

Transforming The Grassroots

through Community-Based Local Action



Transforming The Grassroots through Community-Based Local Action

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editors & Contributors	I
Foreword by Prof. Dato' Dr. Rashila Ramli	V
Introduction Nur Farah Ezzaty Abd Aziz	VI
Overview: APPGM-SDG Solution Projects	VIII
Overview: 30 Best Practices Solution Projects	XV
NORTHERN ZONE	
SOCIAL - Drawing New Futures: The Story Of Sungai Petani's Kreatif Grafik <i>Angkasaraya Malaysia Enterprise</i>	2
SOCIAL - From Learning Halls To Community Stages: The Story Of Pendang's CLC <i>Al Bayan Pendang Edu Resources</i>	5
SOCIAL - Water For Life: The Story Of Telaga Tiub Kampung Baru Lubuk Machang <i>Dewan Perdagangan Islam Malaysia (DPIM) Perlis</i>	8
ECONOMY - Nurturing Care, Nurturing Futures: Confinement And Post Natal Services – Learn & Earn <i>MPKK Perai</i>	11
ECONOMY - Chemor's Women Entrepreneurs: Program Jana Ekonomi B40 Komuniti RT Idaman <i>Kawasan Rukun Tetangga Taman Chemor Idaman</i>	14

EAST COAST ZONE

SOCIAL - Kemaman's Young Guardians: Forging A Drug-Free Future
Jawatankuasa Pemulihan Dadah Daerah Kemaman 18

SOCIAL - Signing The Sacred Verses: Faith Finds A New Voice
Persatuan Orang Pekak Pahang 21

SOCIAL - Building A Brighter Future, One Robot At A Time
Persatuan Ibu Bapa dan Guru SM Sains Hulu Terengganu 25

ECONOMY - Baking A New Future: Digital Skills Empower Kuantan's Women
Persatuan Pusat Perkhidmatan Cahaya Biru Kuantan 28

ECONOMY - Dynamic Futures: Forging New Paths For Kuala Krai's Entrepreneurs
Majlis Belia Jajahan Kuala Krai 31

CENTRAL ZONE

SOCIAL - Kapar's Field Of Dreams: Scoring Goals For The Future
Persatuan Bola Sepak Kapar 35

SOCIAL - Program Literasi Bahasa Di Smart Classroom
Persatuan Ibu Bapa Dan Guru Sjkt Ghandiji 39

SOCIAL - Hope's Classroom: Lighting The Way In Subang Jaya
Project Hope Welfare Association 42

ECONOMY - Claypreneur: Molding Futures In Petaling Jaya
Coco Zen Sdn Bhd 46

ENVIRONMENT - The Guardians Of The Coast:
Planting Roots In Sungai Haji Dorani
Kelab Belia Komuniti Sungai Haji Dorani 49

SOUTHERN ZONE

SOCIAL - Kicking Towards Confidence: The Story Of
Empowering Youths Through Football In Rembau
Kelab Bolasepak NS Maan 54

ECONOMY - A Second Chance In Cool Air: The Story
Of Mantin's Air-Conditioning Service Project
Right Track Education Sdn Bhd 58

ECONOMY - Growing Futures: The Story Of Fertigasi
Inklusif At Felda Tenggaraoh 6
Acidsara Enterprise 62

ECONOMY - Recipes For Resilience: The Story Of My
Sayang's Food Enterprise Training In Port Dickson
Pertubuhan Mysayang Malaysia 66

ECONOMY - Riding Towards Change: The Story Of
Kampung Paya Luboh's ATV Adventure
Koperasi Kampung Paya Luboh Melaka Berhad 70

SARAWAK REGION

SOCIAL - Forging Wellness Champions In The Heart
Of Bau
*Organization for Addiction Prevention, Treatment and
Rehabilitation (OAPTAR)* 75

SOCIAL - From The Streets To The Ring: Forging
Champions In Sri Aman
Megah Armada 78

ECONOMY - Weaving A Brighter Future In
Simanggang
Syarikat Subhi Urusniaga 82

ECONOMY - From Bloom To Boom: How Orchids Are Empowering Samarahan's Women
Koperasi Orkid Sarawak 85

ENVIRONMENT - Guardians Of The Dapui: Reviving A River, Restoring A Legacy
Sebup Development Committee (SDC) 89

SABAH REGION

SOCIAL - From Husk To Hub: Building A Legacy In Kampung Tonsom
Perusahaan Farni 93

SOCIAL - Art, Water, And A Village Reborn
Pangrok Sulap 97

SOCIAL - Solving For X: Igniting Kinabatangan's Future Scientists
Learnado Edtech PIt 100

ECONOMY - Cultivating A New Season In Ulu Sugut
Persatuan Pelancongan Ulu Sugut Ranau (USTAR) 105

ENVIRONMENT - The Healing Forest Of Kokol Hills
Tanah Permai Enterprise 109

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FOREWORD

PROF. DATO' DR. RASHILA RAMLI

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This publication, *Transforming the Grassroots through Community Based Local Action*, serves as a powerful testament to the tangible progress being made in localising Malaysia's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Compiled by the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG), the document presents a curated collection of 30 exemplary Community-Based Development Projects (CBDP) implemented nationwide in 2024. Its primary objective is to document, celebrate, and disseminate the success stories of grassroots innovation, demonstrating how community-driven action, when strategically supported, can translate global and national development agendas into measurable, on-the-ground impact. It stands as both a record of achievement and a practical repository of knowledge for replication and scaling.

At the heart of this publication are the unsung heroes of sustainable development: the grassroots communities and local solution providers. The document powerfully argues that enduring transformation does not trickle down from the top but blossoms from within empowered communities. It showcases how individuals—be they homemakers, farmers, youths, or persons with disabilities—are not passive recipients of aid but are active agents of change. Their local knowledge, resilience, and ingenuity are portrayed as the most critical ingredients for designing context-specific solutions that address real-world challenges, from economic vulnerability and social exclusion to environmental degradation. As such, in order to provide a more in-depth outlook of the impacts, the articles are grouped under social, economic and environment.

The success of these initiatives underscores the vital importance of a multi-stakeholder ecosystem. The APPGM-SDG framework strategically brings together a diverse range of actors. Parliamentarians and government agencies provide policy direction and crucial funding, with the Ministry of Finance's allocation growing substantially to RM20 million in 2024. Local authorities and academia contribute oversight

and technical expertise. Most importantly, the Solution Providers—including cooperatives, resident associations, NGOs, and social enterprises—act as the direct implementers, translating resources into transformative action. The constant and continuous effort by the CBDP Department within APPGM-SDG Secretariat deserves a special mention for their tireless work since 2020. Finally, the communities themselves are the core stakeholders, whose ownership and participation ensure the sustainability and relevance of every project. This collaborative model ensures that development is people-centred, evidence-based, and locally owned.

For readers, this document offers immense value. Policymakers and funders will find validated, scalable community models that can inform more inclusive planning and targeted investment. Practitioners and community leaders gain access to a wealth of practical insights into adaptive strategies, from integrating digital marketing into traditional crafts to implementing eco-conscious conservation systems. For anyone interested in sustainable development, these stories provide a profound source of inspiration, reaffirming the principle that true, lasting progress begins when local ownership and national priorities move in unison. Ultimately, this publication is a compelling narrative of hope and proof that by investing in grassroots capabilities, Malaysia is building a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future for all.

INTRODUCTION



NUR FARAH EZZATY ABD AZIZ

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APPGM-SDG Secretariat*

With great pride and commitment, I present *Transforming the Grassroots through Community Based Local Action*, a publication that captures the continued achievements of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) in advancing community-based development through local action in 2024. This edition highlights the transformation taking place at the grassroots level, where empowered communities, guided by dedicated solution providers, are translating national development priorities into tangible outcomes that strengthen livelihoods, resilience, and social cohesion.

Since the inception of the APPGM-SDG initiative in 2020, our mission has been to localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through evidence-based and community-driven interventions. Over the years, APPGM-SDG has established a structured ecosystem that brings together parliamentarians, government agencies, local authorities, academia, and civil society to identify challenges, co-design solutions, and implement initiatives that directly address the needs of local communities. This inclusive, multi-stakeholder model continues to ensure that development remains people-centred, data-informed, and sustainable.

In 2024, a total of 324 Community-Based Development Projects (CBDP) were implemented nationwide under the APPGM-SDG framework. These projects reflect Malaysia's growing capacity for local innovation, partnership, and shared responsibility in achieving the SDGs. They address a broad spectrum of issues, including community empowerment, livelihood enhancement, environmental stewardship, and social inclusion. The scale and diversity of these projects demonstrate that communities across Malaysia are not passive recipients of aid but active agents of change driving measurable impact within their constituencies. This publication features 30 exemplary projects selected from the 2024 portfolio to represent the most innovative, effective, and sustainable community solutions. These initiatives, spanning the social, economic, and environmental

dimensions of development, illustrate how local action can produce scalable results and lasting social transformation. Each project was chosen based on its effectiveness, replicability, and contribution to building resilient community systems that support Malaysia's long-term development goals.

Through continuous mentoring, capacity building, technical assistance, and monitoring, APPGM-SDG has enabled local actors to design and manage their own solutions with accountability and purpose. The Secretariat's integrated approach combining knowledge transfer, stakeholder partnerships, and rigorous evaluation ensures that each intervention contributes to local empowerment and national policy objectives. The lessons generated from these projects have informed parliamentary discussions, guided programme improvements, and inspired cross-regional replication of successful models.

This publication serves as both a record of progress and a repository of knowledge. For policymakers and funders, it presents validated community models that can inform inclusive planning and targeted investment. For practitioners and community leaders, it offers practical insights into adaptive strategies and impactful practices. Above all, it reaffirms the principle that sustainable progress begins with empowered communities, and that enduring transformation is achieved when local ownership and national priorities move in unison.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the team, Mr. Vikneshwaran A/L Sunderam, Mr. Faiz Hadzim Bin Ag Mokti, Mr. Muhammad Noraiman Hakim Bin Ahmad Zaki, Mr. Yoogeswaran A/L Kanis, Ms. Corrin Alicia Nero, Ms. Kartiga Kanna Dasan, and Mr. Amirul Bin Pukin, for their dedication in curating these impactful stories. My sincere gratitude also goes to the APPGM-SDG Secretariat for their guidance and leadership under Prof. Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria, Ms. Rahmah Othman, and Mr. James Ryan Raj.

Together, we continue to strengthen the foundation for sustainable empowerment, ensuring that every community in Malaysia has the capacity, confidence, and opportunity to thrive in alignment with the nation's collective journey toward inclusive and resilient development.

OVERVIEW: APPGM-SDG SOLUTION PROJECTS

Since its establishment in 2020, the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) has taken a leadership role in localizing the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through strategic, community-driven initiatives. Central to APPGM-SDG’s approach is the empowerment of grassroots communities, enabling them to actively identify local challenges, propose solutions, and take ownership of interventions that advance economic, social, and environmental development.

Between 2020 and 2024, APPGM-SDG engaged 115 parliamentary constituencies across Malaysia, creating platforms for community voices to shape sustainable development priorities. Through a structured issue-mapping methodology, communities across these constituencies have identified key local concerns, ranging from livelihoods, education, and health to environmental management and food security. This participatory approach ensures that projects are both context-sensitive and directly aligned with national SDG targets, while also fostering transparency, inclusivity, and accountability in resource allocation.

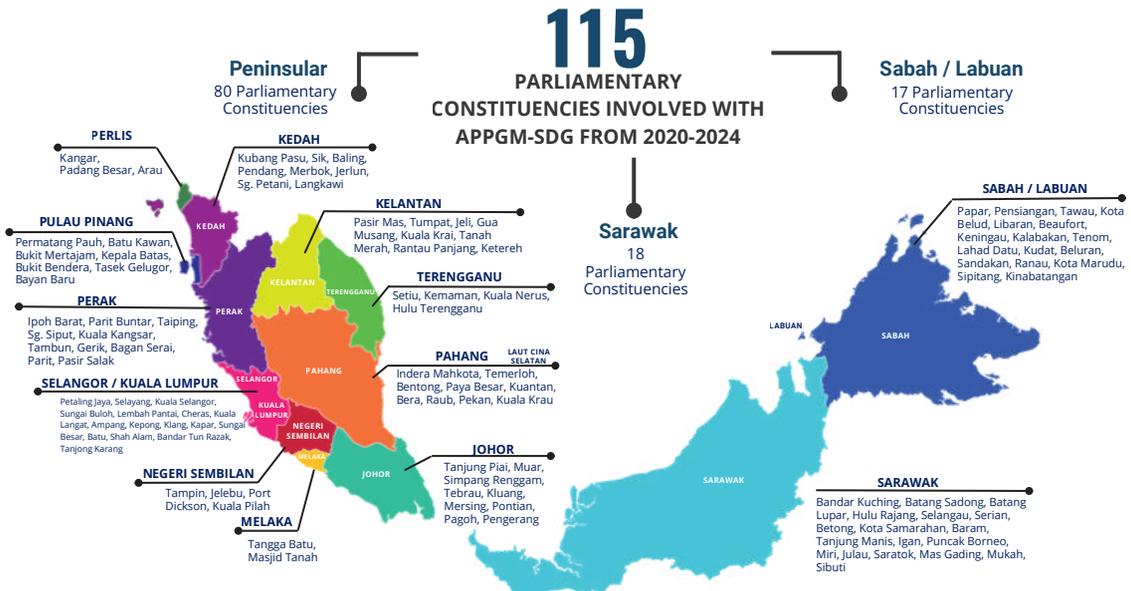


Figure 1.0 Shows the parliamentary constituencies involved with APPGM-SDG from 2020-2024.

Over these five years, APPGM-SDG has collaborated with 574 Solution Providers (SPs), implementing 988 projects nationwide. These initiatives are categorized into 630 economic-focused projects, 302 social interventions, and 57 environmental programs, collectively reaching over 10,000 beneficiaries, including youth, women, students, the elderly, persons with disabilities (PWDs), rural residents, and low-income households. The wide geographic and demographic coverage demonstrates the initiative’s commitment to leaving no community behind.

The Ministry of Finance Malaysia has provided pivotal support to APPGM-SDG, with funding steadily increasing from RM1.6 million in 2020 to RM30 million in 2024, reflecting growing confidence in the program’s effectiveness and scalability. This funding has enabled the scaling of community-based projects, reinforced by rigorous monitoring, technical support, capacity-building workshops, and knowledge-sharing platforms. These efforts have nurtured grassroots leadership, strengthened local capacities, and facilitated sustainable solutions that empower communities to take charge of their development trajectories.

Table 1. Cumulative APPGM-SDG Community Based Development Projects from 2020 until 2024.

YEAR	NUMBER OF PROJECTS
2020	130
2021	
2022	191
2023	343
2024	324
Total	988

The cumulative growth of APPGM-SDG’s CBDP initiatives over five years illustrates both sustained engagement and expanding impact. From 130 projects in 2020 to 324 projects in 2024, a total of 988 projects have been successfully implemented across Malaysia, demonstrating the ability of APPGM-SDG to scale solutions while maintaining quality and local relevance.

In 2024, the Ministry of Finance Malaysia allocated RM20 million to support localizing Community-Based Development initiatives, with the selection process resulting in 324 approved projects across six regions.

These projects prioritized vulnerable and underserved communities, integrating sustainable practices and promoting self-sufficiency across economic, social, and environmental domains.

Table 2. Distribution of Community-Based Development Projects (2024) with breakdown by zone, region and beneficiaries.

NO.	ZONE/REGION	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	BENEFICIARIES
1.	North	95	1797
2.	East Coast	50	2812
3.	Central	59	1157
4.	South	43	1477
5.	Sarawak Region	37	1207
6.	Sabah Region	40	771
Total		324	9221

The distribution of 2024 community-based development projects across Malaysia demonstrates APPGM-SDG's deliberate strategy to balance regional needs with national development priorities. Sabah and Sarawak recorded substantial engagement, with 40 and 37 projects respectively, reaching a combined total of 1,978 beneficiaries. This reflects a strong emphasis on empowering rural and indigenous communities, where interventions address both livelihood enhancement and capacity building in socio-economic and environmental dimensions.

The Northern and Eastern zones showed robust participation, implementing 95 and 50 projects, respectively, benefiting a total of 4,609 individuals. These zones prioritized densely populated constituencies and high-need areas, emphasizing skill development, entrepreneurship, and social inclusion. The Central zone hosted 59 projects, impacting 1,157 beneficiaries, while the Southern zone, though implementing fewer projects (43), still contributed significantly by focusing on high-impact initiatives that promote resilience and replicable solutions.

Collectively, the data illustrates both the breadth and depth of APPGM-SDG interventions, ensuring that projects are strategically distributed to optimize community impact, address regional disparities, and promote inclusive development. The nationwide coverage reflects a deliberate balance between scaling interventions and targeting

vulnerable populations, reinforcing the initiative’s commitment to equitable and sustainable outcomes.

Table 3. Distribution of Community-Based Development Projects (2024) with breakdown by economic, social and environmental themes.

NO	ZONE/REGION	ECONOMY	SOCIAL	ENVIRONMENT	TOTAL
1	Northern Zone	58	34	3	95
2	Eastern Zone	25	24	1	50
3	Central Zone	38	19	2	59
4	Southern Zone	25	18	0	43
5	Sarawak Region	24	11	2	37
6	Sabah Region	10	28	2	40
Total		180	134	10	324

Under the economic-focused initiatives, 180 projects were implemented, offering diverse skill-based and income-generating opportunities tailored to the needs of grassroots communities. These included vocational training in areas such as tailoring, baking, makeup artistry, spa services, photography, and digital marketing.

Under the social-focused initiatives, 134 projects aimed to foster inclusivity and enhance community well-being. These included tuition classes for underprivileged students, bridging educational gaps, and providing equal learning opportunities. Robotics and AI programs inspired interest in STEM fields, equipping participants with future-ready skills. Empowerment initiatives for women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) created platforms for skill development, leadership, and self-reliance. Cultural and arts programs celebrated heritage, fostering community pride and creativity, while counseling and self-empowerment workshops supported mental health, resilience, and personal growth. Together, these projects strengthened community bonds and drove meaningful social transformation.

Under the environmental initiatives, 10 projects focused on promoting eco-conscious practices and addressing critical ecological challenges. These included mangrove plantation activities that played a vital role in ecosystem restoration and biodiversity enhancement. Educational programs like "MyCoral Community Learning Centre" educates the community regarding life below water. Collectively, these efforts significantly contributed to grassroots-led ecological sustainability and a more sustainable future.

Table 4. Distribution of Community-Based Development Projects (2024) Solution Providers type of registration.

