

Sumba Integrated Development

Revitalising traditional Marapu cultural assets in East Sumba



Project Period from 15.11.2019 until 30.04.2020

Numbers at a Glance

Numbers of beneficiaries reached in total :321

Female Adults age18+: 139

Male Adults age18+: 176

Youth (Male and Female) below18 : 182

Highlights of Activities

Key Activity Code 1.2: Preliminary Survey and Assessment (18 November-18 December 2019)

Preliminary survey and assessment of 'at risk' intangible cultural assets throughout the East Sumba district. Primary qualitative data about the vitality of Marapu traditional music and ritual was collected via semi-structured interviews with Marapu cultural leaders and experts.

Main Achievements: **We were able to open a dialogue with 15 traditional leaders of Marapu culture across 10 districts in East Sumba to classify the genres of intangible culture that existed in their district and to discuss the problems the community faced sustaining traditional culture, elicit possible solutions and communicate our objectives to determine three communities that would be the most receptive to the implementation a traditional cultural assets revitalisation program.**

Accomplished products:

1. Three ideal locations to implement our project were identified (Sub-district Mbatakapidu, Kamanggih and Hanggaroru) based on the criteria that traditional Marapu culture was still relatively strong in these areas, key cultural figures in these areas were already active in keeping Marapu culture vital and key local figures were committed to engage with the program and to sustain the program's objectives into the future.
2. Thirteen genres of traditional music were identified (8 genres of vocal music 5 instrumental music genres were identified). Five distinct types of Marapu ritual were identified, this information would inform all proceeding activities
3. 16 Marapu Leaders interviewed: Umbu Maramba Hau (Head of the Marapu Association of East Sumba), Umbu Munju Hau (Representitive of the Marapu Association of East Sumba), Umbu Nai Lapu, Purra Tanya, Ata Ratu, Haling, Rambu Ester, Tunggu Nggodu, Hara Kay, Wunang Marsel, Anton Toba Lenda, Umbu Palindima, Umbu Mana Rara, Umbu Makambombu, Tay Njili Njuka.

Attendance: 76 people (23 male adults, 18 female adults, 35 youth)



Key Activity Code 1.4: Socialization, Discussion and planning in sub-district Mbatakpidu, Kamanggih and Hanggaroru (17 December until 20 December 2019)

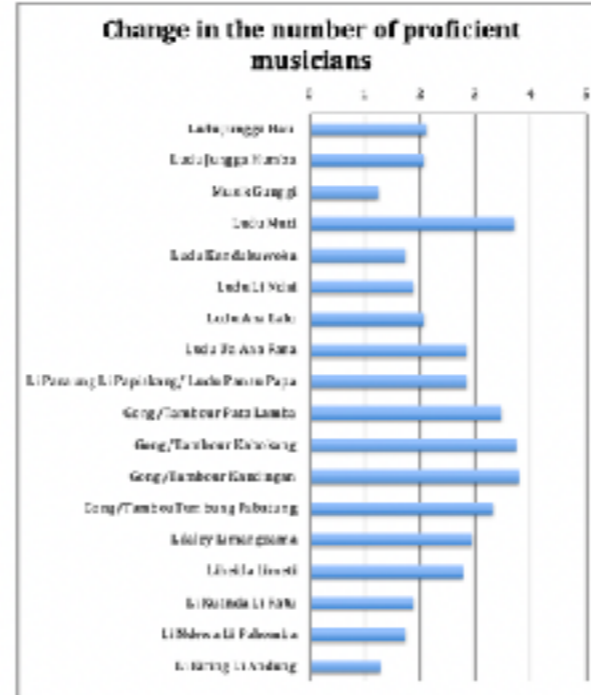
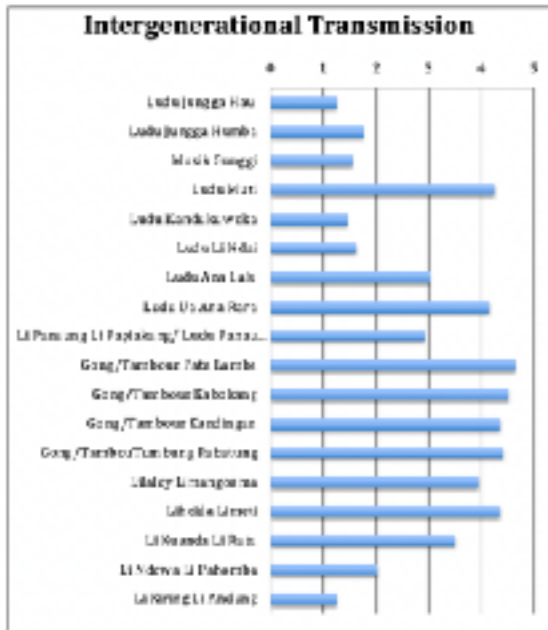
Socialisation meetings were held in sub-district Mbatakpidu, Kamanggih and Hanggaroru. Local Marapu leaders, cultural experts, ritual speakers, local musicians, educators and the wider community met with the program representatives to discuss and perform endangered Marapu traditional music and to curate and plan the programs performance, workshop and documentation activities. Qualitative data about the vitality of 13 genres of music and 5 types of ritual based on 10 key factors was collected in each sub-district using the [Music Vitality and Endangerment Survey](#) (Dr Catherine Grant)

