

Mosquito with Wolbachia Has Reduced Dengue Fever Case in Yogyakarta

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Dengue fever is still a problem in Indonesia. Currently, control methods of the disease caused by *Aedes aegypti* mosquito are still developed. One of those is done by World Mosquito Program (WMP) Yogyakarta research team that utilises Wolbachia bacteria. In the past two years, the team had placed *Aedes aegypti* eggs with Wolbachia bacteria in seven districts of Tegalrejo and Wirobrajan in the city of Yogyakarta. It showed that the mosquito carrying Wolbachia has reduced 74 percent of dengue fever case in both districts.

“But currently we’re still doing the work to get the end result,” said Prof Adi Utarini, main researcher of WMP Yogyakarta, when announcing a report of the technology implementation study of *Aedes aegypti* carrying Wolbachia for dengue fever control in Yogyakarta on Monday (17/6) at UGM.

Adi Utarini confirmed Wolbachia is potential to control dengue fever in Yogyakarta. She explained that the study would continue to three or four locations outside Yogyakarta. “Currently, we’re still monitoring Wolbachia in the research areas,” she said.



Reportedly, Yogyakarta Health Agency announced an increase in incidence. Until the end of May there were 335 cases or a jump from the same period last year which was 51. “But there is no unwanted fatality in this matter,” she said.

WMP Yogyakarta, formerly known as Eliminate Dengue Project-EDP Yogya, is a research done by Tropical Medicine Centre of the Faculty of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing UGM with the support of funding coming from Yayasan Tahija in collaboration with WMP Global. At this stage, WMP Yogyakarta had placed 8,000 buckets containing *Aedes aegypti* eggs with Wolbachia in research areas until the end of 2017.

Besides, impact study had been done by compiling data from patients with fever at 18 health community centres in Yogyakarta. Furthermore, data compilation was done of the patients willing to be involved in the research. Their blood samples were also taken for further examination at WMP Yogyakarta laboratory.

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