

Call for Academic Partner For 1000 Days Fund Programme 2026

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The 1000 Days Fund invites all researchers and academicians to collaborate on applied research with the aim to strengthen the community health system in Indonesia. In response to the issue of high stunting prevalence particularly during the first 1000 days of life, through empowerment of community health workers (CHW) as the backbone in delivering essential intervention at community level. The 1000 Days Fund program model ensures that CHWs are well supervised, have clear and sustainable roles, are adequately skilled, supported with proper resources, and fully integrated into the health service system (Salaried, Skilled, Supervised, Supplied, and Secured).

To date, we have reached 822,913 mothers and children-under-five and trained 72,050 CHWs in Indonesia. Our Community Case Management (CCM) program, which focuses on providing targeted home visits to at-risk mothers and children, contributes to a 42% reduction in maternal malnutrition and 28% reduction in low birth weight in our intervention areas. Our advocacy work has also led to the adoption of a regency regulation formalizing CHWs in Rote Ndao District, as well as village-level co-funding commitments that cumulatively reaches USD480,079.

Our goal is to bridge the research and implementation, ensuring that evidence generated contributes directly to program improvement and policy advocacy. The impact is real, but the whole story is still unfolding. This collaboration will generate evidence that will shape the future of the community health system in Indonesia.

Purpose of the Program

We are seeking researchers and institutions to co-develop and implement research projects aligned with our priority programs. This initiative aims to:

1. Generate actionable evidence to improve the program effectiveness
2. Strengthen the role of CHWs in service delivery
3. Explore the policy and financing decisions at village level related to CHWs
4. Develop long-term collaborations with academia

This initiative is designed as a collaborative partnership:

- Researchers contribute their expertise in study design, methodology, and analysis.
- 1000 Days Fund provides access to implementation and field data, community networks, and opportunity to access relevant program insights and materials within research scope. Our Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL) will also co-design the research projects with interested researchers.

Research Priority Areas

Our current research priority areas for 2026-2027 are as follows:

1.Understanding drivers of CHW performance

This study will assess how the program implementation contributes to CHW performance within our Centers of Excellence (CoE). A CoE is our high-fidelity program which involves village- and district-level community health systems strengthening, including training, supervising, and adequately provisioning CHW and the systems with tools and financing. This study is expected to focus on identifying key barriers, enabling factors, and implications for CHW performance.

The 1000 Days Fund model aims to reduce the current gap in the Indonesian CHW system by equipping CHWs with training, supervision, tools, and incentive mechanisms that enable high-quality service delivery. Building upon this study, we would like to understand how these interventions also lead to high-quality performance from CHWs.

2.Community Health Workers' roles as local agents of change and the influence of gender roles

This research will explore the role of CHWs as agents of behavioural and social change, including their influence and how they positioned themselves on community engagement, trust, and health service delivery in their community. Additional emphasis will be given to gender-specific analysis. As a background, with over 90% of CHWs in Indonesia being women, their voices are often unheard compared to the male stakeholders at village- and district-level governments. This is alarming as they are actually well-positioned to advocate for mothers and children in their villages, and they are the ones who provide routine care to these often vulnerable populations.

3.Health Economics Assessment of Village Fund Utilization for Community Health Worker Programs

This study will assess the allocation and evaluate the utilization of village funds especially for CHW programs, focusing on the cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, efficiency, and sustainability analysis. Given that CHW (kader) activities are largely financed through village funds, this study aims to also assess whether current funding allocations are aligned with program needs and estimate the ideal level of investment required for effective CHW programme delivery.

4.Kader Academy: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Online Training on CHW Performance and Motivation

CHWs require continuous updates in knowledge and skills to perform, hence training should not be viewed as only supplementary but as an essential component to improve CHW performance. To massively reach out CHWs across Indonesia, TDF has implemented an online digital-based training platform called Kader Academy (KA). KA has several components which are video-based learning modules, following with live webinar, and providing certificates for those who passed the examination and who participate in webinar. This research will assess the impact of the Kader Academy on CHW knowledge, performance, motivation, and retention.

Who can collaborate?

We welcome collaborators as follows:

- Researchers, lecturers, and Masters' and PhD students
- Individuals affiliated with universities, research institutions, non-government organizations, or government agencies
- Professionals with experience in public health, Medicine, nutrition, health economics, social sciences, or related fields. A degree related to the research priority areas is an advantage.
- Collaborators should demonstrate strong research capacity including the ability to design research assignments, collect and analyze data, and draw conclusions from their findings. They may have expertise in specific research methodologies, techniques, or tools relevant to their field.
- Collaborators should have effective communication skills to be able to communicate their research findings through written publications and discussions with colleagues.
- Collaborators should manage to organize time effectively and meet agreed deadlines. They must be self-motivated and able to work autonomously.

Scope of Work

While the exact approach may vary by project, interested researchers are expected to collaborate alongside our MERL team to:

1. Refine research questions and methodology.
2. Conduct literature review and background analysis.
3. Conduct data collection and analysis
4. Develop a draft research manuscript
5. Review and finalize outputs for publication

Expected Outputs

Through our collaborations with interested researchers, we expect to produce at least one of the following outputs:

1. Research Manuscript
2. Policy and programmatic recommendations
3. Policy brief

Duration

The duration of the study may vary depending on the research questions. Collaborators are encouraged to clearly outline the proposed timeline in their submission for further discussion. The study will primarily be conducted remotely, with the approach to data collection adapted to the research design, including the use of existing data where appropriate.

Funding

This is a collaborative research partnership without direct financial support from the 1000 Days Fund. We encourage collaborators to leverage existing funding sources or explore potential funding opportunities.

The 1000 Days Fund is committed to supporting the research process through data access, programmatic insights, and technical engagement and providing cost-sharing allocation related to these endeavours.

Further information

To receive more information about this opportunity, please send your:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Research plan/idea, proposed timeline and funding plan
- Optional: writing sample or previous research work

to adriana@1000daysfund.org (Adriana Viola Miranda, MD — MERL Director).

