

The #NoPlastik! Program up and running in Indonesia!



April 2019. Children in the fishing village of kampung Nelayan protecting mangrove forest and removing plastic waste. (Partner P3MN, Belawan-Sumatera)

Why plastic waste?

Aachen and Cologne weren't built on one day, but terre des hommes launched and is strengthening - and as we speak expanding - its Environmental Child Rights action with its Indonesia partners in a year.

In 2018 terre des hommes and partners identified the issue of plastic waste.

As Leo Marbun from P3MN said: "often the fisher folks tell us that they catch more plastic than fish".

This simple statement reveals the huge problem Indonesia has in coping with its waste, in particular plastic waste. Considering Indonesia is home to nearly 270 million people, one can imagine that the amount of daily waste is huge and therefore the nation requires a well-developed waste management infrastructure.

Many are responsible and have a role to play to answer this threat, but all are set to gain the benefits of a clean and healthy environment.

For terre des hommes Germany and partners its child right program in Southeast Asia is striving to contribute from our projects and communities. The young ones' own responsibility and energy that will be the obvious strength to change behavior and practices and lead to a long term solution of ending plastics pollute the oceans.

Much too often we witness Indonesians of all walks of life, old and young, throwing away trash on the streets or use the river and streams as trash bins. It indicates that, generally, there is a huge lack of environmental awareness in Indonesia.

Problematically, a large portion of the garbage that is thrown away on Indonesia's streets, rivers or other places is not biodegradable, meaning it cannot break down into natural materials in the environment without causing harm. Many materials, particularly plastic or cigarette butts, break down in a much more harmful manner, leaving behind chemicals or other harmful substances in the soil or water.

Indonesia is the world's second largest plastic polluter, after China. It produces 3.2 million tonnes of mismanaged plastic waste a year, 1.29 million tonnes of which ends up in the sea. That's 12kg per person.





How we battle the plastics pollution?

Indonesia and Southeast Asia is an economically dynamic and strong region, expected to grow consistently with an average of 6% annually. Its population will grow too, although at a remarkably slower pace. We expect some 25 million children more by 2050¹. This creates a potential for real growth and investment and for positively shaping development.

Children, youth and the partners of terre des hommes in seven countries in South East Asia have signaled a growing concern and interest to work more on environmental child rights. The project started in Indonesia in 2019.

