

Bandung Village Leaders Commit Local Budget Funds to Family Planning

Indonesia Advocacy Case Study

In 2012, Bandung district village leaders took a significant step to increase access to family planning, committing Rp 2.5 million each, or US\$ 275, for local family planning activities. Combined, the 270 villages in the district will allocate Rp 675 million, or US\$ 75,000. This was the first successful attempt to leverage existing village budgets for family planning activities in Indonesia. The funds will support family planning field staff and volunteers. They will also provide counseling and transportation to health centers for new acceptors of long-acting and permanent methods (LAPMs) of contraception. The commitment to increase funds for family planning comes as the result of a mandate by the Association of Indonesian Village Governments (*Asosiasi Pemerintahan Desa Seluruh Indonesia* or APDESI) at the urging of Advance Family Planning (AFP) and its Bandung District Working Group (DWG).

Background—Waning support for family planning and LAPMs at district level

Indonesia once had one of the world's most robust family planning programs. In recent years, however, progress in the overall contraceptive prevalence rate has stalled and use of LAPMs has declined. Decentralization has devolved much of the budget allocation process to local districts, increasing the number of decision-makers, many of whom may not fully understand the importance of family planning in maternal and child health, including the role and benefits of LAPMs. Therefore, efforts such as the APDESI's mandate are essential to ensure that district government support for family planning is prioritized in the budget process.

The Strategy—Focus on decision-makers with influence over village budget allocations

Through trainings and advocacy sessions, the Bandung DWG with AFP's technical support identified APDESI as having the authority to influence local leaders and budgets. An advocacy strategy focusing on APDESI and local leaders was developed by the DWG using several advocacy tools:

- Spitfire Smart Chart™, which focuses advocacy priorities and plans on decision-makers;
- Net-Mapping, which identifies key decision-makers and opinion leaders and their roles in budget processes; and
- A costing tool, developed by the United Nations Population Fund, which projects reproductive health costs over a specific period of time.

The resulting strategy focused on how the Bandung DWG could best help APDESI increase resources for local family planning activities. The DWG developed and shared advocacy

messages with APDESI that centered on the dividends from family planning investments in terms of the environment, community health and socio-economic development.

These advocacy efforts led APDESI to mandate that village leaders in Bandung allocate funds within their Village Equity Budget (*Alokasi Dana Perimbangan Desa* or ADPD) to specific activities:

- Coordination of meetings between Family Planning Field Staff (PLKB) and Family Planning Volunteer Workers (PPKBD); and
- Meeting the needs of new acceptors of LAPMS for counseling and transportation to health service centers.

In addition to increasing access to and use of LAPMs, one significant outcome of this initiative is that several family planning champions have emerged from the Bandung district. Among these champions is Agus Salim, the Bandasari village leader, who has engaged Village Development Teams and announced his own vasectomy to lead by example. Another, Mr. H. Apendi, head of the District Government Planning Office (BAPPEDA) in Bandung, is a vocal proponent of investments in family planning as critical to family welfare and national development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Lessons learned and next steps

To foster local ownership and future village budget commitments, the DWG and AFP engaged village leaders, convened meetings with influential local-governance groups and hosted workshops on the economic benefits of family planning. An important element of the strategy is follow up by the DWG to verify that pledged funds are in fact being used for family planning. The efforts in Bandung highlight the potential to use village fiscal resources and provide a model that could be replicated in other districts.

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