

# Community-based organization spearheads efforts to translate HCV interventions to prison settings in Jakarta

Thomas C<sup>1</sup>, Perfect C<sup>2</sup>, Donatelli C<sup>2</sup>, Boscardin H<sup>2</sup>, Khwairakpam G<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Indonesian Drug Users Network, <sup>2</sup> Coalition PLUS, <sup>3</sup> TREAT Asia

# Background

- The Indonesian Drug Users Network is a community-based organization that works closely with marginalized populations, including people who use injection drugs (PWID). Many members from this community live with or are at risk of HIV and HCV. Additionally, community members also face an elevated risk of incarceration due to the criminalization of drug use in Indonesia.
- It is in this context that a community-led effort to increase HCV knowledge and testing within the prison setting was conducted.

# Description of model of care/intervention

- In August 2018, the Indonesian Drug User Network signed a memorandum of understanding with the Correctional Department of Ministry of Law and Justice to provide a protocol and guideline for HCV screening and treatment in the prison setting by medical personnel. Additional stakeholders involved in the initiative included the Ministry of Health, the Indonesian Hepatologist Association, and Clinton Health Access Initiative.
- Study clubs were conducted to improve the literacy of prison health staff and incarcerated individuals on HCV prevention and treatment. As part of each club, anonymous HCV testing was offered; those who tested positive were offered same-day treatment. Every session was facilitated by one doctor and one of the network staff.

# Effectiveness

- As a result of the MoU, since August to December 2018, 447 people were tested, 77 (17.2%) of whom tested positive.
- The 3 HCV study clubs were attended by 90 prisoners in narcotics prison.
- In Pengayoman Hospital, 14 of the 30 people (46.7%) tested by the trained internist were later confirmed with HCV viremia. These individuals were given the option to immediately start DAA treatment.
- Trainings of doctors were conducted in seven prisons.

# Conclusion and next steps

- This community-led initiative helped increase HCV knowledge in the prison setting, identified HCV positive individuals and allowed provision of same-day treatment.
- This collaborative effort between may serve as a blueprint for further scale up in Jakarta, a city with approximately 17,000 prisoners.



# Disclosure of Interest Statement

- The intervention was made possible by the financial support from Unitaid, through the Coalition PLUS HIV/HCV Drug Affordability Project.

