INDONESIA: YOUNG TIMORESE RECEIVE EDUCATION AND GROW IN FAITH
Construction of a new school gives vulnerable young people the chance to improve their lives

The Anglican Church of Indonesia wants to construct a school and clinic in Niki-Niki, Indonesia. Second-phase plans call for a middle and high school.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

**CONTEXT:** West Timor is the one of poorest of the 6,000 inhabited islands in Indonesia. Christianity is the majority religion, with 97 percent of the people professing faith in Christ and 2.9 percent following Islam. The economy is mainly agricultural, using slash and burn methods to produce corn, rice, coffee, copra, and fruits. Many people are so poor that goods and services are paid in kind. Human trafficking among Timorese girls is on the rise. The central government has left this region underdeveloped. There are no industries nor any attempt to build an economic infrastructure on the island.

**NEED:** Despite West Timor being primarily Christian, there has been aggressive Islamic evangelization, with the largest Islamic boarding school built in Niki-Niki with funding from the Kuwaiti sovereign fund. Those enrolling in the Muslim school receive a free education from kindergarten to university. By the time they leave school, the goal is that they would be Islamic converts. Niki-Niki lacks a quality Christian school, limiting students who want to study in a Christian environment.

**SOLUTION:** The Anglican Church of Indonesia wants to construct a school that would serve preschoolers to high school students to increase the impact of Christianity and further influence West Timor. It would help counter the ongoing aggressive Islamic evangelism. The Anglican Church of Indonesia will construct the first phase of a school and clinic in Niki-Niki. In addition to an office and administrative block, the first phase will include a kindergarten program for 75 students and a clinic that will serve 12,000 Timorese people. Timorese children will no longer need to travel to other regions to finish their education or be at a high risk of dropping out of school. This project will also provide basic medical care in remote areas of the province.

**LIFE IMPACT**

Benefits 12,075 people, some in multiple ways:

- 75 Timorese students will be admitted to a kindergarten, equipped for learning, and receive a good education in a nurturing Christian environment.
- 12,000 Timorese people will experience improved health as a result of access to healthcare.

**IN THEIR OWN WORDS**

“The reason why I like St. Andrews school is because my friends and classmates are very nice, no bullies and teachers are very nice. We use an application call Zoom to study and every time there is a lag or the internet is bad, our teachers and principal always fix it immediately, which is great so there is no problem with anything.”

– Kelly Joseph, 10-year-old fifth-grade student at St. Andrews School, Riau Islands Province
WHAT IT’S LIKE NOW

“Indonesia, the situation for Christians in recent years, with Indonesian society taking on a more conservative Islamic character. Christians who grew up in a Muslim home often experience persecution from their families. However, the persecution intensity varies given the individual family and location.”

— www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/indonesia/

On November 27, Islamist militants attacked the Christian-majority village of Lembantongoa in Sulawesi, Indonesia, killing the village elder and three other Christian farmers. The attackers burned a Salvation Army church and six houses, prompting about 750 villagers to flee their homes. This horrific attack is the latest example of increased threats faced by religious minorities in Indonesia.


“As of now, Indonesia struggles to provide inclusive, high-quality education to its citizens. The country has much lower literacy levels than those of other Southeast Asian nations. An analysis by the World Bank showed that 55 percent of Indonesians who complete school are functionally illiterate.”


PROJECT DESIGN

Leaders of the Anglican Church of Indonesia feel God is calling them to build a Christian school and medical clinic in Niki-Nika, a region where Christians are experiencing aggressive Islamization – partially through the offer of a free education at Islamic boarding schools. The $172,500 grant from the Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF) will be used to fund the first phase of this project, which includes four buildings for a kindergarten, and administration block. The offices will be built on 53,820 square feet of land the church has already acquired. It is where the primary school and high school will also be located. Construction for the other phases will follow completion of the kindergarten building.

The Anglican Church of Indonesia will hire an architect to design the building and submit it to local government engineers for approval. Based on experience, a competitive bidding process will not be used to select the contractor. Instead one who has worked on similar projects for the Anglican Church will lead this project. A project management committee that includes a qualified engineer will oversee construction.

Construction is expected to take five months. During those months, a principal, teachers, and a nurse will be hired. Due to the lack of good schools, church leaders don’t anticipate a problem recruiting 75 Timorese kindergartners.

