

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

MALAYSIA: NEW WORSHIP FACILITY SERVES DISPLACED PEOPLE

RECENTLY RELOCATED MINORITY PEOPLE GROUP BENEFIT FROM A FURNISHED NEW CHURCH



When 600 Christians were relocated to make way for a new dam, the authorities constructed All Saints' Church to serve them in Kuching Diocese of Malaysia. The church was built, but funds were not provided to furnish it. This project provided the furnishings and a paved surface around the church.

COMPLETED PROJECT

Less than 10 percent of the Malaysian population identifies as Christian, and two thirds of the Christians live in East Malaysia. Churches are allowed in Malaysia, but there are some restrictions on the construction of new churches, and proselytization of non-Christians is illegal. There are ongoing disputes regarding Christians' use of the word Allah.

The strength of Islam in Malaysia has been threatening to some Christians, including the more than 600 Christians who were relocated and resettled in the Diocese of Kuching to pave way for the construction of a dam along the Upper Sarawak River. A part of the Bengoh Dam resettlement plan included the construction of All Saints' Church, which was built to serve four villages (Semban Teleg, Rejai, Taba Sait, and Pain Bojong). The church was built, but it lacked pews, a pulpit, and concrete paving.

To encourage the villagers to continue worshipping and gathering as a community, the Anglican Diocese of Kuching finished this project with a grant from the Anglican Relief and Development Fund. It installed pews, furnished the church, and paved the area around the facility.

The project was expected to impact 450 people, but far exceeded that by reaching 2,335 and coming in far under budget. The cost per beneficiary was expected to be \$163.38, but came in at \$19.91 due to a larger group of beneficiaries than expected, as well as lower costs. This project earned a rating of "Exceeding" expectations.

TRACK RECORD

The Diocese of Kuching, which oversees All Saints' Church, had not previously undertaken a similar project. However, the diocese has a civil engineer on its board who ensured that the project was completed as planned.

PROJECT PROFILE ID: ARDF-0616-Kuching

Lead Ministry

DIOCESE OF KUCHING-MALAYSIA

Requested amount	\$73,517
Amount spent	\$46,495
Expected cost per beneficiary	\$163.38
Actual cost per beneficiary	\$19.91
Location	Malaysia
Sector	Marginalized Believers
Evaluation date	July 2018
Researcher	Frederick Barasa

PROJECT PERFORMANCE

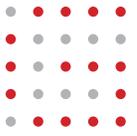
BELOW

ACHIEVED

EXCEEDED

DEFINITION OF RESULTS

Exceeded	Implementer exceeded goal by more than 20%
Achieved	Implementer solidly achieved the goal +/- 20%
Below	Implementer partially achieved the goal
Not achieved	Goal was 100% not achieved



ASSESSMENT & RECOMMENDATION

Providing Christians a place to worship is an effective way to help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The church plays a central role in the lives of the people of Kuching, who have long been Christians. With the growth of Islam in Sarawak, it is critical that villages receive spiritual nourishment and support from the church. In this case, the church was built, but it could not effectively be used because it lacked proper finishes.

With financial support from Anglican Relief and Development Fund, Diocese of Kuching was able to furnish the church building and vicarage. This included the purchase of pews, a pulpit, rostrum, church bell, and a communion chalice and paten. The grant also covered the construction of a church tower and the paving project.

As a result, 2,250 villagers grew in their faith as they were able to regularly attend church services, as evidenced by the number of new baptisms and church attendance records. Another 85 members recommitted their lives to Jesus, as evidenced by their confirmation in the church.

The church has become the focal point for Christians whose numbers continue to grow. There is also evidence of social and spiritual well-being leading to unity in the community. The church now attracts more people, especially young people, and it hosts prayer groups, weddings, and community development trainings.

The church and vicarage are well-maintained by church members. Using tithes and other offerings, the church is paying its utility and cleaning bills, as well as the wages of the ground crew and church warden. During construction, some people provided labor free, which helped the project to come in under budget.

All Saints' Church provided regular updates on construction progress, detailed budgets, and photographs.

Highlights of this project include:

Program design. This project was completed below budget. The implementer was diligent in the use of funds, leading to a savings of \$27,022. It also helped that members of the community contributed their labor. As a result, All Saints' Church had a surplus of funds. Leaders asked ARDF for permission to use the remaining funds for work on the vicarage. That permission was granted.

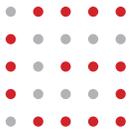
Recommendation

In the face of the growth of Islam, this church gives people the chance to grow in their Christian faith. This type of project offers the diocese a great opportunity for discipleship and evangelism. The GRID recommends ARDF consider funding similar initiatives that promote the growth of Christianity in Malaysia and the greater Asian region.

ANTICIPATED	ACTUAL	EXPECTATIONS/COMMENTS
<p>400 VILLAGERS will grow in their faith as they attend church services regularly, as evidenced by the priest's annual report to the bishop</p>	<p>2,250</p>	<p>[++] EXCEEDED A total of 2,250 people, including children, engaged with the Scriptures as part of this project. More people attended church services and participated in church-related activities, such as small group Bible studies. The newly completed church building continues to attract new members. Also, the church now operates as the administrative and mission center for the surrounding nine villages.</p>
<p>50 VILLAGERS will grow in their understanding of the Scriptures as they begin attending church, as evidenced by the priest's report of attendance</p>	<p>85</p>	<p>[++] EXCEEDED A total of 85 members were confirmed in the Anglican Church by the bishop.</p>



The rich wood pews in use at All Saints' Church in Malaysia were part of the project funded by the Anglican Relief and Development Fund.



THE GRID

PARTNERS FOR IMPACT WORLDWIDE

FINANCE REPORT

BUDGET ITEM	BUDGETED FUNDS	ACTUAL FUNDS SPENT
Concrete paving	\$30,000	\$16,869
28 pews	\$21,420	\$12,829
Bell and tower	\$9,523	\$5,498
Research and evaluation	\$9,589	\$9,589
Chalice and paten	\$1,795	\$534
Pulpit and dais	\$1,190	\$1,176
TOTAL	\$73,517	\$46,495

NOTES:

- This project came in \$27,022 below budget. Church members' contribution of labor helped contribute to the savings.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"When the contractor built the church, it was never handed over to us, nor could we use it because it was an empty shell and needed to be furnished before it could be used. With support from ARDF, our church has become the focal point for our Christian community, whose numbers continue to grow. This church has become a significant feature in our community ... We now witness new baptisms, confirmations, and new church members. We are now a vibrant community that continues to witness social and spiritual growth of our people. Because of this church, our future in Sarawak is assured because we have a place to worship and minister to the community."

—Janos Ak Nyirim, school teacher and treasurer of the Parochial Church Council, All Saints Anglican Church Borneo

PROJECT RECAP

ID - ARDF-0616
Kuching

Timeline - 12 months

Requested - \$73,517

Modified - 071718

For information about the Fund or Projects, write to:
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The Anglican Relief and Development Fund®



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PARTNERS FOR IMPACT WORLDWIDE

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