Not only does Indonesia have one of the highest burdens of TB in the world, it bears a heavy HIV and MDR-TB burden as well. However, despite alarming rates of TB cases throughout the country, Indonesia was the first high burden country to meet global targets of 70% case detection and 85% treatment success in the WHO South-East Asia Region (WHO, 2009). In its efforts to further improve, Indonesia sought to expand these positive gains and Xpert MTB/RIF presented a pivotal opportunity to do so. By using Xpert MTB/RIF technology, REMDEC is promoting a one-time visit or one-day service to patients. With funding from TB REACH, REMDEC procured 25 Xpert machines, along with a large number of test cartridges, and established an Xpert MTB/RIF committee for implementation at the national level. The potential for Xpert MTB/RIF utilization is two-fold: accelerating enrollment of TB, and early case detection of TB and HIV co-morbidities. Furthermore, Indonesia’s NTP found that they could leverage the Xpert MTB/RIF instrument to include the private sector, which has regarded sputum smear microscopy as conventional and undesirable from a business perspective.

Xpert SMS is an electronic recording and reporting system that automatically sends XpertMTB/RIF results to data aggregation servers available nationally and globally. Data is integrated in electronic patient medical records. Simultaneously, Xpert SMS sends a notification SMS to patients and providers informing them that lab results are ready. Patients, physicians, clinicians, and program teams can access data on mobile phones or online. Today, this model relies on funding from the TB REACH Initiative of the Stop TB Partnership. Xpert SMS is in early adoption but will soon reach the developing and build-up phase.