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# EQUITABLE HEALTHCARE ACCESS

## EVIDENCE-BASED PLANNING AND BUDGETING TO INCREASE EQUITY IN INDONESIA

### CHALLENGE

Health inequities occur when health services are not accessible or utilized by certain people, based on their gender, socio-economic status, ethnicity, geographic residence, or other characteristic. The majority of health expenditures support hospitals and tertiary care; less than 25% of health expenditures reach the primary level, where most marginalized populations seek care.

In Indonesia, health funding decisions are made at the local level. An Evidence Based Planning and Budgeting (EBP) process was pilot tested in three districts of Papua (Boven Digoel, Jayawijaya, and Kepulauan Yapen) to train decision makers at the local level to better plan and allocate funds to match health needs. TRAction supported the development of a case study to understand how the new planning approach influenced health budgeting and to determine if health equity is considered during the planning and budgeting process.

### STUDY APPROACH

The study employed quantitative and qualitative methods to determine: 1) if funding was allocated more equitably as a result of the EBP initiative, and 2) if equity is considered in the budgeting process.

Quantitative data was collected through a detailed review of District Health Office (DHO) budget documents before and after the EBP process was initiated. In addition, budget and program data from *Puskesmas* (health centers) was collected. The data was analyzed to determine whether there were changes in the percent of money allocated for preventive versus curative programs, and for remote versus non-remote areas.

Qualitative interviews were conducted after the initial quantitative analysis was completed. Interviews were done with key staff from the District and *Puskesmas* levels.

#### LOCATION

Papua, Indonesia

#### TIMELINE

December 2013 to June 2015

#### IMPLEMENTED BY

University of Gadjah Mada

#### KEY QUESTIONS

The aim of this study is to determine the impact of Evidence Based Planning and Budgeting (EBP) on equitable health service delivery. Research questions include:

- ▶ To what extent did the EBP approach influence equitable Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) budget allocation at the district level?
- ▶ What factors influence equitable MNCH budget allocation in three districts that have applied the EBP approach?

#### PROJECT STATUS



### STUDY INFORMATION

### KEY FINDINGS

The research showed an increase in the MNCH budget of Boven Digoel and Kepulauan Yapen districts, while Jayawijaya district experienced a decreased budget. Boven Digoel and Jayawijaya demonstrated an improvement in equitable budgeting shown by the increased number of programs and amount of funding allocated for more remote areas.

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A young patient is treated at a local clinic in Indonesia.  
Photo credit: University of Gadjah Mada

However, in Yapen, neither equitable budgeting nor equitable program allocation was achieved. Several factors contributed to the findings, including political commitment of local government, district budget ceiling, availability of other sources of funding, and coordination between DHO, Bappeda and cross-sectorial agencies.

## IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study found that several aspects of the EBP approach were beneficial for district health planners, including the emphasis on the use of local data and the workshops that brought different institutions together. The study also identified a handful of external factors that influenced district health-planning processes. Future EBP planning initiatives must consider such external factors in order to achieve the project's intended goal. Future planning initiatives must also consider stressing the concept of equitable budget allocation to local health planners throughout the duration of the initiatives. These factors should be addressed through a more systematic approach in combination with governance strengthening initiatives.

## RESEARCH INTO ACTION

This case study determined the impact of Evidence Based Planning and Budgeting on equitable resource allocation for maternal and child health programming. The results of this study will be shared with the Indonesian government to inform how EBP can be improved before scaling up the initiative.

### TRACTION PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Translating Research Into Action (TRAction) Project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, focuses on implementation and delivery science—which seeks to develop, test, and compare approaches to more effectively deliver health interventions, increase utilization, achieve coverage, and scale-up evidence-based interventions. TRAction supports implementation research to provide critically-needed evidence to program implementers and policy-makers addressing maternal and child health issues.

For more information on the TRAction Project:  
[www.tractionproject.org](http://www.tractionproject.org) ► [tracinfo@urc-chs.com](mailto:tracinfo@urc-chs.com)

