

PROGRESS REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020



Yayasan Pendidikan
Budaya Mentawai



FOREWORD

YPBM chairman: “During November, the Mentawai Cultural Education Foundation (YPBM) continued carrying out both office and field activities in further advancing education equity amongst our Mentawai community. We are building momentum again with our learning hub program and students with gradual relaxing of COVID restrictions. Again, we are extremely grateful for the continued support of our Australian partner, the Indigenous Education Foundation (IEF). We are proud of our work and contribution to the future of our people and culture.”

I. Increase student participation in our Mentawai indigenous learning hubs

To further increase student participation, we continue to search for exciting opportunities for students to share their learnings and new skills with others. During November, we facilitated and hosted the arrival of Lady Glory and her team who kindly donated thousands of books to our Foundation and learning hub libraries. We decided to host the event at the Toktuk Pasigeugeu learning hub, as it is still a fairly new hub and they have been working tirelessly to establish themselves. The Pasigeugeu students are also incredibly enthusiastic and committed so we felt this would provide them a wonderful opportunity to share their learnings with others.



The impact following this has been incredibly positive, with an immediate increase of 10 new students enrolling in the program after witnessing the event and seeing children as young as 9 and 10 who are able to gather and prepare traditional plant medicines, among other skills. There was also a big increase in support and encouragement from adults and parents for their children to learn at the hub. In addition, the Pasigeugeu students have since begun attending and learning at the hub every single day, as opposed to the 1 day per week schedule.



In addition to the Toktuk event, students from the Muntei Uma Jaraik Sikerei hub also participated in the inauguration of the Kulukubuk tourism attraction and traditional Uma. As part of this event, Uma Jaraik Sikerei students performed cultural song and dance during the opening ceremony and throughout the day. This event was attended by the heads of Mentawai government. In addition, learning hub students are attending the hubs outside of scheduled days to read literature with the aim of increasing their knowledge of Mentawai culture.



Funds spent this month to further our target:
AUD \$ 79

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

The Kulukubuk Mentawai Cultural Arts Performance event also gave opportunity for several government figures, traditional and community leaders to learn about the YPBM learning hub program and see the students perform. This resulted in the head of Rogdok Negri 06 school and coordinator of the Kulukubuk (Madobak) cultural arts studio Uma approaching YPBM with great enthusiasm and request to implement the indigenous learning hub model within their school and studio in 2021. This is a wonderfully positive outcome, as it shows that the community is seeing great value in our program and model, bringing benefit to the survival of our indigenous people.

Our goal for 2021 is to secure the funding and support required to further strengthen and expand the YPBM program across these regions and Siberut Island. As part of this, we also seek to host and participate in more national and international cultural celebration events, particularly in Mentawai. This will further build enthusiasm, confidence and growth amongst our students and advance the objectives of our program.



Funds spent this month to further our target:
AUD \$ 0

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

All learning hub students this month have shown increased awareness and understanding of Mentawai culture and its value for our future. This was highlighted by the two celebration events at Kulukubuk and Pasigeugeu hub. Beyond performing our traditional music and dance (turu' laggai) at a very high standard, both Pasigeugeu and Bubuakat Simalainge' students also showed that they can apply various types of plant medicines and handicraft arts. The bubuakat simalainge' students also performed creative dance and several traditional Mentawai songs at the joint event in welcoming Lady Glory and her team.



Funds spent this month to further our target:
AUD \$ 200

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

Students continue to learn skills in making handicraft and are encouraged to be independent in developing their talents and skills. In addition, the Mentawai Ecotourism team held discussions with several community leaders to determine best pricing and itinerary for developing domestic ecotourism packages for the future, particularly in Muntei. Mentawai Ecotourism also contributes 10% profits of all ecotours to continue advancing the YPBM program.



Funds spent this month to further our target:
AUD \$ 45

V. 5.Strengthening indigenous learning hub materials for present and future generations

Mentawai Dictionary

The language documentation team have completed input of all accuracy corrections on the Indonesian and English language translations of the Rereiket dictionary. However, whilst we have shared this file with our copy editors, we are still adding new vocabulary words to the dictionary.

Hub learning materials research

For further development of our learning hub program curriculum, we are now in the stage of discussing with several other elders to complement our recent research. The first six topics we have been focusing on have been checked for accuracy and are almost finalised. The second six topics will be further researched and strengthened in 2021 so we have a more refined and accurate source of learning for our students.

Funds spent this month to further our target:
AUD \$ 100

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 November, we continued to advance our mission and further strengthen our YPBM network by our Chairman participating as a key speaker at a virtual conference alongside the Founder of Chapter One, SYTB, the Governor of West Sumatra, and Founder of Sokola Foundation, Butet Manurung. Also participated by YPBM Media and Communications Manager, Martison Siritoitet, the panel focused discussion on the positive impacts of alternative education such as the YPBM indigenous learning hub program. As a result, the YPBM Chair was invited to travel to Padang to continue this discussion with the West Sumatran Governor and head of the West Sumatran cultural department. This is a positive outcome and opportunity for YPBM and our program.



Funds spent this month to further our target:
AUD \$ 882

VII. Conduct and strengthen strategic and monitoring and evaluation programs

On evaluation of learning hub monitoring, we have been focusing on increasing our student participation and enthusiasm – ensuring continuous development in this area. As outlined within this report, we are seeing great results over the past month or more. An evaluation meeting was held on November 30th to review our progress, both in the office and in the field. One aspect of discussion is for the hub students to be separated into groups according to their age, as our student participation numbers grow. This will provide us opportunity to ensure the learning activities and outcomes are in accordance with the level of knowledge and capability of the students.



Funds spent this month to further our target:

AUD \$ 0

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AUD \$ 1,306



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