NO	TYPE OF REGISTRATION	NUMBER OF SOLUTION PROVIDERS						TOTAL
		NORTH	EAST COAST	CENTRE	SOUTH	SARAWAK	SABAH	
1.	ROS	46	23	21	17	10	10	127
2.	SSM	33	13	22	17	7	10	102
3.	ROY	8	5	2	-	2	3	20
4.	eROSA	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
5.	JPNPP	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
6.	AADK	1	3	-	-	-	-	4
7.	KRT	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
8.	SCHOOL	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
9.	SPORTS ORGANISATION	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
10.	UNIVERSITY	1	-	-	3	-	2	6
11.	MPKK	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
12.	JPKK	-	4	-	2	-	-	6
13.	COOPERATIVES	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
14.	ROB	-	-	4	-	4	6	14
15.	PIBG	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
16.	SKM	-	-	1	1	2	-	4
17.	eROY	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
18.	JKKK	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
19.	PEOPLE'S SERVICE CENTRE	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
20.	FOUNDATION	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

NO	TYPE OF REGISTRATION	NUMBER OF SOLUTION PROVIDERS						TOTAL
		NORTH	EAST COAST	CENTRE	SOUTH	SARAWAK	SABAH	
21.	PBT	-	-	-	-	-	7	7
Total		95	50	53	43	33	38	312

A total of 312 Solution Providers were registered nationwide under a variety of organizational types, highlighting the diverse expertise and collaborative capacity driving APPGM-SDG's Community-Based Development Projects initiatives. North recorded the highest level of engagement with 95 Solution Providers, followed by the Central zones with 53 each, East with 50, the South zone with 43, the Sabah region with 38 and the Sarawak region zone with 33. This regional distribution demonstrates active and widespread participation, with North emerging as a particularly dynamic hub for community-led development efforts.

In terms of registration type, the majority of Solution Providers were registered under the Registry of Societies (ROS), accounting for 127 SPs, indicating significant involvement from community-based and non-profit organizations. This was complemented by 102 SPs under the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM), reflecting strong engagement from private businesses and entrepreneurial organizations. Other registration categories, including the Registrar of Business (ROB), universities, local authorities (PBT), and trustee organizations, provided additional technical, educational, and governance support. Overall, the registration data highlights a balanced mix of private, cooperative, and community participation, underscoring APPGM-SDG's inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach to community development across Malaysia.

Our monitoring process ensures the effectiveness and sustainability of the projects through a structured approach rooted in good governance. Regular monitoring is conducted via site visits to assess project progress, equipment conditions, and overall environment suitability, ensuring accountability and transparency. Monthly or quarterly progress review sessions allow solution providers to share updates on their achievements, challenges, and goals. Solution providers are required to submit individual performance reports detailing the number of participants served, income generated, and solutions to any obstacles faced.

We also conduct online monitoring sessions on a monthly basis to stay updated on project progress, fostering real-time communication and engagement. During these sessions, solution providers share their success stories, challenges, and the impact of the projects they

implemented. Feedback is gathered through surveys and interviews to improve the program. Post-training follow-ups provide guidance to address challenges, while long-term evaluations track participants' growth. Consolidated reports ensure transparency, highlight successes, and recommend improvements for sustainable impact. After the project reaches its conclusion, the impact of the project will be evaluated by Persatuan Sains Sosial Malaysia (PSSM).

The APPGM-SDG initiatives underscore the transformative power of localized projects and strategic partnerships. Through collaborative efforts and robust community engagement, these projects have set a benchmark for sustainable development, empowering grassroots communities to take charge of their futures. The publication serves as a testament to the commitment of all stakeholders involved, offering valuable insights and inspiration for policymakers, NGOs, and community leaders aiming to create resilient and self-sufficient societies.

OVERVIEW: 30 BEST PRACTICES SOLUTION PROJECTS

This publication showcases 30 outstanding Community-Based Development (CBD) projects implemented under the APPGM-SDG framework in 2024, reflecting the collective strength of Malaysia's communities in advancing sustainable and inclusive growth. These projects were carefully selected from a total of 324 CBDP projects implemented nationwide, representing exemplary models of people-centred, results-oriented, and sustainable development aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Each initiative featured in this publication was selected for its measurable outcomes, community engagement, scalability, and contribution to strengthening social, economic, and environmental resilience. Collectively, they demonstrate how local innovation, knowledge, and leadership can drive national progress when supported by strategic collaboration and evidence-based implementation. The selected initiatives reflect the diversity of Malaysia's development landscape, spanning rural, urban, and semi-urban constituencies, and involving a wide range of demographic groups including women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), indigenous populations, and low-income households. Together, these projects exemplify the principle of "leaving no one behind" while addressing local needs through context-specific and sustainable solutions.

The 30 projects are organised across three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic, and environmental, each contributing to the achievement of multiple SDG targets and collectively advancing Malaysia's national development agenda.

30
Total Number
of Projects

Project Breakdown of Best Practices Solution Projects



Social (15 Projects)

The social projects focus on strengthening communities through education, health, gender equality, digital literacy, and capacity building. These initiatives address social disparities by improving access to opportunities, fostering inclusive leadership, and nurturing collaboration and trust within communities. Through programmes such as women's empowerment, youth leadership, and digital inclusion, these projects have enhanced social cohesion and improved quality of life for marginalised groups. Many have also reinforced community governance structures, promoted civic participation, and expanded social protection at the local level, contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Economic (12 Projects)

The economic projects highlight the power of community entrepreneurship and innovation in strengthening local economies. They include initiatives that establish social enterprises, cooperatives, and value-added production networks, enabling communities to diversify income sources and enhance economic resilience. By equipping local groups with technical and business skills, these projects have generated employment opportunities, supported micro-entrepreneurs, and connected community products to broader markets. Collectively, they advance Malaysia's aspirations for equitable growth under SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), while fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and self-reliance.

Environmental (3 Projects)

The environmental projects emphasise the balance between community development and ecological stewardship. They promote sustainable practices such as waste reduction, reforestation, and biodiversity conservation while encouraging environmental awareness and behaviour change.

These initiatives highlight the vital role of communities as custodians of natural resources, directly contributing to SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Their success reinforces the message that environmental sustainability is inseparable from social and economic well-being.

Implementation and Impact

All 30 projects embody APPGM-SDG's participatory approach to localising the SDGs through co-design, capacity building, and continuous monitoring. Each project was implemented in collaboration with local leaders, stakeholders, and community organisations, ensuring that interventions remained locally owned and contextually relevant. Ongoing assessments, data collection, and site visits strengthened accountability and adaptive management, enabling solution providers to refine their models for greater effectiveness. These efforts have produced tangible results, including stronger community leadership, improved livelihoods, expanded employment, and heightened environmental awareness. More significantly, these initiatives have transformed many solution providers into SDG champions who now share expertise, mentor others, and advocate for evidence-based community development at the national level.

Challenges

Across the various projects, teams grappled with deeply human and practical hurdles that tested their resilience. A primary challenge was sustaining community momentum, with groups working hard to keep dedicated volunteers motivated and engaged over the long term. Participants themselves often faced personal struggles, from finding the self-confidence to launch new careers using their acquired skills to balancing project commitments with the pressing demands of their family lives. In some cases, teams shrank as members had to step away due to personal time or health issues. Furthermore, teams were often at the mercy of unpredictable external forces, battling torrential rains that delayed timelines or navigating the slow-moving processes of coordinating with government agencies. In one poignant instance, a team's restoration efforts were physically undone when a separate, nearby land reclamation project inadvertently destroyed a portion of their newly planted mangrove saplings.

Pathway Forward

The achievements documented in this publication reaffirm the importance of sustained collaboration between communities, policymakers, academia, and the private sector in realising Malaysia's SDG commitments. Moving forward, APPGM-SDG will continue to consolidate lessons from these projects, scale successful models, and strengthen impact evaluation mechanisms to deepen long-term sustainability. Aligned with the priorities of the 13th Malaysia Plan (RMK-13) and Malaysia's pledge to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the APPGM-SDG Secretariat remains steadfast in

promoting inclusive, innovative, and evidence-based solutions that uplift communities and reinforce Malaysia's position as a regional model for community-led development.

This publication stands as both a record of achievement and a source of inspiration. It celebrates the collective effort of communities that continue to transform local challenges into opportunities for empowerment, ensuring that Malaysia's progress remains inclusive, resilient, and sustainable for generations to come.



NORTHERN ZONE



SOCIAL

Drawing New Futures: The Story of Sungai Petani's Kreatif Grafik



In Sungai Petani, Kedah, change began not with big investments but in the hum of printers and the glow of laptop screens at a small studio. The Kreatif Grafik Siri 2 project, led by Angkasaraya Malaysia with support from APPGM-SDG, set out to teach design and printing. What it sparked was something far bigger: confidence, income, and new identities for eleven individuals who once thought opportunity was out of reach.

Every Saturday, participants gathered at Sangkar Studio in Space 08000. For some, it was their first time in a creative hub; for others, it felt like coming home. The studio became more than training; it was a sanctuary for dreams. “They were nervous at first,” recalled project manager Adzanneel Ismeth Asqaree. “Some didn’t even know how to open the software. But once they started, you could see their eyes light up. They realised, I can do this.”

The group was diverse: a mechanic, a shop assistant, a single mother, a young job seeker. All shared a quiet hunger to change their lives.

At forty-five, Ibrahim had spent most of his life under the hood of cars. Out of curiosity, he joined the program and created a logo for his garage. “For the first time, my workshop had a brand,” he said proudly. Soon, he was designing for fellow mechanics, earning RM3,200. “Now people call me not just a mechanic, but a designer.”

For Amy Zulaifa, thirty-five, the program unlocked hidden courage. “At first, I was scared to even choose colours,” she admitted. But with encouragement, she began offering logo design services online. Fourteen clients later, she had earned RM1,500. “I used to think I was just a shop worker. Now, I introduce myself as a designer.”

Siti Aisyah branded her freelance venture as Satu Bumbung “under one roof.” Within three months, she was generating RM1,000–1,500 from logos, flyers, and wedding cards. “I never had the courage before,” she said. “Now, every time I hand over a design, I feel like I’ve built something of my own.”



Others transformed existing livelihoods. Aizad, who ran a food stall, redesigned his menus and posters, boosting sales by RM2,000–3,000 a month. For Hamizam, previously unemployed, the training was life-saving: “Now I print shirts and stickers, earning RM1,200 a month. It means I can stand on my own feet.”

Mistakes happened often a shirt burned, a clumsy logo but instead of embarrassment, there was laughter and persistence. Trainers encouraged: “Try again.” And they did, until success felt natural. A WhatsApp group buzzed day and night with designs, questions, and encouragement, forming a support network that felt like family.

The impact extended outward. Participants linked with local printers, NGOs, and schools. One was even invited to coach at a national design competition. Women stood at the forefront handling machines, pitching businesses, and proving that design is for everyone.

By October’s end, the transformation was undeniable. Eleven individuals walked out with new skills, income, and confidence. Some had registered businesses, launched Shopee shops, or begun TikTok promotions. Families noticed the difference, children watched with pride, and neighbours started placing orders.

For Angkasaraya Malaysia, the project was also a mirror. They learned that transformation happens when learning is hands-on, when people can see and touch their results, and when support continues beyond the classroom. A six-month mentorship program was added to ensure sustainability, with ongoing check-ins and guidance.

The closing ceremony on 26 October 2024 captured the spirit of the journey. Participants displayed mugs, t-shirts, and tote bags bearing their own designs. Starter kits were handed out not just tools, but trust. “We weren’t just giving machines,” said Adzanneel. “We were telling them: We believe in you.”

As certificates were awarded, Ibrahim smiled: “I never thought anyone would call me a designer. But now, I am one.” Amy whispered through tears: “I’m not just working in someone else’s shop anymore. I have my own future.”

The story of Kreatif Grafik is not about software or machines. It is about people daring to believe in themselves. A mechanic, a shop assistant, a single mother, an unemployed man each now carries the title of entrepreneur, designer, creator. In Sungai Petani, their stories are just beginning. Every new logo, every tote bag, every online order adds another chapter. Because when creativity meets opportunity, the future is not just imagined it is drawn, printed, and lived.



ANGKSRYA MY

Sungai Petani, Kedah

Project Title: Kreatif Grafik

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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SOCIAL

From Learning Halls to Community Stages: The Story of Pendang's CLC



In the town of Pendang, Kedah, a simple idea began to stir the hearts of a community. It started with a vision to create a space where children could gather after school not only to study but to grow, to play, and to discover who they could become. That vision came alive through the Community Learning Centre (CLC), established by Al Bayan Edu Resources with the support of APPGM-SDG. What unfolded inside its modest halls would soon touch not only the children, but also parents, teachers, and the wider village itself.

When the Kursus Bina Jati Diri Mukmin Unggul was first introduced, the classrooms welcomed fifty-five bright faces, boys and girls between five and twelve years old. Many clutched their Iqra' books nervously, hesitant to read aloud, afraid of making mistakes. Yet week after week, they returned, eager to learn. Slowly, their voices grew steadier as they recited verses of the Qur'an, their confidence rising with every word. They learned tajwid, practised wuduk and solat, and memorised daily prayers. For many, this was the first time they could perform these rituals independently, small triumphs that brought joy to parents and teachers alike.

What set the CLC apart, however, was its spirit of creativity. Teachers wove play into every lesson, making learning feel alive. Donut-decorating became a test of imagination, while old bottles and boxes were transformed into miniature crafts. Quizzes on lessons turned into games of laughter, and stories of the Prophets were retold not only as history, but as lessons of compassion and resilience.

One weekend, the children joined elders for a gotong-royong at Surau Kampung Majapahit. With small brooms but large enthusiasm, they swept the courtyard and cleaned the prayer hall. Parents watched

proudly, realising their children were not only memorising prayers but also practising values of cleanliness, respect, and responsibility.

The impact soon became clear. Three students, once hesitant beginners with their Iqra', progressed to reading the Qur'an fluently. Parents noticed their children coming home more disciplined, more expressive, and more eager to share what they had learned. Some who were once shy now spoke with confidence, engaging with elders and peers alike. The transformation was so profound that the neighbouring community of Kampung Kobah requested their own CLC branch proof that what began as a single project was now growing into a movement.

Building on this success, Al Bayan sought new ways to nurture development. In 2025, the CLC introduced the Kelab Nasyid & Kompang, weaving culture and performance into its learning fabric. At first, rhythms were uneven, voices timid. But with discipline and practice, the beats grew sharper, the harmonies steadier, until the halls echoed with pride. Dressed in uniforms with sampin tied proudly, the children performed at schools and community gatherings. Parents, some moved to tears, saw their sons and daughters stand tall before an audience carrying traditions forward with newfound courage.



In Pendang, the CLC has become more than a classroom. It is a living space where education, faith, creativity, and culture blend seamlessly. Children are no longer passive learners but active participants in their own growth. Parents are no longer just onlookers but partners, engaging with teachers and community leaders to nurture the next generation. And the village itself, once quiet in the evenings, now hums with the sound of children learning, playing, and performing together.

The lessons are simple yet profound: education, when coupled with creativity, becomes joy; tradition, when passed on with pride, becomes identity; and when a community is fully involved, learning becomes a

shared responsibility.

Today, the story of Pendang's CLC continues. A child's first confident recitation of a surah, the synchronised beat of kompang echoing in the hall, the laughter of parents watching a performance are the echoes of change. What began as an initiative to build self-identity has blossomed into a celebration of learning, culture, and community spirit. And as long as children return with eager hearts, the CLC will remain a symbol of how small seeds of education can grow into forests of transformation.



Pendang, Kedah

Project Title: Kursus Bina Jati Diri
Mukmin Unggul

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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SOCIAL

Water for Life: The Story of Telaga Tiub Kampung Baru Lubuk Machang



In Kampung Baru Lubuk Machang, Padang Besar, water was always uncertain. Families depended on rain, shallow wells, or irregular supplies from outside. Cooking, cleaning, farming even bathing children carried the same daily worry: Will there be enough water today? For outsiders, it was invisible. For villagers, it was life.

When the Projek Telaga Tiub was introduced under APPGM-SDG with Dewan Perdagangan Islam Malaysia (DPIM) Perlis as the implementing partner, it promised more than pipes and pumps. It carried the hope of dignity and security. A reliable water source meant mothers could cook without fear, farmers could irrigate their crops, and children could grow without knowing the hardship of scarcity.

The work began in early 2025. Machines rolled in, and the drilling started. Villagers gathered to watch, some curious, some doubtful. Striking underground water was never guaranteed. On certain days, the drill hit only dry soil and frustration hung in the air. Yet the team pressed on, encouraged by the persistence of the community itself. "Not every soil gives water," one elder reminded. "But if we keep trying, we will find it." That determination became the spirit of the project.

Pipes were lowered, UPVC casings fitted, and pumps installed. Men helped with the heavy work while children watched, wide-eyed at the sight of machines digging into their land. It was no longer just a contractor's job; it was a community's journey. Then one morning, the breakthrough came clear, fresh water gushed from the earth. Cheers erupted. Women clapped, children splashed, and elders whispered Alhamdulillah. That first flow was more than liquid relief. It was resilience made visible.

A tank tower was quickly built to store and distribute the water. Training followed villagers learned to clean tanks, operate pumps, and troubleshoot problems. *“This is ours to protect,”* declared the village head, stressing that sustainability meant collective responsibility.

The impact spread instantly. Farmers, once hesitant to plant during dry months, began cultivating vegetables with confidence. Food stall operators could prepare meals without rationing. Livestock owners cared for animals properly. Women, who once spent hours fetching water, now had time for family or small businesses. Households saved money that had gone to buying water outside.

Perhaps most importantly, the well revived community spirit. The tank area became a gathering point where neighbours met, laughed, and shared stories. Gotong-royong activities increased, as villagers maintained the site together. *“Air ini bukan hanya untuk kita, tapi untuk generasi akan datang,”* said a mother of four. Her words captured the shift: this was not just water for today, but an inheritance for tomorrow.

Challenges remained. Would the underground flow stay stable in dry seasons? How could costs be reduced, perhaps with solar power for pumps? Could the community sustain maintenance long-term? Rather than weaken resolve, these questions strengthened collaboration. Agencies like JPS were consulted, and villagers formed a maintenance committee to safeguard the well’s future.



By the project’s end, the transformation was undeniable. Where there was once uncertainty, there was now security. Where there was dependence, there was now self-reliance. Families had water at their doorstep, and farmers could plan their crops with optimism. *“We used to wait for rain,”* one farmer reflected. *“Now we can plan our planting. We can plan our future.”*

The Telaga Tiub at Kampung Baru Lubuk Machang is more than a technical achievement. It is a story of partnership between a national initiative and a local community. It shows how the Sustainable Development Goals can take root in practical ways ensuring access to clean water, strengthening livelihoods, and building social unity.

