Tshering Dema
Community Action Groups and Behavioral Change Communication in malaria elimination.

Tshering Dema is a Community Nurse at the Chengmari Bhutan Primary health care centre located in the District of Samtse. She has been working within the Ministry of Health, Bhutan since she obtained her certificate in Community Nursing from the Royal Institute of Health Sciences in 2001. Tshering trained in malaria microscopy and is involved in active case detection for malaria cases and the Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) programme. She has been involved in creating awareness for high-risk populations of malaria such as pregnant women and school children.

Tshering is a working member for a Community Action Group committee in Chengmari, a recent initiative of the National Malaria programme with support from the Global Fund. These committees are actively involved in grass root level planning, implementation and monitoring of health activities focusing especially on malaria and other vector-borne diseases.

“The APMEN fellowship will allow me to see first hand the impact that community action groups and behavioral change communication can make at the grass roots towards malaria elimination”.

Host Mentor Organisation: Tshering’s APMEN Fellowship will be hosted by the National Vector Borne Disease Control division of the Disease Control and Environmental Health, Ministry of Health, Indonesia, who have facilitated a visit to various community programs in North Moluccas’s including The Malaria Center in South Halmahera, North Maluku province. The Malaria Centre overcomes the transportation difficulties to enable early detection and treatment of malaria cases. It is an important resource center utilizes local human resources with guidance from health offices and also provides referral diagnostic services and supports malaria elimination initiatives in the region to achieve elimination objectives.

Host Supervisor: Dr Rita Kusriastuti is the Director of Vector Borne Disease Control and responsible for many National Programs such as Arboviruses, Malaria, Vector Control and Zoonotic and Lymphatic Filariasis at Directorate General of Communicable Disease and Environmental Health, Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia.