

Revealing Self-Reliance in Indonesia: Developmental Evaluation (DE) for USAID Jalin Project in Indonesia



SI was tasked with conducting a Developmental Evaluation (DE) for the USAID/Indonesia Jalin project. Developmental Evaluation is a utilization focused approach that uses evaluative thinking and feedback to build a continuous adaptation of interventions to facilitate long-term project success. The Jalin project is USAID/Indonesia's maternal and newborn health (MNH) program that seeks to support improvements to MNH services for the most vulnerable populations in the country. The 2-year DE project entailed SI's assessment of Jalin's core operating principles and technical areas, an investigation of the stakeholder relationships in the health sector, and provision of actionable recommendations to improve the program's management.



While conducting a study under the DE, SI inadvertently found evidence that regional governments – unknown to USAID and the Ministry of Health (MOH) – are replicating past USAID maternal and newborn health (MNH) activities. These included scaling a mentoring program for clinical teams in hospitals and health facilities to treat obstetric and newborn complications. Leveraging its flexible design, the DE rapidly pivoted to studying where and why provinces and districts had sustained these activities.



USAID noted that this change of course contributed to the realization that, “[a] DE can provide a flexible mechanism to help improve a project, beyond the expectations of the formal evaluation question reports.”

The Mission reported the DE's findings to USAID Washington as demonstrative of Indonesia's application of the agency's Journey to Self-Reliance approach. These findings contributed to the MOH's decision to create a national mentoring program modeled on the sustained activities, and USAID modified its Jalin project to support this. This mentoring program for health workers was thereafter informed by the DE's findings of which past USAID activities regional governments found useful and had replicated. The MOH believes mentoring is associated with decreases in maternal and newborn mortality. This new program intends to employ 664 mentors to assist health workers in 101 facilities across 120 districts in 2020. This region alone expects 2.4 million live births to occur this year.