

PROGRESS REPORT

MARCH 2020



Yayasan Pendidikan
Budaya Mentawai



FOREWORD

With the support of our Australian partner, Indigenous Education Foundation (IEF), our Suku Mentawai (YPBM) team continue to advance the indigenous learning hub program and strengthen our 7 key targets. In March 2020, we achieved the following:

I. Increase student participation in our Mentawai indigenous learning hubs

To increase student participation, this month the Suku Mentawai (YPBM) team engaged students to participate in celebrating the World Forest Day commemoration. We promoted opportunity for students to come together and plant trees within the hub gardens, under guidance of huub teachers. This activity is carried out to foster students' sense of care in protecting and nurturing the natural environment. We had a total of 165 students participating across 4 learning hubs this month



Funds to continue this target:

AUD \$ 0

II. Increase the number of Indigenous learning hubs throughout wider Siberut and the Mentawai Islands

This month we continued our efforts to further this target by conducting promotional activities at Maileppet Elementary School and Vocational School. The YPBM team distributed several Mentawai dictionaries to be used as teaching materials for their cultural studies program. YPBM continues to lobby amongst local schools in the hope that our learning hub cultural and language program will soon become part of the formal school curriculum for all. This particular activity also aims to build long-term cooperation in providing students opportunity to strengthen knowledge, confidence and pride in Mentawai's indigenous culture.



Funds to continue this target:

AUD \$ 0

III. Mentawai students understand cultural knowledge and its values for the future

Furthering this target, the YPBM team continues to work closely with learning hubs and program teachers to improve the quality of all learning topics, both theoretical and practical. The learning topics being taught this month are Mentawai traditional wedding ceremonies and accessories; folklore titled 'Baitek-Baitek'; traditional music; weaving; learning to make traditional spears (sosoat) and their uses; laguki turtles traditional dance; tapri gou-gou chicken baskets from sago leaves; jewellery; making crafts from beads, and the process of making sago flour and baskets (sago tapri).



Funds to continue this target:

AUD \$200

IV. Increase economic capacity for students and the wider Mentawai community

This month the YPBM team commenced construction of a souvenir gallery / studio. This initiative aims to provide access for travellers and foreigners to learn about the Mentawai handicrafts and purchase samples for their own collections. Through this, we believe we can assist in stimulating economic growth for the Mentawai community and encourage expertise in these types of arts and skills. We hope to finalise the gallery by the end of April, 2020.

In addition to the souvenir gallery, YPBM's Mentawai Ecotourism program continues providing opportunity for the our community to participate in improving our economy and celebrating our cultural and environmental assets by hosting foreign guests. Unfortunately, due to the current COVID-19 situation, Mentawai has ceased access for foreign travellers. However, during March and into the future, we continue striving to develop better programs, formulation of strategies, promotion and development tourism partnerships.



Funds to continue this target:

AUD \$420

V. Strengthening indigenous learning hub materials for present and future generations

In addition to the topic-based curriculum, the Suku Mentawai team (YPBM) continued work on 3 existing projects:

a. Mentawai oral literature.

As a result of our oral literature research and documentation, a number of Mentawai folklore stories have now become a part of the learning hub curriculum. Henceforth, we continue working ensuring the accuracy of our oral literature data and searching for funding to publish as

b. Mentawai Dictionary

The Mentawai Rereiket dictionary has now been distributed amongst several schools, who are utilising as part of their cultural studies teaching materials. Furthering our work, we are currently developing an Indonesian to Mentawai, and Mentawai to English language version.

c. Mentawai Ethnobotany

Our ethnobotany research and studies has now become part of the learning hub program, with our documentation being used as reference for teaching at the hubs. Currently, we continue seeking funding support to finalise and publish our hardcopy plant field guide book. We have submitted proposal to several companies and potential partners.



Funds to continue this target:

AUD \$ 0

VI. Increase the organization's capacity to improve the administration, operations and financial security of our foundation

The Suku Mentawai - YPBM team consists of 9 staff and 8 learning hub teachers. During March, we continued expanding our English language learning program, administered by the Mentawai Ecotourism team. The purpose of our English language program is to enable students ability to be able to explain to foreign travellers or guests about Mentawai culture, language, etc. In addition, we also see this as an opportunity for students to gain the necessary skills to become local tour guides, hosts, and to participate in a meaningful way within our Mentawai Ecotourism for the future.



Funds to continue this target:

AUD \$868

VII. Conduct and strengthen strategic and monitoring and evaluation programs

During March, YPBM continued our MONEV program across all learning hubs. Our monitoring shows that students enthusiasm and enjoyment levels are really high and continue to increase with learning at each class.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: In response to the Covid-19 pandemic and based on instruction handed down by Mentawai and central Indonesian government, we have temporarily suspended the Mentawai learning hubs program and all related group gatherings. We will recommence the program as soon as legally permitted. Meantime, the YPBM team are conducting work from home for the coming month/s. We hope all stay safe and well and that you will continue to support us in achieving our mission into the future.

Funds to continue this target:

AUD \$55

Masura' bagatta, Thank you.

Martison Siritoitet, Media Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai (YPBM).

For further information :

e : contact@sukumentawai.org

ig: @sukumentawai

fb: @Mentawaifoundation

tw: @sukumentawai



Yayasan Pendidikan
Budaya Mentawai

www.sukumentawai.org

Our Partner :



www.iefprograms.org