

# Promising TB case finding in prison settings: a lesson learned from 10 Indonesian prisons/detention centers

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## Background

The Indonesian prison population (215,000 in 2016) is relatively small, but prison conditions are crowded (177% occupancy) and infection control is inadequate. Since 2015, entry/exit screening, cough surveillance, annual screening and contact investigation are included in prison's TB services, using symptom screening and sputum smear, in addition to routine TB services. Early 2016 the MOH made Xpert the primary diagnostic for at risk populations.

## Method

In 2016, The Ministry of Law and Human Rights and Ministry of Health, supported by Challenge TB/USAID, implemented TB Mass Screening in 9 prisons and 1 Detention Centre (total 10,816 inmates), using symptoms and chest X-Ray (CXR) screening followed by Xpert for all symptomatic and inmates with CXR abnormalities.

## Results

The mass screening contributed 72% of the TB case finding in the 10 facilities (171 out of 236 patients) among whom 9 were MDR (5%). Total case finding increased from 66 in 2014 to 97 in 2015 (based on symptoms screening and sputum smear) and 236 in 2016 with the new algorithm. The prison population increased only slightly from 9812 to 10816. In 2016 the prevalence of TB in each prison/DC varied between 1.3 to 3.1%.

The mass screening with CXR and Xpert required significant investments in logistics and human resources. Interesting local collaboration exists in East Java, where Jember Lung Hospital screens inmates by mobile X-Ray, using local budget.

## Conclusion

Active case finding highlighted high levels of TB and MDR-TB among inmates. The high yield of mass screening as compared to routine case finding strongly indicates the need to strengthen routine TB services in the prisons. Attention is needed to develop effective and sustainable TB care in prisons, ensure routine access for symptomatic to Xpert testing, treatment of both drug sensitive and MDR TB, in addition to the screening programs.

Key Words: TB case finding, Prisons, X-Ray, GeneXpert

## Acknowledgement:

Clinical team and staff of Lubuk Pakam prison, Female Prison Medan, Narcotic Prison Jakarta, Banceuy Prison, Cibinong Prison, Female Prison Bandung, Bandung DC, Tulungagung Prison, Semarang Prison, Female Prison Semarang, Jember Prison  
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Category 2: Public health practice

Track: TB in key affected populations