

Indonesia (2013)

Global Research Project – Strengthening Institutions to Improve Public Expenditure Accountability

Research: Increasing Access to HIV Treatment through Anti-Retroviral Therapy: Scaling Up in West Java

Grantee: Adiatma Yudistira Manogar Siregar

Siregar is one of three researchers who benefitted from a GDN grant at the Center for Economics and Development Studies, Padjadjaran University, Indonesia as part of the Global Research Project that looked at analyzing public expenditures in health. Between 2008 and 2013, the researchers also had access to mentorship opportunities, peer-review meetings and methodological training workshops.

Siregar explored the possibility of scaling-up access to Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) to face the changing nature of the HIV epidemic in Indonesia, and specifically the need to reach out to larger section of the population besides injecting drug users (IDSs). In his study on West Java, he simulated the effect of a scaling up of ART in hospital and at the community level, on ART uptake. Based on a Benefit Incidence Analysis on potential users, Siregar concluded that providing access to ART at the community level through Puskesmas (primary/community healthcare centres) would prove to be more cost effective and allow a larger uptake. Siregar presented his findings to the health authorities in West Java.

The grant and support provided by GDN's GRPs strengthened Siregar's understanding on research-to-policy practices, and provided him the stepping stone towards becoming an expert in economic evaluations applied to the health sector.