

RECOMMENDATIONS

The availability of cross-program and cross-sectoral Working Groups in each district/city is an essential element to monitor and ensure the accountability of access and high quality maternal and neonatal emergency services network.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?



To improve the maternal and neonatal emergency services, which is not the responsibility of health sector only



The Working Group supports the effort to improve the government's good governance at the district level



The Working Group could contribute to the reduction of the number of maternal and neonatal mortality

WHO has called the importance of collective action of larger stakeholders for sustainable health outcomes by introducing the terminology of cross-sectoral action for health, followed by guidelines for the practitioners⁽¹⁾

(1) WHO.2011. Intersectoral Action on Health: A Path for Policy-Makers to Implement Effective and Sustainable Action on Health. WHO Centre for Health Development, Kobe, Japan. http://www.who.int/kobe_centre/publications/ISA_booklet_WKC-AUG2011.pdf. Lihat juga Adeleye, O.A, and A.N.Orji, 2010, Strengthening Intersectoral Collaboration for Primary Health Care in Developing



HOW DOES THIS SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH POLICIES?

As a government forum, the Working Group directly supports the effort component "to strengthen the district for government's good governance" on "National Action Plan to expedite the reduction of maternal mortality" of the Government of Indonesia.



WHAT DOES EMAS DO?

EMAS assists the formation or strengthening the existing working groups in 30 districts. The Working Groups are formed at the district level in order to utilize the Government of Indonesia's decentralization system, where the local government holds the real authority of planning, budgeting and implementation of programs in accordance with local necessities while still in line with the national standards of services. The membership of the Working Group includes representatives from government agencies, health service providers, health professional associations and civil society. The three roles of the Working Group are as follows:



Advocates for financial resources to strengthen quality emergency MNH service provision



Advocates for policy changes to strengthen quality emergency MNH service provision



Collaborates with civil society forums (Forum Masyarakat Madani/FMM) to improve community engagement in maternal-newborn mortality reduction efforts

There are many working groups which have been formed in the past, but EMAS approach is a new element which could help ensuring the sustainability of cross-sectoral efforts. The Working Group has been developed to the point where they could be "mentors" for other working groups in other districts. This enables them to reach a specific standard and instilling pride to them for sharing their knowledge and experience with other districts.

DATA AND LESSON LEARNT

The most effective Working Group is the one with strong political will from the Regent, strong leadership from the Local Health Office, clarity of the roles and continuity of effective communication. The Working Groups at the EMAS districts have many success stories in advocating policy changes and funding source for maternal and neonatal health. Among others are:

Cilacap	Bupati Decree on Early Initiation and Exclusive Breastfeeding for newborns and delivery at health facilities is mandatory
Asahan	Bupati Decree mandating birth at health facilities
Cirebon	District Law (Perda) on improving maternal, newborn, infant and children health and survival
Pinrang	Bupati Decree that mandating standardization of MN services and intersectoral collaboration
Deli Serdang	Budget to continue supportive supervision, MPA, and clinical mentoring, and to replicate EMAS intervention in other facilities
Serang	Allocated IDR 300million/year to continue supportive supervision, MPA, and clinical mentoring, and to replicate EMAS intervention in other facilities
Bandung	Increased district health budget to replicate EMAS intervention in other facilities
Malang	Increased district budget for rehabilitation of health facilities and provision of essential medicine-equipment for emergency service

EMAS TOOLS

Technical Guidelines for Working Group

"Working Group: Improving collaboration to increase maternal and neonatal survival : Cross-sectoral Working Group in Indonesia" EMAS Program Technical Report, May 2016