

PREPARING A HOSPITAL FOR COVID-19

Indonesian Red Cross

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Investing in disaster preparedness is worth it - both in terms of human lives saved and economic returns. In this story we learn how the Indonesian Red Cross / Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) ran simulations and conducted trainings at the Bogor hospital to ensure they would be prepared to respond to a disease outbreak.

Simulating a response to disease outbreak

To be able to better respond to a disease outbreak PMI decided to conduct different exercises simulating an epidemic response at Bogor hospital months before the emergence of the new COVID-19 disease. They invited staff from the Suliarti Saroso National Referral Hospital for Infectious Diseases, as well as local health authorities and showcased the importance of preparedness at the hospital-level for an infectious disease epidemic. PMI staff at Bogor hospital were also trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), how to triage during an outbreak, and how to create an isolation room. With the support of the [Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme \(CP3\)](#), PMI was able to further strengthen their IPC protocols for large-scale outbreaks.

Scaling up IPC capacity during COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, PMI immediately took action to build additional capacity at Bogor hospital. They added additional rooms to accommodate an expected influx of patients, modified rooms to ensure proper isolation protocols, and upgraded another to an operating theatre with a negative pressure room to provide the highest degree of IPC. PMI has also been working on preparing a laboratory facility in the hospital which could analyze COVID-19 PCR tests. Staff members at the hospital continue to be on the front lines of the pandemic response, not only providing support to patients, but also dealing with the risk to their own health. Understanding these challenges, PMI provided psychosocial and other support to hospital staff to help them better cope.

The effects of preparedness

The Bogor hospital was designated as a COVID-specific care center at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic because of its capacity to handle a disease outbreak. To treat COVID-19 patients, PMI Bogor Hospital currently has a total of 32 isolation rooms, 9 ICU, 10 Emergency Rooms, and 1 Operating Room. The hospital has now treated over 700 COVID-19 patients and, when faced with large spikes in cases, is able to increase its capacity even further by setting up emergency tents outside the hospital. To date, including with support from IFRC on the COVID-19 Operation, the hospital has also performed more than 3,000 PCR tests for COVID-19 and continues to send samples for analysis on a daily basis.



INDONESIA

PREPAREDNESS AREA & COMPONENT RELATED

OPERATIONAL CAPACITY



Testing and Learning

KEY STATS



As of December 31, 2021 almost **1.8 million people have received health services from PMI**, including treatment of 700 patients and 3,000 PCR tests for COVID-19 at Bogor hospital.

Over **6,940 PMI personnel** have been mobilized to support COVID-19 activities.



PMI has provided at least **38,000 people with psychosocial support**.



- **Training and simulations** are crucial for an informed epidemic response at the hospital-level. Practical components such as internal response mechanisms as well as external coordination should be included.
- While the National Society had prepared for an epidemic response, their **ability to adapt and adjust** in the moment by changing procedures and increasing hospital capacity proved vital to the response.
- The **psychosocial support** needs of the hospital staff cannot be neglected as they are also going through their own personal challenges with the pandemic. Mental health support is crucial to ensure a sustained response.
- In a hospital setting an important factor is the **clear differentiation of hospital services** such that considerations are taken for treatment of both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients.



"The CP3 program has benefited the PMI Hospital by increasing the capacities of IPC standardization and referral systems to national hospital for infectious disease. It has also strengthened the hospital's ability to provide case management during a pandemic response such as COVID-19. These supports are valuable now as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, but also provide resources to be better prepared to address epidemic and pandemic risks in the future".

Dr. Arfan, Director at Bogor Hospital

Additional resources:

- [Days of Drama and Courage: Behind the scenes at the Indonesian Red Cross COVID-19 Hospital.](#)
- [Technicians, medical staff and volunteers - get oxygen to where it's needed, helping people survive at the PMI hospital and across the country.](#)
- [Success story: Strong relationships with community and government partners are key in epidemic preparedness and response.](#)

- **For more information:**
- Indonesian Red Cross: <https://pmi.or.id/>
 - National Society Preparedness: www.ifrc.org/disaster-preparedness
 - Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness: www.ifrc.org/epidemic-and-pandemic-preparedness

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