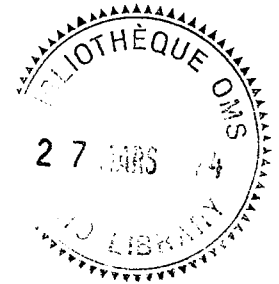




INDONESIA 1971/72: SMALLPOX VACCINATORS AS SURVEILLANCE WORKERS

by

Cuboni, G. G. O.<sup>1</sup>, Emmet, W. L. R.<sup>2</sup>, Koswara, P. A.<sup>3</sup>,  
 Rai, N. K.<sup>4</sup>, Karyadi, A.<sup>5</sup>, Setiady, I. F.<sup>6</sup>



1. SUMMARY

Smallpox Vaccinators in selected Provinces were exempted from their vaccination duties from December 1971 through March 1972, and were given surveillance tasks in their area. During this period, they visited 18 205 villages and village sub-units (73.5% of the total); questioned pupils in 19 207 schools; checked 920 smallpox suspects; and collected 76 specimens for laboratory confirmation. No smallpox cases were detected during the period concerned nor during the following 20 months in the areas searched.

2. INTRODUCTION

Between weeks 17 and 24, 1971, smallpox cases were reported by only three Provinces (table 1). These Provinces were all outside Jawa and Bali.

Table 1

Smallpox incidence in Indonesia, weeks 17 through 24, 1971

Province	Week: 17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
15 Sulawesi Selatan	35	25	9	76	20	32	3	17
22 Jambi	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
26 Sumatera Utara	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
INDONESIA	41	26	9	77	20	32	3	17

However, in week 25, in Sumatera Utara, a large outbreak was discovered, the chain of transmission of which could be traced back to week 4. A few months later, two other provinces, which had not reported cases for a number of weeks, namely Sulawesi Selatan and Jawa Barat discovered previously unreported outbreaks. These emphasized the need of more effective surveillance activities. Accordingly, it was decided to employ smallpox routine

- 1 WHO Medical Officer, Team Leader, SE-Indonesia-0081
- 2 WHO Technical Officer, SE-Indonesia-0081
- 3 Chief, Smallpox Eradication Unit, CDC Jakarta (up to January 1972)
- 4 Chief, Smallpox Eradication Unit, CDC Jakarta (from February 1972)
- 5 Chief, Epidemiological Surveillance Unit, CDC, Jakarta
- 6 Chief, Epidemic Diseases and Quarantine Directorate, CDC Jakarta

The issue of this document does not constitute formal publication. It should not be reviewed, abstracted or quoted without the agreement of the World Health Organization. Authors alone are responsible for views expressed in signed articles.

Ce document ne constitue pas une publication. Il ne doit faire l'objet d'aucun compte rendu ou résumé ni d'aucune citation sans l'autorisation de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé. Les opinions exprimées dans les articles signés n'engagent que leurs auteurs.

vaccinators, who are distributed throughout Indonesia in each Kecamatan\*, as surveillance field workers: they were readily available and had the best knowledge of smallpox as such, of their own area, and of its population.

### 3. PLANNING, METHODS AND MATERIALS

From December 1971 through March 1972, all smallpox vaccinators in Sumatera, Kalimantan and Sulawesi temporarily stopped routine vaccination and instead, during the four months period, visited all villages in the Kecamatan to which they were assigned, and in each village, every sub-unit (known in most areas in Indonesia as R.T. or kampung).

The vaccinators, while performing these surveillance duties, were to:

- make extensive use of the plastic-covered WHO smallpox recognition card.
- approach and question the local civil authorities (village chiefs, chiefs of the sub-units R.K., R.T., Kampung), other local key persons (school teachers, religious authorities, local police and civil defence members) and villagers in general.
- visit schools during teaching time and question pupils and teachers about smallpox, using the recognition card.
- report immediately (within 24 hours) every smallpox case or any case for which a diagnosis could not be made by themselves.
- put on the daily record every varicella case so that it could be rechecked by their supervisors.
- report on the appropriate forms the results of their work by one and four-week periods.

Supervision was provided by regency, provincial and HQ staff.

### 4. RESULTS

Table 2 summarizes the results of this surveillance effort. Only Kalimantan Timur did not participate in this programme owing to local, contingent reasons. In all, 1 208 vaccinators participated and 18 205 of the 24 781 villages (73.5%) were visited. A total of 920 suspects were identified and specimens were collected from 76. Investigation revealed that none of these were, in fact, cases of smallpox.

---

\* Sub-district

Table 2  
Overall results, Indonesia 1971/72,  
Smallpox surveillance performed by routine SEP vaccinators

	Kecamatan	SEP vaccinators	Villages/sub-units	Villages visited and % of total		Schools visited	Suspects checked*	Specimens collected
08 Kalimantan Barat	106	46	3 589	1 723	48.0	947	34	-
09 Kalimantan Selatan	94	89	689	606	88.0	1 687	165	1
10 Kalimantan Tengah	82	29	1 102	458	41.6	376	19	-
11 Kalimantan Timur	→ ( s e e t e x t ) ←							
15 Sulawesi Selatan	170	167	1 161	1 117	96.2	3 846	270	43
16 Sulawesi Tengah	61	61	1 220	866	71.0	822	15	-
17 Sulawesi Tenggara	43	43	394	370	93.9	565	-	-
18 Sulawesi Utara	81	81	376	132	35.1	235	20	-
19 Aceh D.I.	131	138	5 462	4 121	75.4	1 351	11	1
20 Sumatera Barat	80	96	592	568	95.9	2 167	1	-
21 Bengkulu	23	22	825	472	57.2	406	-	6
22 Jambi	36	36	898	696	77.5	637	32	2
23 Lampung	58	80	1 124	1 071	95.3	1 435	-	-
24 Riau	67	68	1 218	1 218	100	905	22	-
25 Sumatera Selatan	85	90	1 938	1 884	97.2	1 484	14	-
26 Sumatera Utara	167	162	4 193	2 903	69.2	2 344	317	23
Total	1 284	1 208	24 781	18 205	73.5	19 207	920	76

\* No suspect was confirmed as smallpox