



## Health Provision for the Poor Islamic Aid and the Rise of Charitable Clinics in Indonesia

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This paper will shed some light on the rise of Islamic charitable clinics in contemporary Indonesia and the multiplicity of roles they have played, ranging from providing health assistance for disadvantaged segments of society to introducing Islamic notions of mutual help and social-welfare systems. By exploring Islamic charitable clinics in Indonesia, this paper shows how community-based initiatives and *zakat* agencies have opened a wider access among the destitute families in poor urban and rural areas to viable health services. Until recently, *zakat* agencies with their charitable clinics have gained strong support from both society and the government. They, for example, have tried to bring community response the current social economic challenges through the revitalization of the *zakat* and charity practice. Low-priced, accessible and free medical assistances for poorer families and small economic enterprises provided by the *zakat* agencies reflect the endeavours of Indonesian middle class Muslims to translate Islamic discourse on social welfare in a more concrete way. The rise of Islamic charitable clinics whose origins and motives can be linked in part to the Islamic discourse of the welfare of the *ummah* is without doubt a consequence of the emerging interpretation of the meaning and function of Islamic aid in contemporary Indonesian Islam. The findings also suggest that charitable healthcare, with its limited capacities, has not been designated yet as a community-based healthcare system that can provide long-term health improvement of low-income households as a whole.