

Challenges of malaria elimination in Indonesia

Novyan Lusiyana*¹

¹Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Islam Indonesia, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

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*Corresponding author:

novyan.lusiyana@uui.ac.id

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Malaria is an infectious disease with high rates of morbidity and mortality rates in the world. By 2030, the World Health Organization is targeting the elimination of malaria in all countries. To accelerate the malaria elimination, strategies and innovations are needed according to characteristics of each region.¹

Malaria in Indonesia is endemic, about 79% of malaria cases in Indonesia originate from Papua Province.² Factors influencing high prevalence of the malaria in Papua include geographic conditions, presence of vectors, community characteristics, and health services. Challenge of malaria elimination in Indonesia are not only in the Papua region but also in areas with cases of indigenous, imported, and sub-microscopic malaria.^{3,4}

From 2011 to 2015, the prevalence of malaria decreased significantly, but it was stagnant until 2018. This condition shows that the program has not work optimally, especially to reduce the malaria cases, so involvement of various sectors is required. Cross-sector cooperation needs to be optimized by some program such as surveillance, vector control, monitoring, and program evaluation.^{4,5} Apart from routine malaria programs, innovation is also needed to support the existing programs.^{5,6}

Progress of the elimination program in Indonesia in 2018 was that 285 districts/cities in Indonesia had received a malaria elimination certificate.² Other regions are still working on the elimination of malaria. Several aspects related to a success of the malaria elimination program include presence of health workers in terms either in quality or quantity, availability of adequate malaria logistics, cross-sector coordination, community involvement, well-functioning programs, and supportive local government policies.⁷ Through commitment and solid cooperation of various parties, eliminating malaria in Indonesia in 2030 will not be an arduous effort.

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