Main Achievements: **We were able to bring 10 established and respected traditional Marapu music experts to perform, transmit knowledge and facilitate relationship building with other Marapu communities in 3 remote sub-districts and collect qualitative data on the vitality of 13 genres of Marapu traditional music and 5 types of Marapu ritual**

Accomplished products:

1. 151 people (69 male adults, 37 female adults and 45 youth) attended the socialization meetings in three sub-districts (35% over our target)
2. Quantitative data for each sub district from 61 survey respondents on the vitality of 18 genres of Marapu music and ritual were collected using an adaptation of the [Music Vitality and Endangerment Survey](#) and mentored by the author of the survey and leading researcher of intangible culture sustainability [Dr Catherine Grant](#) of Griffith University.
3. 10 established Marapu artists performed and transmitted knowledge about Marapu cultural assets in three locations
4. Audio/visual documentation of 27 songs were recorded.
5. Analysis of the vitality data informed local leaders and the program implementation team about which Marapu music genres and type of rituals would be prioritised throughout the program

Below is an example of a portion of the Music Vitality and Endangerment Framework data collected for one district (Hanggaroru) This data measured the vitality of 13 genres of music and 5 types of ritual according to ten factors:



Degree of endangerment	Grade	Intergenerational transmission
safe	5	The music genre is performed by all appropriate ages and is transmitted intergenerationally.
unsafe	4	The music genre is performed by all appropriate ages, but transmission to the youngest appropriate generation is weakening.
definitively endangered	3	The music genre is performed mostly by the middle generations and up.
severely endangered	2	The music genre is performed mostly by the older generations.
critically endangered	1	The music genre is performed only by the very elderly, and then only partially and infrequently.
inactive	0	There exists no performer of the music genre.

Grade	Change in number of proficient musicians in the past 5 to 10 years
5	Significant increase in proficient musicians.
4	Moderate increase in proficient musicians.
3	Little or no change in numbers of proficient musicians.
2	Moderate decrease in proficient musicians.
1	Significant decrease in proficient musicians.
0	No proficient musicians.

Grade	Accessibility of infrastructure and resources for music practices
5	All infrastructure and resources required for creating, performing, rehearsing, and transmitting the music genre are easily available and accessible.
4	All infrastructure and resources required for creating, performing, rehearsing, and transmitting the music genre are accessible, but not necessarily easily.
3	Most but not all required infrastructure / resources are accessible.
2	Some but not all required infrastructure / resources are accessible.
1	Some required infrastructure / resources are only accessed with great difficulty.
0	Some required infrastructure / resources are completely inaccessible.



Key Activity Code 1.5 Performance, Transmission workshops and documentation in three locations

Note: Due to Covid-19 restrictions activities were split into a series of small scale gatherings so public health recommendations could be adhered to. 17 small scale activities were conducted by the 30th of April 2020. These activities will be ongoing until July by which time we will have exceeded our target audience number (300)

Main Achievements: **Two Marapu musicians ([Ata Ratu](#) and [Jekshon](#)) performed and released songs to spread awareness and communicate health recommendations in the indigenous Kambera language to combat Covid-19 (1824 indirect recipients reached via youtube views, the songs were also used by the Regent [Bupati] and Mobile Brigade Corps [Brimob]). A program of 17 endangered music events was performed by 38 different Marapu traditional music performers to 278 audience members. 74 songs were professionally documented in video/audio in collaboration with 6 Marapu youth. Workshops and discussions were led by 38 older Marapu musicians to transmit inter-generational knowledge to 102 local Marapu youths.**

