HIV Cooperation Program Indonesia: **BENOA PORT**

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Reducing risk behaviours among fisherman and port workers

Sailors and port workers engage in high risk sex

The estimated three million clients of sex workers in Indonesia (MoH 2012) play a significant role in transmitting HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) to their regular partners, as well as to other sex workers. Clients come from virtually every profession, social and educational background and ethnic group. Surveys have identified sailors, port workers and truckers as men who tend to buy sex more often than men in many other occupations. The ports where they work provide an opportune environment through which to reach them with information about HIV, AIDS and STIs, as well as to provide condoms and referrals for tests and treatment.

Health promotion outreach and service provision in Benoa Port

Men from many Indonesian ethnic groups work in and around Benoa Port in southeastern Bali, including long-line tuna and other fishermen who sail throughout the Indonesian archipelago, and as far away as Thailand. These sailors come to port every few months, joining with men who are more regularly in the port to unload cargo onto waiting trucks. The truckers then deliver the cargo onwards by means of the trans Java-Bali road route.

In mid-2010, HCPI, the Bali Provincial AIDS Commission Secretariat technical staff, and the Denpasar City AIDS Commission developed a multi-sectoral approach to HIV prevention for the men working in the Benoa Port. The aim was to embed the program within the port institutions rather than have it be dependent on services provided by an external NGO, and an external funding mechanism.

The first step was the formation of the Port Working Group, under the political aegis and coordination of the Port Administration. The working group includes the Port Health Clinic, the Long-line Tuna Association's Bali chapter, as well as fish packing, trucking and other companies with largely male work forces in the port.

Two NGOs working in HIV in Bali, Yayasan Citra Usadha Indonesia (YCUI) and Yayasan Kerti Praja (YKP), were responsible for technical support of the program alongside HCPI technical staff. YCUI trained the two port outreach workers in outreach skills, facilitation of interactive group discussions and sexual health. One of the outreach workers previously worked in the port clinic, and is Balinese. The other was a former ship captain who is Javanese. The outreach workers circulated in the port area and on docked ships, engaging individuals in talking about sexual health, HIV, STIs and condoms. They facilitated interactive group discussions wherever possible with small groups of men on board the ships; at food stalls; at motorcycle taxi bases and at dockside.

Participants were given brochures and condoms provided by the AIDS Commissions and the provincial office of the National Family Planning Agency. The doctor and nurse at the port clinic were trained in STI management and pre-test counselling by YKP clinical staff for simple STI examinations, pre-test counselling and VCT referrals. The YKP clinic accepts referrals for patients from the port clinic for more specialized treatment and also performs HIV tests. The Provincial and Denpasar City AIDS Commissions provided overall supervision and monitored the program's progress.

HIV prevention in Indonesian Ports

The National AIDS Commission has adapted the Benoa Port program model for implementation in 24 priority ports in Indonesia, attracted by the local institutional ownership and relatively low program costs that offer a better chance for long-term sustainability and replication. Following a study visit to Benoa Port and discussions with the Working Group there, three ports in West Papua have already developed their adaptations of the approach to the local context.

72%

In 2014, Benoa fieldworkers reached over 4,000 men, and referred 253 men for VCT. The intervention had an impact on reported behaviour change, with 72% of program participants surveyed in 2015 reporting condom use at last sex with female sex workers, and 55% always using condoms with sex workers in the previous three months. These results compare very favourably with similar respondents in the 2015 national IBBS, in which under 5% of seafarers and just over 5% of port workers used condoms consistently with female sex workers in the past three months.