



Australian Government



Enhancing Learning among Seafaring Children through the Boat Class **Kelas Perahu** in Pangkep District, South Sulawesi



KOMPAK
Kolaborasi Masyarakat dan Pelayanan untuk Kesejahteraan
Kemitraan Pemerintah Australia - Indonesia

Enhancing Learning among Seafaring Children through the Boat Class **Kelas Perahu** in Pangkep District, South Sulawesi

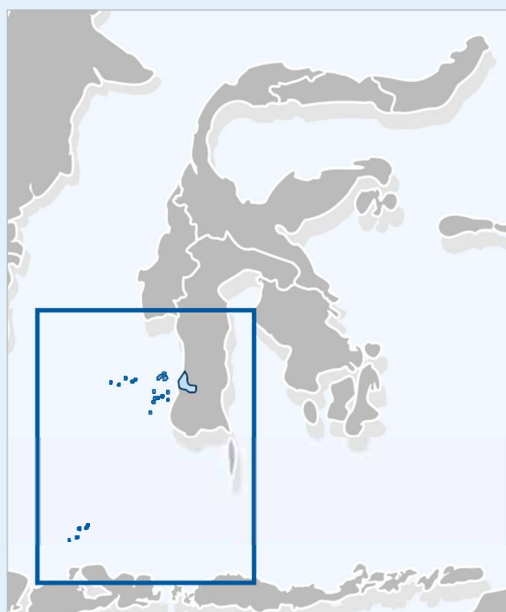
Situation & Context

Pangkajene Kepulauan (Pangkep) is a district situated on the southwest coast of South Sulawesi province that is comprised of **115 islands**. While most of Pangkep's population reside on the mainland, approximately **65,260¹ people** (or **18.9 percent** of the total population) are living dispersed in **115 islands**. *They are mostly seafaring communities who rely on fishing for their livelihood.*

Extending basic services to these communities is extremely challenging due to the geographic spread, topography and weather, as well as the availability of facilities and human resources to serve them. The furthest inhabited island is Kapoposang Bali, which is 594 km from the mainland and actually closer to West Nusa Tenggara province than South Sulawesi.

At the same time, these island communities are often confronted with the dilemma of choosing between pursuing their children's education or their family's economic needs. In Pangkep, the drop-out rate among schoolchildren tends to be relatively high: **35.7 percent of school-aged boys** and **27.8 percent of school-aged girls** drop out of school, because they *choose to work and help their parents*². Children in fishing communities, such as on Kecamatan Liukang Tuppabiring Utara, often have to leave school for extended periods of time in order to go out to sea with their parents. This causes them to fall behind, become reluctant to return to school, and eventually drop out.

High rates of drop-out further exacerbates the cycle of poverty in Pangkep district. Based on 2018 data, an estimated **15.1 percent of the population are poor**³. Achieving universal basic education and zero poverty in this context requires breakthrough efforts that enable children to continue their learning while sea and complete their basic education.



¹ BPS, 2020

² Susenas, 2017

³ The SMERU Research Institute, 2021



POPULATION



65.260 people

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115 island

EDUCATION



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Situation & Context

In response to these education challenges for seafaring communities in Pangkep, KOMPAK has been supporting the district government to implement an innovative program called the Boat Class. The Education Office of Pangkep District Government initiated the Boat Class with the aim to improve access to education for schoolchildren in fishing communities living on the islands, specifically in Kecamatan Liukang Tuppabiring Utara. Through this program, teachers provide seafaring students with additional support sessions and worksheets before they go to sea, so they can continue learning independently and keep up with schoolwork. This increases the likelihood of the students to complete their grade and progress to the next level. This reduces the risk of these students falling behind and dropping out.

