

# PROGRESS REPORT

## *SEPTEMBER 2020*



Yayasan Pendidikan  
Budaya Mentawai



# FOREWARD

**YPBM chairman:** “During September the Mentawai Indigenous Learning Foundation (YPBM) was involved in a number of activities, including a very successful cultural art initiative for our learning hub students. It is our promise that, with the support of Australian partner, Indigenous Education Foundation (IEF), we will continue to advance our cultural-based program advancing education equity for our community.”

## **I. Increase student participation in the Mentawai culture learning center**

During September, our YPBM team initiated a cultural-based art competition for all of our 180 learning hub students. The aim of this competition was to promote connection and strengthen Mentawai culture through encouraging students to share perspective on how they relate to indigenous knowledge and culture – exploring this through their own imaginations. As a result, we found increased confidence and enjoyment from those students who participated in the event – further developing their skills and understanding of our indigenous culture. This competition activity also inspired further interest in our learning hub program from other Mentawai students and youth now wanting to take part.



***Funds spent on furthering this target in February:***

***AUD \$ 358***

## **II. Increase the number of Indigenous learning centers throughout the wider Siberut and Mentawai Islands**

COVID-19 restrictions have limited our opportunity to further this target during September.

***Funds spent on furthering this target in February:***

***AUD \$ 0***



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

During September, students increased their cultural knowledge through the art initiative, including a better understanding of what it means to be an indigenous Mentawai person and the values within. Students were able to further develop their artistic skills and advance talents in drawing and connecting themselves with nature and the earth. An increase in appreciation for Mentawai culture and enthusiasm for the future was found amongst the students



***Funds spent on furthering this target in February:***

***AUD \$ 319***

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

In order to improve economic opportunity for Mentawai students and the community, we have established a small arts and souvenir gallery alongside the YPBM office in Muntei village. The learning hub students will have opportunity to exhibit their artistic and handicraft creations at the gallery and learn about the process of selling or trading their items to others.

In addition, the Mentawai Ecotourism initiative team have been busy designing new tourist packages for domestic tourists as the arrival of international tourists has ceased due to COVID. Developing and promoting these packages will assist in providing income for the Mentawai people, particularly here on Siberut Island. Increased ecotourism also enables YPBM a source funding to continue our learning hub program. For October, we will be conducting a review on COVID regulations and confirming the locations tourists can and can't visit.



***Funds spent on furthering this target in February:***

***AUD \$ 0***

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

### Mentawai Dictionary

During September, we again met with the Mentawai language informants checking accuracy of our documentation. All informants spanning from Sabirut to the remote Rereiket regions had finalised their analysis. The YPBM team has commenced inputting the data based on the corrections made by the informants, however this is a lengthy task and will span into the month of October.



**Funds spent on furthering this target in February:**  
**AUD \$ 244**

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

Our Mentawai Indigenous Learning Foundation (YPBM) team consists of 9 staff and 8 learning hub teachers. During September, we advanced our operations by returning to work in the office and increased productivity with access to equipment and facilities. In addition, we submitted a grant application to the NZ Embassy for their rural community program in Indonesia. We have requested funding to complete and publish our Mentawai traditional oral literature book.

***Funds spent on furthering this target in February:***

***AUD \$ 868***

**VII. Conduct and strengthen strategic and monitoring and evaluation programs**

Evaluating our program activities this September: the YPBM learning hub program has recommenced at a limited, COVID regulated standard. The art competition initiative was a great success in increasing interest in enthusiasm from students who are now eager to continue participation in the program. We will continue to monitor each hub and ensure COVID health and safety protocols are being met in addition to guiding each learning hub to execute a strong indigenous education program. Announcements and presentations for the winning artists will be held in October.

***Funds spent on furthering this target in February:***

***AUD \$ 52***


***Funds spent this month to further our target:***

***AUD \$ 1841***



For further details:

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