



SRI

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Example of food aid.

The schools have started again on July 13, just after the summer holidays. Lessons are given in a virtual classroom, so education is given online. This also adds to a household burden as the internet connection per mobile phone is paid per topping-up the (mostly) prepaid SIM card (in Indonesia this is referred to as buying 'pulsar' – topping-up the prepaid amount on the SIM card). SRI will also support the families in this.

Just like in The Netherlands, the children miss their school friends and sitting together with them in the class room. In this current time, we all realize that we are all globally connected and that we all face the same difficulties in certain aspects of life.

We often communicate with our contacts on Java via e-mail or Whatsapp. One of our two contacts in Solo really hopes to be able to come to The Netherlands in December. She is scheduled to defend her thesis at Radboud University in Nijmegen. If this is possible, we will of course be present at Radboud University, or if not, attend the online presentation of her thesis.

Bali

It is much harder to communicate with our contacts in Bali via e-mail or Whatsapp. Regular air mail takes time to reach (both sides) and it is not a given that letters do reach their destination. We did receive an envelope containing copies of school report cards, sent by one of our contacts in mid August. Similar to Java, Bali offers online education, but this is not available on the whole island. If it is not available, well, then there is no education at all. Now that tourists stay away, the economy on the island has collapsed and people are out of jobs; poverty is increasing alarmingly. This is mainly caused by the virus. Many people who were living just above the poverty line, the so-called lower middle class, are now struggling again in this COVID-19 situation.

In March, Janny and Willemien were still optimistic about travelling to Indonesia later this year (autumn maybe). Unfortunately, this is still impossible and now they hope to travel somewhere next year – when the world is a safe place for travelers again and the virus is put under control. We will continue to support the children and women with their studies and work and keep communicating with our contacts in Indonesia.

We are especially grateful for the support of our sympathisants who make the continuous and additional SRI support possible, now that this is even more necessary.



Food aid packages ready for distribution.

Thank you notes.

