

Interventions for Last Mile Districts: Achieving 100% ODF in Pangkep District in South Sulawesi

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Indonesia has nationally reached an average of 79% access to at least basic sanitation (MoH 2020). Among 34 provinces in Indonesia, South Sulawesi Province is currently in the second position on sanitation access with 96.75% (MoH 2020) and on track to become the second open defecation free (ODF) Province in Indonesia. Nine of the 24 districts in South Sulawesi have eliminated OD, with the other districts are trailing with 89–99% access. However, since 2019, only five districts have fully moved from the ‘almost elimination’ status into fully ‘100% elimination’ of OD. This study aimed to identify the determinant factors that enable and hinder the achievement of universal access to sanitation from the current level of sanitation access in Indonesia. This should answer the question on how to accelerate the progress and how to ensure the equitable access by addressing the ‘last-mile’ communities.

A field survey was conducted in one district in South Sulawesi Province with high access of sanitation, but not yet achieve ODF status, i.e. Pangkep District. Within the district, several focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted in the community with verified ODF status and the community without ODF status. Interviews were also conducted with districts, sub-districts, and village authorities to understand the enabling environment on the sanitation access improvement. Field observations were made on the villages to find out the actual quality of latrines built by the community and how the community obtain them.

The study confirms the previous findings that small groups of households in a community that do not yet have access are often the ones facing the most difficult challenges, including geographical conditions, and thus require a different additional approach. Low-quality triggering, dependence of target communities on external funding/assistance mechanisms, lack of progress monitoring after triggering, and low cooperation spirit within the community are found to be the dominant factors that attribute to the reluctance of the community to build their latrines.

Reference

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