

Pre COVID-19 Janny and Willemien would have returned from their annual visit to Indonesia by now; the Indonesia day would have been scheduled where they would share everything about the latest project developments and stories about their meetings with all the local contacts in Indonesia. The last time there was an Indonesia day was in 2019 and the annual visit has been cancelled for this year as well due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Fortunately, we are able to communicate and our contacts keep us updated about all the projects we support via e-mail and whatsapp. The general situation in Indonesia has worsened due to the Omikron type of COVID-19 in February. Schools and universities were closed again and education continued online. The situation has been improving since February as Java and Bali have granted access again for tourists who are slowly returning to enjoy their holidays.

JAVA

We received good news from our contact in Solo. A girl studying at the university, is doing so well, she has received a scholarship from that university! A boy, who has been receiving our support from the beginning, now receives support from his school due to his good grades. The money we used to allocate for their support can now be used to support new children.

The women's cooperation **Lidia** in Solo has sent their training proposal for 2022. They will organize three seminars. The subject will be "*Women resource development*". They will also set up a skills program and a seminar to enable capacity building. Lidia is also planning to open a shop to allow their members to sell their products. SRI fully supports all these different activities.

The past few months we have supported a number of families in Solo and Klaten by means of food packages. We cancelled this as per advice of our contact, since restrictions have been lifted and any kind of labor is possible again. We want to prevent people depending on us for food (packages).

Our other contact in Solo shared news about the women's cooperation **Kembang Wangi** on the slopes of Merapi. The goats are doing fine (please refer to previous newsletters)! Kembang Wangi rears 27 goats now and they require a certain level of care. They built the goat pens themselves. Kembang Wangi has requested support to purchase a grass-cutting machine, so that they can minimize the manual labor required for cutting grass. Kembang Wangi has already started using the machine, please refer to the picture.



In 2019, Janny and Willemien visited the field designated by the government for the women to turn into a vegetable garden. That terrain really was a jungle! The picture now shows a neat and green vegetable garden including a little greenhouse! The produce from this garden is sold in their cooperation shop.

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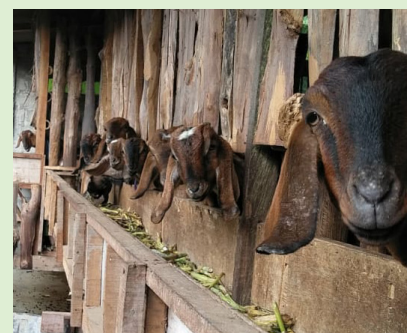
SRI news

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/newsletter/

sri-indonesie.nl/surat-berita/

The grass cutting machine and pleased goats.



From jungle to vegetable garden!

BALI

We have had extensive communication with the family exploiting a fruit juice stand at the night market. Because of the Omikron variety of COVID-19 the night market was closed and thus, this family did not have any income. Their moped also broke down so they did not have any means of transport to look for other jobs in the area. SRI was able to transfer emergency funds to this family, so they would be able to survive in these dire times. Their reaction was touching and included many terima kasih's (thank you's).

The **Rare Kemoning** project (more details in previously published newsletters) is being continued via an afterschool care program for primary school children and a preschool program for toddlers. The building of the new school "**Seva Karuna**" was scheduled. An auspicious date was found in January to hold a ceremony for laying the first stone. But due to Omikron the ceremony was postponed. The Rare Kemoning project has received so many registrations that there will be a second group when the school starts.



The beautifully decorated house temple for the ceremony.
The children helped make these decorations.



The ceremony was eventually organized in March at the house temple of our contact. The children all helped making the decorations needed for the ceremony. These decorations are made from coconut palm leaves. The children also learned how to make coloring from natural sources. This way, the children learn about their island's traditions. The parents hope that the building will be ready in July, when the regular school year begins.

When possible and allowed by the government, fundraising activities will be organized again. Plans for musical performances and art expositions are being made; access tickets will be offered for sale to raise funds. People from nearby villages have donated teak wood and tables and chairs. Others have made wooden toys to raise funds for the school. Many activities such as these have been organized and thus, the community supports this school initiative.

There are no updates on other projects in Bali.

These are difficult times in which corona still has great impact and conflicts have occurred around the world. Let us all take heart and hope for better times!

SRI is grateful to be able to keep in contact with many in Indonesia who show creative ways to cope during these hard times and not to give up. Thanks to you, we are able to continue to offer support, and we are thankful for that!