

CREATING ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES FOR THE POOR COMMUNITY OF PAPANLOE VILLAGE, BANTAENG, SOUTH SULAWESI.

(Program Penciptaan Usaha-Usaha Produktif Alternatif Bagi Masyarakat Miskin di Desa Papanloe, Bantaeng, Sulawesi Selatan)

Area: Dusun Papanloe, Desa Papanloe, Bantaeng, Sulawesi Selatan
NGO: Lembaga Mitra Lingkungan (LML)

Background

The village of Papanloe - Pa'jukukkang in Bantaeng district suffers from a lack of water in the dry season and the soil can only support two crop harvests per three year cycle. As a result, many men in the village are forced to migrate to other areas in search of work. Many work as labourers or rickshaw drivers in the capital Makassar. There is a low level of land ownership in the village resulting in up to 75% of the village working as farm labourers for others.



The community's goal, with the assistance of the NGO LML, is to increase the quality of life of the poor households in the village by creating alternative income generating activities.

Proposed activities include the establishment of business groups, such as goat breeding, chicken breeding, mattress production, cake production and *warung kelontong* (small

kiosks selling cigarettes, drinks, basic foods).

The focus group held for the case study discussion involved 10 women and six men along with two NGO representatives and 2 ACCESS facilitators.

According to the community respondents they had identified three main issues affecting poverty levels in the village – reduction of forest reserves, lack of alternative economic activities and lack of clean water. Through a community consultation process, the community decided to prioritise alternative economic opportunity for the ACCESS programme facilitated by LML.

Five groups were established each with a different focus – raising chickens, raising goats, making mattresses, operating kiosks, producing cakes. All groups have mixed gender except the cake production group which is made up completely of females.

To date the chicken and goat support has been realised. Those in the mattress, kiosk and cake groups are still awaiting support.

Villagers in general are enthusiastic and are encouraged by the process through which LML has facilitated the programme. The men say they are pleased with the level of participation, while women say they have been given a chance to express themselves and now find themselves more able to voice their opinions in meetings. Previously women were often left out of community discussions, especially discussions concerning aid programmes from the government.

The community is now keen to form a cooperative to ensure that the results of the programme will continue after assistance from the NGO has ceased.



Case Study 1

My main aim is to help my daughter continue her schooling

My name is Samsiah. I am 28 years old and have five children. I live in Papanloe village, Bantaeng district in South Sulawesi. My husband works as a farmer – sometimes in the rice paddies, sometimes on dry season crops – but if the crops fail he has to leave. We are often separated because he has to go to the city to work as a rickshaw driver. That's the only way we can survive.

Life is tough here, especially for people who are poor like me. The hardest part is meeting our daily needs. There's never enough to eat and when the crops fail we suffer more. The crops fail more regularly these days because we don't get the same rainfall as we used to and on average we only get two successful crops every three years.

For the past year I've been involved in the LML (*Lembaga Mitra Lingkungan*) programme, since they came to the village. I have joined the kiosk group and hopefully I will be successful. I chose this because before I used to run a small kiosk but I didn't have the capital to keep it going. We should receive our capital next month and I've already recorded what I need to stock the kiosk – basic food, sugar, cooking oil, washing powder and soap. I'm really hoping for change.

There's one main reason why I need my kiosk venture to work – so that I can send my eldest daughter, Jusmiyati, to junior high school. My daughter is very clever. From grade one to grade six she has always been ranked first in school. She was ranked first when she finished primary school this year. But I can't afford to send her to junior high school. The school is far away – about 10 km – and apart from the school fees there are the transport costs, at least Rp2000 a day. We just can't afford it. For the time being Jusmiyati is helping to teach younger children in the village. I just pray to God that she can continue her schooling.

I think the whole village has benefited from the LML program, but especially the women. When I first joined in the programme I was not able to speak out, but little by little I became braver and was able to speak my mind. I can speak out now and I think that this is now a part of my character. I'm prepared to speak out if I feel I'm being cheated.

Like with the last programme that was here before LML. They didn't tell us we had to pay money to the bank and pay for the guidance. The LML programme is different because we could make our own decisions. LML has not forced us to do anything, they've just provided staff to work together with us. We do not have to pay, and all the benefit goes to the village.

Apart from helping my daughter continue her schooling, I hope that my life will continue to change and I'll not always be poor. If this happens then I will be able to help other poor people like me.

Bantaeng, South Sulawesi, 26/08/04