Today, the sound of water flowing from the tank has become part of the village's rhythm. For children, it means a childhood free from scarcity. For women, it means time for creativity and enterprise. For men, it means farming with confidence. And for the community, it means life renewed not by chance, but by choice, persistence, and collective will.

The best practice of Kampung Baru Lubuk Machang is not only in drilling a well but in uniting people, strengthening resilience, and leaving knowledge and ownership behind. As the sun sets over Padang Besar, the Telaga Tiub stands quietly in the fields. But in the hearts of the villagers, it stands tall as a symbol of what is possible when communities are trusted, equipped, and determined. This is water for life and a village's journey from scarcity to abundance.



Padang Besar, Perlis

Project Title: Projek Telaga Tiub
Kampung Baru Lubuk Machang

Funding Allocated: RM30,000

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ECONOMY

Nurturing Care, Nurturing Futures: Confinement and Post Natal Services – Learn & Earn



In Perai, Penang, many women from B40 households faced a familiar dilemma. They wanted to contribute to their family income, yet opportunities were scarce, especially for single mothers and homemakers. At the same time, there was a growing demand for trained confinement and postnatal care providers, a service deeply rooted in tradition, but increasingly sought after in modern communities.

Seeing this gap, MPKK Perai decided to act. With support from APPGM-SDG, they introduced the Confinement and Post Natal Services – Learn & Earn program in mid-2024. The aim was simple yet powerful: to help women turn their natural caregiving skills into a source of income, while raising awareness on the importance of proper postnatal care for mothers and babies.

The program brought together 10 women aged 20–35, most of them homemakers and single mothers. Over three months, they were guided through practical training in maternal and infant care from breastfeeding techniques and herbal sauna therapy to postnatal massage and baby care routines. To prepare them for real business, the women also learned how to register their services with SSM, market themselves on social media, and manage clients professionally. WhatsApp groups were created as ongoing support spaces, where trainers and participants could ask questions, share tips, and encourage one another.

For many, the experience was life-changing. “Before this, I only knew the basics of looking after a mother in confinement. Now I feel confident to serve others and even think about it as a career,” said Puan Reverthy. Another participant, Puan Mohana Devi, started

offering services soon after the classes: “With the guidance from our trainers, I felt brave enough to take my first customer.”



Of course, there were hurdles. Some struggled with the cost of equipment like herbal sauna sets and massage oils. Others admitted to feeling nervous about handling their first clients. Social media promotion was also a steep learning curve for a few. But the spirit of the group, combined with patient trainers, helped them overcome these fears. Slowly but surely, the women began taking orders and finding their footing.

By the end of the program, the results were clear. Several participants had already earned side income, while others were in the process of formalising their services. More importantly, the program boosted their confidence not just in their skills, but in themselves. Families in the community also benefited, as new mothers received better care, healthier guidance, and stronger support during the fragile postpartum period.

For MPKK Perai, the success of this initiative goes beyond training. It is about restoring dignity, giving women a sense of independence, and turning traditional knowledge into a viable livelihood. As the project lead, Mr S. Sri Sangar, put it: “We wanted the women to see that their skills have value and that value can change lives.”

The Confinement and Post Natal Services – Learn & Earn program has planted seeds of resilience and self-reliance. What began in a small training hall in Perai is already spreading into homes and communities, proving that when women are empowered, the whole community grows stronger.



Batu Kawan, Pulau Pinang

Project Title: Confinement & Post Natal Service - Learn & Earn

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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ECONOMY

Chemor's Women Entrepreneurs: Program Jana Ekonomi B40 Komuniti RT Idaman



In Taman Chemor Idaman, Perak, the rising cost of living weighed heavily on families, particularly those in the B40 group. Many women found themselves caught between household responsibilities and the need to earn extra income, but without the knowledge or tools to step into business, opportunities often slipped away. Recognizing this challenge, KRT Taman Chemor Idaman decided to act. With support from APPGM-SDG, they launched the Program Jana Ekonomi B40 Komuniti RT Idaman, a bold attempt to transform everyday cooking skills into engines of empowerment.

The program targeted ten women, mostly single mothers and homemakers, who joined a four-month journey between August and November 2024. What they encountered was not a typical training, but a complete pathway from learning new recipes to understanding how to promote and sell their products. In twelve sessions, participants mastered everything from Nasi Briyani and Kambing Masak Hitam to breads, cakes, and traditional Indian delicacies. They also explored Western dishes and even ventured into large-scale fruit pickle making at a local factory, gaining exposure to production processes beyond the home kitchen.

But the training went further. To ensure long-term success, each participant attended certified food-handling courses and received typhoid vaccinations, making them eligible for professional catering work. They also dove into digital marketing, discovering how to design posters, create TikTok videos, and use social media to attract customers. For many, this was their first time seeing technology as a tool for business rather than a source of entertainment. *"I never thought I could promote my cooking online,"* admitted one participant. *"Now I feel confident that people outside my neighbourhood can*

discover my food.”

The project’s design was practical and supportive. Each participant was equipped with a starter kit worth RM1,500, including an oven, mixer, and weighing tools. Trainers and mentors were carefully chosen, not only for their expertise but for their willingness to teach openly and patiently. According to one participant, “Our trainer didn’t just show us recipes; she gave us the confidence to try, fail, and try again.”

The transformation was visible. Within weeks, women began receiving catering orders. Cakes baked during practice sessions found their way to neighbours’ gatherings, and families proudly supported the new ventures. More importantly, the participants themselves began to see a shift in identity from homemakers to entrepreneurs. As one mother reflected, “Even if the income is small at first, the knowledge I’ve gained makes me believe this can grow.”

The project also built bridges to the wider system. Through sessions with TEKUN, Amanah Ikhtiar, and BSN, participants learned how to register their businesses, apply for microloans, and open bank accounts steps that once felt out of reach. Networks with agencies, trainers, and mentors became a support system that extended beyond the classroom.

The path was not without its hurdles. Some participants hesitated over injections during the food safety course; others found digital platforms confusing at first. Yet peer encouragement and strong facilitation helped them push through. “I was nervous at the beginning,” recalled one woman. “But the more we learned together, the more it felt possible.”

By the end of the program, all ten participants had completed the training, with several already earning side income. The community hall that once echoed with silence now carried a new rhythm: ovens whirring, recipes exchanged, and plans for catering businesses quietly taking shape.

The legacy of the Program Jana Ekonomi B40 Komuniti RT Idaman is still unfolding, but its promise is clear. What began as cooking lessons has become a movement of resilience and self-reliance, showing that with knowledge, confidence, and the right support, women can redefine their roles not only for their families but for the future of their community.



Tambun, Perak

Project Title: Program Jana Ekonomi Dalam Bidang Usahawan Makanan, Pemasaran Digital Dan Latihan Serta Pemasaran

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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EAST COAST ZONE



SOCIAL

Kemaman's Young Guardians: Forging a Drug-Free Future



In the school corridors of Kemaman, Terengganu, a new threat was spreading—one that came in colourful vape pens and was deceptively named ‘magic mushrooms’ . As this modern wave of substance abuse took root among its youth, one local organization decided on a radical approach: to empower the students themselves to fight back. Answering the call was the Jawatankuasa Pemulihan Dadah Daerah Kemaman (JKPD), an NGO with a powerful vision to empower students as the most passionate messengers of the anti-drug cause .

The challenge was clear and urgent. Teenagers aged 14 to 16, a group navigating the crucial pressures of adolescence, were increasingly vulnerable to New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and the pervasive culture of vaping. This modern threat was often misunderstood, and a community perception of addiction as a personal failing, rather than a public health issue, created barriers to effective prevention. Schools needed more than posters; they needed a dynamic, peer-led movement to build a truly resilient defence.

The solution was the renewed Skim Lencana Antidadah 2.0 (SLAD 2.0), a comprehensive program designed to turn students into confident anti-drug ambassadors. Over four months in 2024, the JKPD and its partners engaged 920 students from 23 secondary schools across Kemaman.

The program went far beyond standard lectures, immersing students in dynamic workshops where they mastered interpersonal communication, honed leadership skills, and delved into the complex science behind new drugs. Armed with this knowledge, they became active creators of change, developing their own campaign materials and leading five-minute anti-drug talks during school assemblies.



The program's success is reflected in the voices of its participants. For student Ainul Fatiah binti Ahmad Razali, the impact was twofold, as the project “not only increased knowledge about the dangers of drugs but also improved students' interpersonal skills”. This shift from passive learning to active personal development was a cornerstone of the program's design. Fellow participant Nur Hani binti Salleh felt the program equipped her with profound resilience, explaining that the new knowledge created “protective factors for them in facing the increasingly difficult challenges of today”. The project built a shield of confidence and critical thinking, empowering students to navigate a complex world.

The project's success is etched in its numbers. It directly engaged its target of 920 secondary school students across 23 schools and trained 200 medical officers and counsellors to amplify its reach. The ripple effect was significant: student-led outreach events brought the message to over 500 community members, transforming school-level awareness into a district-wide conversation. This momentum created lasting systemic change, with schools across Kemaman now holding weekly anti-drug activities instead of monthly ones.

The program's impact was felt by all involved. Teacher Ahmad Syukri bin Jusoh saw its potential beyond the classroom, suggesting the campaign be expanded to workplaces so the issue of new drugs “is not taken lightly by workers,” especially in the oil and gas sector. Driving the initiative, Project Advisor Norhartini binti Chek Rani explained the core philosophy: “Our goal with SLAD 2.0 is to empower students to become influential messengers against drugs among their peers, family, and the wider community. They are our most important partners in creating a drug-free generation” .

The path was not without challenges, including the widespread availability of vapes and initial community apathy that viewed drug abuse as an individual issue. The team overcame this through powerful multi-agency collaboration, forging a strategic alliance with

the Kemaman District Police, Health Office, and Education Department. This united front was key to building credibility, winning community trust, and ensuring the project's success.



The SLAD 2.0 project ignited a sustainable, youth-led movement, leaving behind a network of trained young guardians ready to champion a healthier community. Its legacy is set to grow through future plans for high-visibility billboard campaigns and permanent "Lorong Antidadah" (Anti-Drug Alleys) in schools, developed with the Kemaman Municipal Council. The badges these students earned are not just accolades; they are powerful symbols of responsibility and hope—a sign that the future of Kemaman is in the capable hands of its own empowered youth.



Kemaman, Terengganu

Project Title: Program Skim Lencana Antidadah (SLAD)

Funding Allocated: RM30,000

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SOCIAL

Signing the Sacred Verses: Faith Finds a New Voice



For millions of Muslims, the sound of the Quran being recited is a source of profound peace and spiritual connection. It's a sound that marks daily prayers, celebrations, and moments of quiet reflection. But what happens when that sound is absent? For the deaf community in Pahang, the sacred words of the Quran were often locked away, inaccessible through conventional teaching methods. This spiritual silence was a significant gap that the Persatuan Orang Pekak Pahang (PADA) was determined to bridge, sparking a journey of faith, empowerment, and community leadership through their Kelas Bahasa Isyarat Al Quran (Quran Sign Language Class) project.

In the parliamentary constituency of Indera Mahkota, Kuantan, members of the deaf community faced a unique and isolating challenge. Despite their deep desire to engage with their faith, they lacked the tools to do so. The traditional method of learning to recite the Quran is auditory, leaving them excluded from a fundamental pillar of their religious life. The development of a standardized sign language for the Quran's Hijaiyah alphabet was a recent breakthrough, but its teaching was not widespread, and resources were scarce. PADA recognized that without a dedicated initiative, an entire generation could be left without the ability to connect with the holy text, undermining the principles of inclusive and equitable education for all (SDG 4) and fostering inequality within the community (SDG 10).

In response, PADA launched a transformative project aimed directly at this challenge. They developed a structured, three-month Al-Quran class specifically designed for 25 individuals with hearing loss, ranging in age from 19 to 50. Held at the Masjid Sg Isap in Kuantan, the classes were more than just lessons; they were vibrant, interactive workshops.

Participants began with the basics: learning to form each Hijaiyah letter using sign language. To make the learning process dynamic and effective, instructors used quizzes, games, and group discussions (LDK).

The focus went beyond mere memorization. Under the guidance of a dedicated Ustaz and a sign language interpreter, participants delved into the meanings of short surahs, presenting their understanding to their peers. A key component of the program was the *tadarus*, or group recitation sessions, where participants were grouped by proficiency. In these small, supportive circles, those who were more advanced could guide their peers, reinforcing their own learning while building confidence in others. The curriculum was designed not just to teach, but to create future teachers.

The project's true impact is embodied in the stories of its participants. Take Syarizal Sudarmin, 46, for example. Before joining the class, the Quran was a book he could see but not understand. Today, he is a teacher himself, leading a new class for the deaf community in Temerloh and surrounding areas like Maran and Jengka, earning an allowance of RM300.



His journey is mirrored by Mohd Samawi Sulaiman, 45, and Syarifah Munirah Bt Syed Shikh, 40. Mohd Samawi now teaches at the Masjid Tepian Putra in Kuantan, while Syarifah Munirah leads a Kafa Class at Masjid Sg Isap, earning RM300 and RM350 respectively. They have transformed their newfound knowledge into a calling.

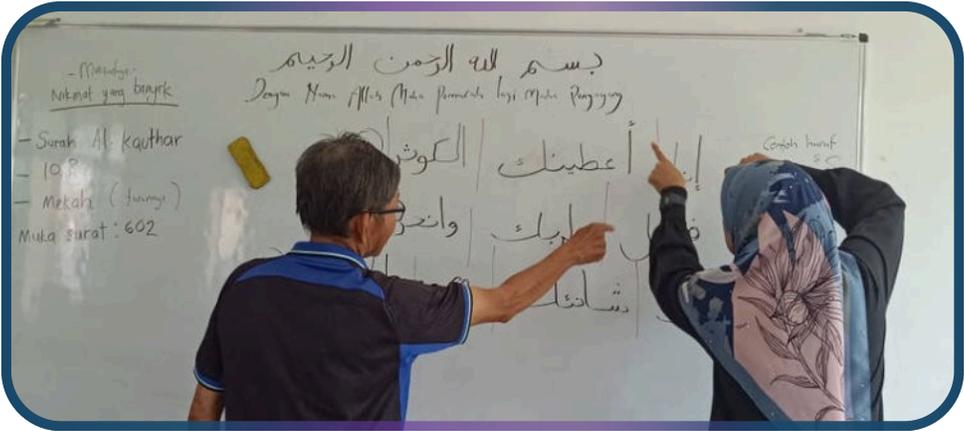
One participant shared, reflecting the sentiment of many, "We never imagined that from simply learning the letters, we would become representatives of the association, responsible for teaching other deaf people in Pahang. From the first session of learning the alphabet to becoming teachers is an amazing journey. It shows that this class has truly succeeded."

The project's success is clear and measurable. All 25 initial participants have not only gained religious literacy but have been empowered as community leaders. This has had a remarkable ripple effect; Nine graduates are now actively teaching: four in Temerloh, three in Kuantan, and two preparing to start classes in Jerantut. Two new Quran classes have already been established in Kuantan and Temerloh, run by these graduates. The project has created new income-generating opportunities (SDG 8), providing the new teachers with a modest but meaningful allowance.

The path wasn't without its obstacles. The team faced challenges in creating appropriate teaching materials and notes for the deaf community and navigating the bureaucracy required to place new teachers in schools. However, with persistence, PADA has successfully developed and printed its own materials and continues to work with the relevant authorities to expand its reach.

The formal project may have concluded, but its spirit is more alive than ever. PADA continues to support its new teachers through monthly guidance classes in collaboration with Masjid Sultan Ahmad Shah. The plan is to open the program to a new cohort of learners, who will be taught by the very first graduates. This sustainable, train-the-trainer model ensures that the light of the Quran will continue to spread in sign, reaching every corner of Pahang's deaf community and proving that with the right approach, faith can find a voice in every heart, even in silence.





Indera Mahkota, Pahang

Project Title: Kelas Bahasa Isyarat Al Quran

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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SOCIAL

Building a Brighter Future, One Robot at a Time



In the quiet, rural district of Hulu Terengganu, a world away from the nation's bustling tech hubs, a generation of bright young minds was at risk of being left behind. For many students here, advanced technology like robotics felt like a distant concept, seen on screens but rarely experienced firsthand. This lack of exposure was contributing to a worrying trend: a steady decline in students pursuing science at the university level. Recognizing this critical gap, the Parent-Teacher Association of Sekolah Menengah Sains Hulu Terengganu (SAHUT) decided it was time to rewrite the script. With the launch of the Sahut Tech-Up Lab, they introduced an initiative not just to teach, but to inspire.

The core challenge was clear: rural students in Hulu Terengganu had limited access to quality Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education. Local schools, constrained by resources, struggled to provide the hands-on learning opportunities needed to ignite a genuine passion for these future-ready fields. This created an invisible barrier, preventing talented students from developing the critical thinking, problem-solving, and technical skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven world. The project aimed to dismantle this barrier, bridging the educational divide between rural and urban communities.

The Sahut Tech-Up Lab was designed as an immersive journey into the world of robotics for 50 secondary school students, with an equal number of boys and girls. The project began by establishing a fully functional robotics lab within the school, complete with robotics kits, computers, and specialized software. To ensure the program had skilled on-the-ground mentors, local teachers were trained in robotics concepts and lab management.



Once the lab was ready, the real excitement began. Through a series of weekly hands-on workshops, participants dove headfirst into building and programming robots. They learned the fundamentals of mechanical components, wiring, sensors, and coding using languages like Python and Scratch. As one participant noted, the lab "provides a fun and interactive learning experience! Many love the way it combines programming and robotics... in a practical and creative way." To fuel their competitive spirit, the program also organized internal robotics competitions where students could test their creations and innovative solutions against their peers.

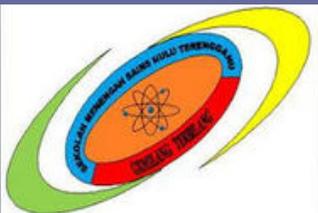
The impact of the Tech-Up Lab was most visible in the students' personal growth. The hands-on, supportive environment empowered them to move from curiosity to confidence. Facilitators noted that some female participants who were initially shy gained confidence over time through peer support and mentorship. This newfound assurance sparked a behavioral shift; some students began sharing their knowledge with friends, becoming informal STEM ambassadors in their school community. For others, the inspiration went even further. A few students started their own small tech projects at home, showing that the program had successfully sparked a mindset of innovation and continuous learning.

The project's success was evident, but the journey wasn't without its obstacles. The team had to skillfully navigate scheduling conflicts with the official school calendar. Furthermore, the digital divide became apparent when some students struggled with assignments due to a lack of stable internet or personal laptops at home. However, the project's facilitators adapted, highlighting the importance of resilience and flexible planning.

For the students, the program was a resounding success. In their own words, "This program is exciting and helped them develop an interest in the field of STEM and knowledge regarding robotics and programming."

