



Borneo Child
Aid Society



Every child has the right to basic primary education. This is the background statement that underpins this small but far-reaching social society in Malaysia. Malaysia is a fast progressing nation with big improvements in living conditions and better education for its people. But many children living in remote areas still do not have access to schools, such as the children of Indonesian or Filipino plantation workers in Sabah, mainly because of distance, poverty and/or legal status.

The Borneo Child Aid Society (BCAS) is providing basic primary education for more than 9,000 children on the palm oil plantations in Sabah. They have over 120 learning centres with 220 teachers. BCAS are doing a great job but are presently the only NGO doing this work for the plantation children. It was estimated in April 2010 that 40,000 children live in palm oil plantations and do not receive basic primary education. When you look at the scale of the problem you soon see that BCAS needs help.

Aim

To provide basic primary education for all the stateless children in Sabah

Our vision

- To reach the thousands of children, who are presently deprived of education on Borneo and specifically in the State of Sabah. This we practise in accordance with the UN's Child Right Convention, which says that all children have a right to a primary education, regardless of background, nationality and legal status.
- We also hope to contribute to the UN's Millennium Development Goals on education, to ensure that by 2015 all boys and girls can complete a full course of primary education.
- Our aim is to reach as many children as possible with good education and care. In this we hope to serve children in Malaysia and the state of Sabah

Achievements

- 9,000 children provided with basic primary education;
- 108 learning centres in plantations in Sabah;
- 5 town learning centres (4 in Lahad Datu and 1 in Semporna);
- 2 learning centres on remote islands off Semporna;
- Support from UNICEF, UNHCR, Embassies of Finland & The Netherlands, Indonesian government and many Palm Oil Plantation companies;
- Social NGO partner sitting on the board for the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) campaigning for the rights of Palm Oil estate children;



Palm Plantation Children



In 2008 Sabah had 1.4 million hectares of Palm oil, producing 5.8 million tonnes of crude palm oil equating to 13.2% of the global production. We don't need to say how important palm Oil is for the economic development of Sabah. The majority of field workers are not Malaysian with many coming from Indonesia and the Philippines. Unfortunately the Malaysian government will only provide state schooling for Malaysian nationals which means thousands of children of the non-Malaysian field workers are not provided with basic education.

The Borneo Child Aid Society is addressing this issue, and they are now a social NGO on the committee of the Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). Borneo Child Aid have ensured that one of the criteria for a palm oil company who want the RSPO certification (With RSPO they can sell to European countries at a higher price) is that they provide adequate facilities for Borneo Child Aid to run learning centres for the children of their non-Malaysian workers. Borneo Child Aid in 2009 has 108 learning centres in palm oil plantations throughout Sabah.



What's next

- Expansion of our plantation centres to new companies willing to provide basic support for the plantation children;
- A special focus on the Bajau Laut group around the islands of Semporna which largely have no access to schooling. This will include floating schools so we can bring the schools to the children. This project works closely with WWF-Malaysia and will focus on teaching the children about conservation of the invaluable coral reefs around their living places;
- Expansion of the current town learning centres in Lahad Datu, Semporna and Kalabakan and establishment of new centres in Sandakan, Tawau and Kota Kinabalu;



Bajau Laut

The *Bajau Laut* tribes of Semporna and Tawau, Sabah are known for their seafaring skills. *Bajau Laut* tribes are known as the sea gypsy people, a term normally associated with the island people of the Pacific, especially in the southern Philippines area and other smaller islands.

For many years these people have lived in the ocean on their make-shift house boats. Only in recent years have they made settlements into the coastal area, with their houses built on stilts. The ocean is still their main source of living - fishing, collecting clams and mussels, and even pearl farming in the remote islands off Semporna.

The Bajau Laut originate from the southern Philippines however they traverse the Sulu sea living in the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. In recent years more have been coming to Malaysia with many starting to settle.

However 1,000's of children amongst the nomadic Bajau Laut community are without basic documentation like their birth certificates. The children of the non-Malaysian palm oil workers are also left out of the Malaysian education system.

In 2010 on Bum Bum Island the first learning centres opened for the Bajau Laut children. In 2011 two floating schools are scheduled to start providing primary education for the Bajau Laut children on more remote islands and stilt houses.



How you can help

Volunteer

In 2011, in partnership with Ecoteer, Borneo Child Aid will be welcoming their first groups of regular volunteers, native English speakers, who will be providing english lessons and running afternoon activities for the children. The volunteer program enables the learning centres to expand and provide activities throughout the whole day reducing potential child labour in the plantations. For each volunteer RM1500 will be donated to the school per month meaning the schools can maintain and upgrade their learning apparatus.

Sponsor a child

Sponsoring 50 Children's education for a year: RM24,000 (about: USD 7100 or Eur 4700). The cost of sponsorship per child is RM 480 per year (about 142 USD or 95 Euro). The amount will cover cost of teacher, materials and other running costs of the project.

Buy something from our wish list

The best way to donate your money is to buy things that we need below are some of the things we constantly need
Children's educational books, story books, paper, scissors, pencils and other school materials, sets of simple laboratory equipment, biology equipment, geography, general science models and first aid kits.

Spread the word

We have a facebook group so please join to get the latest news about the Borneo Child Aid Society and to help spread the word about our work by inviting your friends to the group.



Daniel@ecoteer.com



UK: +44 (0)117 230 5433
Australia: +61 (0)3 9016 0434
Malaysia: +6 012 217 3208

Contact us

Website www.borneochildaid.org

Facebook Borneo Child Aid (group)

Email info@borneochildaid.org

Postal address

MDLD 6989, 1. Floor, Lorong Bandar Perdana 2,
Sri Perdana, Jalan Silam,
91100 Lahad Datu, Sabah,
Malaysia

Tel & Fax: (+60) 089-866857 / 089-862401

Make a donation

Online Donations

Donations are made online through the ammodo Charity site. Please sponsor a child or a number of children.

Donate to Bank Account:

Donations direct to our CIMB Bank donations account:

Acc Holder (Sabah Registered Name): Humana Child Aid Society Sabah Current Account
No: 1008-0002270-05-0
The SWIFT Code CIBBMYKL
Address CIMB Bank
Lahad Datu Branch,
Lot 8 Block A, Metro
Shopping Complex, 91100 Lahad Datu

Donations by Cheque:

Acc. payee to our society's Sabah registered name:
"Humana Child Aid Society Sabah"

Send by courier or registered post to: The Project Director

MDLD 6989, 1. Floor, Lorong Bandar Perdana 2,
Bandar Sri Perdana,
91100 Lahad Datu, Malaysia

Please send accompanying email to info@borneochildaid.org or inform us in another way of your donation, so that we can be sure to identify it. We will issue an official receipt for all donations, and update on how we spend the incoming funds for the education of the children at our projects.

