



2019 Trip to Indonesia

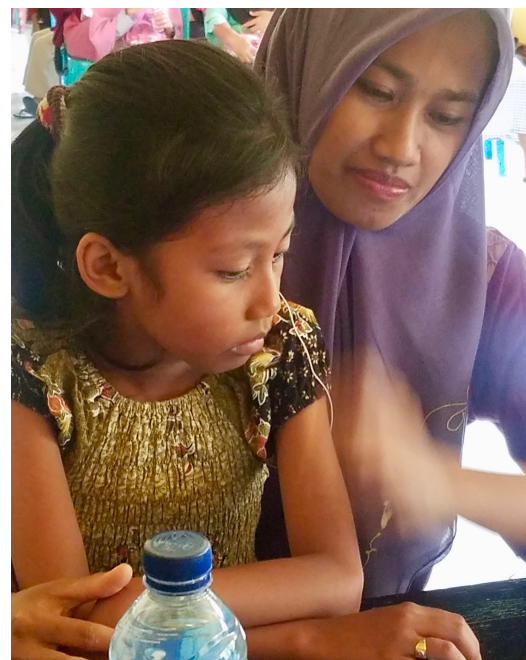
GNE went to Indonesia in April 2019 with high expectations – all of which were exceeded. The invitation to collaborate with the Indonesian government's project "No More Stunting" has become a reality. Vitamin Angels supplies the micronutrient supplements for 20,000 women. GNE provides the nutrition education. The Banggai Regency Public Health department is organizing and delivering the program. Collaboration, leverage, local, effective – this is what GNE has been working to achieve!

Five GNE team members delivered 25 digital tablets loaded with GNE "Nutrition in Pregnancy" and "General Nutrition" apps, translated into 2 Indonesian dialects and English. The translations and recordings had been done in Luwuk and then incorporated into the apps in Oregon. Everyone on the team was delighted with the collaboration and final product. Thank you to the Hurley girls for sewing the beautiful and unique GNE gift bags used to present the tablets.

Officials and researchers from Hasanuddin University held a kick-off meeting in Luwuk, Indonesia. All community health volunteers and Public Health workers in the study area were assembled, GNE's Miao Zhao demonstrated the tablets and troubleshooting tactics. Two teams then travelled to all 20 villages in the study area over 5 days. Some villages were in remote mountain regions, others were small fishing villages. We were impressed that community health volunteers were comfortable with the tablets and local women were keen to participate. The GNE team was treated to feasts of proudly prepared local foods – knowledge for future app editions!

Week 2 we returned to Lombok to continue our work with the JKF Foundation in the village of Ungge. They had several new activities – a pen pal program with partners in Nepal, gardening projects, improved water treatment, and of course nutrition. A play written and produced by the children was delightful.

Following completion of the GNE trip, some team members took time to scuba dive and view the world's greatest variety of coral off the northern tip of Sulawesi. Neil Forsberg and Marie Long will be returning to Luwuk in early August to give talks at a conference on the progress of the program.



2019 Trip to the Philippines

GNE traveled to the Philippines in March, 2019, for 2 weeks. We took 200 bottles of prenatal supplements and 11 digital tablets loaded with the GNE nutrition apps in English, Tagalog and Tawali. We returned with suitcases that were now full of memories.

The first week was spent in the provinces of Leyte and Biliran. We were hosted by Pastors Nick and Bryan of the NGO Local Community Outreach. We were joined by a young Indonesian woman, Cindy Natasha, who had found the GNE website and expressed an interest in science education and animation. The pastors organized 4 clinics in coastal communities attended by Barangay health workers, local women and families. We shared the apps and distributed the supplements to women of child-bearing age. They were delighted.

The second week was spent up in the mountains of Luzon in the Hungduan District of Ifugao Province. We were hosted by Dr. Julie Ann Dulawan, the Municipal Health Officer, a young physician doing 3 years of community service. She set up 3 clinics in rural villages that were up to a 3 hour walk from the nearest road. We shared our wares with another 150+ women.

One day we also met with the Provincial Health Officer of Ifugao who invited us to send a proposal for a province-wide nutrition education project.

Both of our hosts had received grants of micronutrient supplements from Vitamin Angels with our help. Both were very receptive and appreciative of GNE programs. Both struggle with how to scale up our project. We look forward to finding ways to advance our work in the Philippines and hope to find a new partner in the Ifugao Department of Health.

