



Vincentian Solidarity Office

May 2023 Bulletin

Building Solidarity for Early Education in Papua New Guinea

The country of Papua New Guinea, an island nation in Oceania, does not provide pre-school education to its children. In 2015 the poor communities of St. John's Parish in the western part of the country decided to take on the responsibility themselves. The parish, under the care of Vincentian Missionaries from the province of Indonesia, established the Yenkenal kindergarten – a provisional kindergarten program for children ages 4 to 6 in the Yenkenai, Matkomnai, and Dande villages.

The program successfully prepared students to enter primary school and also helped instill Catholic values. After successfully running the program for four years, community members sought to have a better building in which to conduct classes. A safer and more spacious environment that would allow them to

accommodate even more children.

With the help of the VSO, they were able to construct a new building consisting of two classrooms and two teacher's offices. They also put in a 5000 gallon water tank for the school.

On March 27, 2023, an opening ceremony and blessing was held and attended by the children, parents, community members and four resident Vincentian Fathers. The new building allows them to grow the program and reach more children. The building will also be made available to the Parish community for training and meeting use.



Pictured right: finished building and water tank.

Below: Opening ceremony



Fr. Joel's Solidarity Notes

Scalability of Solidarity

From the perspective of solidarity-building, aiming for 'economies of scale' is not a far-fetched idea.

Consider setting key 'solidarity milestones', minding the gaps, connecting the missing links, and there will be no other way but forward.

Developmental Pathways:

building on Subsidiarity towards Sustainability

Project Development

- from 'Pastoral' Projects to 'Social' Programs to 'Development' Processes
- from need-driven services to problem-based responses to Social Justice agendas
- from Social Welfare to Social Transformation

Development Framework

- from humanitarian approach to self-help promotion to integral development framework
- from 'micro-projects' to 'catalyst projects' to 'systemic change' (systemic scale of impact)
- from Grassroots initiatives to Sustainable Development Goals

Donor Relations

- from donor subsidy to grant management to funding partnership
- from internal funds distribution to Church-based donors to mainstream donor Market
- from Grant provision to

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Our goal: To assist the Congregation of the Mission with mobilizing resources for its evangelization and service of the poor.

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Vincentian Solidarity Office

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Sowing the Seed of Resilience in Honduras

The Virgen de Suyapa Agricultural School in Laguna de Tembladeras, San Pedro Sula, Honduras, is a mission of St. Vincent de Paul Province in Spain. The secondary school is attended by both boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 23. They are the children of farmers and come from agricultural areas near the school.

At this school, practical lessons link students' education to the community. In one such project students are taught how to process vegetable seeds to germination and then sell the seedlings to the community. The seedling sales have become very popular with the community.

There is heavy demand. So, a VSO project helped with the construction of a new building to process, house and sell the seedlings.

The Agricultural School germinates seeds for parsley, celery, beet, bell peppers, carrot, cabbage and onion. The proceeds from the sale of plants help with school's operating costs. The new building improves the conditions, quality and process of growing plants.

Not only are students receiving excellent hands-on lessons in this project, but the community's growing need for plants is being met and ultimately helps to increase their food security.



Pictured top: planting seeds.

Below: seedlings ready for sale



First taste of the fresh water

Harnessing Communal Right to Clean Water in Haiti

Access to clean water for drinking is one of the most basic needs of human life. The people of St. Ann Parish in Cornillon, Ca-Eli, Thomazeau, Haiti did not have plentiful drinking water close by. They must walk for several kilometers to collect it and then carry it back. There is no infrastructure in this part of Haiti. They are far

from the city. The people of the parish all agreed that they could help with the work necessary to complete a well. Some outside help was needed to complete it though. The local Vincentians asked for help from the VSO to purchase the pump and the rest of the equipment. The walk for water is much shorter now.



Work on the well begins

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Development Cooperation

VSO Intermediary roles and services

- from grant-access by facilitating links
- to technical support through mentoring services
- to self-reliance with enabling processes

The VSO is grateful to the donors and agencies that make our work possible, including:

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