Building Block Schools in Lombok, Indonesia

Indonesia’s Lombok was jolted with devastating earthquakes in mid-2018. These earthquakes caused the deaths of more than 500 people, left hundreds injured and forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes. The earthquakes also heavily damaged over 400 schools, leaving young students with no place to learn.

Building Block Schools is an innovative solution addressing the educational needs of communities affected by the earthquakes. Our mission is to rebuild these schools using block technology made from Indonesia’s recycled plastic waste. By implementing Block Schools, we create earthquake-resistant educational facilities while removing 1-2 tons of plastic waste from the environment per classroom. Our construction process is also highly efficient, allowing us to complete a classroom in as little as two weeks.

The learning environment plays a crucial role in education outcomes. Factors such as lighting, airflow, temperatures, and classroom size can impact students’ learning experiences. After the earthquakes, children had to learn in makeshift environments like tents and temporary structures which result in lower learning outcomes compared to permanent schools. Classroom of Hope responded with the introduction of Block Schools to swiftly transition children back into permanent structures that provide appropriate classroom sizes.

Indonesia’s Plastic Pollution Problem

Indonesia is second only to China as the world’s largest contributor to plastic pollution, generating roughly 24,500 tons of plastic waste per day. 81% of waste in Indonesia is unsorted, making it difficult to recycle and causing plastic waste to end up in landfills or leak into the ocean.

According to a World Bank study, 20% of plastic waste in Indonesia is believed to end up in rivers and coastal waters. Four of Indonesia’s rivers rank among the top 20 most polluted rivers in the world. The Indonesian government has been working hard to resolve these issues and has set a target to reduce plastic waste by 70% by 2025 in line with its circular economy strategy.

What are Block Modules?

Classroom of Hope has partnered with Block Solutions Indonesia for our Block Schools program. Block Solutions has developed eco-friendly “block modules” which we use to deliver our Block Schools program. We purchase blocks made from Indonesia’s recycled plastic waste to build sustainable and safe buildings that are affordable, durable, easy to assemble and can be dismantled and rebuilt. The carbon footprint of a block is close to zero.
About Our NGO Partner in Lombok

We develop partnerships with best practice local NGO’s who have the vision, drive and community standing to create change. Empowering locals communities creates positive change. Our local NGO partner, Happy Hearts Indonesia (HHI), envisions that every child in Indonesia has access to education by attending safe and earthquake-resistant schools. HHI supports schools affected by natural disaster and those in underserved areas to provide proper education.

Approach

Guided by a collaborative approach, community leaders, school management, our local NGO partner and the government are engaged from the early stages through to the development and construction of the facilities. We believe in fostering good relationships with the communities, as it enables us to understand their real needs and ensure the projects’ sustainability. Through regular follow-ups and communication, we remain sensitive to the needs of the community even after the project is completed, enabling us to continue supporting them in promoting education and increasing children and youth’s participation in school.

Budgeting & Reporting

The cost per classroom will be roughly USD 12,000 - 14,000. As with all our projects, a detailed final impact report and financial reconciliation will be provided.