing child protection policies in Bandung City is significant (Rafika Perdana, 2019). However, as Dapurahayu et al. (2024) identified, communities still lack concern for child protection issues. This suggests the need for a more routine and sustained approach to raising community awareness and concern for child protection. In addition, the community needs to have an adequate understanding of the steps that can be taken, including knowing the reporting mechanism when witnessing or experiencing child abuse. Apart from these problems, this research focuses on implementing child protection policies against child abuse in Bandung City in 2023. This research aims to analyse how child protection policies organised by the Bandung City Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office and other related institutions are implemented in the field. Thus, this research is expected to provide a comprehensive picture of the policy's effectiveness and challenges in creating public awareness and ensuring optimal protection for children.

## 2. Methods

This research will explain child protection policies in Bandung City. The author used qualitative research to answer questions about the guidelines the Bandung city government issued regarding child abuse cases. Qualitative research is naturalistic research in which the individual acts as the primary data collector and focuses on observing and interpreting events in their natural setting without modification or intervention from the researcher (Abdussamad, 2021: 43).

This research uses qualitative research methods. This method is chosen due to the need to investigate policy implementation with a focus on in-depth observations related to child protection carried out by the Bandung City government. By using qualitative methods, researchers conducted explorations and interviews with relevant parties to reveal the problems of violence against children and the protection efforts made by the Bandung City government in suppressing high cases of child abuse. Thus, the qualitative method will provide added value in identifying and exploring the factors of child abuse in Bandung City.

The data in this study were obtained from primary and secondary sources. Primary data was obtained through direct interviews with the Head of the Women and Children Protection Division at DP3A regarding implementing Child Protection Policies against Child Violence in Bandung City, especially in 2023. Secondary data is obtained from literature studies conducted by researchers through journals, articles, books, and other sources relevant to the research topic.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### Implementation of Child Protection Policies Against Child Sexual Abuse in Bandung City in 2023

Policy implementation is crucial to the policy process (Ayudya et al., 2024). According to George C. Edwards (1980), policy implementation is a stage that begins after the law is passed. Using specific models will make understanding how public policies are implemented easier. The author applies the policy implementation model developed by Donald S. Van Metter and Carl E. Van Horn (1975), which includes six variables, namely clear policy objectives and standards, resources, characteristics of implementing organisations, communication between related organisations, and activities, implementation activities, disposition or attitudes of implementers, and the last is the social, economic, and political environment (Anggara, 2014).

#### 1. Standards and Objectives

Van Meter and Van Horn (in Anggara, 2014) state that setting specific goals and standards for policy implementers to evaluate their effectiveness is critical. The Bandung City Government plays a role in enforcing

policies that provide comprehensive protection for children related to child abuse (Diana et al., 2024b). In addition to implementing policies, the government must collaborate with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the broader community in Bandung City to create a safe environment for children (Medan, 2024). Child protection has been formulated with guidelines and objectives in the Bandung City Regional Regulation No.4 of 2019 to achieve optimal success. Article 3 clearly states that child protection aims to ensure the fulfilment of children's rights, including protection from violence, neglect, mistreatment, discrimination, and exploitation, in an integrated and integrated manner.

The implementation of the child protection policy by DP3A Bandung City through the Head of Women and Children Protection Division stated that the purpose of the child protection policy is to reduce the number of violence against children and so that the community knows where to report if they see or experience cases of child abuse. DP3A Kota Bandung, which acts as a coordinating agency, stated that the indicator of the standard of success of the child protection policy is the fulfilment of children's rights, including the right to protection, which refers to article 2C of Bandung City Regional Regulation Number 4 of 2019, which is the right to life, survival, and child development.

