

Before 2020 ends, we would like to tell you the current situation of all the people who receive SRI support in Indonesia.

Throughout 2020 we have frequently spoken to our Indonesian contacts via mail, WhatsApp or Zoom. This way both sides knew what the other was doing/ planning. We are happy to share that none of the people supported by SRI have been ill due to Corona. Although the situation in Indonesia is still precarious and provides enough reason for concern - hospitals are full of COVID patients. On December 10, we received a message from our contact in Solo saying that the situation in that city is out of control and thus, the city's borders have been closed until mid-January 2021.

Java

By the end of last September Willemien joined a Zoom meeting set up by the women of Lidia, the women cooperation in Solo. A large number of their members were either visible or audible during the meeting. They have shared their experiences during COVID-19 and their initiatives to earn something during this pandemic and what is even more important how to help each other.

Our Indonesian contact provided COVID-19 counseling via a PowerPoint presentation, focusing on how to act when confronted with COVID-19 and how to remain healthy, for example ensuring sufficient daily exercise, keep their (social) distance, stay at home when suffering from a cold and continue to see the positive side of things (life!). A practical and good example is the cultivating of vegetables using a hydroponic system: A training to do so was organized in 2019. We have mentioned the good results of the cultivation of vegetables in a previous newsletter.

In Musuk, on the slopes of the Merapi, women's cooperation Kembang Wangi, have shared the sad news that one of their important leaders have passed away due to a kidney disease. He had a significant role in meetings with the (local) government. Reference is made to the agreement reached in 2019 with the Bupati (district head) allowing the official registration of Kembang Wangi's products so these could be sold locally. More details can be found in our newsletter 21.

Schools are still closed (these have been closed since March 2020) and students are being taught virtually (online). Therefore, we have decided to increase our financial support for the students who receive a donation to pay their school fees. This allows them to purchase prepaid top-ups (for mobile internet) so they can follow the online classes. We will continue to do so for the second semester.

We will also continue to support families with food packages. Some of the families have found new ways to generate more income themselves. For example, a family has started to make kites and sell these. Others have started making homemade snacks to sell. People are very inventive and are trying anything to earn a living despite the current situation.

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SRI news

The news letters are also published on our website. We also include an Dutch and Indonesian translation of the news letter, after one of our volunteers has finished the translation:

sri-indonesie.nl/nieuws.html

sri-indonesie.nl/indonesian.html



Information on how to prevent COVID-19 infections.



Food aid packages ready for distribution.

Bali

It is difficult to communicate with some of our contacts in Bali. The few people who we can reach by mail are doing well and tell us that they have been quite creative during this pandemic. We too, are trying to be creative in reaching our people in Bali. Via our host in Yogyakarta we were able to send a donation to the Balinese family running a juice stand on the night market. For low income families, it is uncommon to have a bank account. Due to the relatively high fees, it is not feasible to open a bank account.

We will of course, continue to support our students and the people with small businesses in Bali.

A special note: our contact in Solo for Kembang Wangi defended her dissertation for the Radboud University in Nijmegen on December 11, via a Zoom meeting. Her dissertation is titled: *'This is our belief around here - Purification in Islamic Thought and Pollution of Citarum River, West Java'*. We were thus able to congratulate her from a distance.

We dearly hope that the world situation will improve in such a way, that we will be able to visit Indonesia in 2021. Until then we will continue our often very frequent contact through mail, WhatsApp and Zoom.

We are very grateful for your support, enabling us to continue our support to the people who need it especially in these trying times.
We wish you a good and foremost a healthy 2021.



This new year's greeting was drawn by one of the children of the Rare Kemoning-project in Bali.

Selamat Tahun Baru