



## REDUCING THE THREAT OF DRUG-RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS

In Indonesia, over half of all tuberculosis (TB) cases are treated in the private sector. To achieve its goal of TB elimination by 2030, Indonesia is working to improve diagnosis, services, and treatment at private healthcare facilities. To that end, the United States partners with the faith-based Muhammadiyah organization, which operates Indonesia's largest network of private health facilities.

The Government of Indonesia's National TB Program (NTP) can help ensure effective diagnosis, services, and treatment for all by collaborating with private health providers. Given its size and coverage, the Muhammadiyah network is a key partner for the NTP in realizing its goal to eliminate TB in Indonesia by 2030. Out of an estimated 24,000 DR-TB cases, the government is only aware of less than half, and the rest are considered "missing," meaning patients are left untreated and may infect others.

## **USAID MENTARITB**

USAID MENTARITB expands Indonesians' access to DR-TB treatment, care, and services in the highly populated Special Region of Yogyakarta as well as Central and East Java provinces by tapping into the

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Muhammadiyah network of health facilities. With USAID support, Muhammadiyah expands access to information about TB to reduce stigma among health care providers and the general public, promote behaviors such as handwashing with soap that reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses, and identify and reach out to more patients with TB symptoms. These efforts help ensure that more Indonesians can get tested—and that more cases (particularly DR-TB) are reported to the NTP. The project is helping Muhammadiyah establish DR-TB services in six hospitals while promoting community-based treatment for DR-TB patients so that patients can complete their course of treatment in the comfort of their own homes rather than through routine trips to health care facilities. This expansion of services will help Indonesia find its missing DR-TB cases and improve case follow-up—getting more people on treatment and seeing the treatment through to completion. Ultimately, improved treatment will reduce the spread of disease and save more lives.

Through the TB recovery plan, USAID MENTARITB helps recover lost ground in TB control in Indonesia caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring uninterrupted TB diagnosis and care through bidirectional screening of TB and COVID-19, meaning that COVID-19 patients are screened for TB and TB patients are screened for COVID-19. The plan also calls for TB treatment in 48 Muhammadiyah hospitals across nine provinces.

## **RESULTS**

As of early 2022, DR TB services in six of Muhammadiyah's hospitals operated and treated 57 DR-TB patients. Additionally, Muhammadiyah found and treated over 3,000 TB patients in 48 hospitals engaged in TB-COVID-19 screening.

By the end of the project in 2023, USAID MENTARITB aims to provide quality DR-TB treatment to more than 2,000 DR-TB patients and treat an additional 4,500 patients in nine provinces with all types of TB.

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