The Head of the Women and Child Protection Division at DP3A Bandung City stated that the standard of success in achieving the objectives of this child protection policy is also carried out by DP3A Bandung City in 2023 by aggressively conducting socialisation and implementing programs related to the prevention of child abuse. The Head of the Women's and Children's Protection Division stated that the high rate of child abuse in Bandung City in 2023 was due to the factor of intensive socialisation to the community so that the community knew the forms of violence, causes, and consequences, actors in the occurrence of violence, and most importantly, the community knew where to report. So, the number of violent incidents is high. This is the statement of the Head of the Women and Child Protection Division, who said:

"The purpose of child protection policy is to reduce the number of violence against children and so that people know where to report cases of child abuse. The high rate of violence is due to 2 factors: the incessant socialisation in the community so that the community knows the forms of violence, causes, consequences, and actors in the occurrence of violence, and most importantly, the community knows where to report. The number of violence is high; there are several cities/districts where the number is small, or even there are no cases of violence; it is because the office does not socialise, so people do not know where to report, so the numbers are small" (Interview with the Head of the Women and Child Protection Division on October 10, 2024).

A high number of violent cases does not necessarily reflect an entirely negative situation. On the one hand, it can indicate the success of relevant agencies in conducting regular socialisation in the community. Through adequate socialisation, more and more individuals become aware of the importance of child protection and dare to report cases of violence that may have previously been uncovered. With this increased awareness, the number of reports of violence against children tends to rise, not because more violence is occurring but because the community is more active in reporting and fighting for justice for victims. This phenomenon successfully encourages community involvement while opening up opportunities to deal with more cases more effectively.

## 2. Resources

Resources are put in place to facilitate the administration of employees so that they can work effectively and efficiently (Hartawan & Kosasih, 2023). Three resources directly impact the effectiveness of policy implementation, namely, human resources as the leading implementer, followed by the source of financial costs and the time required.

### 1) Human Resources

The leading actor in implementing child protection policies in Bandung City is DP3A Bandung City. DP3A has the task of helping to carry out government affairs in women's empowerment and child protection. Since this research focuses on child protection, the Women and Child Protection Division

plays an important role. As the supervisor and administrator of the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA), DP3A Bandung City plays a vital role in providing direction, guidance, orders, and in-depth supervision of the management of UPTD PPA, the implementing unit for women and child protection services.

DP3A ensures that services at the UPTD PPA are well achieved. Based on the results of interviews with the Head of the Women and Child Protection Division at DP3A Bandung City, in its implementation, Human Resources (HR) at UPTD PPA based on the quality of employees are adequate standards. However, seen from the number of employees, it cannot meet the standards because UPTD PPA only has 16 counsellors and advocates who assist services at UPTD PPA; DP3A feels this number to be not ideal because 16 counsellors and advocates must be able to serve the number of incoming reporters and reports. This was emphasised by the Head of the Women and Children Protection Division, who stated:

“Human Resources of employees, if the quality of employees is adequate standards, it is just that the quantity cannot meet the standards because we only have 16 counsellors and advocates must be able to serve 2.5 million residents of Bandung, which is not ideal.” (Interview with the Head of Women and Children Protection Division on October 10, 2024).

DP3A Bandung City initiated this by forming community cadres in 151 urban villages in Bandung City, such as PATBM cadres, namely Community-Based Integrated Child Protection. DP3A Bandung City formed community cadres, namely people who care about children. These cadres help the Bandung City Government form networks, conduct socialisation, and serve children who are violence victims. The Head of the Women and Child Protection Division stated:

“But we have cadres in the community such as PATBM cadres, namely Community-Based Integrated Child Protection because the role of child protection functions is not only the role of government functions but also the role of the community. So we formed community cadres, namely people who care about children and help the Bandung city government in forming networks, conducting socialisation related to child protection, and serving children who are victims of violence” (Interview with the Head of the Women and Children Protection Division on October 10, 2024).

Child protection policies in Bandung City also involve stakeholders who are needed to support the success of child protection policies (Cahyono, et al., 2023). Among these stakeholders are legislative institutions from the Bandung City Commission D, the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA), the PPKS Task Force, the Task Force for the Prevention of Handling in education units, service institutions for women and children observers, such as the Indonesian Child Protection Institute (LPAI), the Child Rights Advocacy Institute (LAHA), the Independent Volunteer Network (JARI), and so on, which these institutions also serve, preventing child abuse. Then child protection in Bandung City also involves Regional Apparatus Organizations (OPD) because DP3A is a coordinating agency, so children's affairs are not only DP3A's business.

