



Curtin University

SRIKANDI

**CO-DESIGNING AN INTERVENTION
TO INCREASE HIV TESTING UPTAKE
WITH WOMEN FROM INDONESIA**

A PARTICIPATORY ACTION PROJECT

COLLABORATION FOR EVIDENCE, RESEARCH & IMPACT IN PUBLIC HEALTH

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AUSTRALIA'S HIV RESPONSE

- In 1989, Australia adopted a formal strategy to address HIV/AIDS
 - Human rights based and prioritised mobilising affected communities, peer-education and legal protection for people living with or at risk of HIV
- As a result, HIV concentrated mainly among men who have sex with men
- In the last decade, people from sub-Saharan Africa, Northeast and Southeast Asia have been overrepresented in HIV rates
- Australian government has set a target of zero new HIV transmissions by 2022 – need to ensure migrants and other hidden populations aren't left behind

NOTIFICATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

- For women from Southeast Asia living with HIV in Australia, **almost two thirds (63%) are diagnosed late** (lived with the virus for four or more years before diagnosis)
- Less than a third (29%) of Australian-born women have a late diagnosis.

In Western Australia

- People born in Indonesia had the **highest number of notifications** among people born in SEA between 2011-2017
- Half of people diagnosed were heterosexual females

*Late diagnosis measured by a CD4 cell count <350 cells/ μ l at diagnosis

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- Participatory Action Research (PAR)

*“is **collective**, self reflective inquiry that researchers and participants undertake... directly linked to **action**... The process of PAR should be **empowering** and lead to people having increased control over their lives”*

Baum, MacDougall and Smith 2006

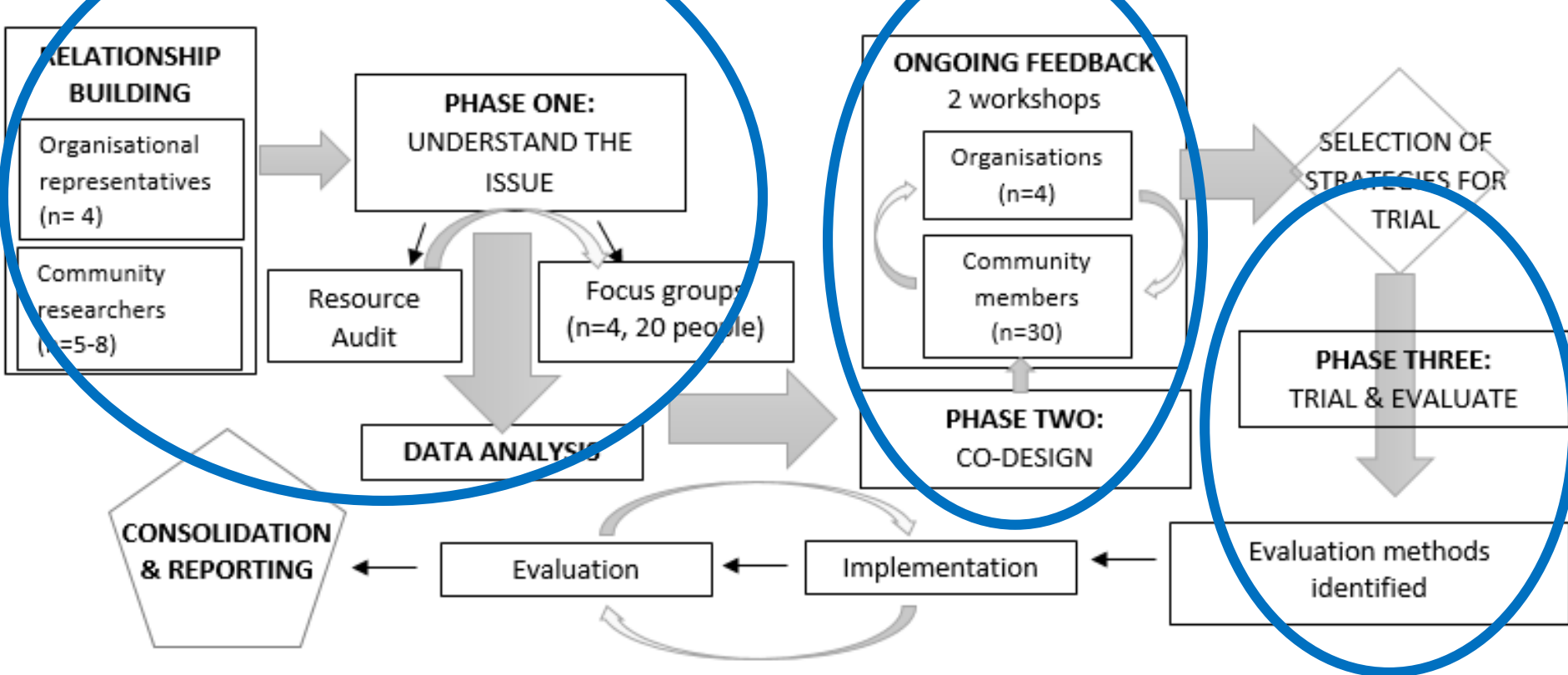
- Context-specific, driven by participants - no fixed process or framework

