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TOWARDS A STRONGER HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM IN INDONESIA

Quality health care across Indonesia’s vast archipelago is uneven, meaning that not all Indonesians receive high-quality care with equal ease. To address one aspect of this immense challenge, the United States and Indonesia are increasing access to, and availability of, high-quality data to improve health-care provision and decision-making.

Indonesia’s fragmented health system has over 400 unique software applications for collecting, storing, and analyzing public health data. Not all health care providers and decision-makers can access the same high-quality data across these systems to effectively analyze and use it to make rapid and data-driven decisions on how to improve health services. Indonesia seeks to solve this problem by capitalizing on their digital health transformation goals, prompted by COVID-19, to improve healthcare quality and make it more equitable.

COUNTRY HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND DATA USE

USAID’s Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) program supports Indonesia’s digital health transformation by building up and fortifying the technology, software, and information

PHOTO: Des Syafitza for USAID

systems used by the Ministry of Health and everyone working in the health system to deliver more affordable, higher-quality care.

This includes training healthcare workers to collect, analyze, and use data through standardized, unified systems that help them make data-driven decisions about improving healthcare for patients. USAID also supports Indonesia to establish the development of the guidelines, policies, and digital architecture to make its ambitious digital health transformation plan a reality. CHISU also brings Indonesia's health information systems in line with global standards and builds the Government of Indonesia's ability to improve and monitor their systems over time so that as new innovations emerge—including tools that visualize data for easy use by decision-makers—the Ministry of Health can seamlessly select and incorporate them.

For example, new regulations are being developed and launched to govern the digital health transformation, including one that will determine how patients can securely access their own health information digitally. In turn, this will boost the patients' confidence that the provider has the right medical history and information they need to provide the right care in a timely manner. This will improve the patient's care-seeking behavior and their use of health services.

USAID and Indonesia have agreed to focus their initial efforts on digitizing, standardizing, and interoperating the systems managing public health information for tuberculosis, maternal and newborn health, and health financing, with additional support for COVID-19.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

USAID CHISU will support the Ministry of Health to develop and launch a roadmap on digital transformation that will facilitate the necessary improvements to its organizational structures, human resource pool, and various processes and governance systems. This will result in measurable improvements for Indonesia's health information system and improve public health so that more Indonesians can access healthcare and live longer, healthier lives.

By the end of the project, health workers will be fully equipped with the tools and skills they need to correctly interpret health data, and Indonesia will adopt world-class standards, methods, and approaches for using data. Health information systems will be standardized to nurture better communication across and between these systems, and decisions for how to approach standardization will be spearheaded by Indonesian partners, thereby improving sustainability in the long term. Finally, local stakeholders, including but not limited to universities and private sector partners, will partner with the government to support this strengthened health system.

CONTACT

Anastasia Susanto, USAID
asusanto@usaid.gov

Leah McManus, CHISU Chief of Party
leah_mcmanus@id.jsi.com