The Sahut Tech-Up Lab has done more than just teach students to build robots; it has equipped them with the belief that they can be global creators. The skills and confidence nurtured in their school lab were put to the ultimate test when a team of beneficiaries, led by solution provider Cikgu Ridhuan, earned the honor of representing Malaysia at the Universal Robotic Challenge 2025 in Japan.

In a stunning display of talent and determination, the team secured 2nd place in the Real Robotics Python Division. This incredible achievement is a powerful testament to the project's impact, proving that with the right opportunities, students from anywhere can compete with the world's best. From a local initiative in Hulu Terengganu to a podium in Japan, these students are not just building robots—they are building a limitless future.



Hulu Terengganu, Terengganu

Project Title: Capacity Building on Robotics for Students through Sahut Tech-Up Lab

Funding Allocated: RM30,000

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ECONOMY

Baking a New Future: Digital Skills Empower Kuantan's Women



In the heart of Kuantan, many women, particularly single mothers and full-time housewives from B40 households, faced a silent, daily struggle. Trapped in a cycle of financial dependency or bearing the sole responsibility for their family's expenses, the weight of rising living costs was a constant source of stress. They possessed immense potential and a fierce desire to contribute, but lacked the specific skills and opportunities to turn their ambitions into income. Recognizing this gap, the Persatuan Pusat Perkhidmatan Cahaya Biru Kuantan stepped in, launching a program designed not just to teach a craft, but to spark a digital-savvy entrepreneurial spirit.

The core challenge was economic vulnerability. For single mothers, the burden of being the sole provider was immense. For housewives, relying entirely on a single stream of household income created instability and limited personal economic freedom. Many of these women had the drive to start small businesses from home, but they were held back by two key barriers: a lack of marketable, practical skills and unfamiliarity with the digital tools necessary to reach customers beyond their immediate neighborhood. The question was how to bridge this gap and provide them with the tools for sustainable self-sufficiency.

From April to July 2025, the "Micro B40 Entrepreneur Empowerment Program" transformed a simple training center into a vibrant hub of learning and opportunity. Over three months, a dedicated group of 15 to 20 women embarked on a journey of empowerment. The program was a thoughtful blend of hands-on craft and modern marketing. It began in the kitchen, with a series of intensive bakery classes where participants learned to create a variety of delicious cakes and pastries. The aroma of fresh bakes was more than just a lesson in recipes; it

was the smell of a new beginning.

With their products perfected, the women moved from the kitchen to the classroom. Here, they tackled the digital world. They attended computer classes, many touching a keyboard for the first time, learning the fundamentals of Microsoft Word and Excel to create simple promotional materials and track their sales. The final piece of the puzzle was a workshop on digital photography and photo editing. Participants learned how to use their mobile phones to capture professional-looking images of their baked goods, making them irresistible to potential customers online.



The program's true impact is best told through the stories of the women themselves. For Mas Ayu, a 44-year-old single mother, the training was a direct answer to her financial pressures. "I am very grateful for the opportunity to join this bakery class," she shared. "This class has opened up opportunities for me to generate income through a small home-based business. I hope what I have learned will help me support my family and build a better future".

For others, like housewife Teo Bee Ling, the program sparked newfound ambition. "The bakery class was very beneficial. I learned how to make cakes and biscuits with the correct equipment," she said. "It gave me an idea to possibly run a small-scale business in the future, like selling cakes or biscuits from home".

The program also proved that learning has no age limit. Lim See Chin, a 62-year-old housewife, embraced the challenge of learning new skills. "I learned many new bakery techniques and tips that I didn't know before," she explained. "The computer and photography classes were very helpful and allowed me to understand new things that I was previously unskilled in".

The project successfully equipped a diverse group of women with tangible bakery and digital marketing skills. The feedback was

overwhelmingly positive, with participants leaving not just with new knowledge, but with concrete business ideas and the confidence to pursue them. This journey, however, wasn't without its challenges. Some participants initially lacked basic baking equipment at home or high-quality smartphones for photography. The digital literacy classes required extra patience, as many were complete beginners. Yet, the collaborative environment allowed them to overcome these hurdles, learning to maximize the tools they had and proving that resilience is key to success.

The empowerment program in Kuantan has laid a strong foundation, demonstrating that targeted, practical training can create real economic change for B40 women. The Persatuan Pusat Perkhidmatan Cahaya Biru Kuantan plans to continue nurturing this budding community of entrepreneurs through ongoing communication and support. Looking ahead, the organization hopes to secure funding for advanced modules in financial management and e-commerce. This project is a powerful testament to how empowering a woman with a skill is not just about income—it's about baking a new, more hopeful future for her entire family.



PERSATUAN PUSAT PERKHIDMATAN CAHAYA BIRU
KUANTAN

Kuantan, Pahang

Project Title: Program Pemerkasaan Ushawan Mikro B40 Melalui Pengajaran Kemahiran dan Latihan Pemasaran Digital dan Bimbingan

Funding Allocated: RM36,453.65

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ECONOMY

Dynamic Futures: Forging New Paths for Kuala Krai's Entrepreneurs



In the heart of Kuala Krai, Kelantan, small-scale entrepreneurs are the lifblood of the local economy. They pour their passion into crafting delicious foods, offering beauty services, and providing essential goods. Yet, for many, passion alone isn't enough to build a sustainable future. They face the invisible barriers of the modern economy: a lack of formal business knowledge, limited access to digital marketing, and uncertainty about financial management. Recognizing this gap between potential and prosperity, the Majlis Belia Jajahan Kuala Krai (Kuala Krai District Youth Council) stepped in, launching a transformative project called *Usahawan Dinamik* (Dynamic Entrepreneurs).

The problem was clear: talented local entrepreneurs were struggling to grow. Many operated informally, without the structured business plans, proper accounting, or digital presence needed to thrive in today's market. They were rich in skill but lacked the strategic tools to turn a small venture into a stable source of income. This not only limited their personal financial growth but also hindered the community's overall economic resilience, a challenge directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The Kuala Krai District Youth Council saw an urgent need to provide these business owners with the skills to not just survive, but to become dynamic players in the local economy.

From February to April 2025, the *Usahawan Dinamik* project brought together ten aspiring entrepreneurs—eight women and two men—for an intensive, three-month business bootcamp held at the Pusat Aktiviti Serumpun Kuala Krai. The program was a deep dive into the nuts and bolts of modern business. Over 12 weeks, participants journeyed from foundational concepts to advanced strategies.

The curriculum was comprehensive and hands-on. Participants learned to build robust business plans, create compelling proposals, and conduct SWOT analyses to identify their strengths and weaknesses. They attended workshops on financial management, learning to properly handle accounts and plan for growth. Crucially, the project demystified the digital world, training them in online marketing through platforms like TikTok, Facebook, and digital catalogues. To ensure their businesses were built on solid ground, experts were brought in to cover everything from Halal certification and food safety standards to accessing micro-credit from agencies like MARA and RISDA.



Project Manager Muhammed Rizzal bin Abidin noted the participants' enthusiasm. "They were incredibly excited," he shared. "More than half of them started applying what they learned immediately, and the results were positive from the get-go".

The ten entrepreneurs came from various sectors, including catering, desserts, spa treatments, and bridal services. Before the program, many operated in isolation. Afterwards, they emerged not just as skilled individuals but as a collaborative community. They formed their own peer support networks—such as the "Desert Team," "SPA and Urutan Team," and "Bridal Sister" group—to share knowledge and navigate challenges together.

This combination of new skills and strong community support led to tangible, life-changing results. The project's most significant achievement was its direct economic impact: several participants successfully increased their income to the point where they moved out of the B40 income bracket. Furthermore, the training was so effective that some participants developed the expertise to become trainers themselves, empowered to conduct their own classes and share their knowledge with others in their respective fields.

The success of Usahawan Dinamik extends beyond individual income statements. Participants now have systematic business plans and operational guidelines, and they have built new professional networks with government agencies. The project was also a learning experience for the organizers, who identified the need to engage professional trainers and implement a thorough participant selection process for future initiatives.



The journey doesn't end here. The Kuala Krai District Youth Council plans to build on this success by increasing community engagement, extending the program's duration, and using digital platforms for ongoing monitoring in future phases. By equipping local entrepreneurs with the skills to succeed, Usahawan Dinamik has planted the seeds for a more prosperous and sustainable Kuala Krai, proving that with the right support, local talent can power community-wide growth.



Kuala Krai, Kelantan

Project Title: Usahawan Dinamik

Funding Allocated: RM30,000

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CENTRAL ZONE



SOCIAL

Kapar's Field of Dreams: Scoring Goals for the Future



On the community fields of Kapar, a sprawling parliamentary constituency in Selangor, the raw energy of youth is palpable. For years, countless children with a passion for football could be seen kicking a ball around, their talent obvious but unrefined. These aspiring players, many from B40 families, possessed dreams of sporting greatness but lacked a crucial stepping stone: a structured platform to hone their skills and showcase their potential. Recognizing this gap, the Persatuan Bolasepak Kapar (PBK), Selangor, stepped in with a vision to turn raw talent into polished skill, launching the "Program Akademi Bolasepak Bawah 14 Tahun".

The core problem in Kapar was not a lack of talent, but a lack of structured guidance. Young, aspiring footballers had no access to professional coaching that could teach them the essential techniques, tactics, and discipline required to elevate their game. Without a formal academy, their potential remained largely untapped, and their dreams of representing their schools, state, or even the nation were distant and uncertain. The community needed a focused program that could provide a clear pathway for these children to pursue their passion seriously and transform it into a tangible future.

From May to November 2024, PBK's Football Academy became a hub of transformation for 25 registered participants, a number that quickly grew to 35 due to overwhelming interest from the community. The six-month program was meticulously designed to build well-rounded athletes. On the Padang MPK Kapar, children from various local schools—SK, SJKT, SJKC—came together, united by their love for the game.



Under the guidance of experienced coaches, the players dove into intensive training. The curriculum was a blend of practical drills and theoretical knowledge. "Bengkel Teknik" workshops focused on fundamental skills like first touch, striking, and running with the ball. Beyond the field, classroom sessions covered the official rules of football, proper nutrition, and the paramount importance of self-discipline—a lesson the participants took to heart. Project Manager Shanmuga seelan A/L Muthu Marimuthu explains, "Our goal was not just to create good players, but to build good character. Discipline is the ladder to success, and they learned to apply it in their daily lives."

While the program was initially planned for boys, the passion for the sport knew no gender boundaries. The academy welcomed a group of dedicated female players, and among them, two girls stood out. They trained with the same intensity and determination as their male peers, breaking down barriers with every successful tackle and precise pass. Their hard work paid off in the most inspiring way. When the academy's success was measured, these two girls were among the cohort of players selected for a prestigious national league.



Their journey reflects the project's profound impact. It proves that when opportunity is made accessible, talent will flourish, regardless of background or gender. For these young players, the academy was more than just training; it was the chance they had been waiting for to prove their mettle on a bigger stage.

The academy's success exceeded all expectations. The program didn't just teach football; it created champions. An incredible 18 participants—16 boys and 2 girls—were selected to represent the Liga Superimau, a high-profile league organized by the Football Association of Selangor (FAS) and the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM). Another seven players were chosen for the reserve squad, a testament to the quality of coaching they received. This achievement provided the players with a direct pathway into the national sports ecosystem, helping to reduce inequality by giving them a chance to raise their future standard of living through sport.

The journey was not without its hurdles. The unpredictable Malaysian weather, with its scorching heat and sudden thunderstorms, posed a significant challenge. At times, parents were hesitant to send their children to training, fearing for their health and safety. However, the commitment of the coaches and the unwavering enthusiasm of the players ensured that the training momentum was maintained, adapting schedules to work around the weather.



The "Program Akademi Bolasepak Bawah 14 Tahun" has laid a strong foundation for youth football in Kapar. Its success has not only validated the talent within the community but has also highlighted the need for dedicated development programs. Looking ahead, PBK plans to build on this momentum, hoping to establish separate, focused academies for both boys and girls to provide even more specialised training. As one young player joyfully shared, "We learned so much more than just football; we learned to be a team and to believe in ourselves. This is just the beginning for us." The project stands as a powerful example of how investing in youth sports can unlock

potential, foster unity, and turn a simple field of grass into a field of dreams.



Kapar, Selangor

Project Title: Bola Sepak U14 PBK

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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**SOCIAL****Program Literasi Bahasa di Smart Classroom**

In the quiet, rural community of Tanjong Karang, Selangor, the school bell at SJK(T) Ghandiji signals the start of another day. For many of its students, it also signals a daily challenge: navigating a world of learning in Bahasa Melayu, a language different from the one spoken in their homes. While bright and eager, a language barrier often stood between them and their full potential, creating a silent confidence gap. Witnessing this struggle, the school's Parent-Teacher Association (PIBG) and a dedicated team of educators, led by Project Manager Uganewary A/P Muthu, decided it was time for a change. They envisioned a solution that was not just educational, but exciting and empowering: the Program Literasi Bahasa di Smart Classroom.

The problem was more than just marks on a report card. For many students at this Tamil primary school, a lack of fluency in the national language created hurdles in daily communication, academic performance, and overall self-esteem. Many of these children, identified as being at high risk, faced additional socioeconomic challenges like poverty and limited resources, making the language gap feel even wider. The school recognized that to truly empower these students for the future, they needed more than traditional lessons; they needed an innovative spark to ignite a love for language and build unshakable confidence.

The Program Literasi Bahasa di Smart Classroom was born from a simple idea: make learning irresistible. With a grant from the APPGM-SDG, the project team transformed a standard classroom into a cutting-edge Smart Classroom. This new learning hub was equipped with iPads, Virtual Reality headsets, and interactive tools, creating a vibrant space for discovery.



Over an intensive 10-week period, 30 students aged 7 to 12 embarked on a new kind of learning journey. Guided by experienced trainers and facilitators, they dove into the fundamentals of Bahasa Melayu through a blend of direct instruction and technology. Forget dusty textbooks; these students used interactive apps to master tricky grammar concepts like adjectives and prepositions. They collaborated on digital platforms to write stories, build presentations, and practice daily conversations, turning learning into a team sport. The goal was clear: to move from hesitation to confident expression.

The program's success shines brightest through the stories of its students. Lithieswaran Marepan, a Year 3 student, was once quiet and hesitant. Today, he is not only fluent in speaking Bahasa Melayu but has also embraced its cultural richness, confidently delivering traditional Malay pantun (poetry). His transformation showcases a newfound connection to the language that goes beyond vocabulary.

Then there is Hakshayaa Panirselvam, a Year 5 student whose confidence has blossomed. Through the program, she honed her speaking and storytelling skills to such a degree that she became a district champion. Hakshayaa is now fluent in delivering stories in Bahasa Melayu and proudly secured fifth place in a storytelling competition for the entire Kuala Selangor district. Her achievement is a powerful testament to the program's ability to turn potential into celebrated success.

The results of the Program Literasi Bahasa di Smart Classroom were both clear and inspiring. All 30 participating students—13 boys and 17 girls—showed a significant improvement in their ability to construct grammatical sentences, write coherent essays, and engage in daily dialogues. More importantly, their confidence soared. As one facilitator noted from participant feedback, the students were "no longer afraid to speak or create dialogues in Bahasa Melayu".

The project wasn't without its obstacles. The facilitators faced the challenge of teaching a group with widely varying proficiency levels. They tackled this by adopting a flexible and differentiated approach, using a variety of materials and providing personalized guidance to ensure every student could thrive at their own pace.

The Program Literasi Bahasa di Smart Classroom did more than just teach a language; it opened a door to a brighter future. By aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education), it provided an inclusive and innovative learning environment that empowered children to reach their full potential. The journey is far from over. The school plans to launch an advanced-level literacy program and develop a special workshop focused on raising SDG awareness through Bahasa Melayu. By turning a classroom into a hub of confidence and curiosity, SJK(T) Gandhiji has shown that with the right tools and a lot of heart, every child's voice can be unlocked.



Tanjong Karang, Selangor

Project Title: Program Literasi Bahasa di SMART CLASSROOM SJKT GHANDIJI

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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SOCIAL

Hope's Classroom: Lighting the Way in Subang Jaya



In the bustling urban landscape of Subang Jaya, hidden behind the facade of modern development, are communities living in low-cost PPR flats where opportunities are scarce. For the children in these families, the future can seem predetermined. Many are slow learners, some struggle to read or write even the simplest words, and a few have dropped out of the formal school system altogether. Digital literacy, a basic requirement in today's world, is an unattainable luxury for most. It was in this environment of need that the Project Hope Welfare Association, an organization born from a food bank initiative during the pandemic, saw a new mission: to empower through education. They established the Hope Community Learning Center, a sanctuary of learning and a beacon of change for these underserved children.

The problem was profound. The team at Project Hope discovered children who had never been to school, particularly from migrant Sabahan families, who had no foundational literacy skills. Older students lacked the ability to construct proper sentences, hindering their academic progress and future employment prospects. Without intervention, these children were at risk of being permanently left behind, unable to break the cycle of poverty their families were trapped in. The center aimed not just to teach, but to reignite a lost connection to education and build the confidence needed to succeed. The goal was clear: achieve basic reading and writing literacy for the younger children and enable the older ones to write simple compositions.

The Hope Community Learning Center opened its doors in Subang Jaya, transforming a simple space into a vibrant hub of activity. The project, supported by APPGM-SDG, ran for four intensive months,

providing free English and computer classes to children aged 4 to 17. The approach was tailored and compassionate. For the youngest learners, classes were a kaleidoscope of fun and engagement. Teachers used flash cards, picture cards, and colourful activity books to teach the alphabet and build vocabulary. A Smart TV brought phonics and songs to life, stimulating sensory perception and making learning a joyful experience.



Older students dove into workbooks focused on grammar and guided writing, using laptops to enhance their research and pronunciation skills. Beyond language, the center tackled the digital divide head-on. In partnership with volunteers from Henkel Malaysia, Management Science University (MSU), and Sunway University, the center offered hands-on computer classes. Each student was provided with a laptop to learn essential Microsoft Office skills like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, opening up a new world of possibilities.

Among the children were several from Sabahan families who had never set foot in a classroom. Their journey was one of small, monumental victories. At first, the alphabet was a collection of meaningless symbols. But with patient and consistent teaching, they slowly began to identify the letters. Soon, they were carefully tracing the shapes in double-lined notebooks, their concentration absolute. For these children, learning to write their own names was not just an academic milestone; it was an affirmation of their identity and potential. While they still have a long way to go, the center has given them their first and most crucial step onto the educational ladder. The feedback from the center is overwhelmingly positive. "Overall, the students are happy when they come to the Centre & are excited to learn," a project report noted.