## 2) Cost Resources

Budget allocation is an important prerequisite to finance various operational aspects, including socialisation, guidance, training activities, and necessary facilities. All costs related to child protection policies in Bandung City are financed through the Bandung City Regional Budget (APBD). Based on the Regulation of the Mayor of Bandung Number 3 of 2023 concerning Amendments to the Regulation of the Mayor of Bandung Number 130 of 2022 concerning the Elaboration of the Regional Budget for

Fiscal Year 2023, Article 8(5) states that in 2023, the budget for Social Assistance Expenditure is planned to be Rp81,074,800,000.00. However, the total budget spent in 2023 for social assistance expenditure was Rp31,048,600,000.00, and the realised budget was Rp. 28,069,120,000.00.

Regulation of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 1 of 2019, in article 7 (3), states that this social assistance is intended for children who need or require special protection. However, regarding the budget from the APBD for child protection, DP3A Kota Bandung still feels that it is insufficient to accommodate the entire series of activities and guidance carried out in the context of child protection policies. Nevertheless, DP3A is still able to carry out a series of activities to prevent child abuse. Existing cost resources cannot adequately implement child protection policies based on the population of Bandung City, the size of the Bandung City area, coverage of 30 sub-districts, and coverage of 151 villages. However, DP3A Bandung City collaborates and collaborates with the community, the education sector, and employers who are members of the Association of Indonesian Friends of Children Companies (APSAI), which dedicates part of the company's proceeds to the fulfilment of children's rights and child protection.

### 3) Time Resources

The implementation of child protection by DP3A Bandung City related to time resources is relative, depending on the number of cases and activities carried out, so it cannot be ascertained. Services related to child protection at UPTD PPA: UPTD PPA provides services to victims of violence against women and children for 6 months of counselling. However, this service has obstacles, such as scheduling for victims not followed by the victim or the victim's family. So, many cases take a long time in service and resolution. This was conveyed by one of the counsellors at UPTD PPA with the statement:

“The client's obstacle is scheduling. Some clients are not present during the counselling schedule, so rescheduling must be done within our maximum 6 months of handling. However, sometimes it can be more than 6 years, and even across years, not all clients are cooperative, so for handling completed cases, we are confused if, for example, the client still needs us. However, when scheduled, the client does not come” (Interview result in UPTD PPA counsellor dated October 10, 2024).

The availability of time resources is a crucial element in implementing child protection at UPTD PPA. Each activity stage is bound to a predetermined schedule, which becomes a significant factor in the effectiveness and success of implementation.

## The Characteristics of the implementing agencies

The characteristics of implementing agencies include competency, staff size, hierarchical control over sub-unit decisions and processes, political support, organisational vitality, open communication, and formal and informal relationships with policymakers or implementers. Program implementation requires policy implementers to demonstrate a firm and disciplined attitude. It is important to remember that this policy aims to maintain the discipline and continuity of the program. This policy also plays a role in ensuring that program objectives are achieved efficiently and effectively. Policy implementers must consistently follow the rules (Hartawan & Kosasih, 2023).

DP3A Bandung took steps to develop a work scheme that emphasises routine activities in planning and reporting. This scheme involves a structured process, starting with creating an annual work plan based on the needs of the people of Bandung City related to the protection and handling of child abuse complaints. Then, the routine implementation of the program includes educational outreach on children's rights, child abuse prevention, and so on. Evaluation of the scheme is carried out on an ongoing basis to ensure that activities go according to plan and achieve the set goals. The last scheme is reporting and follow-up; each activity in