Accomplished products:

1. 1824 Indirect recipients received health recommendations from Marapu singers in Kambera, Indonesian and English language to combat Covid-19. Press articles on [globalvoices](#), [coconet](#), and [Indonesiainklusi](#)
2. 74 Marapu traditional songs were documented in audio and video with a spoken synopsis by each respective performer explaining the meaning, context and function of the song in Marapu culture (146% over our target)
3. 38 Marapu traditional musicians performed, recorded and transmitted knowledge about Marapu music and culture to 102 youth (26% over our target)
4. 278 audience members (82 male adults, 94 female adults, 102 youth) attended these activities (7.4% below our target)

1. Performance, Transmission, Documentation activity- Jungga Hau songs

Performers: Ata Ratu (Marapu Community Facilitator for this program)

Audio/visual documentation of 2 Jungga Hau songs, one of these songs Ata Ratu wrote in response to the Sumbanese migrant workers stranded in Bali, Jakarta and Jogjakarta who could not return home because of domestic travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Video Link: English Translation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R38A09-mm8c>

Indonesian Translation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPbSj4smLw>

Attendance: 13 People (4 male adults, 4 female adults, 5 youth)



2. Performance, Transmission, Documentation activity: Jungga Humba and Jungga Hau songs

Performers: Jekshon (Marapu community facilitator for Kamanggih district) and Purra Tanya

Audio/visual documentation Purra Tanya and Jekshon collaborating to record 5 songs. After this another solo recording session was held where Jekshon recorded one [song](#) to give health recommendations for the Marapu community to fight Covid-19

Video Link: English Subtitles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JusotChD5BU>

Indonesian Subtitles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9X6NjtAov2o>

Attendance: 10 (4 male adults, 4 female adults, 2 youth)



3.Performance, Transmission, Documentation activity: Jungga Humba songs

Performer: Hina Ranjantaka

Accomplished products: Audio/visual documentation of 3 songs

Attendance:15 people (3 male adults, 5 female adults, 7 youth)



4. Performance, Transmission, Documentation activity: Jungga Hau songs

Performers: Haling (Community facilitator for Mbatakapidu), Jekshon, Yanto, Meylin and Yesti (Haling's daughters)

Output: Audio/visual documentation of 13 songs

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2VfllJybPc>

Attendance: 19 people (6 male adults, 4 female adults, 9 youth)



5.Documentation: Lii Heda Lii Meti (Ritual Royal Marapu funeral)

Performers: Marapu Preists and Ritual Speakers: Umbu Janji

Audio/visual documentation of Marapu royal caste funeral ritual

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHU2asSbS6s&t>

Attendance: Estimate 200+ people. The program implementation team was invited to document this event by the Marapu community entirely on a voluntary basis and Voice funding was not used for this activity so these numbers will not enter into our data, but indirect beneficiaries will result as the videos are disseminated online and distributed as a part of the Marapu intangible culture digital archive



6.Documentation- Lii Lalei Lii Mangoma (Marapu ritual to return a place to safety after an unnatural death; the suicide of our programs Marapu Community Facilitator, Ata Ratu's husband)

Marapu Priests and Ritual Speakers: Umbu Rihi

Audio/visual documentation of Marapu ritual for commoner caste

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdINnA65YC4&t>

Attendance 13 people. The program implementation team was invited to document this event by the Marapu community entirely on a voluntary basis and Voice funding was not used for this activity so these numbers will not enter into our data, but indirect beneficiaries will result as the videos are disseminated online and distributed as a part of the Marapu intangible culture digital archive



7. Performance, Transmission, Documentation activity: Ana Lalu songs (Pre Harvest songs and folktales)

Performer: Rato Manu Mopa (Marapu Priest)

Audio/visual documentation of 4 songs

Attendance: 13 people (5 male adults, 4 female adults, 4 children)



8. Performance , Transmission, Documentation activity: Jungga Hau and Jungga Humba songs

Performers: Ata Ratu, Jekshon, Amsel Lukunapu, Marsyono, Rambu Ndanga, Haingu, Umbu Ferdy, Rambu Kalimba Omang