The project quickly surpassed its initial goals. Planned for 50 students, the center's attendance grew to 60 as word spread through the community. The results speak for themselves. Preschoolers are now beginning to read and write simple words. Lower primary students

have improved their spelling, and upper primary students are writing with better grammar. The secondary school students have progressed to writing simple essays and tackling comprehension passages. A total of 25 students successfully completed the first level of computer classes, arming them with vital digital skills.

This success was not without its hurdles. The teachers found that the children were easily distracted and often forgot what they had learned, requiring constant repetition. "Cannot rush their learning process as they come from an urban poor environment," the team learned early on. Patience and encouragement became the cornerstones of their teaching method, helping students who understood English but were shy to speak find their voice.



The Hope Community Learning Center has become more than just a classroom; it is a community where children make new friends, interact with different races, and build newfound confidence. Having completed its initial four-month phase, the center is determined to continue its mission. Project Hope aims to keep enhancing the students' English and computer literacy, hoping they will one day excel in their national schools. They hope to continue their partnership with APPGM-SDG, seeking guidance and resources to keep the doors of opportunity open for these deserving children.



Subang, Selangor

Project Title: Hope Community Learning Center

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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ECONOMY

Claypreneur: Molding Futures
in Petaling Jaya

In the heart of Petaling Jaya, amidst the urban hustle, a quiet need was growing: a space for creativity, connection, and tangible skill-building, particularly for women and youth. While opportunities for conventional careers were abundant, pathways to harness artistic talent for personal well-being and economic independence were few and far between. Stepping in to fill this gap was Coco Zen Sdn. Bhd., a social enterprise with a vision to transform lives through the ancient art of pottery. Their solution was Claypreneur, an income-generation project designed not just to teach a craft, but to shape new futures.

The core issue Claypreneur sought to address was a lack of accessible opportunities for creative expression and skill development. This gap often leads to reduced mental well-being and limited avenues for personal and professional growth. For many aspiring artisans, the leap from passion to a sustainable enterprise seems impossible without structured training, business knowledge, and a supportive community. The project aimed to provide a therapeutic and empowering outlet that could also pave the way for economic self-sufficiency, aligning with SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

From January to April 2025, ten participants—90% of whom were women—embarked on a transformative four-month journey. The program was a masterclass in both art and enterprise. It kicked off with essential business workshops on financial planning and social media marketing, equipping the cohort with the tools to build a brand from day one.

Then, they got their hands dirty. Under the patient guidance of Coco Zen's trainers, the participants were immersed in the world of

ceramics. They learned the fundamentals, from the rhythmic process of wedging clay to mastering handbuilding techniques like pinching, coiling, and slabbing. Soon, they progressed to the pottery wheel, where the true challenge of centering and shaping clay began. The studio buzzed with focus and creativity as participants learned to apply acrylics, explore the unpredictable magic of glazes, and understand the science of firing. A visit from international SDG participants even added a layer of cultural exchange, reinforcing the universal language of art.



The true success of the Claypreneur project is measured by the tangible steps its graduates are taking. The program didn't just teach skills; it ignited entrepreneurial and social passion. The cohort's transformation is evident in the diverse initiatives they have launched since completing the workshops.

One participant, inspired by the therapeutic nature of the craft, has begun exploring clay-based art therapy to support mental health awareness and healing. Another has identified a community need and started a collaboration focused on children's pottery workshops in the Klang and Setia Alam areas, promoting creativity and wellness from a young age.

Perhaps most significantly, a few participants have joined forces and are now in the process of registering a new company to run their own structured pottery workshops in Selangor. This direct leap into entrepreneurship demonstrates a profound shift from being learners to becoming leaders in the local creative industry. They are turning their newfound confidence and skills into a sustainable business, fulfilling the project's core mission of generating income and fostering economic independence.

The Claypreneur project created a tangible impact that went far beyond the studio. Participants reported high levels of satisfaction, feeling "more confident, creatively inspired, and valued". This

newfound confidence translated into concrete action, with some participants already starting to generate income from their new skills. The project also fostered a powerful network, connecting participants with organizations like the Selangor Mental Health Association and Kraftangan Malaysia, opening doors for future collaborations.

While the journey had its challenges, such as participants initially struggling with the consistency of wheel throwing, the team at Coco Zen adapted by providing "additional hours and extra learning days" to ensure everyone could refine their skills. This supportive environment was the key to their success.



The Claypreneur project proves that investing in creative skills is a powerful tool for sustainable development. Coco Zen plans to continue this momentum by collaborating with the graduates on future workshops, offering them ongoing training, and sharing their success stories to inspire others. What started as a simple pottery workshop has blossomed into a thriving community of artisans, entrepreneurs, and changemakers, ready to shape a more creative and resilient future for themselves and their community.

ZEN 陶艺
CERAMIC
by Coco Zen Sdn Bhd

Subang, Selangor

Project Title: Claypreneur: Shaping Successful Art Industry

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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ENVIRONMENT

The Guardians of the Coast: Planting Roots in Sungai Haji Dorani



The coastline of Sungai Haji Dorani in Sungai Besar, Selangor, tells a story of constant struggle. For the community here, many of whom are fishermen, the sea is both a provider and a powerful force. But with each passing year, the waves have been taking more of the shore, threatening the delicate balance of their lives and environment. In the face of this silent crisis, a group of determined young people from the Kelab Belia Komuniti Sungai Haji Dorani (Sungai Haji Dorani Community Youth Club) decided it was time to fight back, not with walls of concrete, but with roots of life.

Coastal erosion is a relentless thief. It steals the land, disrupts the marine ecosystem, and jeopardizes the livelihoods that depend on it. Mangrove forests are nature's perfect defense—their dense, interlocking roots act as a natural barrier against the tide, protecting the coast while creating a rich habitat for fish, crabs, and shrimp. The community understood that the dwindling mangrove line meant a more vulnerable shore and a less vibrant sea. The challenge was not just to stop the erosion, but to mobilize a generation to become the guardians of their own coastline, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for their local environment.

Led by their chairman, Zainal Abidin bin Ahmad, the youth club launched the "Projek Penanaman Bakau Pesisir Pantai Sungai Haji Dorani". This wasn't just about planting trees; it was about cultivating environmental stewards. The project brought together 15 local youths, a number that soon swelled to 25 as passionate volunteers joined the cause.

Their work began with learning. The participants were taught about the crucial role of the mangrove ecosystem and the proper techniques

for planting the saplings to ensure their survival. Getting their hands dirty, they worked in the mudflats of Pantai Tebok Marso, carefully planting and monitoring the mangrove saplings. They learned to identify the best planting locations and even constructed temporary barriers to shield the young trees from the full force of the waves. The project was structured in phases, allowing the team to monitor, learn, and adapt their methods as they went.



The project's true impact is best told through the stories of those who dedicated their time and energy to it. The experience forged a new generation of local environmental champions with a deep, personal connection to the coastline they worked to protect.

Syafiq Iqmal bin Saad, a 24-year-old electrical technician, found an unexpected connection to the natural world. Though his daily work is far from the muddy shores, he was drawn to the project's mission. For him, the reward was witnessing the direct result of their hard labor. "Seeing the mangrove saplings that we planted growing bigger and showing encouraging signs of life truly gives me infinite satisfaction," Syafiq shared. His story shows how conservation can resonate with people from all walks of life, creating a powerful bond between the community and its environment.

For Azrull Nizzam bin Saidek, a 28-year-old fisherman, the project was a professional and personal awakening. His livelihood is directly tied to the health of the sea. The hands-on work transformed his understanding of the coastal ecosystem he navigates every day. "This program made me realize the importance of protecting mangrove forests as a natural wave barrier," Azrull explained. His experience solidified the link between a healthy mangrove ecosystem and a sustainable future for local fishermen. Now a passionate advocate, he added, "I hope more youth will join this conservation effort in the future."

The path to restoring the coastline was not smooth. The team faced setbacks that tested their resilience. An early challenge was discovering that some saplings had died due to imperfect planting techniques, a lesson that refined their approach. A more significant blow came when a coastal revetment project accidentally buried 63 of their newly planted trees. Furthermore, a planned training course on seedling nurseries had to be canceled as no agency was available to conduct it.

Instead of giving up, the team adapted. They pivoted from the canceled course to a new mission: planting another 100 saplings to replace the ones that were lost, demonstrating their unwavering commitment.

By the end of the project, the impact was clear. A total of 430 mangrove saplings were standing strong, marking a 71.7% survival rate. But the true success was measured in the growth of the community itself. The project had raised a new wave of environmental awareness, empowering local youth to become proactive agents of change. They had not only built a greener coastline but had also established stronger community networks and developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure the project's long-term sustainability.

The work continues. The Kelab Belia Komuniti Sungai Haji Dorani has established a schedule for regular monitoring to ensure the young forest thrives. They have proven that with passion and collaboration, a small group of dedicated citizens can rebuild their natural defenses, one precious sapling at a time.





Sungai Besar, Selangor

Project Title: Projek Penanaman Bakau
Persisir Pantai Sungai Haji Dorani

Funding Allocated: RM30,000

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**SOUTHERN
ZONE**



SOCIAL

Kicking Towards Confidence: The Story of Empowering Youths through Football in Rembau



In the quiet fields of Rembau, football has always been more than a game. For children of B40 families, the dusty field at SJKT Ladang Seremban was a place to escape daily struggles, a place where dreams could be chased even if only for an hour. Yet for many of these youths, talent often went unnoticed and opportunities faded before they could take shape.

That changed in December 2024 when Kelab Bolasepak NS Maan, with support from APPGM-SDG, launched Empowering the Youths through Football. The vision was simple yet profound to provide structured training, discipline, and guidance so that young boys and girls could sharpen their skills, build confidence, and discover a future through football.

Eighty children turned up, their jerseys mismatched, boots worn out, but their spirits high. At first, they were shy and uncertain. Some had never played beyond casual neighbourhood matches. But as the weeks unfolded, the field became alive with energy, drills, and laughter. Coaches taught them how to pass with accuracy, how to defend with discipline, and how to shoot with confidence. Mistakes happened frequently, missed goals, misplaced passes, tired legs. Yet each mistake became a lesson.

“Dulu saya selalu keliru dengan posisi pertahanan, tetapi sekarang saya lebih faham bagaimana untuk bertahan dengan baik dan bekerjasama dengan rakan sepasukan,” said one participant after weeks of tactical training. Another boy, Daniel, just 12 years old, shared proudly, *“Latihan kecergasan memang mencabar, tetapi saya dapat rasakan stamina saya bertambah. Saya boleh bermain lebih lama tanpa rasa cepat letih.”* Their words carried the essence of the program, it wasn't

just about football, it was about growth.

The transformation was clear. Roshan, once restless and unfocused, learned to channel his energy into defending, becoming a dependable pillar in the backline. Darshita, just eleven, found her confidence and scored her first goal in a friendly match through a penalty, an achievement that lit up her smile for days. Sanjeivan, who used to be quiet and unsure, discovered the strength of his free kicks, scoring the winning goal in a mini-league final. And then there was Sharpeswaran, who started without any football basics but quickly grew into one of the most disciplined players, earning recognition from his coaches.

Parents noticed changes too. Children who were once shy became more outspoken, more disciplined, and more responsible. “My son is more confident now,” shared one parent. “He wakes up early on training days, prepares his things himself, and even talks about teamwork at home.” For families that often struggled to provide structured extracurricular activities, this project filled a crucial gap.

The challenges were real. Some players missed sessions due to school exams or transport issues. Others struggled to keep up with the physical demands. Equipment was limited, and the field itself was not always in the best condition. But these obstacles became lessons in resilience. Coaches adapted schedules, introduced recovery exercises, and encouraged players to support one another. Over time, attendance improved, stamina grew, and the sense of discipline deepened.



The project concluded with a certificate ceremony; the difference was undeniable. The young players stood taller, prouder, and more united. They had not only improved in ball control, passing, and tactics, but also in discipline, teamwork, and confidence. For many, this was their first structured exposure to football training, and it opened doors they had never imagined, possibilities of pursuing sports more seriously, of

applying discipline in studies, and of seeing themselves as capable individuals.

The project also left its mark on the community. Local volunteers came forward to assist, parents began attending matches to cheer, and small networks of support formed around the children. What started as football training had become a community movement, one that built bridges, fostered unity, and gave young people something meaningful to strive for.

Beyond Rembau, NS Maan Football Club itself stood as a symbol of inclusivity. The club not only trained boys from B40 families but also championed women's football, giving young girls the chance to play competitively and to dream of careers in a sport once seen as only for men. Their efforts showed that football could be a platform for equality, where talent and determination mattered more than gender. In one of their first matches, the NS Maan girls' team travelled outside their hometown, nervously stepping onto a bigger field for the first time. Though they did not win, their confidence soared. *"Kami kalah, tapi kami rasa menang,"* one of the girls said, smiling after the final whistle. *"Kerana kami berani berdiri di padang besar."* That spirit of courage became an inspiration for younger girls watching from the sidelines.

The impact aligned naturally with the Sustainable Development Goals, reducing inequalities by giving equal opportunities regardless of background or gender, promoting health and well-being through sports, and building sustainable communities through unity and shared purpose. Most importantly, it gave children a chance to dream differently.



As one young player said with pride, *“Sebelum ini, saya hanya main bola untuk suka-suka. Sekarang, saya mahu berlatih lebih kuat. Saya mahu jadi pemain yang boleh dibanggakan.”*

The story of football in Rembau is no longer just about goals scored on a field. It is about confidence gained, discipline built, and futures shaped. On that small field eighty children learned that with guidance, teamwork, and belief, they could be more than players, they could be changemakers for their own lives and communities. And with NS Maan leading the way, both boys and girls now know that football belongs to everyone.



Rembau, Negeri Sembilan

Project Title: Empowering the youths through Football

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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ECONOMY

A Second Chance in Cool Air: The Story of Mantin's Air-Conditioning Service Project



Behind the high walls of the Pusat Reintegrasi Penghuni in Mantin, Negeri Sembilan, hope can feel fragile. Many of the men housed there had stumbled through life's hardest struggles, most due to drug-related offences. For years, society would look at them as failures, reluctant to trust them again. But in September 2024, a quiet change began. A group of fifteen participants, dressed not in prison uniforms but in workshop shirts gathered around air-conditioning units, tools in hand. They were there to learn not just a skill, but a new way of life.

The project, led by Right Track Education (RTE) with support from APPGM-SDG, aimed to give inmates nearing release something rare: a second chance built on practical knowledge. The skill chosen was air-conditioning installation and servicing, an industry with steady demand in Malaysia's hot climate. At first, participants were hesitant. Wiring, compressors, gas measurements, these were unfamiliar worlds. But as trainers guided them step by step, something remarkable happened, confidence began to replace doubt.

In their early lessons, the men learned the fundamentals of installation. They studied how to mount wall units, connect copper pipes, and wire systems safely from the main switchboard. Mistakes were common, a pipe bent wrongly, wiring that looked messy, but trainers patiently corrected them. The participants laughed at their own errors, encouraged each other, and slowly grew into the work. *"Apa yang saya ingat susah, bila diajar jadi mudah,"* one participant reflected.

By November, the training advanced to servicing. The men were now cleaning indoor and outdoor units, checking gas levels, and diagnosing common problems. For the first time, they held vacuums to flush out

old refrigerant, measured electrical currents, and fixed faults like compressors failing to start. Walking through the prison's offices and dormitories, they practised real-time maintenance. It was no longer theory, it was work they could imagine doing outside, for paying customers.

But the training was about more than machines. Trainers emphasised the importance of professionalism: keeping tools tidy, maintaining safety, communicating clearly with clients. They taught participants how to set service packages, calculate costs, and market themselves. Social media strategies were discussed, but so too was the simplest form of marketing, building trust through honest work. *"Perniagaan ini bukan sahaja pasang aircond,"* a trainer reminded them. *"Ia tentang kepercayaan pelanggan."*

The transformation was visible. Men who once carried the weight of stigma now carried toolboxes with pride. They began voicing ideas about where to offer services after release. A few even drafted business names in their notebooks, planning logos and service packages. The program expanded from the planned ten participants to fifteen, with RTE absorbing the additional five as part of their CSR commitment. That decision alone widened the circle of impact.



As the months went on, the inmates found themselves not only learning skills but also unlearning despair. Their confidence grew each time an air-conditioner they serviced hummed back to life. Some admitted it was the first time they felt useful in years. *"Dulu saya fikir lepas keluar, orang takkan percaya saya,"* one said quietly. *"Sekarang, kalau saya ada kemahiran ini, mungkin mereka akan bagi peluang."*

The impact was deeply personal. Participants gained hands-on knowledge in wiring and servicing, but also soft skills such as teamwork, discipline, and communication. They learned to speak up, to ask questions, and to help each other. They learned that dignity can

be restored through skill, and that even behind prison walls, new beginnings are possible.

The project also showed how reintegration can be practical. By collaborating with prison officers, participants were exposed to real servicing needs within the facility. This mirrored real-world demands, preparing them for future employment. Plans were even laid for them to continue networking with RTE after release, ensuring they would not be abandoned once they stepped outside the gates.

Families too felt the difference. Though not present in the daily sessions, they heard the pride in their sons' voices during visits and calls. For mothers who once feared their children would return to old habits, this training became a reason to hope again.

By early 2025, the men stood taller. They had certificates in hand, starter tools provided, and above all, a renewed sense of purpose. No longer just "former inmates," they were now aspiring technicians, service providers, and entrepreneurs.

The story of Mantin's air-conditioning project is not simply about technical training. It is about restoring dignity, breaking cycles of despair, and giving men a chance to rebuild their lives on honest work. It is about society daring to believe in second chances, and about individuals daring to believe in themselves.

And importantly, it is about Sustainable Development Goals coming to life. The project advances SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth by equipping participants with skills for steady employment. It contributes to SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by giving marginalised individuals equal opportunities to rebuild their futures. And it supports SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by strengthening rehabilitation and reintegration pathways, proving that inclusive societies are built not by exclusion, but by second chances.



When the day comes for these men to walk free, they will not leave empty-handed. They will carry knowledge, skill, and the hope of a new livelihood. In the cool air of every machine they repair, there will be more than comfort, it will be the quiet proof that change is possible.



Seremban, Negeri Sembilan

Project Title: Program Menjana Pendapatan Dan Perniagaan Melalui Kemahiran Servis Pendingin Hawa

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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ECONOMY

Growing Futures: The Story of Fertigasi Inklusif at Felda Tenggaroh 6



In Felda Tenggaroh 6, Mersing, life for many of the younger generation was caught in uncertainty. Children of settlers had grown up watching their parents work hard on the land, but opportunities to create sustainable livelihoods of their own often felt out of reach. Some turned to odd jobs, others left for towns, while many remained unsure of their future. Farming, to them, felt like an old struggle and not a pathway to success.

