

# Acceptability and satisfaction with HIV self-testing among female sex workers: findings from a pilot project in 15 Indonesian priority districts

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**Background:** Female Sex Workers (FSWs) remain a priority or key populations for HIV and AIDS control in Indonesia. The national data indicated inadequate levels of HIV testing coverage among FSWs (42% ever tested). The goals of this study were to assess the acceptability of a pilot project of community-based HIV self-testing (HIVST) as well as the level of satisfaction of FSWs who received the self-testing.

**Methods:** In addition to the standard of care, the intervention provided the option for HIV testing using an oral fluid test (OFT). FSWs in the intervention districts were reached through a variety of means, including outreach activities, social media campaigns, and satellite OFT pickup points. The study used a branding strategy to promote these multimodal approaches, abbreviating Tes Mandiri Komunitas (community self-testing) to Teman-kita (translated: our friend). This logo was used on all digital platforms and printed materials.

## Results:

A total of 2,772 FSWs registered for the study in intervention districts, among whom 271 opted to go directly to a health facility for testing and 1,562 received OFT. The large majority (97.8% or 1,528/1562) chose assisted OFT with test kits provided by outreach workers. FSWs who received OFT were overwhelmingly positive in their assessment. Ninety-five percent (94.7%) perceived that it was easy to conduct 90.5% felt that it was easy to interpret the results. Somewhat less so, but still positive, 75.9% perceived that their OFT result was accurate, and 71.4% felt that the OFT information provided was clear.

**Conclusion:** Community-based HIV screening using OFT appears to be highly acceptable to FSW in Indonesia and, despite being introduced only recently, tends to be trusted. Service satisfaction was high among FSW who received OFT in the study.

## Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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