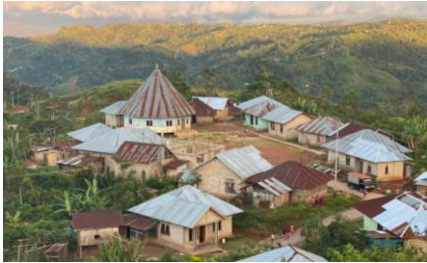




Building a Sustainable Preschool



Boosting the Lives of Children through Education.

Laja Village
Manggarai Regency,
Flores, Indonesia.
126 inhabitants.

Preschool St. Saferinus Morus
36 kids, from 2 to 5 years old.

Volunteer Teacher: Ms. Maria Yeni, Certified by the government.



Join the ever-growing team determined to see the inaugural project of the preschool becoming a reality in 2021.

Preschool impacts kids' lives.



At early age, preschool helps developing skills such as:

- Social and emotional
- Language / communication
- Movement / physical development
- Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)



For a brighter future, preschool supports:

- Success in higher education
- Increase earnings / income
- Delay in parenthood
- Reduce dependences and crimes
- Reduce inequality



The IndoSmiles Family



IndoSmiles was founded by Mr. Stewart Kaa (aka Kiwito) in December 2019 with Ms. Aurelie Doye, and support from lifelong school friends, Mr. Marsy Bagung and Charles Torare on their first project, a permanent pre-school for Laja Village, Flores Island, Indonesia.

"We are individuals from different backgrounds brought together by a love of travel and local interactions, exchanging ideas gaining a lifetime of experiences and connection with places we have visited."



The Beginning

Touched by the stories from Marsi and Carles as they recalled their experiences and challenges growing up and striving to better their circumstances through education on the island of Flores, the idea of collaborating on an educational project grew among the team.



As we all know, reading changes lives: from educational outcomes and social mobility to emotional well-being. So, as a first step, a donation of early childhood bilingual books and a bookshelf was organized, which led to a meeting with the village elders.



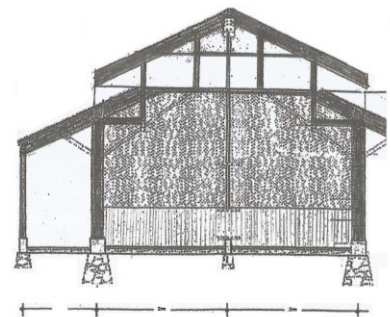
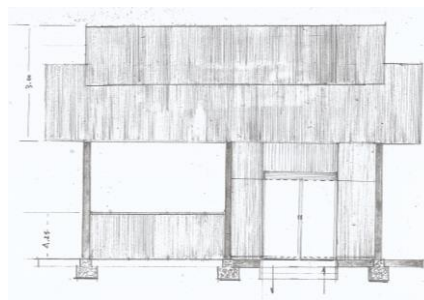
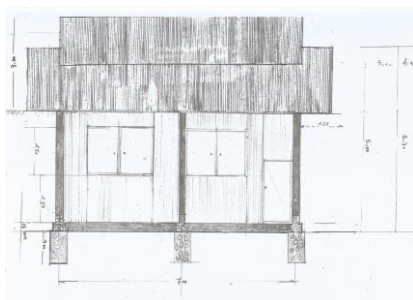
The need for a school building in the Laja village very quickly led to an action plan on making it happen.

IndoSmiles became reality.



Understand each other, explore similarities and differences and grow together.

IndoSmiles and the local community of Laja Village join forces to make an environmentally friendly and sustainable preschool building for the 36 kids of the village, and the many more to come.



IndoSmiles wishes to thank David E. for kindly, providing our sketches and his time. Just another gesture of kindness shown towards achieving this project.

Phase 1: Bamboo Collection



Bamboo is fast-growing compared to other natural building materials, sustainable and in abundance throughout Flores Island.

During August 2020 our IndoSmiles Onsite team were busy in the forest cutting and hauling 150 stems back to Laja Village that forms the roof, main supports, and cladding required for our school build.

The team starts by sorting the material into the three types according to usage. Twenty-Five by 4m stems were cut and shaped into 4000+ roofing tiles which will form an overlapping system providing exceptional fit and waterproofing.

Later each piece undergoes treatment to provide its longevity and repellent against bugs which is a critical step to ensure the max life of the material and structure. Maintenance is an essential part of any building, and as such, IndoSmiles has factored into the budget provision for ongoing maintenance to extend the life of the building pass 10-years.



DID YOU KNOW?

