

Doorn, January 21st, 2010



**The Governor of the Province Papua
Mr. Barnabas Suebu SH.
Jayapura - Indonesia**

Ref. Child mortality in the Papua Provinces

Dear Sir,

The organizations mentioned in annex 2 have the privilege to ask your attention for the following.

From The Netherlands several foundations provide humanitarian aid to the population of the Papua provinces of Indonesia. A number of these foundations have established a structured cooperation. With limited budgets, employment of voluntaries and in cooperation with local people and authorities, we establish small scale aid projects that contribute to the quality of life of the inhabitants of particularly the exterior territories.

Based on several research reports and signals from official sources, one of these foundations, the "Stichting Duurzame Samenleving Papua Barat (SDSP)", has initiated an inquiry to child mortality in the Kebarvalley of the Vogelkop.

As you know, the fourth milleniumgoal of the United Nations indicates that the number of children in developing countries that die before the 6th year of their life, must be diminished with two-third in 2015 compared with 1990. Official figures from national and international sources indicate that child mortality in the Papua provinces is high. The situation is more grinding than in the other provinces of Indonesia. These surveys lack detailed figures from the inlands. This was one of the reasons for the SDSP to start the inquiry.

The findings of the research are summarized in the report "Child mortality in West-Papua", that is presented to you on this occasion by one of the volunteers of the SDSP, ms Genja Waweja.

Although further research is recommendable, we can already conclude that the results are alarming. In the inlands of the Kebarvalley more than 30 percent (31,6) of the living born children die before the 18th year of their life. From this group 85 % dies before the 5th year of their life: these are 258 of 1000 children! These figures are much more worrisome than the figures that have been published up to now from the areas where normal registration can take place. It is clear that immediate and specific action is required to tackle this huge problem. We fear that more or less the same conclusions can be drawn in the other remote areas.

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Already for many years the abovementioned cooperating foundations contribute to improve the severe circumstances that lead to this high percentage of child mortality. There are "mother-child projects" in the Raja Ampat area, de Kebarvalley en de Baliemvalley. Also several clean water - and other projects have been realized. We do this however with limited budgets and means. With regard to the severity of the situation we share the opinion that much more must be done at short notice.

With this reason we approach you with the request to inform the first responsible departments, the local government and agencies of the Papua province and the central government of Indonesia, of this worrisome situation, and to ask them to undertake immediate action for improvement.

More specific the next occasion presents itself at short notice.

As you will know in the coming period president Yodhoyono will render a state visit to The Netherlands during which an agreement will be signed concerning the cooperation in the sphere of improvement of human rights and government.

We would very much appreciate if you would request the Indonesian government, on the basis of the facts in this report and the already formulated goals concerning child mortality, to give a high priority to the reduction of child mortality in the Papua provinces in executing this agreement.

From our side we will send the same request to the Dutch government.

In view of our commitment and goals, and within our budgetary limitations, we would be glad to offer our cooperation if requested, to the development and execution of plans and projects. We strive to working more closely together with the central en local authorities.

We look forward to your reaction.

On behalf of the cooperating foundations,

The Stichting Duurzame samenleving Papua Barat

Annex 1: Report "Child mortality in West-Papua"

Annex 2: List of cooperating foundations



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