

The Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on Project for Strengthening District Health in Sulawesi

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Relevance

The health services system still need to improve for fulfillment of the sense of humanity and equity in order that community members, regardless of their social economic status, may reach better quality of life through access to such system. In Sulawesi, particularly, the Hospital Blood Bank (HBB) and Blood Transfusion Services (BTS) are unsatisfactory. Only 33% of the prevailing districts and cities have been able to provide those services. This project is relevant in decreasing the maternal mortality rate and other diseases requiring safe blood support. This project supports districts and cities to give more attention to the health conditions of local communities by providing additional facilities and capacity building trainings for all technicians to become more professional.

Sustainability

HBB and BTS services are implemented as a management for voluntary non-remunerative blood and family/replacement donors and, therefore, should be a non-profit public service. Such management should be community-based with adequate support from stakeholders at the district/municipal level. Local government should provide the regular local budget, meanwhile the private sector should support through Corporate Social Responsibilities and the community should be mobilized to develop transparent and accountable fundraising and donors. It is suggested that all technicians and doctors are government employees. Intensive donor information and education is needed as well to promote the motivation, whereas the recruitment of voluntary non-remunerative donors is very important. It should be based on data from knowledge, attitude, and practice, and should be built on cultural and religious beliefs favorable to voluntary blood donation.

Quality assurance is essential in all aspects of the screening and processing of blood and blood product. The management should be utilizing a Standard Operating Procedure following the international guidelines, namely the Convention on Blood Safety and Technology Blood Transfusion Safety from the World Health Organization (WHO). The Government of Indonesia has assigned the Indonesian Red Cross Society to build coordination and linkages with them following the completion of this JBIC-supported project. Therefore, the quality of record keeping for all activities is essential for sufficient improvement, monitoring, and reporting. Uniformity in standard, quality and reduction cost can be achieved through the greater centralization of screening, processing and central procurement of test kits, equipment and other supply.

Rehabilitating training facilities and constructing dormitories at the Central Blood Transfusion Services in Jakarta is very useful. However, regular support from the Ministry of Health should be gained through the national budget and the development of self-reliant units. Trainings should be standard procedures for certifying doctors, nurses, and technicians, including volunteers who develop the donor management and fundraising. Trainings could be conducted as regular trainings and long distance trainings.