Audio/visual documentation of 22 songs

Attendance: 15 male adults, 21 female adults, 33 children



9.Documentation-Lii Marapu (a ritual where an entire village converted from Marapu to Christianity)

Performers: 2 Ritual Speakers

Audio/visual documentation of Marapu ritual, recording of Jungga Hau and Gunggi, and interview with Marapu leader

Attendance: Estimate 200+ people. The program implementation team was invited to document this event by the Marapu community entirely on a voluntary basis and Voice funding was not used for this activity so these numbers will not enter into our data, but indirect beneficiaries will result as the videos are disseminated online and distributed as a part of the Marapu intangible culture digital archive



10. Performance, Transmission, Documentation activity: Panggayang (Rice Harvest Songs)

Performers: Hikir Njurumana, Mbatti Ata Roti, Bomba Pihu, Kaita Lepir, Mbara Kilimandu

Audio/visual documentation of 5 corn and rice harvest songs

Attendance: 32 people (8 male adults, 12 adult female adults, 12 youths)



11. Performance, Transmission, Documentation activity: Interview of Purra Tanya

Performers: Purra Tanya

Audio/visual documentation of this history of Sumbanese traditional Marapu music and culture

Attendance: 15 people (4 male adults, 6 female adults, 5 youth)



12. Performance, Transmission, Documentation activity: Interview of Umbu Ruben

Performers: Umbu Ruben

Audio/visual documentation of an interview discussing the history function and cultural context of Marapu traditional music and culture

Attendance: 14 (5 male adults, 5 female adults, 4 youths)



13. Performance, Transmission, Documentation activity: Panggayang (Harvest songs)

Performers: Tay Panga Praing, Wunang Hapu Kauki, Tangu Wori, Banga Oru, Kalara Henjang, Mbomba Daha

Audio/visual documentation of 5 rice harvest songs

Attendance: 19 people (6 male adults, 8 female adults, 5 children)



14. Performance, Transmission, Documentation activity: Interview with Umbu Rato Lewa and documentation of Ludu Parinna (Songs sung while removing the husk from rice grains with the feet)

Performers: Umbu Endal, Umbu Maundima

Audio/visual documentation of Harvest Song Rice stomping dances and an interview about the significance of song to Marapu ritual

Attendance: 16 people (6 male adults, 7 female adults, 3 youth)



15. Performance, Transmission, Documentation activity: Ludu Jungga Humba and Jungga Hau songs

Performers: Hara Kay, Jekshon

Audio/visual documentation of 8 Jungga Humba and Jungga Hau songs

Attendance: 16 People (6 male adults, 4 female adults, 6 youths)



16. Performance, Transmission, Documentation activity: Jungga Humba songs

Performers: Umbu Katauhi Janji (Primary traditional music instrument builder for the program), Jekshon

Audio/visual documentation of 1 Jungga Humba song

Attendance: 13 people (6 male adults, 5 female adults, 2 youths)



17. Performance, Transmission, Documentation activity: Ludu Owa Ana Keida (Lullaby's)

Performers: Rambu Ndunga Djua, Rambu Bangu Kahi

Audio/visual documentation of 2 lullaby's and 4 rice harvesting songs

Attendance: 16 people (6 male adults, 5 female adults, 5 youth)



Key Developments

Changing social and Political Situation

In all three districts the activities of the program have brought about social changes in terms of the cultural vitality of the Marapu community. In Kamanggih a key annual harvest ritual that has not been performed in 5 years was undertaken along with the support of the program. Another Marapu ritual (to secure steady rain for crops) which has not been performed in over 20 years will be undertaken on the 15th on June with the support of the program.

Supporting traditional music instrument builders such as Katauhi Janji from Hangaroru, Haling from Mbatakapidu and Jekson from Kamanggih has allowed us to begin re-introducing instruments such as the Gunggi (a very rare mouth harp) to areas where, according to the data we collected in the Music Vitality and Endangerment Framework survey they had almost entirely disappeared. Simple support measures for basic infrastructure have had both practical outcomes (promoting teacher/student relationships, intergenerational transmission) and have stimulated community cultural pride and creativity. Music that has not been performed in many years is now being practiced and new forms of music (extensions of traditional forms) and ensembles have begun to emerge as a result of collaborations between key cultural figures supported by this program (Ata Ratu/Ester/Jekshon/Haling/Hina/Purra Tanya/Tomas/Hara Kay)

Local schools in all three sub-districts and also in the urban centre (Waingapu) have requested traditional music and performance and workshop activities to be held as soon as Covid-19 restrictions will allow. Jekson and Tomas (both young Marapu musicians supported by the program) have been building capacity in project management under the mentorship of Sumba Integrated Development and will be responsible for the planning and implementation of these activities under our guidance, support and supervision.

