

Born in Tasikmalaya, 28 January 1950, to be a doctor is what Ilsa Nelwan always wants. Her particular interest to public health issues started in her college years, later she join Student Association for Population Study and Family Planning and she was involved in the world fertility survey 1976 as field supervisor. After graduating from Padjadjaran University as general practitioner, she worked several years as health center manager, then in district and sub national Indonesia civil servant offices and then went to Columbia School of Public Health where she attained her master in Public Health in 1987. Back to work for West Java Province Health Office in Indonesia that same year, she also started to involve as government counterpart in various projects by UNICEF, the World Bank and WHO; and wrote over than 20 publications on the subject of public health. After working for 26 years in the Indonesian civil service, with her last task as Head of the Health Resources division, she decided on moving to the international level on 2003. Nepal is not her first task abroad but it is the first long term one where she worked with the government for four years until 2007. Having health system infrastructure as her main responsibility, Ilsa is currently working in SEARO, New Delhi-India.