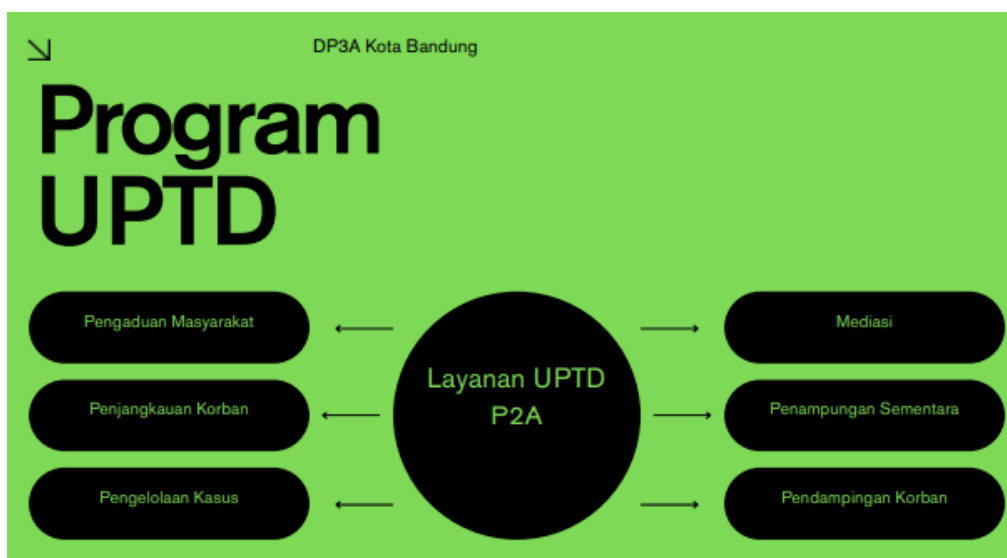
the program is reported in detail to measure the results and impact on child protection in Bandung City; an annual report is made at the end of each year after activities take place for a year and monthly reports are made at the end of each month. These reports are used as evaluation material for the next annual work plan, thus creating continuity and improving the quality of child protection.

### 1. Inter-organizational Communication and Enforcement Activities

Effective inter-organizational communication and enforcement require implementers to understand program standards and objectives. Effective communication between organisations and implementers involves ensuring accuracy and consistency, understanding program standards and objectives, interpreting higher-level guidelines, and providing positive or negative sanctions (Hartawan & Kosasih, 2023).

DP3A Bandung City, through UPTD PPA, provides services related to several matters regarding child protection. These include UPTD PPA accepting public complaints, outreach to victims of violence, managing cases of violence, temporary shelter, mediation, and victim assistance.

**Figure 3. Services at UPTD PPA Bandung City**



Source: Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Bandung City, 2024.

Services involve various actions taken to provide direct services to the community in dealing with situations of child abuse. UPTD PPA provides counselling facilities for child victims of violence and/or their family members. Coordination and consultation are carried out to ensure the availability of adequate health and social rehabilitation facilities, social reintegration, and access to legal assistance. In addition, the UPTD PPA also cooperates with legal authorities to ensure the prompt, precise, and accurate handling of criminal acts and child abuse.

The protection aspect includes various efforts to increase community capacity in preventing and responding to violence against children. Movements that involve active and sustainable community participation are initiated to avoid and handle violence against children. DP3A, through the Women and Children Protection sector, also instils character values, ethics, and family resilience as part of child protection efforts.

Activities carried out include Socialization of Prevention of Violence Against Women / Children (VAW / A) and Trafficking in Persons (TPPO), Coordination Meeting and Cross-Sector Cooperation in the Prevention of Violence and TPPO, Socialization of Prevention and Handling of Trafficking Victims, Socialization of Domestic Violence, Assistance and Outreach for Victims of Violence, Symphony Recording Training, Technical Guidance