That perception began to shift with the arrival of Projek Fertigasi Inklusif, spearheaded by ACIDSARA Enterprise in partnership with APPGM-SDG. The idea was simple but powerful, to introduce modern fertigation farming to local youth, using bitter melon (*peria katak*) as the first crop. Behind it, was a bigger vision to build skills, confidence, and income stability through sustainable agriculture.

At the start, ten participants, a mix of young men and women, walked onto the training site unsure of what to expect. Rows of polybags, irrigation pipes, and fertiliser tanks looked intimidating at first. “We had never seen this kind of system,” admitted Syam, a 45-year-old participant. “We thought farming was just soil, water, and luck. This was something new.” Trainers reassured them with guidance and teamwork, the system would not only work but thrive.

The first weeks were about learning. Participants were taught how to prepare the planting medium, set up irrigation, and monitor plant health. Mistakes happened. Some seedlings withered, some irrigation lines leaked. But every setback became a lesson. “When the trainers said, ‘Try again,’ we did,” recalled Firdaus, a 37-year-old who had once only worked as a casual farmhand. Slowly, his confidence grew until he

became the technical supervisor for the group, making sure each polybag was properly managed.



By time, green vines had spread across the trellises, and the first bitter gourds hung heavy with promise. There was excitement in the air during harvest. More than 1,800 kilograms of produce were collected, far beyond what many had imagined possible. Local small industries began buying the harvest to process into chips, while others looked into developing new by-products such as juice. For the participants, it was the first time they held income in their hands from modern farming. “I never thought peria could give me this much hope,” said Nazatul Shahira, a 26-year-old mother who once sold fried bananas by the roadside. “Now I see farming differently. It can be my future.”

The project touched lives in deeply personal ways. For some, like Sulaiman, a 40-year-old lorry driver, it offered a way to supplement unstable income. For others, like Syam, it planted the idea of turning farming into a main source of livelihood. And for the women, such as Nazatul Shahira and her sister Sazarina, it broke stereotypes. “People think farming is for men,” Shahira explained. “But I can handle the system, check the pipes, and manage the plants just as well. It makes me proud.”

Beyond individual stories, the project created networks that stretched far wider. Through the program, participants connected with the Department of Agriculture, local entrepreneurs, and even food processors exploring peria-based products. WhatsApp groups kept everyone updated, advice was exchanged, and collaboration became natural. For a community once isolated from larger markets, these networks were bridges to opportunity.

The success also came with challenges. Heavy rains slowed harvest at times, insect attacks threatened crops, and fluctuating market prices tested the participants’ resolve. But instead of giving up, they adapted. They sorted produce carefully, sold to small industries when market

prices dipped, and discussed ideas for diversifying into value-added products. These challenges, far from being setbacks, became lessons in resilience.

By the project's closing in November 2024, the transformation was visible. Participants were no longer hesitant learners but confident agropreneurs. They spoke about future cycles, about expanding to other crops, about building a small processing hub for fertiliser and even exploring Black Soldier Fly rearing for fish feed. They understood that farming was not just about plants but about systems, marketing, and sustainability.

For the community, the fertigation project was more than rows of bitter melon. It was a demonstration of what could happen when youth were trusted, trained, and given the tools to succeed. It showed that agriculture, when modernised, could be a viable career path, one that delivers income, dignity, and pride.

Today, the polybags at Felda Tenggaraoh 6 stand as more than just plants. They are symbols of belief that young people can embrace technology, that women can thrive in fields once closed to them, and that rural communities can innovate just as powerfully as any city entrepreneur. As one participant put it during the closing harvest, "This isn't the end of our project. It's the start of our journey."





Mersing, Johor

Project Title: Projek Fertigasi Inklusif

Funding Allocated: RM30,000

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ECONOMY

Recipes for Resilience: The Story of My Sayang's Food Enterprise Training in Port Dickson



In Pekan Lukut, Port Dickson, the Balai Raya Rumah Rakyat has long been a gathering point for weddings, kenduris, and community meetings. But in December 2024, the familiar hall filled with new sounds, the bubbling of broth, the slicing of vegetables, and the chatter of women eager to learn. It was the beginning of a journey that would transform kitchens into businesses and homemakers into entrepreneurs.

The program, led by Pertubuhan MySayang Malaysia with support from APPGM-SDG, set out to empower ten participants, mostly women with skills in producing commercial food products. For many of them, cooking was not new. They had fed families for years, perfected family recipes, and carried traditions from one generation to another. But turning that skill into a structured business? That was uncharted territory.

The first sessions opened their eyes. Trainers explained the science behind food, how aroma, taste, and appearance determined customer acceptance; how costing and pricing could turn a simple recipe into a profitable product; and how frozen and packaged foods could extend shelf life. Familiar dishes such as popia satar and keropok lekor were given a commercial twist. *"Kami selalu buat untuk keluarga,"* one participant shared, *"tapi bila diajar cara kira kos dan packaging, baru nampak macam mana nak jual."*

Soon, the women were experimenting beyond what they knew. They processed spice blends such as garam masala, fish curry powder, kurma, sup, biriyani and used them to cook "nasi bukhari, kambing masam manis", and other full-course meals. They learned to work with soybeans, producing air soya, tau fu fah, and fucuk. Later, dairy was

introduced, and fresh “dadih” became another potential product line. What began as recipes became prototypes for small enterprises.



The lessons were not confined to cooking alone. Participants were trained to calculate costs, set selling prices, and avoid waste by buying ingredients strategically. They discussed branding, registering businesses, and the importance of bookkeeping. They were introduced to “guerrilla marketing” techniques on how to dominate their own neighbourhood market before expanding outward. For many, these were first-time experiences. *“Saya ingat susah nak daftar perniagaan,”* one woman admitted. *“Rupanya kalau tahu cara, boleh buat sendiri.”*

The transformation was as personal as it was practical. At the start, several participants doubted themselves. They thought commercial cooking required large machines or high capital. But through hands-on practice, they discovered that with the right methods, even a home kitchen could become a business hub. *“Dulu tengok keropok lekor tu macam rumit,”* another participant laughed. *“Sekarang dah pandai, siap boleh jual.”*

Equally important was the way the women supported one another. When one participant struggled to balance family commitments with training, others stepped in to share notes and recipes. Some paired up to buy ingredients in bulk, reducing costs, while others tested products by exchanging samples and giving honest feedback. A WhatsApp group kept them connected, and soon, the women were not just classmates but a mini-network of entrepreneurs who encouraged, corrected, and celebrated each other’s progress.

Challenges were there, of course. Classes often fell on weekends, clashing with family commitments, weddings, or year-end holidays. At times, participants struggled to balance household duties with training. But their persistence won through. They organised carpools, brought along children when necessary, and leaned on each other for

support. In the process, they built not just businesses but bonds of friendship.

By early 2025, the results were clear. Several participants had begun selling from home, testing markets with their new products. Others prepared to scale further like bottling sauces, marketing spice blends, and packaging frozen items for neighbourhood shops. With only simple equipment, they were already generating income. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive: the products tasted good, were affordable, and had potential in wider markets.

The project did more than provide recipes, it nurtured resilience. It taught participants that businesses grow not from capital alone, but from knowledge, creativity, and confidence. It showed that women could step forward not just as cooks, but as entrepreneurs. And it reinforced that in small communities, income generation does not require abandoning traditions, but it requires reimagining them.



The closing ceremony was a moment of pride. Participants received certificates and starter kits, but more importantly, they received validation. *“Bila dapat sijil, saya rasa dihargai,”* one woman said softly. *“Dulu saya cuma masak di dapur. Sekarang saya usahawan.”* Their faces glowed not just with pride, but with the spark of ambition.

The impact reached beyond individuals. Families benefitted from extra income, neighbours began ordering products, and a small local network of women entrepreneurs emerged. My Sayang Malaysia noted that even those already in business discovered the value of continuous learning, how upgrading knowledge kept them relevant to customer trends.

The story of Port Dickson’s food enterprise training is not just about cooking. It is about the courage of women daring to test themselves, families learning to support them, and a community proving that economic empowerment can be homegrown. It aligns with the

Sustainable Development Goals by reducing inequalities, promoting decent work, and creating resilient livelihoods.

In Lukut, the smell of spices and the taste of “keropok lekor” now carry a different meaning. They are no longer just family dishes, they are the flavours of resilience, ambition, and change.



Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan

Project Title: Program Menjana Pendapatan Dan Perniagaan Melalui Kemahiran Pembuatan Produk Makanan Komersial

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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ECONOMY

Riding Towards Change: The Story of Kampung Paya Luboh's ATV Adventure



In Kampung Paya Luboh, a small village surrounded by paddy fields and quiet roads, young people often felt opportunities were scarce. Jobs were limited, and many youths drifted away to the city in search of income. For years, the village lived at a steady pace, its beauty largely unnoticed by outsiders. But in late 2024, the roar of engines began to echo through the fields, signalling the start of something new.

The ATV Project, supported under APPGM-SDG and led by the local cooperative, was more than just a recreational venture. It was a bold attempt to turn the village's natural charm into a sustainable tourism product, while creating income and skills for the local community.

It began with training. Ten villagers, men and women alike, gathered for their first session, uncertain of what awaited them. Some had never ridden an ATV before; others had never imagined managing a tourism business. Trainers explained safety, operations, and even basic mechanics, how to check tyres, maintain engines, and spot early signs of breakdown. Slowly, participants gained confidence. *"Saya tak pernah fikir boleh bawa ATV sendiri,"* one young woman said with a grin after her first ride. *"Sekarang saya rasa yakin, malah nak ajar orang lain."*

From there, the cooperative built more than just skills, they built systems. Together, participants drafted SOPs for customer registration, safety briefings, and daily maintenance logs. Trial runs were held with simulated customers, where villagers took turns acting as marshals, receptionists, and riders. It was the beginning of a professional operation, managed not by outsiders, but by the community itself.



By early 2025, the project was ready to launch. Six ATVs were purchased, adding to the few already available, bringing the total to eight. The machines stood lined up at the edge of the paddy fields, gleaming under the sun. Soon, the first real customers arrived, forty visitors who signed up for an agro-tourism package. They rode through muddy tracks, tried their hand at paddy planting, joined team-building games, and ended the day with grilled fish by the riverbank. For the villagers, it was a proud moment: Kampung Paya Luboh had officially become a tourism destination.

The impact rippled quickly. Local food stalls near the ATV site began receiving more customers. Homestays welcomed new bookings. Youths who had once been idle found themselves working as marshals, mechanics, and guides. Women, too, found their role not only in administration and hospitality but also in riding and promoting the experience through social media. *“Projek ini bagi peluang pada wanita juga, bukan lelaki saja,”* said one female participant who managed registration and promotion.

Challenges, of course, surfaced. Eight ATVs were not always enough, especially when large groups arrived. Customers sometimes had to wait, and maintaining the vehicles proved costly. Spare parts were expensive, and there were no certified mechanics nearby. Rain turned tracks into slippery hazards, forcing cancellations. Still, the cooperative adapted. They introduced promotions during school holidays, experimented with digital marketing on TikTok and Facebook, and discussed expanding the number of units.

Despite these hurdles, the project achieved what many thought impossible. It turned a quiet kampung into a recognised destination. It provided jobs, boosted small businesses, and instilled pride among villagers. *“Dulu kampung ini senyap saja,”* recalled the cooperative chairman. *“Sekarang, orang luar datang, ekonomi jalan, belia pun ada kerja.”*

For the participants, the change was personal. They gained not just technical know-how but also life skills, discipline, teamwork, customer service, and even entrepreneurship. They learned how to speak to tourists, handle complaints with patience, and think creatively about business opportunities. Some began dreaming of starting related ventures like small food kiosks, repair services, or selling local crafts to visitors.

Most importantly, the project fostered inclusivity. Both men and women were involved at every stage from planning to operations. Young people led trail rides, while mothers managed food and hospitality. Together, they shaped an activity that reflected their collective strengths.



By February 2025, as the project closed its first phase, the results were clear. The ATV rides had become a draw not just for locals but for outsiders. Kampung Paya Luboh was now on the map literally and figuratively. The villagers had discovered that development need not come from outside investment alone. With guidance, unity, and creativity, they could transform their own resources into opportunity.

The story of the ATV project is about more than rides through paddy fields. It is about villagers learning to run a business, young people finding purpose, women stepping into new roles, and a community realising its own potential. It embodies the Sustainable Development Goals in action: reducing poverty through local enterprise, promoting decent work, building resilient rural tourism, and ensuring inclusivity across gender and age.

As one participant reflected, *“ATV ini bukan sekadar hiburan. Ia buka jalan baru untuk kami. Jalan untuk ekonomi, untuk masa depan.”*

And so, in Kampung Paya Luboh, the rumble of ATVs is no longer just noise. It is the sound of progress, pride, and possibility an echo of how one small community dared to ride towards change.



Tangga Batu, Melaka

Project Title: Cadangan Mewujudkan Perniagaan Tempat Permainan All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) Dan Penyewaan All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)

Funding Allocated: RM30,000

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SARAWAK REGION



SOCIAL

Forging Wellness Champions in the Heart of Bau



The alarming increase of drug use by teenagers is of grave concern in Malaysia. Additionally, there is concern on the availability of methamphetamine around schools and housing areas in the Bau District which can make it easy for teenagers to access these substances. The situation underscores the critical need for early intervention strategies to prevent the potentially devastating consequences of drug addiction.

To address these issues, the Wellness Champion Programme was implemented by the Organization for Addiction Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation (OAPTAR) in P192 Mas Gading. The initiative was designed to help young people strengthen essential life skills and build resilience in facing everyday challenges. The project engaged 120 students from four secondary schools in the Bau District through workshops focused on self-confidence, communication, peer resistance, problem-solving, and healthy living. In addition, parents, teachers, and counselors were actively involved to create a strong circle of support, ensuring that the lessons from the workshops were reinforced both at home and in school.

The programme comprised three main workshops, each featuring a series of structured modules aimed at developing key social-emotional skills. The first workshop focused on self-awareness, self-confidence, goal-setting, and assertiveness. Through these modules, students were supported in strengthening their sense of identity and learning how to express their needs and boundaries with confidence. The second workshop introduced modules on communication and self-reflection, encouraging participants to practise active listening, share their thoughts openly, and consider how their experiences relate to others, fostering empathy and deeper interpersonal understanding.

The final workshop centred on problem-solving, decision-making, and cultivating gratitude and appreciation. This session equipped students with practical strategies to manage everyday challenges while promoting a more optimistic and resilient outlook on life.



One of the key challenges encountered during the project arose in the second workshop. The weather was particularly hot, and since the session was held in the afternoon, some students felt tired and less engaged. In addition, attendance was lower compared to the first workshop, as several students faced transportation difficulties when leaving school after 4:00 p.m. To address these issues, the third workshop was scheduled in the morning, similar to the first one. This adjustment helped avoid the peak afternoon heat and alleviated transport-related issues, resulting in significantly improved attendance and student participation.

Following assessments by the solution provider who also served as the project trainer, students showed significant improvements in decision-making abilities, healthier coping strategies for stress and more positive attitudes towards school and life. Those who initially lacked confidence became active participants in group activities, and new peer support networks emerged, fostering a stronger sense of belonging. Parents observed their children becoming more mature and thoughtful, while teachers reported more supportive and positive classroom environments.

To assess the program's effectiveness, the solution provider conducted pre- and post-program surveys. This data-driven approach allowed for a comprehensive evaluation of the program's outcomes and reinforced its position as an evidence-based initiative tailored to address the challenges faced by adolescents. Findings from the Nicholson McBride Resilience Questionnaire indicated a notable improvement in students' resilience levels. Established resilience scores increased from 9.9% to 13%, while substantial resilience levels rose from 48% to 54.3%.

The percentage of students who perceived their resilience as strong also grew significantly, from 76% to 88%, with those identifying a need for improvement decreasing from 24% to 12%. In addition, feedback from students showed positive trends in life satisfaction, with the proportion of satisfied students increasing from 84% to 86%, while those expressing dissatisfaction declined from 16% to 14%. These results reflect meaningful progress between the pre- and post-assessments, underscoring the program's success in strengthening students' resilience and supporting their overall well-being.



The positive outcomes of the Wellness Champion Programme demonstrates the value of early, skills-based interventions in empowering youths to make positive life choices. By equipping young people with resilience, confidence, and supportive networks, the programme lays a strong foundation for continued prevention efforts and a healthier, drug-free community in Bau District.



Mas Gading, Sarawak

Project Title: Wellness Champion Program

Funding Allocated: RM30,000

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SOCIAL

From the Streets to the Ring: Forging Champions in Sri Aman



Many youths today struggle with issues such as poor discipline, lack of motivation, and an unclear sense of direction in life. The absence of structured routines and meaningful activities often leads them to engage in unproductive or negative behaviours, such as aimless loitering. Furthermore, many face low self-esteem and difficulties in managing social pressures, especially those amplified through social media. Challenges related to self-image and a lack of confidence further hinder their participation in community activities or the pursuit of personal aspirations.

In response to these challenges, Megah Armada Sdn Bhd, in collaboration with the Tidal Bore Boxing Club (TBBC) Sri Aman, implemented the project titled “Belia Unggul Komuniti Utuh dan Teguh” which aimed to provide structured boxing training for youths. Boxing, as a sport, demands high levels of commitment and discipline. Through daily training and structured routines, youths are guided to develop positive habits and a strong sense of responsibility. Beyond physical fitness, boxing builds mental resilience, as participants learn to cope with pressure, manage setbacks, and face challenges constructively. Their achievements, such as winning matches or reaching new skill levels will further enhance self-confidence and instil a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Aside from providing trainings, the project focused on upgrading the training arena with essential equipment such as punching bags, gloves, a boxing ring, and safety gear. The improved facilities helped establish a permanent training centre in Sri Aman, giving youths a dedicated and well-equipped space for regular practice sessions and periodic training camps. This training centre not only supports

continuous skill development but also encourages more youths to participate and stay engaged in positive, structured activities.



The project targeted 20 youth participants comprising secondary school students. Throughout the project period, various activities were conducted to build their physical fitness, technical skills, and exposure to the sport. Regular training sessions were held three hours a day, three times a week, focusing on improving stamina, strength, and boxing techniques while instilling discipline and commitment. To enhance learning and standards, participants joined a benchmarking visit to the Sarawak Boxing Centre and the Sarawak Sports Corporation, gaining insights into professional club management and operations. They also took part in joint training sessions with the Sarawak SUKMA boxing squad, providing valuable experience alongside elite athletes. A Coaching Enhancement Programme was organised to strengthen the skills and knowledge of trainers, ensuring quality instruction. At the same time, upgrading works at the training centre were carried out, equipping it with essential equipment and safety gear to create a safe and conducive environment for practice.