Bamboo can grow more than 3 feet per day



It produces 35% more oxygen than trees

It grows about 1,000 times faster than Oak and other hardwood trees

It is very low maintenance and doesn't require pesticides to grow

The plants reduce pollution by producing oxygen, more than 35 per cent more than trees do. It also consumes high quantities of nitrogen, which helps reduce water pollution. Also, bamboo is entirely recyclable.

Bamboo resources have played an essential role in the economics and culture of rural communities: constructions, dinnerware, pulp, biochemical products, charcoal, musical instruments, or even food ingredients. Indonesia has 12% of the world's bamboo collections, with approximately 125 species of bamboo.

Phase 2: Foundation



The main structure is elevated, allowing better airflow around the building due to its exposure to the elements and site position. In turn, this will help with cooling during summer and ensure the kids are out of harm's way from the downpours during the rainy season.

A segregated roof will also assist with airflow within the building, combined with Barn doors and shutter windows, providing proper ventilation and air circulation.

On 27th September 2020, a sacred ceremony was held by the customary village head aimed at honoring their Manggarai ancestors and God [Mori Kraeng] before starting the project of building our school.

The Raum Wuwung is a ceremony conducted before the roof is built, concluding with the last Congko Locap, – clean up around the newly built school celebrated by the community and the official opening of the school. The Leader (Tu'a Adat) asks for the protection of those who work during construction, for the teachers and students that will bring life to the school and community finishing with a prayer to those that support this project from around the world.



The Manggarai are located in the western portion of Flores Island in the province of Nusa Tenggara. Their language, which is also called Manggarai, is a member of the Austronesian language family and has 47 sub-dialects.

A Manggarai village is often composed of small individual settlements. The central Manggarai lands adhered to the traditional animist religion. In recent years, this pattern has changed, with Catholics now the majority throughout the region. Rural people tend to incorporate the new religion into their traditional life.



Phase 3: Sub Structure



Local skilled men of the community are at work daily in the sun and heat, pausing only when the monsoons storms are too strong as the village is on the top of the hills of the Manggarai region, where winds blow quite strongly during the rainy season.

The kids are excited to see their new classroom being created in front of their eyes and visit the site regularly out of curiosity.

The design of the new building will provide so much more natural light compared to the old tiny cement room with no window. Studies have shown that bright light boosts mood, concentration and enhance the ability to learn.

Also, Sunlight helps children produce adequate levels of vitamin D, and vitamin D sufficiency protects kids from a variety of undesirable health outcomes.



Saferinus & Maria are the inspiration behind IndoSmile's first project, a permanent preschool for the village of Laja.

With an early passion for education, both graduated from (STKIP) St. Paulus University in Ruteng as teachers. In 2016 seeing a need in their village, they established (PAUD) ST. Saferinus Morus preschool using a temporary shelter gifted to them by a family member.

Latest Update



As of January 2021, The cladding is going on the school building and the restrooms are being build.

We are vey grateful that despite COVID-19 threw the world into a tailspin, and the plans we had laid out were delayed... Still, the connection with the village is maintained, by relaying information between Kiwito in NZ, Aurelie in Bangkok, The Lads in Labuan Bajo and Saferinus, and Maria in Laja village. Our angels are from Belgium, France, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand and USA.

Together is an amazing place to share.



Total cost of the project: 6802 USD

... Additional fund raised will be used to create a garden to feed the kids.

1112 USD

16% School Fit Out:

Uniforms, teaching aids, books, stationary, classroom fixtures

915 USD

14% Maintenance:

Replacement of end-of-life bamboo & replanting (3 years)

1140 USD

17% Labour:

Local skilled manpower and Project Manager.

3635 USD

53% Materials:

Foundation hard-fill, Timber structure & fittings, Bamboo & replanting, Electrical, pipe & Plumbing, steel framing.

Angels.

The work of IndoSmiles is made possible by the generosity of its supporters.

The Sanchez Trust

Bernadette Alheritiere &
Edouard Scotchec

Jason Marek

Nicole Guittenit

Francis Barthe
Laetitia Guerin



Stephane D'Hont
Frank Ouaknine

Lise & Jacky
Ouaknine

Romain & Jonas Ouaknine

Be awesome: make a difference.



DONATE:

Boost the lives of the children of Laja through education.

SHARE:

Spread awareness and connect a larger community through your networks.

STAY INFORMED:

Subscribe to our newsletter to receive the progress reports.

Together, we have the power to change the kid's reality.



Contact us

For more information:

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