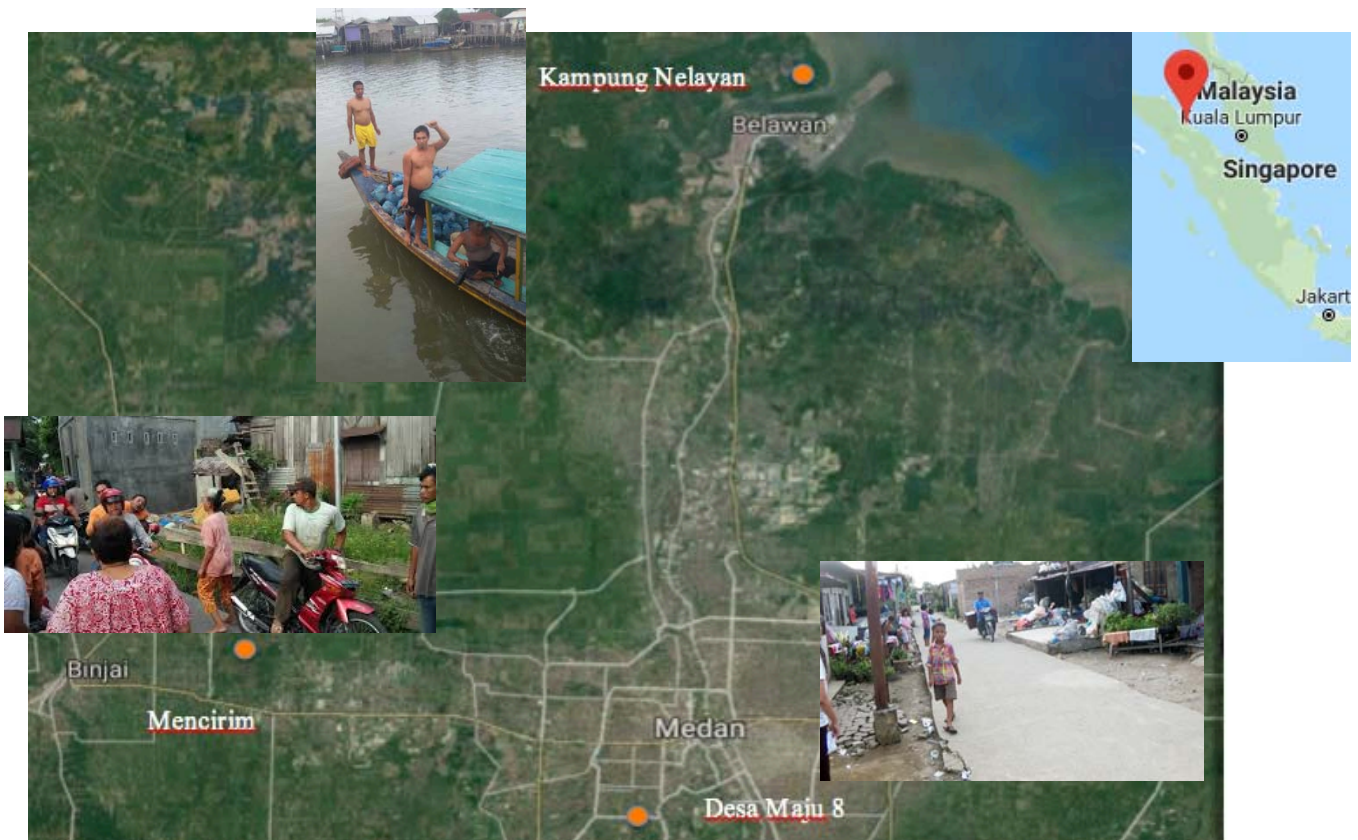


“Catch Them Young”²

Awareness, education and action.

Terre des hommes gives children and youth a lead role in cleaning up their oceans, protect the environment and safeguard their future. Learning about, working together, organizing and becoming a responsible and confident citizen are just some of the benefits that will reflect and influence the life skills they need.

The first #NoPlastik! activities in Sumatera.



¹ Worldbank/OECD forecast 2018 and beyond

² “was ein Hakchen worden will, krummt sich beizeiten”

Activity 1:



The fishing village Kampung Nelayan, Belawan, Medan. March - May 2019.

Along the coastal areas near Medan our partner Pusat Pengkajian dan Pengembangan Masyarakat Nelayan (P3MN) or Fishermen Community Assessment and Development Center has 131 children and youth from the 1651 population active in battling plastic waste.

The children and the community are made aware of the pollution, alternatives to use, re-use, recycle.

Regularly members of the youth group PEKAN take the lead and attempt a total clean up of the village and surrounding areas. Especially the project area where the community is extending and protecting the mangrove.



“ during low tide the village works in collecting and cleaning up the plastics thrown away and washed ashore. This Saturday the children cleaned the newly planted mangrove area and some “alleys” in the village: result 83kgs!. Then some elders shipped it to the government collection point across the bay.”

Leo Marbun and Nova Anggreina from P3MN further observe that people in the community have begun to refrain from just throwing it away.



On a national scale this would mean 14'000 ton less! In one simple action.

Activity 2:

Binjai city, Mencirim area, January - April 2019.

This newly developed city is connected with the capital Medan and houses some 350'000 people.

In some of the poorer neighbourhoods of Mencirim area our partner Kelompok Kerja Sosial Perkotaan or KKSP (Urban Social Working Group) has also initiated the plastics waste pollution as a complement and direct link with its social and sanitary program to improve living standards.



A campaign has started with the head of the ward and the youth - and women groups in the area.

The ward leader (in blue):

.....“we are making slow but steady progress, as for many people have the habit of just throwing waste and plastics into the nearby river. In the rainy season the natural drainage get blocked and serious flooding are happening. However, plastics also mean income.

Especially for some students this provides a much needed income to earn money for school supplies and transport.