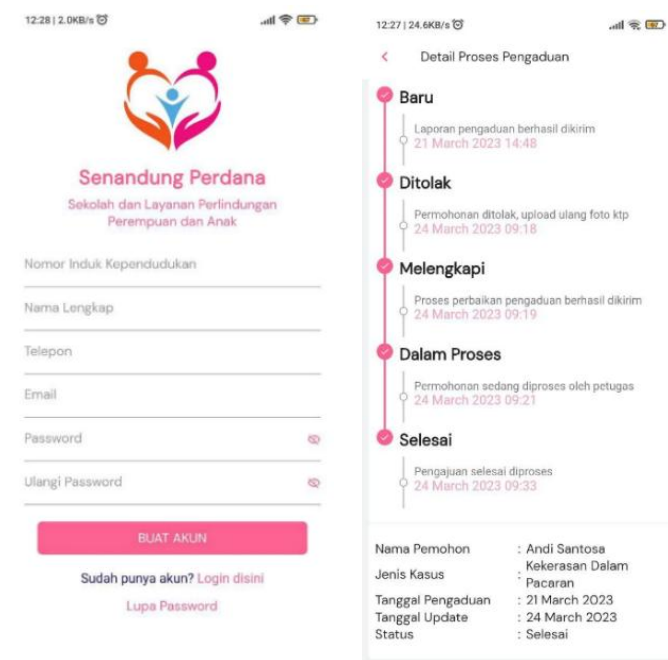
for Human Development Cadres, e-Human Development Worker (EHDW) Application Simulation, Socialization and Formation of Community-Based Integrated Child Protection (PATBM), Socialization of NGABASO (Ngabaturan Barudak Sakola Online), Socialization of Handling Sexual Exploitation of Children to be Free from HIV-AIDS and Hepatitis, Child Protection System, Strengthening and Evaluation of Child Protection Cadres, and Networking of Child Protection Cadres, and others.

DP3A Bandung City together with stakeholders, namely legislative institutions from Commission D Bandung City, UPTD PPA, PPKS Task Force, Task Force for prevention of handling in education units, service institutions for women and children observers, such as the Indonesian Child Protection Institute (LPAI), Child Rights Advocacy Institute (LAHA), Independent Volunteer Network (JARI), and so on, in communication and coordination across these sectors, the obstacles are relatively non-existent because they are committed with DP3A in handling children so that this commitment must be maintained for the achievement of child protection.

The communication process established by DP3A Kota Bandung with the community is usually carried out through socialisation directly with the community and through social media and official websites. Based on the results of an interview with the Head of the Women and Child Protection Division at DP3A Bandung City in 2023, DP3A Bandung City has conducted socialisation on preventing child abuse in 30 junior high schools. Also, socialisation occurs in Islamic boarding schools, private schools, PATBM cadres, Children's Posyandu, and Youth Posyandu. This was conveyed by the Head of the Women and Child Protection Division, who stated:

“We will socialise in 2023 to 30 junior high schools, elementary schools, private schools, Islamic boarding schools, PATBM cadres, children's posyandu, youth posyandu” (Interview with the Head of the Women and Child Protection Division on October 10, 2024).

**Figure 4. Application Senandung Perdana**



Source: Screenshot on Play Store App

Communication is carried out regularly through social media by DP3A Bandung City through one of them, which is the Instagram account @bdg.dp3a. Through this account, DP3A Bandung City actively provides information about empowering and protecting women and children. Not only that, DP3A Bandung City launched a digital application in 2023 called Senandung Perdana, which the public can install via smartphone. Senandung Perdana is an application to prevent, detect, and address issues that endanger the

welfare of women and children. If people witness or experience violence against women and children, they can quickly report it through this application. Of course, this technological advancement makes communication between the government and the public easier.

## 2. The Disposition of Implementors

The Disposition of Implementors refers to their grasp of the policy and response direction (accepting, neutral, or rejecting) (Hartawan & Kosasih, 2023). The Head of the Women and Children Protection Division at DP3A Bandung City stated that the attitude of the implementers in implementing child protection in Bandung City is positive. Child protection policy implementers noted that this policy is based on strong objectives, namely helping to improve community welfare and taking the issue of violence seriously. Given the complexity of the existing problems, this policy is considered increasingly relevant. This view encourages implementers to accept the tasks the existing guidelines have given them entirely. This was stated by the Head of the Women's and Children's Protection Division of DP3A Bandung City through a statement:

“This child protection policy is designed to help the community at large. We try to take every case of child abuse seriously and provide the necessary support” (Interview with the Head of the Women and Children Protection Division on October 10, 2024).

The positive attitude of the implementers is also supported by the Bandung community's deep understanding of child protection issues. This can be seen from the high level of community participation in supporting the policy, one of which is the formation of PATBM cadres consisting of community members who care about children even though they do not receive payment. Community participation has proven high, with PATBM forming in 151 urban villages in Bandung City. PATBM cadres can handle mild cases of violence that can be mediated or advocated for by RT/RW. In contrast, severe cases that require medical, psychological, or legal assistance are referred to DP3A because they do not have resources such as psychologists and advocates.

