

# IMPROVING THE WELFARE OF THE POOR IN BATULAYAR VILLAGE, WEST LOMBOK

*Peningkatan Kesejahteraan Keluarga Miskin di Desa Batulayar, Lombok Barat.*

**Area:** Desa Batulayar, Kecamatan Batulayar, Lombok Barat

**NGO:** Yayasan Tunas Alam Indonesian (SANTAI)

## **Background**



The community assisted by this program is actually located in a very strategic location in the centre of the Senggigi tourism area in Lombok, close to a forest area, which can be used for farming activities.

However, despite the development in the surrounding area, the village has not benefitted and this is reflected in the lack of basic facilities, such as clean water, education or health facilities and the majority of the village lives in poverty.

Through the community led assessment and planning process (CLAPP) supported by ACCESS, the village chose a number of activities to pursue including increasing their goat livestock, to set up an alternative education program for both adults and their children and to initiate a community newsletter to improve the village's access to information.

The community was involved in a media training workshop at the time of the consultant's visit and therefore time was not available for a focus group discussion. A lengthy discussion was held beforehand with SANTAI staff to ascertain the NGO's experience with the CLAPP methodology.

Although SANTAI has been working with communities in the Senggigi area in the past, this was the first time that the NGO has worked with the Batulayar community. SANTAI has a range of programmes ongoing in the village, including programmes funded under ACCESS.

ACCESS funded micro-credit capital in the form of goats for the villagers and village-based media which includes the publication of the village newsletter, compiled by the villagers themselves through workshop facilitation. SANTAI also runs an alternative education programme outside of ACCESS funding.

## Case Study 1

### Suspicion turns to praise in a West Lombok village

Bapak Ramadan, Desa Batulayar



When a local NGO turned up in Bapak Ramadan's small hamlet in West Lombok he was more than a little suspicious – he actually thought the group were left-wing rabblers up to no good.

A little over a year later and Bapak Ramadan has nothing but praise for the Lombok-based NGO *Yayasan Tunas Alam Indonesia* or SANTAI.

“In the beginning I was really suspicious and, to be honest with you, I spoke very harshly with them. At first we thought they were PKI (communists),” said Bapak Ramadan, the head of Batulayar village situated in the hills above the popular tourist resort town of Senggigi.

“But after they explained themselves I understood. They come to the village regularly now and we have a very good relationship.”

The village has just received its first stock of goats as part of an ACCESS-funded community empowerment programme facilitated by SANTAI. The NGO has also implemented a media programme resulting in the village's first publication – a 7 page magazine called ?. SANTAI also runs its own alternative education programme for children in the hamlet.

Bapak Ramadan said the villagers had never before experienced the level of participation as that offered by SANTAI (using the ACCESS CLAPP methodology).

“We made all the decisions ourselves, and I was really happy with that,” he said. “Only if there was a question or issue we couldn't answer would we ask SANTAI. They (SANTAI staff) are just like their name (*santai* means “relaxed” in Indonesian). When we told them we thought they were communists at first they just laughed. They said they had no idea we were suspicious of them.”

The initial community meeting drew only a handful of participants, but within weeks Bapak Ramadan said everybody wanted to take part.

“Before assistance came to the village via the local government, but the money seemed to go to other people and only a small amount made it to the community,” he said. “But this way everyone was involved from the beginning. We knew how much money there was and we decided how we would use it.”

Bapak Ramadan said the community decided to raise goats because they were better suited to the Batulayar environment – which suffers from a lack of water in the hot season and is subject to flooding in the wet. He said while chickens brought a better and quicker gain, they were more susceptible to illness.

According to Bapak Ramadan women in the village had benefited from the programme. He said that SANTAI had insisted on female participation.

“I'm glad because I realised that before women here were not involved,” he said. “I think it's good that women now have a voice.”

*West Lombok, 13/08/04*