Fajar Hariani (16) and Afrizal (17) are leading the youth group activities and busy in recycling the plastics from the people in the ward.

They're real experts in knowing about the good/high price and bad/low value plastics.

“.....depending on the type of plastic and the size the number of bootles for 1 kg ranges between 40 to 80”.

The caps are most valuable, but you need many!

“For plastic bags same differences of size and material. Some 200 can make a kilo!”



Fajar



Izal

Since the project started more people save their plastic waste for collection, thus increasing some little income for Fajar and Izal. Also are separate garbage collection points set up. Its success made that these are rapidly filling up and has the warden negotiating with the municipality to increase collection or facilitate transport elsewhere.

The women's groups are now bringing their own bags.

They even calculated that among the 36 regular attendees some 300 small/large bags are being replaced in about 2 weeks. Also they more often asks vendors to put stuff together in one bag. The same routine is working for the convenience stores visits.



Activity 3:

Medan Johor, Kelurahan Kuala Bekala, Desa Maju 8 + Desa Kompos. March-April 2019.

About 100 families are supported from our partner PKPA, The Center for Child Study and Development. In Desa Maju 8 and Desa Kompos PKPA is running a social program for the poorest families, especially addressing child labor, protection and community development in terms of family counseling services and sanitation.

In desa Maju 8 (desa = village) most of the families' livelihoods are in collecting, sorting, cleaning and selling waste from garbage disposal. A huge part of the waste concerns plastics.

Many children assist in this for a few hours a day in the family and the older (mostly) boys attending secondary school make after school trips to look for plastics in order to sell and have some small additional income.



Both Ruth (in video clip) and Revan (photo below) have the job of collecting plastics.



Ruth (17):"

My name is Ruth Kesia Simatupang, I am now in 11th grade and I attend school in Medan 2 Public High School. I work as a scavenger since junior high. I collect waste to pay for school fees and help my parents. As a scavenger I learned how difficult it is for my parents to make little money. In the beginning I was also scared for getting an accident or being robbed. However, scavenging will make my dream come true to study and become a teacher."



Revan H. Siregar (16):

... "everyday after school I make my 5 kilometer route and collect house after house the rubbish..., take it back and sort it for selling. It's about 3-8 useful plastics per day, earning 9'000 to 21'000 rupiahs (0,6-1,4 usd).



We're off to a good start!!!

Amazing to see the enthusiasm and possibilities to reduce the plastic pollution with tens of percentage points in such simple ways by raising awareness, education and responsibility. And more is planned for the coming months and years.

Terre des hommes' efforts in fundraising for the #NoPlastik! Program in Southeast Asia, starting in -and for Indonesia started late 2018.



With help and support from our fundraising people in Osnabruck (Stephan Scholze and Angela Bodecker) our volunteer Jurgen Krome started knocking on the company doors of German businesses in Indonesia and some contacts in Germany itself. He's a retired corporate executive with a (sales)background in the medical sector, and has been key in bringing on board a number of German companies that have committed well over 100k to support terre des homes and its Indonesian partners.

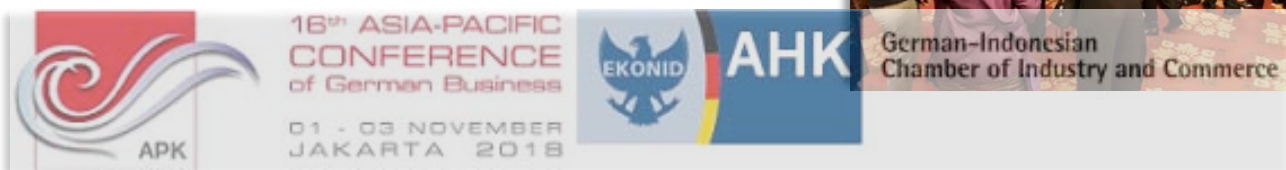
Jurgen: "Über das akute Problem von Plastikmüll an den Küsten Indonesiens konnte ich mir im November 2018 vor Ort selbst ein Bild machen. Die Lebenssituation und die Not der Fischerfamilien, insbesondere der Kinder, haben mich tief bewegt. Für den Start des Projektes #NO PLASTIK! führte ich Gespräche mit der indonesischen Regierung, den lokalen Behörden, der Deutschen Botschaft sowie deutschen

Jurgen at Kampung Nelayan



Unternehmen in Jakarta und Deutschland, die zur gemeinsamen Unterstützung des Projektes geführt haben. Dafür bin ich sehr dankbar".