During the course of the project, several challenges were encountered. One of them was the inconsistent commitment of participants, as attendance often fluctuated due to study commitments and logistical constraints. To address this, the solution provider introduced a more flexible training schedule, while also providing attendance incentives and organising team bonding activities to maintain motivation and foster a sense of belonging. Another challenge was the limited exposure of athletes to higher-level competitions, as many participants lacked experience competing at the state or national level, which affected their confidence and tactical skills. To overcome this, the club organised benchmarking visits, participated in various tournaments, and held sparring sessions with other clubs to provide

continuous exposure and learning opportunities, which will be sustained to support the athletes' long-term development.

The project has brought significant positive impact to the development of boxing and youth empowerment in Sri Aman. One of the most notable outcomes was the improvement in training quality and facilities. With support from APPGM-SDG, the club successfully upgraded its facilities and acquired new training equipment, enabling more structured, safe, and effective training sessions.

The programme also led to a rise in youth participation, attracting more local youths who are now actively involved in training sessions, clinics, and community activities, fostering a positive and disciplined boxing community. In terms of performance, the project contributed to remarkable achievements in competitions. Through intensive training and exposure to competitive environments, the club secured seven gold medals and nine silver medals in a friendly boxing tournament, reflecting a significant improvement in athletes' performance.

Furthermore, the project opened doors for state and national-level participation, with two participants selected to represent Sarawak in the Junior and Talent National Boxing Championships, where they proudly brought home one gold medal and one bronze medal—a milestone achievement for the club at the national stage.

In conclusion, the “Belia Unggul Komuniti Utuh dan Teguh” project has not only strengthened the club's capacity and reputation but also empowered local youths with discipline, confidence, and a sense of pride through sports.





Batang Lupar, Sarawak

Project Title: Belia Unggul Komuniti Utuh dan Teguh

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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ECONOMY

Weaving a Brighter Future in Simanggang



In Sri Aman, handicrafts are more than just products; they are part of the community's identity and culture. Yet many local artisans have faced difficulties in growing their work. Without a proper association to unite them and with limited access to training, marketing, and promotion, most struggled to reach a wider market. These challenges made it difficult, especially for those from low-income groups, to expand their businesses and fully benefit from the cultural wealth of Sri Aman's handicraft heritage.

To address these issues, the Kraftangan Borneo Simanggang project was introduced by Syarikat Subhi Urusniaga with support from the APPGM-SDG grant. Over the course of three months, the project engaged 15 participants from the P202 Sri Aman parliamentary area, equipping them with both practical skills and entrepreneurial knowledge. Training sessions were conducted in key areas such as financial management, product photography, digital marketing, and social media management. These sessions provided participants with the knowledge to manage their businesses more effectively and to promote their products in the growing digital marketplace.

Alongside entrepreneurial training, participants also refined their craftsmanship through a series of hands-on workshops. They learned to create beaded accessories such as bracelets and necklaces, the modern Tangu Iban (beadwork worn around the neck or chest), practiced basket weaving, and crafted Selampai (traditional scarves). A highlight of the workshops was the making of the Baju Kuas — a velvet top beautifully adorned with sequins that forms part of the traditional Iban costume (Ngepan) worn by the Iban Balau community of Sri Aman. By reviving and enhancing this traditional attire the project not

only preserved cultural identity but also positioned the Baju Kuas as a distinctive “Signature Product” of Sri Aman.

The project also gave participants a valuable platform to showcase their creations at Pesta Benak 2024, held from 29th November to 1st December 2024. This exposure allowed them to engage directly with customers, receive feedback, and experience a boost in sales. For many, it was a proud moment that motivated them to continue improving their craft and promoting local heritage through their products.



One of the project’s most significant achievements was the establishment of the Persatuan Pengusaha Kraftangan Simanggang, an association that now unites local artisans under one umbrella. The association serves as a lasting platform for cooperation, peer support, and knowledge sharing, helping to ensure that the growth sparked by the project can continue sustainably.

Although the project faced challenges, including overlapping community events and increased material costs, it was resolved by rescheduling activities and purchasing materials in bulk. These solutions ensured that the program continued smoothly and achieved its intended outcomes.



By the end of the three months, the project had left a lasting impact on its participants. They not only gained valuable knowledge in financial management but also strengthened their skills in using technology to market handicrafts and discovered new ways to combine traditional designs with modern trends. What stood out most was their renewed determination to champion local heritage in line with the Sustainable Development Goals while improving their livelihoods. Participants shared that they experienced a positive shift in their confidence and capacity, especially in producing high-quality products that they could proudly present to wider markets.

Beyond personal growth, the initiative also contributed to local economic development by building the capacity of handicraft entrepreneurs through continuous training, product innovation, and digital marketing, showing that Sri Aman's rich heritage can thrive as both a cultural treasure and a sustainable source of income.



Sri Aman, Sarawak

Project Title: Kraftangan Borneo
Simanggang

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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ECONOMY

From Bloom to Boom: How Orchids are Empowering Samarahan's Women



Sarawak is home to an extraordinary diversity of native orchids, many of which are unique to its lush forests and lowland habitats. Once thriving in abundance, these delicate species now face mounting threats from habitat loss, environmental change, and human disturbance driven by development pressures. Recent policy shifts that favour land development have further placed these orchids at risk, highlighting the urgent need for conservation.

In response, the Sarawak Orchid Cooperative (SARORCO), established by the Sarawak Orchid Society (SARORSO), came up with the “Pemulihan Orkid dan Pembangunan Ekonomi” project. Targeting housewives and retirees, this initiative seeks to reintroduce orchids into carefully monitored lowland environments, ensuring their survival while reducing human impact. At the same time, it transforms conservation into a source of community empowerment. By cultivating orchids for tea production, the initiative creates a sustainable, community-driven effort that protects biodiversity, nurtures eco-friendly practices, and generates lasting economic opportunities.

Over a four-month period, the project combined classroom-based learning with hands-on training to equip participants with both knowledge and practical skills. The theoretical sessions introduced the community to orchid species and conservation methods, suitable cultivation techniques for farm environments, as well as storage and processing methods for industrial use.

Building on this foundation, the practical component focused on applying these skills in real settings. Participants engaged in orchid planting by integrating orchids onto oil palm trees and farm plots for conservation and research purposes, while also maintaining the

cultivation areas through weeding and site upkeep. They were trained in harvesting mature orchid flowers, preparing raw materials through drying and extraction, and processing them into orchid tea packaged according to quality standards. The participants also gained exposure to marketing and sales techniques, helping to enhance the marketability of their orchid-based products.



Aside from capacity-building, funding support from APPGM-SDG enabled the project to equip its facility with essential tools and infrastructure, including a drying machine, chiller for storage, sealer machine, stainless steel worktable for floral tea preparation, and packaging materials. These purchases not only strengthened the participants' practical training experience but also enhanced the community's readiness to scale up production and bring their orchid-based products to market in a sustainable manner.

Like many community-based initiatives, the project also faced its share of challenges. One of the most significant was the unpredictable weather, particularly the frequent heavy rains throughout the months of implementation. Prolonged downpours disrupted the harvesting of orchid flowers, reducing the availability of raw materials for the main product, orchid tea. The rains also made it impossible to dry the flowers naturally under the sun, forcing participants to rely heavily on the drying machine, which in turn increased utility costs and slowed overall productivity.

Rather than allowing these challenges to halt progress, the community demonstrated resilience and adaptability by diversifying into alternative value-added products. Expanding from the original plan of orchid tea, participants explored new product lines such as orchid-infused chocolate, fruit-and-flower chutney based on heritage recipes, and orchid oil for hair care and massage. These innovations not only sustained the momentum of the project but also boosted community morale and strengthened participants' commitment to the initiative.



The project had a significant impact on its participants, many of whom were villagers and retirees with little prior exposure to concepts such as environmental conservation, biodiversity, or the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through their involvement, participants developed a heightened awareness of their role in protecting Sarawak's native orchid species, recognising the need to preserve them for future generations.

Participants also showed a willingness to attend classes, learn about orchid species and put their knowledge into practice through planting, rescuing, and caring for orchids in their own communities. Their outlook toward the environment also shifted as they became more attentive to trees, soil, and their natural surroundings, and started identifying native orchids that had previously gone unnoticed. Beyond this, they came to appreciate orchids not only as ornamental plants but also as valuable resources with economic potential in gastronomy, medicine, cosmetics, and tourism.

The project demonstrates that safeguarding Sarawak's natural heritage can go hand in hand with community development. By linking orchid conservation to skills training and livelihood opportunities, it has strengthened both livelihoods and resilience within the community of Kota Samarahan.



Kota Samarahan, Sarawak

Project Title: Pemuliharaan Orkid dan Pembangunan Ekonomi: Menanam Orkid Asli Sarawak untuk Inovasi Farmaseutikal, Kulineri dan Kosmetik

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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**ENVIRONMENT****Guardians of the Dapui: Reviving a River,
Restoring a Legacy**

Rivers are central to the livelihoods and cultural identity of many communities in Sarawak, providing vital sources of food, water, transportation, and income. The Dapui River in Tinjar, Baram, has long been a lifeline for local communities, but in recent years it has come under serious threat from overfishing and illegal practices. These unsustainable activities have caused a sharp decline in wildlife populations, disrupted aquatic ecosystems, and contributed to broader environmental degradation.

To address this issue, the Sebut Development Committee, with support from APPGM-SDG's micro-solution grant, implemented the Tagang Conservation System project in Long Taa, Dapui, Tinjar Baram to conserve the river's ecosystem. The project aimed to restore and preserve the Dapui River's biodiversity, promote sustainable fishing practices and enhance the livelihoods of local communities through conservation, education and enforcement of sustainable regulations.

The project, which targeted the Sebut community of Long Taa, Dapui, was implemented over a four-month period in structured phases. It began with site assessments and the process of securing permits and legal approvals, followed by community engagement and awareness sessions to ensure that residents clearly understood the Tagang guidelines, ecological best practices, and the importance of maintaining the system for long-term sustainability. To reinforce conservation measures, designated no-fishing zones were established and marked with clear signage and physical barriers.

The Tagang area was systematically divided into four upriver and four downriver zones, each color-coded—red, yellow, blue, and green—to help residents, visitors, and stakeholders easily recognise boundaries

comply with regulations. The zoning system created a clear framework: red zones serve as high-priority conservation areas with strict protection, yellow zones act as transitional areas under closer supervision, blue zones allow limited sustainable fishing and regulated use, while green zones remain open for general community activities and eco-tourism. Complementing these measures, a rotational monitoring system was introduced, with residents of Long Taa conducting weekly patrols across all zones to ensure rules are followed, boundary markers are maintained, and local stewardship of the river's resources is strengthened.



The project was not without its challenges. One of the main issues faced was external pressure from outside visitors who ignored the Tagang rules, threatening to undermine conservation efforts. To address this, the community implemented consistent patrolling and emphasized continuous education to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the river. Another challenge was rule fatigue among local residents, where fishing nets or hook-and-line practices occasionally crept back into the sanctuary areas. In response, a rotating patrol roster was introduced, with two villagers assigned each week to carry out monitoring duties. This system not only strengthened enforcement but also fostered a greater sense of shared responsibility and collective ownership of the Tagang system.

The Tagang project in Dapui has already delivered promising results, with high-value species such as Empurau and Semah are now routinely sighted, while catches in the permissive green zones are noticeably larger. Villagers have even reported schools of Semah appearing along the red zone, a sign of ecological recovery in areas previously depleted. Word of Long Taa's success has spread quickly in which neighbouring villages are discussing the model in community gatherings, and interest in replication workshops continues to grow. This growing attention shows that Tagang is no longer just a local initiative but an emerging blueprint for rural conservation and sustainable fisheries management across Ulu Tinjar. Echoing this

impact, village elder Francis Pingan observed a “remarkable surge” in Semah populations, noting that the fish are once again visible along river stretches where they had long been absent. He expressed confidence that, with continued protection, the river could soon regain its historic abundance.

Other participants highlighted the personal transformations they have experienced such as greater environmental awareness, stronger teamwork through shared patrols, and a renewed sense of pride and optimism. Many now recognise that protecting fish stocks and riparian forests not only strengthens their livelihoods but also contributes directly to advancing multiple Sustainable Development Goals.



SEBUP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Baram, Sarawak

Project Title: Implementation of the Tagang Fish Conservation System in Long Taa, Dapui, Tinjar Baram, Miri Division, Sarawak

Funding Allocated: RM30,000

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SABAH REGION



SOCIAL

From Husk to Hub: Building a Legacy in Kampung Tonsom



In Kota Marudu, the absence of proper training facilities and limited access to structured capacity-building programmes had long constrained local communities, particularly women from the B40 group. Opportunities for skills development were often delivered in short bursts without follow-up support, leaving participants unable to transform knowledge into meaningful income. Facilities were equally inadequate, with training halls too small, storage spaces damaged, and no designated areas for reference or creative learning. These gaps limited the ability of women and youths to build sustainable livelihoods and reduced their participation in broader social and economic development.

To address these challenges, the Kg. Tonsom Community Learning Centre was established as a dedicated hub for lifelong learning, entrepreneurship, and innovation. An existing building was renovated and transformed into a fully functional facility, complete with a spacious training hall, a multi-purpose workspace, safe storage rooms, a mini library, and a pantry. Old furniture and equipment were restored, while unusable materials were repurposed for agricultural use, encouraging sustainable practices. To ensure safety and accessibility, fencing and signboards were installed, making the centre secure and welcoming for all.

Since its establishment, the centre has grown into a vibrant hub for diverse activities and collaborations. It has hosted visits from agencies such as SEDIA, the Sabah Tourism Board, Yayasan Axiata, SOSEA, SCENIC, Tourism Malaysia, and the Department of Information, positioning itself as a platform for knowledge exchange, partnerships, and community visibility. Its achievements have reached wider audiences through features on RTM's Rona Sabah, where local crafts

such as corn husk products were showcased alongside stories of innovation and resilience from the community.

The centre has also played a pivotal role in enhancing skills and strengthening local enterprises. A crochet workshop successfully trained ten participants in basic crocheting techniques, while providing income opportunities for the trainer through fees and material sales. A WhatsApp support group was established to sustain mentorship and provide continuous guidance. Financial literacy sessions introduced practical tools such as Excel templates for invoicing and income tracking, helping small business owners strengthen their financial management. The Department of Agriculture contributed further by training local farmers in sweet corn cultivation, expanding agricultural knowledge and practice. The centre has also served as a neutral and professional venue for job interviews by private companies such as We Drink, demonstrating its versatility in meeting community needs.



Beyond training, the centre fostered meaningful partnerships with external organisations. Collaborations with Good Shepherd Services introduced training on corn husk waste management and handicraft development in other villages, spreading sustainable practices beyond Kg. Tonsom. Environmental awareness programmes such as the Zero Waste Online Seminar educated participants on the negative impact of unmanaged waste and promoted the 5R principles of Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot. The community also showcased its creativity at the district-level Kaamatan Festival, presenting locally made crafts, natural spa products, and traditional practices to wider audiences, linking community enterprise with tourism.

Challenges were encountered along the way, particularly in sustaining consistent participation, as many community members were constrained by economic pressures and time limitations. These were addressed through flexible scheduling, close follow-up with participants, and stronger local leadership to ensure programme ownership. Facility management required structured systems, which

were gradually introduced through the formation of a supervisory committee and coordinated engagement with partners and visitors. Official appointments are now arranged in advance, allowing the community to prepare demonstrations and ensure active involvement.

The impact of the Kg. Tonsom Community Learning Centre has been both significant and far-reaching. More than one hundred and twenty individuals have benefitted directly from its programmes, gaining skills in handicrafts, digital tools, financial literacy, and agriculture. Trainers and artisans generated income through teaching and product sales, while participants gained confidence to pursue entrepreneurship. Some have even initiated micro-enterprises, such as producing handmade scrunchies from recycled fabric, proving that grassroots innovation can spark new opportunities. The centre has also strengthened community pride by promoting local products, building partnerships with external agencies, and opening doors to wider markets.



Today, the Kg. Tonsom Community Learning Centre stands not merely as a renovated building but as a living platform where education, creativity, and collaboration converge. It has empowered women and youths to learn, innovate, and sustain themselves while connecting with broader networks across Sabah and beyond. With continuous support, the centre is positioned to grow as a hub for rural empowerment, sustainable enterprise, and inclusive development.

The story of Kg. Tonsom is one of resilience, transformation, and collective vision. What began as a response to inadequate facilities has grown into a catalyst for empowerment, proving that when communities are given the right space and support, they can shape their own future. The Community Learning Centre is more than a physical structure, it is a symbol of hope and progress, where every crochet, every workshop, and every partnership becomes a stepping stone toward generational change. It shows that true development is not defined by what a community lacks but by how it harnesses its

strengths, transforms challenges into opportunities, and dares to dream beyond limitations. In this spirit, Kg. Tonsom has become a beacon of rural empowerment, carrying forward the promise of dignity, knowledge, and shared prosperity for years to come.



**PERUSAHAAN
FARNI**

since 2012

Kota Marudu, Sabah

Project Title: Projek Pembangunan Pembelajaran Komuniti Kampung Tonsom

Funding Allocated: RM30,000

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SOCIAL

Art, Water, and a Village Reborn



In the remote, hilly settlement of Kampung Tagibang, Sabah, the daily task of fetching water has long been a burden carried on the shoulders of its people. For families living on the higher slopes, the journey to the foot of the hill to collect water is not only exhausting but strips away hours that could have been spent on work, school, or caring for loved ones. Even then, the water they bring back is often unsafe, polluted by runoff from upstream villages and untreated sources that grow murky with the rains. What was once a lifeline from nature has become a source of hardship and at times illness.

The issue is more than inconvenience, it is a matter of survival and dignity. The village's gravity-fed water system, damaged by floods and lacking maintenance, no longer provides a consistent or safe supply. With no funds to replace broken pipes or rebuild damaged intakes, the community has been left vulnerable. Water from the river downstream is contaminated by waste from a nearby school hostel, while the existing dam cannot store enough to serve all households. For children, women, and the elderly, the daily struggle to access clean water translates into health risks, fatigue, and diminished quality of life.

Faced with these challenges, the people of Kampung Tagibang came together with a vision for change, to build a new water gravity system that is stronger, cleaner, and sustainable. Supported by the APPGM SDG grant and guidance from Pangrok Sulap, this project introduces a systematic design complete with a robust intake dam, storage tanks, filtration units, and an improved piping network reaching every home. The innovation lies not only in the infrastructure but in the community-driven model. Villagers will be trained to participate in construction, learn basic maintenance, and understand how to

troubleshoot future issues. This ensures that the solution is not only installed but owned by the community itself.

Over a three-month active phase, the project moves step by step from initial surveys and design planning to the delivery of materials, construction of the dam and pipelines, and finally, installation of tanks and filters. By February, water will flow directly into each household through a reliable distribution system. In March, a health program follows with screenings and awareness sessions that ensure families understand safe water practices and the benefits of sanitation. Beyond physical infrastructure, this is an investment in the health, resilience, and empowerment of Kampung Tagibang.

