Authors' Reply: We would like to sincerely thank Dr. Rowalt Alibudbud for his thoughtful and insightful reflections on our article "Factors affecting parents' willingness to pay for dengue vaccination for children in endemic areas, Indonesia: A multicenter cross sectional study." His commentary provides valuable connections between our findings and broader public health experiences in Southeast Asia, particularly the Dengvaxia case in the Philippines, which offers important lessons for dengue vaccination programs in the region.

We fully agree that perception and public trust are central to vaccine acceptance. Our study, conducted in Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia, found that parents' perception of dengue severity and vaccine benefits significantly influenced their willingness to pay, while cost and possible side effects were not the primary drivers among those willing to pay[1,2]. This finding reflects the behavioral context of dengue endemic communities, where families' direct experiences with dengue infection create strong motivation to protect their children[3].

At the same time, it is important to recognize that economic challenges and safety concerns may still influence vaccine acceptance[3]. While perception and awareness are essential behavioral drivers, affordability and public confidence remain crucial considerations, particularly among families with limited access to information or financial resources[1–3].

Therefore, efforts to enhance vaccine affordability and improve public understanding should accompany initiatives to strengthen perception and trust[4]. Transparent communication, scientific clarity, and consistent government messaging remain crucial for sustaining vaccine confidence[1,2]. The Philippine experience underscores how fragile public trust can be when communication is inconsistent or incomplete. For Indonesia, these lessons are valuable for shaping future dengue vaccination strategies that are evidence based, community centered, and socially inclusive[4,5].

In the context of Southeast Sulawesi, dengue continues to pose a recurring health challenge, and community awareness of its risks is relatively high[4,5]. This situation supports a positive environment for dengue vaccine acceptance. Nevertheless, sustained public education and engagement with local community and religious leaders are essential to maintaining trust and preventing misinformation[6].

We appreciate Dr. Alibudbud's commentary for emphasizing the interconnected behavioral, social, and institutional aspects of vaccine acceptance. We believe that continued regional dialogue, grounded in scientific evidence and local experience, will strengthen vaccine confidence and support equitable dengue vaccine implementation across low and middle income countries.

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Conflict of interest statement

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