At the onset Covid-19 there was little public health information available in the indigenous Kampera language. Almost all government recommendations were issued in the Indonesian language, which in effect marginalised the Marapu community who did not speak Indonesian. Community facilitator Ata Ratu and Jekshon both discussed this and decided to write and

record songs about the Covid-19 situation in Sumba. This ability for traditional Marapu songwriters to respond rapidly to contemporary events and convey important information to East Sumbanese, Indonesian and English speakers was a key moment that illustrated traditional Marapu cultures ability to remain dynamic, relevant to contemporary issues and these songs were a key factor in effectively targeting non-Indonesian Kambera language speakers in East Sumba with health recommendations.

The relevance of these songs was recognised at the District level of government by the The Regent of East Sumba (Bupati) who requested Jekshon to perform this song at three separate events in Waingapu to raise awareness and issue simple health recommendations in the Kambera language. One of Ata Ratu's songs was used as the sound track to a public health video disseminated online in the Kambera language by the Mobile Brigade Corps (Brimob). At the local government level Jekshon was requested by the sub-district of Kamanggih to perform his song in local public health centres (Puskesmas).

Main Challenges on achieving Milestones

The first challenge we encountered was adjusting our scheduling for the agricultural cycle in East Sumba. As our direct beneficiaries are almost all Marapu farmers, during the wet season months of December, January and February the communities in all three sub-districts were busy planting and tending rice, corn and peanut crops. We discussed this issue during the socialisation period in late December and all three communities agreed that beginning performance, transmission and documentation activities should begin in mid February and would include music and ritual linked to the agricultural cycle (i.e Harvest songs and rituals) . Our implementation team would use this period to further analyse the survey data collected during socialisation, gather more qualitative data from Marapu cultural experts to plan and curate upcoming events and to create the core structure of the community curated digital archive of intangible Marapu culture that we would begin documenting late February.

The Covid-19 regulations meant our program activities could not be conducted as initially planned due to the restrictions on large gatherings of people. We came to the conclusion that splitting the performance, transmission and workshop activities into small scale events in order to adhere to the government recommendations was how we could effectively progress in order to fulfill our target outputs.

During March our financial officer Rolinda Rambu Ata resigned and there was an interim period of two weeks before Asty Skolastika took over her position. This transition period was additionally complicated by the Covid-19 pandemic as office hours were initially suspended and then weeks later conducted on a rolling basis. Our technical advisor to the program Joseph Lamont was also forced to self quarantine for 14 days during this same period so we quickly had to adjust to moving our entire work process online during March/April 2020.

Sharing your vision

This program will engage in advocacy from the sub-district level (Desa) through the Service department for Tourism and Culture (Dinas Pariwisata dan Kebudayaan), Service department for Education (Dinas Pendidikan) and up to the district level (Kabupaten) to ensure policies and budgets will be provided to support the protection, preservation and promotion of East Sumba's cultural wealth, the custodians of which are the Marapu community of East Sumba.

The collaborations and new relationships forged during this program between key members of Marapu communities across East Sumba both young and old who are committed to ensuring their traditional culture remains vital and also dynamic will continue to grow and be supported by us beyond the scope of this program. We will continue to work together with the Marapu community to explore new and innovative ways to support to sustain, promote and celebrate Marapu cultural assets.

Rating (1-5)

Grantee Organisation:4

Change happened in beneficiaries level:4

Voice Team:4

Comments:

Engage media and Voice Indonesia both been very helpful throughout the program, both have been responsive and supportive facilitating communication within the Voice Empowerment grantee community and throughout their larger network to amplify the achievements of our program (publishing articles on Jekshon and Ata Ratu's response to Covid-19) and assist us to achieve the objectives of our program despite the restrictions and uncertainty during this challenging time.