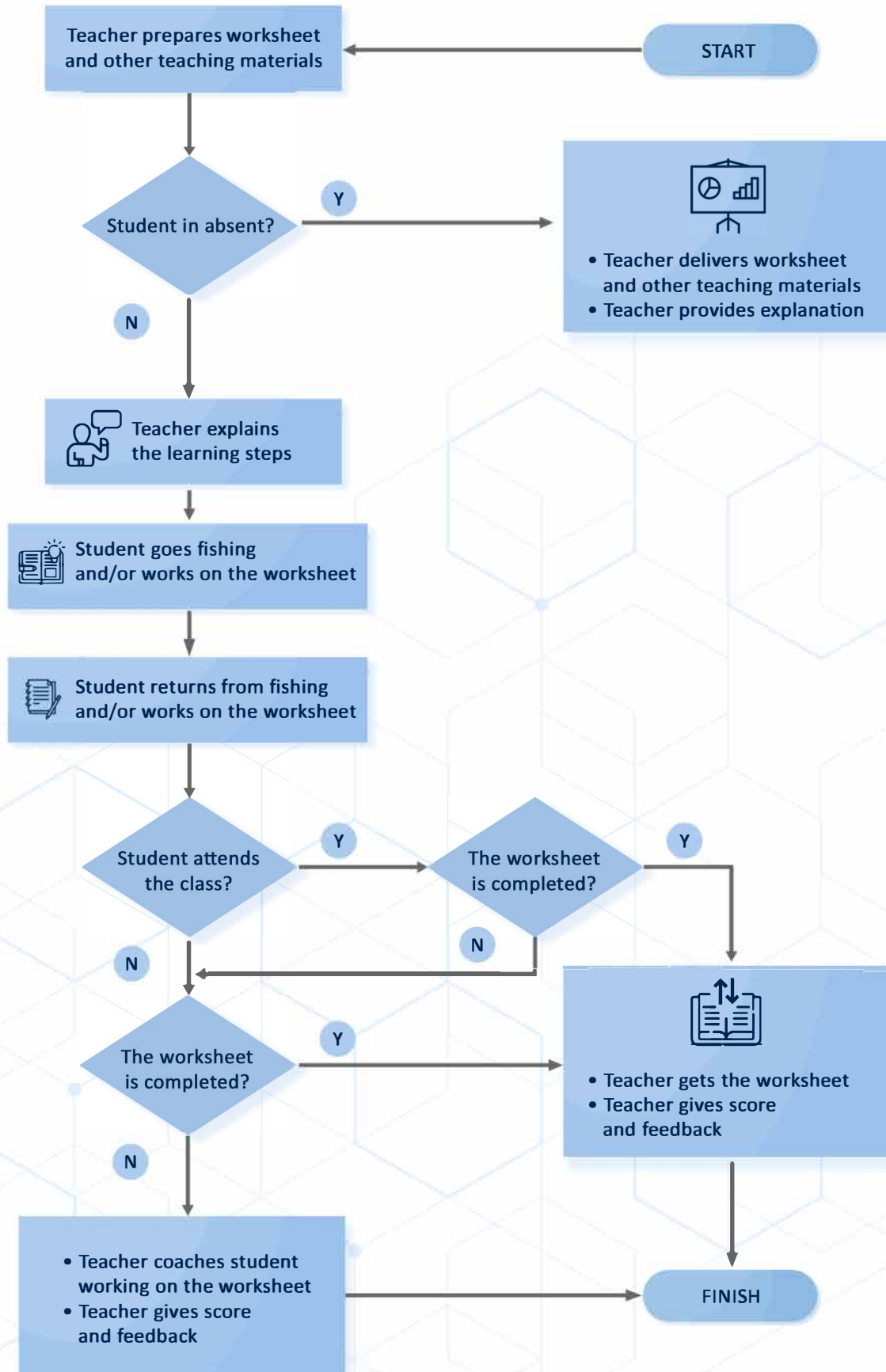
KOMPAK started assisting the district government with the Boat Class program in 2017, building on the earlier support from the Consulate General in Makassar through the Direct Aid Project (DAP) in 2016. The DAP funding facilitated by IKAMA (Australian Alumni Association), supported training of teachers on how to develop worksheets for seafaring students. KOMPAK's engagement was aimed to expand the Boat School prototype into a full-fledged pilot that the district government could implement with their own resources and within their own system. KOMPAK provided technical assistance to develop the supporting regulations, teacher capacities, standard operating procedures, financing and incentive mechanisms.

For example, KOMPAK assisted the district government to issue a Bupati decree in 2019 that forms the legal basis to secure budget for the Boat Class program. Since then the District Education Office has allocated budget for the program, and the amount reached 250 million rupiah in 2020. The budget is used for teacher training and technical guidance, as well as incentives for teachers who give assistance for seafaring students. KOMPAK also partnered with INOVASI to develop worksheet guidelines and remote learning materials that are contextualized based on local wisdom, which is more familiar and interesting for the students. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the provision of worksheets to seafaring students continued, and the Boat Class approach became more relevant to support distance learning in these communities with limited internet access.



