



The Transparency for Development Initiative



*Can citizens and communities fill an important gap in **improving health services and outcomes**? How can **people be empowered and supported to hold their doctors, midwives, and governments accountable** for better health care? These are the questions that the Transparency for Development (T4D) initiative will answer.*

This five-year initiative – led by the Harvard Kennedy School and Results for Development Institute – is designed to identify actionable and generalizable evidence that can help transparency and accountability practitioners, donors, and health-focused civil society organizations implement smarter and more effective work to strengthen citizen empowerment and health outcomes alike. Working with civil society partners in Indonesia and Tanzania, the T4D initiative involves three major elements:

- A co-designed community-led transparency and accountability intervention focused on improving maternal and newborn health;
- A mixed-method evaluation designed to answer not only whether the intervention improves health and empowerment – but also in what contexts; and,
- A second phase of work to answer whether the intervention’s results are generalizable and whether the design can be strengthened.

The Intervention – leveraging community-led transparency and accountability to improve health

In partnership with civil society organizations Pattiro (Indonesia) and CHAI (Tanzania), T4D has



designed an adapted community scorecard approach to addressing the core obstacles to improving maternal and newborn health at the community level and above. The intervention builds on existing evidence of what works – and what does not – in transparency and accountability, and it was built to be problem-driven, locally relevant, adaptable to different contexts, and free of outside resources. The intervention is currently being implemented in 100 villages each in Tanzania and Indonesia.

The Evaluation – using quantitative and qualitative approaches to understand impact and the underlying story

Building on the existing evidence base in the transparency and accountability field, the T4D initiative utilizes an integrated evaluation approach to understand the impact that community-led transparency and accountability has on citizen participation, empowerment, health service utilization, and ultimately health outcomes. The impact of the intervention will be assessed using a randomized controlled trial to provide an unbiased answer to the question of whether this community-led intervention can improve health. In addition, the T4D initiative utilizes innovative observation and standard coding of intervention meetings, key informant interviews with community members and leaders, empowerment surveys, and in-depth ethnography to understand the role of context in transparency and accountability effectiveness and the mechanisms through which citizens can trigger improvements in health and governance.

Phase 2 – what is next

In early 2016, the T4D initiative will build off of early findings from the iterative pilot and monitoring of the first waves of Phase 1 to undertake a second phase of work. Both the intervention and the evaluation for Phase 2 will expand into different countries and potentially different sectors to further the field's understanding of how transparency and accountability can improve development outcomes.

For more information about the T4D initiative, please visit our website: <http://t4d.ash.harvard.edu/>