Hygiene and nutrition

The Anglican Church of Indonesia has been conducting medical outreach with its mobile clinic for over 10 years. It has also conducted medical camps and medical care in remote areas. People in remote areas can visit the mobile clinic to receive basic medical care. This is especially important for those in need of long-term medication and care. Medical camps and mobile health clinics for poor Christians will be conducted on regular basis in remote villages. Families will also learn better health practices that should lead to a drop in childhood mortality rates.

Measuring impact

Analysis of the project will be carried out to correctly identify the gaps and indicators to measure the results due to project intervention. Project leaders will regularly monitor progress, submitting quarterly reports to the project committee. Diocesan staff overseeing this project will compile quarterly progress reports. Anglican Church of Indonesia leadership will meet quarterly to evaluate project impact.

IMPLEMENTER FINANCIALS

This project adheres to all of this sector’s established best practices.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<td>Contributions and donations</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>$179,396</td>
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<td>$247,644</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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<td>$179,396</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>%</th>
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<td>Personnel</td>
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<td>$1,268</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$185,630</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>$90,793</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>$200,267</td>
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| SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) | $17,695 | 9 | ($1,427) | 6 |

NOTES:

1. Income and expenditures reported in U.S. dollars.
2. INCOME: The Diocese of Indonesia (Diocese of Singapore) presented audited financial reports for 2018 and 2019 and a draft of 2020 reports in USD; drawn up in accordance with Singapore Financial Reporting Standards in Singapore Dollars (SS65). Historical time conversion rates ending December 31, 2018, 2019, and 2020 were applied in presenting the above in United States Dollars (USD). The Diocese’s principal sources of revenue are donations and funding to plant and grow Anglican parishes in Indonesia and to support the work of the Diocese of Singapore in Indonesia. Revenue declined by 12% in 2019 compared to 2018, but increased 39% in 2020. The Church reported a surplus over income amounting to 9% in 2018, a deficit of 6% in 2019, and a surplus of 19% in 2020.

3. Assets were sufficient to meet current obligations. In 2018, this ratio was 141% in 2018, 116% in 2019 and 117% in 2020. The Diocese had a cash deficit of 6% of total income in 2019, however, this was counterbalanced by a positive ratio of its assets to liabilities.

RISK ANALYSIS

CONCEPT: 1

The project is essential for the Anglican Church in West Timor to advance evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. It covers a large portion of West Timor province, where the lack of schools means children have few opportunities to receive a quality education. Leaders are committed to long-term engagement in the rural communities with academic and spiritual education, as well as medical care.

PROGRAM DESIGN & EXPERIENCE: 2

The Anglican Church has successfully conducted schools in different regions of Indonesia. It has also conducted medical outreach with its mobile clinic for over 10 years.

LEADERSHIP: 1

Anglican Church of Indonesia leadership and staff are organized into different clusters in zones for better accountability and work within a reporting structure. The leadership has depth of experience in organizing and managing a variety of complex projects, including this one.

FINANCIAL CONTROL: 2

The church’s major expenses were personnel (staff stipends, staff welfare, medical fees, training and professional fees). These averaged 60% of total expenditures over the three years, with negligible variations. Ministry and Mission Outreach expenses include contributions to Anglican Parishes for disaster preparation training and crisis relief activities. These costs represented 4% of the Diocese’s annual expenditure in 2018, but 21% in 2019 and 31% in 2020.

The Diocese’s rental and renovation expenditures were highest in 2018 at 24% and declined in 2019 to 10% and 8% in 2020.

Administrative expenditures include: printing and stationery, hospitality, and audit and bank fees. These averaged 6% of total expenditures over the three years in review.

Transportation and communication costs for the Deanery represented the lowest cost at 2% in 2018 and 1% in 2020.

EXTERNAL 3

Indonesia is now a politically stable country, and the implementer is not relying on a third party to complete this project. Christians are facing persecution and are threatened by Islamic extremists, who influence moderate Muslims who perceive Christian growth as a threat.

This project is dependent on the successful implementation of this project.
WHAT IT’S LIKE NOW

“...with Indonesian society taking on a more conservative Islamic character. Christians who live in a Muslim home often experience persecution from their families. However, the persecution intensity varies given the individual family and location.”