The success of the project will be measured not just in litres of water delivered but in the stories of transformation. A mother who no longer spends hours hauling heavy buckets uphill, a child who can attend school regularly free from waterborne illnesses, and elders who finally enjoy clean, accessible water without risking injury on steep paths. These outcomes illustrate a community freed from the shackles of scarcity and given the dignity of reliable, safe water.



In its open implementation, the Solution Provider recognized that water scarcity was not the only problem faced by the community. The root of the challenge lay in the divided nature of the village itself, which had two Ketua Kampung that created disunity among its people. To address this, the Solution Provider identified art as a way to bring unity. The village offered opportunities in creativity, and one art workshop successfully brought together community participants. The art produced by the villagers was sold through fundraising efforts that collected RM30,000 with support from Pangrok Sulap in order to purchase water filters for each household.

Today, the water filters have been fully distributed and installed. The gravity water project in Kampung Tagibang has attracted attention from outside the community and strengthened partnerships. The

village is now working closely with the National University of Singapore on the upcoming construction of a Community Learning Centre and a community hub.

Aligned with Sustainable Development Goals 1 on No Poverty, 3 on Good Health and Well-being, and 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation, the project embodies the spirit of sustainable progress. It reduces financial and health burdens, safeguards well-being, and strengthens local participation in resource management. More than a water system, it is a promise of a healthier and more resilient Kampung Tagibang.



This project is not just about water, it is about reclaiming dignity, unity, and the right to a better future. The story of Kampung Tagibang is proof that when people come together, they can turn challenges into opportunities and divisions into solidarity. From the strength of its hills now flows not only clean water but also the spirit of hope and determination. It shows that sustainable change is not built on infrastructure alone, but on the courage of a community to rise, to own their progress, and to believe in the promise of tomorrow.

**Pangrok
Sulap**

Kota Marudu, Sabah

Project Title: Projek Air Graviti Kg Tagibang

Funding Allocated: RM50,000

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SOCIAL

Solving for X: Igniting Kinabatangan's Future Scientists



In the heart of the estate forests and oil palm plantations of Kinabatangan in Sabah where rivers meander through lush greenery and villages sit miles apart a different kind of challenge persists which is access to quality STEM education. At SMK Paris there has only been one science class available with limited student enrollment in STEM streams. For many students science remained a distant subject often confined to textbooks and rarely linked to their daily lives. This lack of exposure threatened to widen the gap between rural students and the opportunities that STEM careers could unlock.

Recognizing this challenge, the C.U.R.I.O.U.S SABAH (Challenge, Understand, Re-Invent, Optimise, Unveil Steam) project was launched as a collaboration between APPGM SDG and Learnado EdTech PLT. Conducted at SMK Paris 3 Kinabatangan the project sought to bring science to life for 136 students. The main beneficiaries were 102 Form 3 students while 16 senior students from Form 4 and 5 were trained as facilitators. By introducing game based learning and mentorship the project aimed to transform how students engaged with STEM igniting their curiosity and empowering them to see science as more than just a subject but as a pathway to their future.

From the very beginning the project was designed with the Sustainable Development Goals in mind by advancing SDG 4 Quality Education through inclusive hands-on and innovative STEM learning that attracted students to the STEM field and promoted equal access for all regardless of class stream. At the same time it supported SDG 5 Gender Equality by actively encouraging the participation of girls in science workshops and creating a supportive environment that challenged stereotypes while empowering young women from B40 communities to view themselves as future scientists and leaders. In

addition the project embodied SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities by specifically targeting underserved B40 students and bridging the educational gap between rural and urban youth thereby ensuring that rural students enjoyed equal opportunities to access the kind of quality STEM education that is often taken for granted in urban settings.



The program unfolded through six carefully designed modules that combined survival skills, scientific exploration, and engineering principles, all crafted to make science both practical and exciting. Students tested water pH levels and discovered simple methods of water filtration, learned to extract DNA, experimented with tissue culture, explored forces and energy transfer, and investigated the complexity of human senses. Rather than treating these as isolated lessons, the activities were integrated into a CSI themed explorace that required teamwork, critical thinking, and creativity to complete each mission.

To make the learning even more meaningful, the game materials were developed with the school's surrounding environment in mind, allowing students to recognize that science was not something distant in textbooks but present all around them. This approach transformed the school grounds into a dynamic learning environment where science was no longer just theory but an adventure to be solved. Each experiment concluded with a "Connecting the Dots" reflection session, guiding students to connect their discoveries with real life challenges and future opportunities, reinforcing that the knowledge gained was relevant and applicable to their everyday lives.

Yet the journey was not without its challenges. A day before the event the school requested an additional 40 students to be included in the program which meant resources were suddenly stretched thin. The SP team rose to the occasion by working overnight to redesign gameplay and source extra STEM kits so that no student would be left behind. In Kinabatangan logistical hurdles such as power outages and

unexpected shop closures disrupted last minute printing, forcing facilitators to improvise with whatever was available. Even during implementation senior students who had only a few hours of training were empowered to step in as co facilitators. What initially seemed like setbacks became moments of resilience and creativity that not only strengthened the program but also nurtured leadership and problem solving among students and facilitators alike.

The outcomes spoke volumes. 91% of students gained new science-related skills, while 70% could relate their learning to daily life. More than 50% expressed interest in pursuing STEM fields, and 75% said they wanted to participate in similar programs again. Teachers also observed that students began illustrating science concepts with greater specificity, moving from general drawings of clouds and sunlight to more technical depictions such as tissue culture plates and laboratory equipment. The principal of SMK Paris highlighted that although the school was located in a remote district, this exposure had the potential to inspire more students to pursue STEM streams in the future.



The C.U.R.I.O.U.S SABAH project demonstrated that innovative game-based education could overcome barriers of distance and resource limitations. It showed that when learning is interactive, relatable, and fun, students not only absorb knowledge but also develop confidence, teamwork, and a stronger sense of purpose. By creating an environment where science was approachable and exciting, the project broke down perceptions that STEM was out of reach for rural youth.

In conclusion, this initiative has sparked more than just scientific curiosity. It has planted seeds of ambition in students, showing them that STEM is not confined to urban schools or well-equipped laboratories but is within their reach. Moving forward, sustaining this momentum through recurring exploraces, STEM resource corners,

and mentorship programs will be vital. For the students of SMK Paris, Kinabatangan, the journey into science has only just begun, and their future looks brighter than ever.

Participants' Feedback 1:



"Aktiviti paling best hari ini DNA pisang yang kita boleh tahu sendiri, dia ibarat sample iaitu ada identiti diri sendiri lah... Saya dapat belajar benda baru contohnya, seperti air sungai yang kotor dan ada satu penapis air ini boleh menapis air yang kotor boleh jadi sumber minuman di dalam hutan. Saya rasa gembira kerana belajar benda baru seperti saya pelajar baru disini tidak sampai 1 tahun dapat ikut aktiviti ini. Mudah-mudahan saya dapat masuk kelas sains."

- Pelajar

Participants' Feedback 2:



P1: Cita-cita saya mau jadi.. Mau jadi doktor,

P2: Bagi saya kalau boleh mau jadi engineer.

P3: Bagi saya pula cikgu..cikgu matematik,

P4: Kalau saya sama seperti kawasan di sebelah saya, cikgu matematik.,

P5: Menjadi peguam,

P6: Kalau saya jadiii wielding under water,

P7: Saya sama juga dengan deorang dua jadi guru

- Kumpulan Pelajar (P)

Participants' Feedback 3:



"Kami rasa bertuah banyak sekolah disini kami yang dipilih..Untuk STEM, macam ada saya maklumkan sebelum ini pelajar kami yang masuk aliran ke dalam aliran STEM agak terhad agak sedikit. Maksudnya tidak ramai yang berminat untuk setakat ini. Dan kita harap selepas ini pelajar akan masuk aliran STEM."

- Cikgu

Solution Provider's Feedback:

"Pendidikan STEM sangat penting terutama di kawasan luar bandar yang mempunyai bilangan pelajar aliran sains yang rendah. Sebagai contoh, di SMK Paris hanya terdapat 16 orang pelajar dalam kelas sains. Kebanyakan mereka kurang pendedahan tentang laluan kerjaya, penggunaan peralatan, dan aplikasi sebenar ilmu sains. Malah, ada antara pelajar yang berada dalam kelas sains tidak mengetahui bahawa terdapat banyak laluan kerjaya yang tidak semestinya memerlukan penguasaan dalam sains tulen. Keadaan ini membimbangkan kerana sekiranya jumlah pelajar sains terus berkurangan, wujud kemungkinan kelas sains di sekolah seperti ini akan ditutup."

- Rakan Solusi



LEARNADO

Kinabatangan, Sabah

Project Title: CURIOS Sabah
(Challenge, Understand, Re-Invent,
Optimise, Unveil Steam)

Funding Allocated: RM20,000

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ECONOMY

Cultivating a New Season in Ulu Sugut



Nestled about 65 kilometers from Pekan Ranau, Ulu Sugut is a remote area where life is shaped by both opportunity and hardship. The seven villages that make up this community rely heavily on agriculture, with palm oil and rubber serving as their main sources of income. Yet despite their hard work, farmers often face unstable and declining commodity prices, compounded by high transportation costs on unpaved roads. These challenges limit household income and force younger generations into a cycle of rural poverty with few career options.

The environment has also shown signs of strain, as agricultural practices risk degrading rivers and surrounding landscapes. Left unaddressed, this would threaten both the community's well-being and the ecosystem's long-term sustainability. At the same time, Ulu Sugut holds remarkable potential. With its scenic hills, vast rivers, and lush forests, the area is naturally suited for eco-tourism activities such as trekking, camping, river expeditions, and cultural exchanges. By leveraging these assets, the community can diversify income sources, reduce reliance on unstable agriculture, and create sustainable development opportunities.

The Community-Based Tourism (CBT) in Ulu Sugut Project was designed to unlock this potential. Its main objective is to empower villagers with the skills, knowledge, and organizational capacity to develop and manage eco-tourism initiatives. A community tourism association has been formally registered in Malinsau to coordinate activities, while villagers play a direct role as both implementers and beneficiaries. Central to the project is the creation of unique tourism products that showcase Ulu Sugut's rivers, hills, and traditions while embedding conservation into every activity.



In late 2024, the focus was on building strong foundations. A seminar and workshop on tourism package design and promotion brought together local operators and community members to co-develop products. A simulation exercise tested these packages, and recordings from the trial runs were shared online as part of an initial promotional campaign. Alongside training, basic facilities were upgraded, including a prayer room at Kanaan Santai View, refurbished toilets at Thinkyodon Malinsau Darat, and resting huts at Batu Payung. These improvements prepared the villages to host visitors more comfortably.

The first half of 2025 marked the transition from planning to tangible implementation. Additional resting huts were built, cultural centers underwent beautification, and upgrades were made to the recreational pond at Notukad River View Cabin. The centerpiece was the launch of the Ulu Sugut Tourism Package, The Longest River Expedition, a 40-kilometer journey recognized as the longest river expedition in Malaysia. This flagship product integrated rafting, traditional food, cultural performances, and homestay experiences. The launch, officiated by YB Datuk Joniston Bongkuai, Chairman of the Sabah Tourism Board, and later celebrated by YB Datuk Jonathan Yasin, Member of Parliament for Ranau, marked a milestone in positioning Ulu Sugut as a distinctive eco-tourism destination.

Entrepreneurship support was also a priority during this period. Craft makers received funding to expand production, while traditional food operators were equipped with better tools to enhance visitor experiences. A capacity-building workshop on tourism product development at Maragang Hill gathered 25 participants. Facilitated by Puan Norita Yapi from Sri Pelancongan Sabah and supported by Tuan Dexter Randy from the Sabah Tourism Board, the session helped villagers refine their products and gain insights into industry standards and opportunities.

Despite these achievements, the project faced challenges due to limited funding received from the SDG allocation. With seven tourism

operators involved, the budget had to be divided into smaller portions, which restricted the scale of impact in several key areas. Infrastructure improvements could only be implemented on a very limited basis, with each site receiving just one upgrade. Promotion and marketing efforts were also constrained, as resources were insufficient to support more comprehensive initiatives such as the development of a dedicated tourism website. Training opportunities were similarly affected, as not all participants could access workshops on tourism management, communication, or standard operating procedures. This uneven access to resources created disparities in impact, with some operators better positioned to sustain and expand their initiatives compared to others.

The project contributes directly to four SDGs. Under SDG 1: No Poverty, it helps participants generate alternative income and reduce household pressures. Under SDG 4: Quality Education, at least 50 villagers, including youth and women, have gained new skills in eco-tourism and entrepreneurship. In line with SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, the project creates quality income opportunities for at least 25 participants while exposing 50 villagers to potential business ventures. Through SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, at least 50 villagers are being introduced to sustainable practices that balance economic growth with environmental stewardship, ensuring that eco-tourism enhances rather than harms Ulu Sugut's natural heritage.

Today, the Persatuan Ulu Sugut Ranau has successfully brought handcrafted products to the regional stage through Pitch Borneo, showcasing their potential for larger markets. At the same time, diverse community activities continue to be developed, strengthening both attractions and local unity as Ulu Sugut moves forward.



The Ulu Sugut Community-Based Tourism Project has laid the foundation for long-term transformation by addressing economic vulnerability, strengthening skills, and embedding sustainability in rural development. The successful launch of The Longest River

Expedition not only positioned Ulu Sugut as a new eco-tourism destination but also demonstrated the community's readiness to innovate while protecting their cultural and natural heritage. While limited funding posed challenges, the community's strong commitment and collaborative spirit ensured meaningful progress. With continued capacity building, equitable resource distribution, and local ownership, Ulu Sugut is well on its way to becoming a resilient and self-reliant model of community-based eco-tourism in Sabah.



Ranau, Sabah

Project Title: Ekopelancongan Mampan Berasaskan Komuniti Di Kawasan Ulu Sugut Ranau

Funding Allocated: RM30,000

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The Forest Therapy Training Project was initiated to address the growing concern over mental health issues and the increasing need for nature-based interventions in rural Sabah. For many years, local communities associated the forest primarily with recreational activities such as hiking, without recognizing the deeper therapeutic value that structured engagement with nature could offer. This project introduced the concept of forest therapy through a combination of structured training modules and hands-on practice, allowing participants to understand its true meaning, purpose, and potential applications.

The primary beneficiaries of this initiative were ten selected participants, consisting of eight women and two men from diverse community backgrounds. Their participation reflected the inclusive and accessible design of the program, which equipped them not only with knowledge but also with practical skills. By nurturing local advocates and practitioners, the training aimed to build a foundation for forest therapy practices that could later be shared with the wider community.

The project delivered ten training modules in three phases. Modules 1–4 were conducted on 25 January 2025, Modules 5–8 on 31 January 2025, and Modules 9–10 on 5 February 2025. Alongside classroom-based learning, participants engaged in practical exercises at the Forest Therapy Laboratory (MTH). These exercises included environmental familiarization, body movement training, walking and breathing techniques, and focused listening to natural sounds such as rustling leaves, bird calls, and flowing rivers and waterfalls. This balance of theory and practice ensured that participants gained both

intellectual understanding and direct experiential knowledge in real forest settings.



During implementation, challenges emerged. Two original participants were unable to complete the sessions, but this was addressed by admitting replacements from the waiting list to maintain the intended group size. Another challenge was the need for a suitable training facility near the forest to provide immersive experiences. This was successfully addressed by utilizing the Forest Therapy Laboratory and adjacent natural areas. Importantly, the project aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Goal 4 (Quality Education), and Goal 15 (Life on Land), by promoting mental health, education, and sustainable interaction with nature.

The impact has been significant. Participants reported that their perception of forest-related activities shifted from viewing them as mere recreation to appreciating their therapeutic value. Many expressed excitement about learning new concepts and satisfaction with the practical field training, noting how it deepened their awareness and personal connection with the natural environment. The project has increased both knowledge and skills while inspiring participants to explore opportunities for community initiatives and nature-based entrepreneurial ventures.

Key lessons learned include the importance of participant enthusiasm in enhancing the effectiveness of training and the value of accessible training spaces near forested areas for immersive experiences. The project also revealed the long-term potential of forest therapy as both a tool for mental and physical well-being and as a foundation for innovative, nature-based enterprises.

Since completion, the project site has attracted approximately twenty visitors, with around eight returning for repeated sessions, primarily working professionals seeking relaxation and mental rejuvenation. The

project has even received reservations for therapy sessions, indicating growing interest. Some participants have expressed intentions to create smaller-scale therapy forests near their homes, demonstrating a ripple effect that extends beyond the initial training cohort. The awareness generated has highlighted forest therapy as a potential source of income and community empowerment, reinforcing its relevance beyond personal well-being.

In conclusion, the Forest Therapy Training Project has achieved far more than the transfer of knowledge and skills. It has sparked a transformative shift in how communities perceive, engage with, and value their natural environment. The project has demonstrated that forests are not merely recreational spaces but vital resources for mental restoration, education, and sustainable economic opportunities. By combining structured learning, hands-on practice, and community engagement, this initiative has established a strong foundation for the growth of forest therapy practices across Sabah, fostering healthier, more resilient, and economically empowered communities. The project stands as a model for holistic development, showing that with vision, guidance, and community participation, forests can become sanctuaries for healing, platforms for learning, and catalysts for sustainable innovation that benefit both people and the environment.





Sepanggar, Sabah

Project Title: Pembangunan Pusat Latihan Terapi Hutan/Makmal Terapi Hutan (MTH)

Funding Allocated: RM40,000

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TRANSFORMING THE GRASSROOTS THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED LOCAL ACTION

The "**Transforming the Grassroots through Community-Based Local Action**" highlights 30 stories from the ground, each embodying the transformative impact of different best practices initiatives. These successful projects encompass three main working areas namely, economy, social, and environment, demonstrating the diverse approaches taken to improve the lives of communities across Malaysia.

These best practices are the result of ongoing and intentional collaboration efforts between APPGM-SDG and our Solution Providers. By leveraging their expertise and our resources, these Solution Providers delivered customised solutions that met the specific needs of the communities. Their efforts have not only uplifted individuals, but also established a model for sustainable and scalable development nationwide that brings lasting and meaningful change.

APPGM-SDG has been instrumental in driving these efforts by distributing micro grants to projects that have been consciously mapped for their issues, and working together with communities beyond stipulated project life cycles to continue monitoring projects and building their capacities, ensuring that project impact is adaptive, progressive, and never short-lived.

This publication is a tribute to the unsung heroes at the grassroots level and on the fringes of communities, whose resilience and ingenuity have been the inspiration behind these projects. It is our hope that these stories capture the heart and soul of their take on collaboration and innovation, unveiling the true purpose of community development.



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