

PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER 2020



Yayasan Pendidikan
Budaya Mentawai



FOREWORD

YPBM chairman: "During October, the Mentawai Cultural Education Foundation (YPBM) continued carrying out both office and field activities in further advancing education equity amongst our Mentawai community. Again, it has been a challenging year for us all but 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 increase student participation and learning, the YPBM team presented the winners of the cultural art competition that began in September. During October, awards were presented to the four female student winning participants and the three male student winners. Within this activity, both male and female students are given the freedom to participate and to draw on their personal connections and perspectives of indigenous culture, further strengthening their respective knowledge about the culture of Mentawai.



Funds spent this month to further our target:

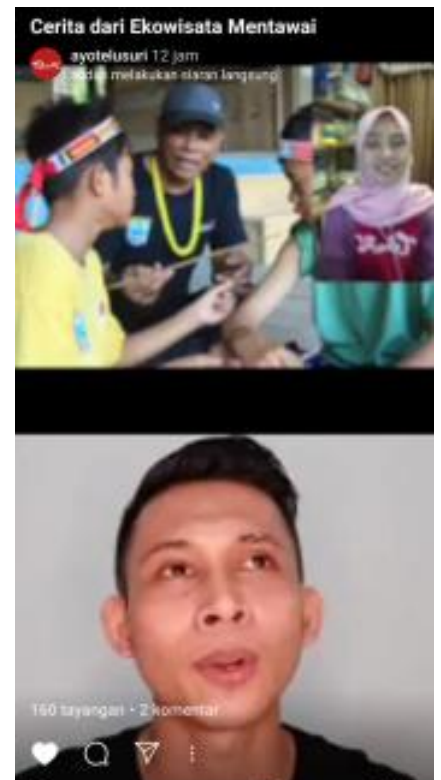
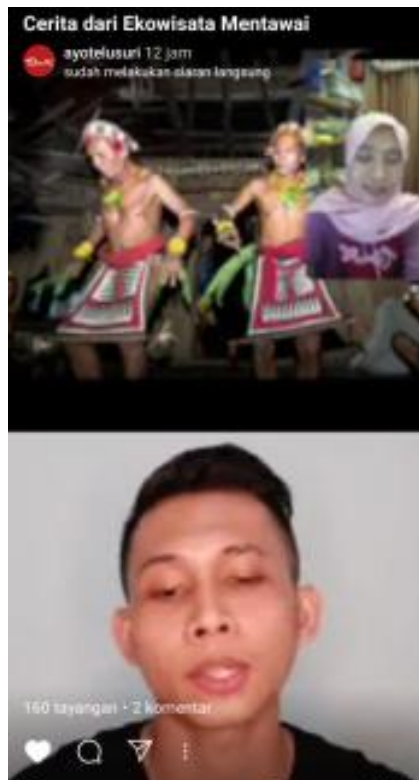
AUD \$ 480

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

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

Funds spent this month to further our target:

AUD \$ 0



Participate in a live streaming event on Instagram with Mauren, a representative from Telusuri.id. Mentawai Cultural Education Foundation (YPBM) represented by Martison Siritoitet. This discussion focused on community-based rural tourism and the cultural and ecological environmental education program of the Mentawai Cultural Education Foundation -YPBM

III. Mentawai students understand cultural knowledge and its values for the future
 This October, the team conducted community research to further strengthen learning materials for the hub program students. As a result, we believe our students will further deepen their connection to the knowledge and values of our Mentawai culture. Currently gathering on a week-to-week basis, the focus of our curriculum research has been on traditional dance (turuk laggai), creative dance, handicrafts, traditional clothing (Pangureijat), Sago and traditional Mentawai food. This activity will provide the students with a more extensive and accurate cultural education.



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

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, ME also takes part in improving the community's economy through visiting tourists. During this month, the ME team have been working on developing a series of new travel packages that are more affordable and suitable for domestic tourists. The target region for the new travel packages is Muntei and thus we are planning to host a public discussion with members of the village, particularly those who will be impacted by the initiative, whether good or bad.

The tourists will visit traditional Umas, participate in traditional fishing, processing sago and traditional foods, and of course interact with the learning hub students and performances. We are working toward finalising these packages by December so that they can be distributed throughout various hotels in Jakarta via Devici Media and our colleague based in Jakarta, Martison.



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

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

Mentawai Dictionary

During October we continued developing the language documentation project. We have now documented and translated 2,510 words for the Rereiket to Indonesian language dictionary, an increase of almost 300 new words. Meanwhile, the Rereiket to English dictionary continues to develop in the stage of gathering accuracy data that is accredited by our informants, as well as correcting any ambiguous sentences or those that have not been validated.

Hub learning materials research

In addition to our ethnobotany and oral literature research, this month the team conducted community research as a means to improve our program's curriculum. The research conducted during October was focused on the following curriculum topics: Traditional dance (turuk laggai), creative dance, handicraft, traditional clothing (Pangureijat), and the process of making Sago and other traditional Mentawai food. This research was conducted in the Buttui and Ugai districts and with Mentawai elders and informants very knowledgeable in these fields. Our hope is that this documentation will become a source of knowledge for our younger generation Mentawai to strengthen connection with our culture.



**Funds spent this month to further our target:
AUD \$ 470**

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 October, we advanced our mission by returning to weekly activity in all learning hubs, and participating in online meetings with the Australian Volunteer International (AVI) staff to discuss future opportunities for YPBM.

Funds spent this month to further our target:

AUD \$ 835

VII. Conduct and strengthen strategic and monitoring and evaluation programs

Our evaluations in October signified that each learning hub had successfully returned to work in accordance with the COVID health and safety protocols. We also gave focus to our internal staff structure and recapped (and revitalised commitment) the responsibilities of each and discussed ways in which we can strengthen our duties. Our Media and Communications staff also further developed network relations by participating in a digital event discussing sustainable tourism practices in Mentawai and our learning hub program. We are continually working to advance our Foundation's capacity and the learning hub program we offer into the future.

Funds spent this month to further our target:

AUD \$ 50

Funds spent this month to further our target:

AUD \$ 2,035



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Our Partner :



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IEF

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