DP3A continued to develop this attitude and take strategic steps by organising a coaching program for PATBM cadres. This step aimed to broaden their knowledge of the program and the theories underlying child protection. This activity received a positive response from PATBM cadre administrators at the kelurahan level, with many administrators consistently participating. They realise this coaching can enrich their knowledge, support services, and empowerment activities in Kelurahan. This consistency of participation reflects the board's enthusiasm for understanding and implementing the principles and objectives of child protection policies.

## 3. Economic, Social, and Political Conditions

Economic, social, and political factors affecting policy implementation include available resources, economic and social conditions, public opinion, elite attitudes, and the mobilisation of private interest groups (support or opposition) (Hartawan & Kosasih, 2023). Various dimensions influence child protection policies in Bandung City in the social, economic, and political environment. Social aspects, which include community responses and reactions to policies, can also affect overall social conditions and are fundamental in designing and implementing this policy, where the focus on handling child abuse cases creates substantial social impacts and has the potential to change community norms and values. However, continuous education and socialisation efforts must address the challenge of evolving patriarchal norms and behaviour patterns.

The Head of the Women's and Children's Protection Division at DP3A Bandung City said that in 2023, the community is increasingly open to child protection, and this is also the cause of the increasing number of child abuse cases in Bandung City because many reports and recorded by DP3A Bandung City. This was stated by the Head of the Women and Children Protection Division of DP3A Bandung City in a statement:

"The community's response to the existence of child protection policies and institutions to report is the community's choice, becoming a service of convenience for the community regarding reporting media. We only open as wide a movement as possible so that people dare to report cases of child abuse, experienced or seen; the needs are different, some need medical, psychological, need legal assistance" (Interview with the Head of the Women and Children Protection Division on October 10, 2024).

The community thinks that with the existence of child protection policies and institutions to report becomes an option, there are community convenience services related to reporting media, such as the UPTD call centre, call centre 08111-129-129, Senandung Perdana application, or also the community can come directly to the office, but that is only part of the community's choice, DP3A Bandung City only opens the broadest possible movement so that the community dares to report cases of child abuse, experienced or seen.

Regarding economic aspects, child protection policies seek to protect children through training and guidance in various fields and activities. Although the financial aspect is inadequate, DP3A Bandung City collaborates with multiple stakeholders. Then, the political element refers to the authority officials possess to determine the smooth implementation of child protection policies. In this policy, support is provided by the executive and legislative branches. Legislative support in this case is Commission D of the Bandung City DPRD, which is in charge of protecting women and children; it is Commission D that provides guidance, supervision, and evaluation on an ongoing basis, and there is accountability from DP3A Bandung City.

#### 4. Conclusion

The implementation of the policy on child protection against child abuse in Bandung City in 2023 implemented by the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) and the UPTD of Women and Children Protection (UPTD PPA) shows a significant effort in addressing the high rate of violence against children. The policy has been implemented through various approaches, including active socialisation, establishing Community-Based Integrated Child Protection (PATBM) cadres, and using technology such as the Senandung Perdana application to facilitate reporting of violence against children. However, this study found several constraints in implementing the policy, particularly regarding limited human resources and budget. With only 16 counsellors and advocates assigned to serve Bandung's large population, the service quality is not ideal. Budget constraints also limit the implementation of socialisation activities and other protection programs, although collaboration with the community and private sector has been undertaken to support the policy. The high rate of violence against children recorded in 2023 does not fully reflect the failure of the policy. However, it also indicates success in raising public awareness through intensive socialisation. This has encouraged the community to be more active in reporting cases of violence that may have previously gone unreported. In the future, the success of child protection policies in Bandung City requires improvements in two main aspects: allocating adequate resources, both in terms of budget and workforce and strengthening cross-sector coordination more systematically. This research emphasises the importance of ongoing support and adaptive policy evaluation to ensure comprehensive and practical child protection sustainability.

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