



INDONESIA: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY GROWTH

Support the people in the remote regions of Sulawesi
- with programmes and projects for sustainable development and peace work.

Sulawesi is one of the poorer islands in Indonesia. Religious conflicts, a lack of food or the danger of AIDS are only some of the local problems. The churches are battling intensively to sustainably improve the conditions of life in their parishes.

Most of the inhabitants of Sulawesi live as farmers in widely scattered villages. They face a variety of challenges depending on the region they live in. The local churches look after the problems of the local people. In remote regions, the Toraja Church (GT) sets up development centres which promote the conditions for peace, welfare and justice.

Sustainable development means integral development. The comprehensive programme has the aims of raising income, improving health care, protecting the environment, supporting ecological agriculture, combating climate change and solving conflicts between Muslims and Christians. This is the only way to ensure peace and better living conditions in the long term for the people on Sulawesi.

Individual local programmes

Sustainability means that projects are implemented together with local people and are later handed over to them. Every development programme is therefore designed specifically to cater for local conditions. The church and the local target groups first analyse the needs of the village communities. In some places the main problems are religious conflicts. In other places they involve domestic violence, health hazards or too much plastic waste.

The next step is to train motivators who set up local development centres. From there they start all the activities in close cooperation with local authorities: agricultural training courses, health education, conflict management, family counselling and environmental protection are part of the daily agenda.

Kondoran model project

The Toraja Church (GT), one of the largest and most committed churches on Sulawesi, already started an agricultural development programme in the 1980s. In 2001, the church also included peace and reconciliation work in their programme after conflicts flared up between Christians and Muslims in 1998. In the meantime, the church has bundled its economic, social, health and ecological activities in the Kondoran programme centre. This model project has also inspired other Indonesian communities.

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For your questions: Angelika Jung
Tel. +49 711 636 78 -63
spenden@ems-online.org

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