How the BOAT CLASS works

Flowchart on assistance from teachers to seafaring students:



Y YES N NO

Progress and Result

After five years implementing the Boat Class, the number of drop-outs in Pangkep district has decreased **from 2.25% in 2016/2017 to less than 1% in 2020.**

Changes in number of seafaring students and drop-outs during the period of Boat Class implementation (2016 – 2020)*

No.	SCHOOL LEVEL	2016-2017			2017-2018			2018-2019			2019-2020		
		No of Student	Seafaring Student	Dropout Student	No of Student	Seafaring Student	Dropout Student	No of Student	Seafaring Student	Dropout Student	No of Student	Seafaring Student	Dropout Student
1.	SD	1682	93	29	1665	102	12	1690	31	10	1678	29	7
2.	SMP	621	86	23	634	75	15	694	15	11	652	14	9
TOTAL		2303	179	52	2295	179	27	2384	46	21	2330	33	16

The added value and benefits of the Boat Class innovation can be seen from the data above. Since 2016 it was started in 2016 until 2020, there have been good changes. Dropout (DO) rate for seafaring students in Kecamatan Liukang Tupabbiring Utara decreased from 2.25% in 2016-2017 to less than 1% in 2020.

*Documentation on Governance Strategy to Manage Out-of-School Children in four KOMPAK intervention areas, 2020

The longer-term goal of the Boat Class program is to keep children in school and prevent them from going to sea. Based on data from the 2016/17 and 2017/18 school year, the program has managed to keep **7.7% and 7.8% of seafaring students from dropping out of school.** The Boat Class has **also succeeded in shifting behaviour of parents and students, whereby the proportion of primary and junior high school students who go to sea during school hours was reduced by 1.8–1.9%.**

KOMPAK is still providing some support to the local government on the Boat Class with specific aim to secure the local government budget and human resource capacities to continue the program sustainably after KOMPAK ends in June 2022.



TESTIMONY

“

The Boat Class innovation reflects the commitment of the Pangkep District Government to improve public services for education. Through this innovation, we can achieve 12-years compulsory education and increase the school participation rate. This innovation has impacted on the Human Development Index in Pangkep district through the reduction of drop-out rates, particularly in the island region, and the increase in retention rates at all levels of education.

Head of Pangkep District, H. H Muhammad Yusran Lalogau, S.Pi., M.Si.

”

“

Praise be to God that with the education services provided through the Boat Class, I am no longer behind in my schoolwork and my grades are not bad, anymore. I hope that the education services of the Boat Class can help more of my friends who fall behind in their learning because – like me - they have to help their parents.

NURAZIZAH -10 Thn, Siswa SD Negeri 23 Pulau Sakuala

”

“

I strongly support the boat class. The problem previously was that it was better to keep my child out of school, as there was no time for him to go to school. The Boat Class is proof of the government's seriousness to improve the lives of poor people in the island communities of Pangkep district.

Antok, one of the parents

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“

I'm glad there's Boat Class, as I can still help my parents while studying. I usually set the crab traps first, and then I start to study, before going back later to check the traps.

Yusuf, 13 years old, one of students and beneficiaries

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“

Since there's Boat Class, I hope I can continue on to secondary school. I want to continue my schooling up to university.

Riska, 13 years old, one of students and beneficiaries

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Background on KOMPAK in South Sulawesi (taken from inputs to DFAT briefing for HOM): KOMPAK in South Sulawesi is currently transitioning activities into government to ensure their sustainability beyond the program's anticipated close in June 2022. KOMPAK's portfolio in this province encompasses technical assistance and pilots to improve basic services (health, education, and legal identity) and economic local development in poor rural communities in Pangkajene and Kepulauan (Pangkep) and Bantaeng districts. These two districts represent areas with high poverty and different development challenges, particularly Pangkep as a poor district comprised of more than 50 islands and Bantaeng as a district with high growth potential, yet high poverty. KOMPAK's support has led to innovations in extending health and education services to island communities (Pangkep), strengthening village data and services to boost legal identity coverage (Bantaeng), as well as increasing productivity of micro and small enterprises engaged in coffee and seaweed production (Bantaeng). It is worthy to note that the KOMPAK-supported Boat Class model in Pangkep, which enables seafaring children to learn independently while at sea, won one of the TOP45 Public Service Innovation Award at the 2021 National Public Service Innovation Competition (SINOVIK) commissioned by KemenPAN-RB.