— www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/indonesia

“On November 27, Islamist militants attacked the Christian-majority village of Lembantongo in Sulawesi, Indonesia, killing the village elder and three other Christian farmers. The attackers burned homes. This horrific attack is the latest prompting about 750 villagers to flee their a Salvation Army church and six houses, Christian farmers. The attackers burned killing the village elder and three other

“...In Indonesia’s outreach ministry in Niki-Niki region. People in remote areas can visit the mobile clinic to receive basic medical care. This is especially important for those in need of long-term medication and care. Medical camps and mobile health clinics for poor Christians will be conducted on regular basis in remote villages. Families will also learn better health practices that should lead to a drop in childhood mortality rates.

Measuring impact. Analysis of the project will be carried out to correctly identify the gaps and indicators to measure the results due to project intervention. Project leaders will regularly monitor progress, submitting quarterly reports to the project committee. Diocesan staff overseeing this project will compile quarterly progress and expense reports. Anglican Church of Indonesia leadership will meet quarterly to evaluate project impact.

PROJECT DESIGN

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Construction of the kindergarten building will also be located. Construction for the other grades will follow completion of the kindergarten building. The Anglican Church of Indonesia will hire an architect to design the kindergarten building. A qualified engineer will oversee construction.

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

The church’s major expenses were personnel (staff stipends, staff welfare, medical fees, training and professional fees). These averaged 60% of total expenditures over the three years, with negligible variations. Ministry and Mission Outreach expenses includes contributions to Anglican Parishes for disaster preparedness and crisis relief activities. These costs represent 4% of the Diocese’s annual expenditure in 2018, but 21% in 2019 and 31% in 2020.

The Diocese’s rental and renovation expenditures were highest in 2018 at 24% and declined in 2019 to 10% and 8% in 2020. Administrative expenditures included printing and stationery, hospitality, and audit and bank fees. These averaged 5% of total expenditures over the three years in review.

Transportation and communication costs for the Diocese represented the lowest cost at 2% in 2018 and 1% in 2020.
LEADERSHIP PROFILES

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Chong serves as Dean of Indonesia for the Diocese of Singapore. He is in charge of the overall project implementation and supervises the Anglican Church in Indonesia. His background includes:

- a bachelor’s degree in theology from Far Eastern Bible College, Singapore
- a master of Christian studies degree from the Discipleship Training Center, Singapore
- a master’s degree in religious education from Cornerstone University, Michigan
- a doctorate in theology from the Asia Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary, Singapore
- a former visiting scholar in residence at Fuller Theological Seminary in 2016

Pastor Yonatan Saefatu is the priest in-charge of the Anglican Church of Indonesia and the pastor-in-charge of Niki-Niki region. He will supervise the day-to-day construction. His background includes a bachelor’s degree in theology from Apollos Bible University, Jakarta, Indonesia.

REFERENCES

“I appreciate the focus and strategic thrust of the Deanery of Indonesia to plant churches in provincial capital cities in Indonesia, while also focusing on the development needs of the community in terms of setting up schools for education and microfinancing efforts. These are the efforts made to connect with the community and minister to their felt needs of which they are grateful. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic that has affected travel and face-to-face gatherings, the leadership and staff now meet weekly via Zoom to discuss matters pertaining to the Deanery of Indonesia and to pray together. They have a good working relationship of mutual accountability. The dean demonstrates integrity and accountability by providing regular reports on the work of the Deanery of Indonesia to the Synod and comes under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Diocesan Bishop of Singapore.”

– The Rev. Daniel Teo, vicar, Yishun Christian Church (Anglican), Singapore

BEST PRACTICES

Based on The GRID’s research, this project adheres to the following best practices:

- Engages community members in familiar, community settings, staffed by local community members
- Works with structured, established, community-based organizations that can establish a holistic skills training program

RESEARCHER’S STATEMENT

A pluralistic, multi-faith society, Indonesia has seen a rise in religious-based tension in recent years. Religious education in schools aims to create a community where a deep and critical understanding of religion is nurtured. By constructing the school and clinic, this project seeks to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ. While Christians are socially, economically, and politically disadvantaged in Indonesia, providing them with a quality education can help build a better future for them. By increasing access to essential health services through the clinic and mobile outreach, this project has the potential to improve lives for thousands of people in Niki-Niki.

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