Between the Indian and Pacific Oceans is the archipelago island nation of Indonesia – acclaimed for pristine resort beaches and lush green tropical forested volcanic mountains that produce robust coffee beans. Indonesia is not only an island between two oceans, it is separated by extremes of natural beauty and other areas where refuse is cast aside by islanders who unintentionally pollute water supplies when doing so.

Families are in a constant state of pursuit – for work, water and assistance to change their conditions. Work that was once nearby has been replaced with makeshift jobs in distant locations for adults, and the children are becoming ill from waterborne diseases that are invading well water that drink without boiling in school. Their outlook is surprisingly positive given the radical changes produced by unforgiving shaking ground and rubble that lines the streets as far as the eye can see.

Water is collected by adults and children alike who walk 5-6 kilometers daily, and what they collect is from rivers since most wells were damaged from the earthquake. Rainwater is trapped during rainy season by those without well access. Whatever their source of water, it is untreated and contaminated by either the environment or storage containers that are unclean or used for multiple purposes without proper washing and sanitization between uses.

The Lombok education system is challenged with teachers in rural community schools who lack the knowledge and resources to provide health and hygiene education to students. The result is an endless cycle of generations who throw garbage into rivers, live in dirty environments and use unsanitary bathrooms. Education is the cornerstone if the tide is to turn in Indonesia and the Lombok area.
Sekolah Dasar Negeri 6 Pemenang Barat

Starbucks Foundation provides clean, safe drinking water access in earthquake ravaged Lombok school

“Our people in the hamlet of Kerujuk have a very difficult time getting clean water. Since the wells were damaged by the earthquake last year (2018), all have used river water to meet their daily needs. The situation of us who live in temporary residential homes often experience illnesses related to dirty water such as diarrhea and skin disease. Our residents survive this situation despite no access to clean water, but it is a very difficult life.”
Mr. Sahman, Kerujuk Hamlet Chief
Filtering river water source after 2018 earthquake devastation will speed recovery efforts for local school and community

Sekolah Dasar Negeri 6 Pemenang Barat junior elementary school is located in Kerujuk Hamlet of the North Lombok Regency, Indonesia. The rural hamlet counts 600 families who draw their income from laboring in farm fields, as ranchers, performing construction work and selling vegetables in mobile carts.

The water source at the school comes from a river after the well at the school was covered with rocks and damaged as a result of the August 2018 earthquake. Even today, the school is in the process of repairing the well, but the task will take some time under difficult conditions. Likewise, with the people in the hamlet of Kerujuk, they have utilized the existing river water for all their daily needs such as; drinking, bathing, washing vegetables, and toilet facilities. Schools and local communities do not have access to clean water. Therefore, they use unsanitary water devices and systems to move water from rivers to the schools.

The schools and the Kerujuk hamlet community do not have access to clean, healthy and safe drinking water. Some residents buy refill water and some use existing well water. For the drinking water needs of students, some bring water from home and some ask for drinking water from homes of residents around the school.
Planet Water Foundation is a U.S.-based non-profit that develops strategic partnerships that support Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts that align with four of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Quality Education; Gender Equality; Reduced Inequalities; and Clean Water and Sanitation. Project 24 programs and initiatives support these four SDGs with longitudinal support in each community for five years.

Since 2015, Project 24 is Planet Water Foundation’s World Water Day advocacy and engagement platform that focuses on the world’s critical need to bring an end to water poverty.

“At school we don’t have healthy, clean and safe water to drink. As a fourth-grade teacher, I often find students returning early because of stomach problems, like diarrhea, caused by the water they consume. Also, our students have very little knowledge about health education and hygiene. Automatically with such conditions will have an impact on the education process at school.”

Mr. Suadi S.Pd
“We do not have access to clean water. The source of water that is used every day is water from rivers. Bathing, washing and for our daily needs all use river water. For drinking and cooking needs, we have to wait in the afternoon to get clear water, because in the morning until noon, the river water is turbid with a yellow color. My deep hope is that we can get clean and safe water assistance for the needs of our residents. Because, since the earthquake struck our village, it was very minimal and very difficult to get access to clean water.”

Mr. M, Fauzi, Village Chief