

YAYASAN MENARA AGUNG PENGHARAPAN INDONESIA INTERNASIONAL (MAP)

Community Mobilization to Combat TB in 4 Districts in Nias Island

Indonesia is one of the top countries with the highest burden of TB in the world. Moreover, TB is one of the top four causes of death in the country. One area affected by underdiagnosis and underreporting of TB is Nias Island. The Island consists of four under developed districts. Accessing TB care and health services in these remote areas is difficult because of limited public transportation. Additionally, the lack of TB information also serves as an obstacle to accessing care and contributes to the growing stigma about TB. For example, many community members hold beliefs such as the disease is incurable, inherited, or is sent to people as a curse.

To help improve TB case-finding in Nias Island, Yayasan Menara Agung Pengharapan Internasional (MAP), an Indonesian non-government

organization, received TB REACH Wave 5 funding. With these funds, MAP implemented a community mobilization project to increase TB awareness and education among community members, health care workers, and laboratorians. MAP identified village Health Promoters and built their capacity to conduct TB house to house screening and

referrals to the Puskesmas (sub-district level government community health clinics). Through these efforts 106,831 people were assessed for TB; 8,329 were identified with TB signs and symptoms; and a total of 5807 were tested for TB. 581 of these persons were diagnosed with TB and 575 people were successfully started on treatment.

One young woman helped by this project was very ill and coughing for a longtime. Her family thought she was poisoned by people who did not like her. Because of this, she did not seek proper medical care; instead she visited the witch doctor to lift her curse. Her illness worsened and, sadly, her boyfriend left her as he thought her disease was incurable. During the house to house screenings a Health Promoter referred her to the Puskesmas for proper diagnoses. There she was confirmed to have TB and started treatment. Her health rapidly improved and she was able to go back to teaching her students. When she got better, her boyfriend wanted to come back to her, but she refused him because she did not think it was true love since he left her during her time of need.

Her message to the others in the community is "TB can separate you from your loved one. Seek treatment and get cured. You can get your life back again".

Because of Yayasan MAP incredible success in mobilizing the community to improve TB case finding, this project was awarded additional TB REACH Wave 5 Scale-Up funding to expand to other areas of Nias Island.



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Each year, roughly 10 million people around the world will fall ill to Tuberculosis (TB). Of these people, about one third will fall through the cracks and fail to receive an accurate diagnosis, or worse yet – effective treatment. These people are far more likely to die from this completely curable disease.

The TB REACH initiative was established in 2010 in an effort to reach the millions of people with TB who are missed by the current systems. With generous funding contributions from Global Affairs Canada, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, and the Indonesia Health Fund, TB REACH has provided financial and technical support to hundreds of partner organizations working in the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the world.

To date, TB REACH has funded projects in over 50 countries, where more than 33 million people have been screened for TB. More than 2 million people have been diagnosed and nearly 90% of those were provided with appropriate treatment.

More than 1 million lives have been saved in the areas where TB REACH works.

TB REACH

FINDING AND TREATING PEOPLE WITH TB IN THE WORLD'S POOREST COMMUNITIES

Stop TB Partnership

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TB REACH combines fast-track, results-based financing with rigorous, external monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to produce effective results. As a direct result, many national governments and/or other donor agencies such as The Global Fund have chosen to scale-up successful approaches and maximize their own investments.

TB REACH awards grants up to US one million dollars to institutions or organizations that have put forward innovative solutions to find, treat, and stop the spread of TB.

At its conception, TB REACH focused on demonstrating how active case finding can improve TB case detection, and now has expanded to promote state of the art technologies and approaches to improve treatment outcomes, TB prevention and product innovation.



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