And we at tdh and the Indonesian partners are grateful for Jurgen to be our interface with the businesses and institutions.



The German business community (in Indonesia and in Germany) has shown a big interest in terre des hommes' #NoPlastik!the program in Indonesia and have already committed serious funding, which resulted in a nationwide implementation of a series of new activities in Medan, Jakarta, Makassar and Bali starting July 1!



Support isn't only coming in monetary form, but some companies thought on how to assist with expertise and logistics that will complement the projects.

.....an issue in many communities is the "what to do next" when plastics and garbage are collected and need transport to elsewhere i.e. to recycling facilities.



The project is receiving praise from the Indonesian government, which itself has committed to battling the (plastic) waste problem and promised to support in public media the activities from the communities locally as well as accelerate policies and measures to curb the pollution.

Meeting with Ms. Mariza Hamid, and Mr. Sukardi Rinakit, Special staff of the President.

In between is Nanda (Ms. Wibowo), our Indonesian terre des hommes staff.



We are also very thankful for the warm reception at the German Embassy and the Handelskammer EKONID in Jakarta.

A common goal.



Linking our children and youth projects with the students at the German School in Jakarta.

Dr. Astrid Ahke (Science department) and Marco van Grinsven (Regional Coordinator tdh in SEA) informing and answering questions to grade 6, 10 and 11 students on tdh projects and combatting plastics together.

“You can’t wash your face with one finger”, so tdh and its partners will actively seek further collaboration with other sectors that battle the plastics pollution. Very promising contacts to mention briefly are:

Nanda (tdh) and Ikbal (Kertabumi)



<< Kertabumi Klinik Sampah: People throw away waste, because they think its useless. Waste Clinic is created to give another change for waste to be utilized.... (Ikbal).

Jakarta Eco Project: >>
..... Ecobricks are plastic drinking bottles packed with non-biological waste to make reusable building materials...
(Raka and Fanny, volunteers JEP).



Jakarta Eco
Project



What's next?

- July 01 the first projects with donations from the German business community start in Medan, Belawan, Binjai, Bali, Makassar and Jakarta. The country wide action of reduce, reuse and recycle of plastics waste through communities with a key role of youth and children in awareness raising and changing behavior. The reduction of harmful plastics in the environment and oceans through communities that are informed and aware on the sustainable use of plastics, better waste management (recycle, re-use and reduce) change their behaviour and pro active clean up their immediate environments.

The project mobilises 2271 children/youth, 131 teachers and 145 households+ local authorities and indirectly over half a million residents are reached in the communities, villages and cities through events, actions and media;

- Double our fundraising. Revisit, inform and contact the German business community on tdh and the #NoPlastik! Project in Indonesia.
There are those who need a final encouragement and make support a done deal and many others we like to meet and invite to join.
This will be done in Indonesia and Germany. We're building a bigger team to support our efforts.
- Increase networking and linkages in Indonesia.
Between youth and children in communities and schools, private sector and the projects, (local) authorities support.
Creating synergy between our projects and other initiatives that complement each other or have expertise to assist that push the projects into the next gear. Eventually we aim to reach as many as possible in Indonesia;
- Have an (inter) active website for all to use and communicate about the progress made in combatting the plastics pollution in Indonesia, where children and youth speak directly on - and about the issue and how they are turning the tide.

For now:

Terima Kasih Banyak, thank you so much for all who made the above possible.

*Terre des homes regards itself as a citizen's initiative and is dedicated to children's welfare and wellbeing in societies where there is economic and social justice and peace, and in which conflicts are resolved without violence. Essential and characteristic for our work is the promotion of the children's initiative: Children help children. Solidarity and common interests link our action in north and south.
With and for children and youth we have been working for 50 years to create a world in which all children have a chance of survival, are no longer exploited, have access to education and further development.*

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