

Barriers to implementing HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B rapid testing in the antenatal care settings in Indonesia.

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Background: In 2017, the WHO reported that Indonesia ranked highest in Asia-Pacific for syphilis prevalence among antenatal care attendees and for HIV prevalence among pregnant women, at 3.2% and 0.7%, respectively. To address this issue, a triple elimination program has been implemented in Indonesia, where three rapid screening tests for HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B should be offered to pregnant women attending antenatal care (ANC) settings. Little is known regarding the challenges experienced by stakeholders conducting this program.

Methods: Focus group discussions (FGD) and interviews were conducted with various stakeholders in Bali and West Nusa Tenggara Provinces between October 2019 and February 2020. The FGD and the interview guides covered questions about the implementation and operational aspects of the program, including the challenges faced by the stakeholders.

Results: In total, 18 stakeholders participated, including District Health Office staff, Puskesmas staff, village midwives, and midwives from private clinics from five districts in Bali and two in West Nusa Tenggara Province. Rapid test kit stock-outs, lack of skills in supply chain management, lack of staff training, high staff turnover, the complexity of information and reporting mechanisms, stigma and discrimination, and challenges to involve the private sector were among the challenges experienced by the stakeholders in conducting this rapid test screening at ANC setting.

Conclusion: This study sheds light on the barriers to implementing HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B rapid testing in ANC settings in Indonesia. Interventions to address the above issues are recommended to improve the implementation and coverage of this triple elimination program in ANC setting.

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