# Indonesia Work Plan

FY 2021 Program Year 3

October 2020-September 2021







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### **ACT | EAST PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The U.S. Agency for International Development Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) | East Program supports national NTD programs in reaching World Health Organization goals for NTD control and elimination through proven, cost-effective public health interventions. The Act to End NTDs | East (Act | East) Program also provides critical support to countries on their journey to self-reliance, helping them create sustainable programming for NTD control within robust and resilient health systems. The Act | East Program is being implemented by a consortium of partners, led by RTI International and including The Carter Center; Fred Hollows Foundation; IMA World Health; Light for the World; Results for Development (R4D); Save the Children; Sightsavers; and Women Influencing Health, Education, and Rule of Law (WI-HER).

In Indonesia, Act | East program activities are implemented by RTI International.

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT ON ACT TO END NTDs | EAST (ACT | EAST) ACTIVITIES AND WORK PLANS

Act | East recognizes the impact that the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has had on all programs. On April 1, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued interim guidance to neglected tropical disease (NTD) programs recommending that almost all in-person activities be postponed until further notice. With the support of USAID, Act | East stopped all activities that matched the criteria outlined in WHO's interim guidance.

On July 27, 2020, WHO issued further interim guidance on assessing whether NTD activities could restart safely. Alongside this, Act | East, in collaboration with Act | West and USAID, developed activity restart guidance and resource documents to support each country in safely implementing activities while adapting to the COVID-19 challenge and adhering to global guidance.

The timeline to restart activities will be context-specific, varying by country, region, and activity, and is subject to changes in COVID-19 dynamics. For the sake of brevity, all amendments to activity design to account for COVID-19 have not been listed in each country's work plans.

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### **ACRONYMS LIST**

COVID-19 coronavirus disease 2019

FTS Filariasis Test Strips

GOI Government of Indonesia LF Lymphatic Filariasis

MDA Mass Drug Administration

MOH Ministry of Heath

NTD Neglected Tropical Disease STH Soil-Transmitted Helminths

Subdit Sub-directorate for Lymphatic Filariasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths

TAS Transmission Assessment Survey

USAID United States Agency for International Development

WHO World Health Organization

#### **NARRATIVE**

#### 1. NATIONAL NTD PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SUPPORT

Indonesia is the fourth largest country in the world in terms of population, with 268 million people spread throughout 13,000 islands. After years of restructuring, Indonesia is currently divided into 34 provinces and 514 districts. Administrative and health structures related to the management of the national neglected tropical disease (NTD) program include the Ministry of Health (MOH) at the national level, provincial health offices, district health offices, and community health centers .

The Government of Indonesia (GOI) implements most of its NTD activities independently. Starting in 2019, the government fully funded all mass drug administration (MDA) rounds for lymphatic filariasis (LF), and the majority of surveillance activities—including pre-Transmission Assessment Surveys (TAS) and TASs—have also been funded by the MOH. USAID provided financial support in fiscal year (FY) 20 and FY21 to fill funding gaps in the MOH operational budgets.

#### 2. IR1 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: LF

#### **Program Context**

The GOI endorses elimination of LF as a public health problem and current projections indicate that the national program will be able to stop MDA in all districts after the October 2024 LF MDA validate the elimination of LF as soon as 2028.

#### Proposed FY21 activities related to LF elimination are as follows:

LF pre-TAS. Based on the latest data review with the Sub-directorate for Lymphatic Filariasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH) (Subdit), 85 districts should be able to meet the criteria of achieving at least five rounds of MDA with epidemiological coverage above 65% following the October 2020 MDA, and therefore will require a pre-TAS in FY21. Act | East will plan to support pre-TAS in 22 district, which includes 11 districts that were scheduled for pre-TAS within the approved FY20 Act | East Work Plan but were unable to be implemented because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The central-level and BBTKL¹ team will supervise surveys in one sentinel and one spot-check site for each district assessment, using mf testing,² and collaborate with provincial and district level program staff and laboratory technicians. Results of the pre-TAS will be entered into the WHO Integrated NTD Database and shared with the districts through a formal letter from the Subdit.

**LF TAS.** Act | East will support 15 surveys in FY21, including 14 TAS2 and 1 TAS3. Two of these will be surveys that were planned within the approved FY20 Work Plan but were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the latest data review with the Subdit, 115 districts (consisting of 61 TAS1, 40 TAS2, and 14 TAS3) should be able to meet the criteria required to implement TASs in FY21. Many of these 15 surveys will be implemented in districts where ENVISION supported MDA rounds, Pre-TAS, and/or TAS. For all TASs, each evaluation unit will consist of one implementation unit, except for Mauro Jambi District, which will split into two evaluation units. The MOH will fund all TAS1 planned for FY21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Balai Besar Teknik Kesehatan Lingkungan (National Environmental Health Laboratory)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Given that Brugian and mixed areas cannot use Filariasis Test Strips (FTS) and there is no official WHO guidance for use of Brugia rapid tests for pre-TAS, the GOI uses a uniform protocol for all pre-TAS using mf.

About half of the (19/37) planned surveys will be conducted within USAID Indonesia's Geographic Priority Provinces, including 17 (77%) pre-TAS and 2 (13%) TAS<sup>3</sup>. The locations for these surveys are determined when districts are able to complete the required survey criteria and confirm the availability of domestic financial and human resources to cover the surveys planned for the year. Act | East works closely with the MOH to ensure local, national and donor funds are allocated in a complementary way to cover the increasing number of surveys required as Indonesia progresses toward LF elimination.

**LF diagnostic test training.** In March 2021, staff from selected provincial and district health services in those LF endemic areas that are ready to implement Pre-TAS will be trained about the various laboratory procedures required for LF testing, with a strong emphasis on the various practical laboratory skills involved. The three-day training will be organized at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta where qualified laboratory technicians and LF experts are available. Practical applications and considerable practice in each of the various laboratory tests involved will be emphasized. Pre- and post-tests will be used to measure changes in both basic knowledge and the practical application of the appropriate lab tests. Approximately 30 participants will be involved.

**Financing and Sustainability Case Study and Policy Brief.** Act | East consortium partner, R4D will support the documentation of the successful mainstreaming of NTD programming into wider health system planning and budgeting structures. R4D will work with the Act | East Indonesia team and the Subdit to write a synthesis document outlining successful strategies for financial sustainability of NTD programming implemented in the country and key factors that have contributed to enhancing domestic financing for NTDs. This case study will address how USAID's involvement in Indonesia has evolved in coordination with Subdit's successful mainstreaming of NTD activities. In addition to a case study, Act | East will produce a policy brief on lessons learned.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 5 of 18 USAID priority provinces are considered non-endemic for LF. This means they have a limited LF program, but implement a soil-transmitted helminths (STH) program. These 5 provinces are DKI, East Java, South Sulawesi, Bali, and DI Yogyakarta. One other province, Banten Province has LF endemic districts, but all endemic districts in this province have completed TAS3.

## **APPENDIX 1. MAPS**