PROJECT AIMS

- Identify and assess the pathways and enablers to HIV testing among women from Indonesia
- Record and synthesize the use of a co-design process in developing an intervention
- Determine the critical elements of a co-designed intervention to increase HIV testing uptake among women from Indonesia
- Implement and evaluate a co-designed intervention to increase HIV testing uptake among women from Indonesia
- Review the utility of a participatory action research approach in addressing HIV with women from Indonesia


PROJECT OVERVIEW

Figure 1: Project Flowchart




COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS

- Recruited via word of mouth and existing community groups
 - Less than 1 month! Continue to get expressions of interest
- Currently 6 women from Indonesia and ongoing recruitment for a woman living with HIV



The flyer features a header with the Curtin University logo and name, followed by contact information for the School of Public Health. The main text is arranged in three stacked blue boxes: 'GET INVOLVED!', 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST', and 'COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS'. Below this, there is a blue call-to-action line, followed by a paragraph describing the project's goal and a final line stating the need for five women from Indonesia.

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GET INVOLVED!

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS

Opportunity for women from Indonesia to be involved in a project designing an intervention for women!

This project will co-design an intervention to increase women's access to women's health services.

We are looking for five women from Indonesia to join us as community researchers.

ROLE OF COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS

- Inform the direction of the project
- Data collection (focus groups, workshops, evaluation)
- Inform data analysis
- Work with other women to design the intervention
- Intervention pilot
- Intervention evaluation

No need to have research experience or know anything about HIV or sexual health.

COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS

- Ages: 32-45
- Married and unmarried
- Muslim and Christian
- Time in Australia: 1 – 7 years
- Student visa and permanent residents

- Reasons to be involved:
 - Because it's about Indonesian women's health
 - To help people
 - To learn new skills
 - To meet new friends and have fun 😊

“To help people understand the issue and address the problems by empowering them” - Sita

BECOMING RESEARCHERS

- Training to date
 - Institutional context
 - Ethics
 - HIV (prevention, how to test, treatment and living with HIV)
 - Participatory action research
 - Being a community researcher
 - Focus groups
- Ongoing training as the project progresses and regular meetings
- Have access to support from the School of Public Health, Curtin and organisations involved

SRIKANDI

- Community researchers named themselves SRIKANDI
- Javanese folklore character – a female warrior who is strong and formidable.
- She is a role model for Indonesian women.
- Our group is about empowering women and helping them become strong.



WHERE TO FROM HERE?

- Starting focus groups soon – making decisions on what information we want to collect and who will be involved
- Continuing to become a team
- Capturing research process – a challenge

MORE INFORMATION

- **Project will have a strong focus on knowledge translation**
- <https://siren.org.au/co-design/>
- corie.gray@curtin.edu.au
- Research protocol developed and under review for publication



FOLLOW ON TWITTER!
@CoPAHM | @coriegray_

THANK YOU

Not a project done in isolation

WA AIDS Council, Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia and Consumer and Community Health Network

People from Indonesia and people living with HIV who have shared recruitment material and supported the project

Supervisors: Prof Bruce Maycock, Dr Roanna Lobo and Gemma Crawford

Community researchers: Erna, Gressy, Popy, Rebecca, Sanyu, and Sita