

Mums & Bubs

The first critical year

October Update

 **Compassion**
Releasing children from poverty
in Jesus' name

tearfund
New Zealand



God is at work through you
in Indonesia!

📷 Baby Gavin laughs with mum Delphi at the project.
Photo: Helen Manson

We have some exciting news—just as the babies involved in our Mums & Bubs project are growing, so are we!

Thanks to the outpouring of support from incredible people all over Aotearoa, we've been able to expand the Mums & Bubs project to three NEW locations. Truly, this wouldn't be possible without your faithful support each month, and we can't wait to show it to you in action.

A few of us Kiwis from Tearfund had the privilege of visiting one of our projects in Indonesia earlier in August and the experience was truly life-changing. What your support is doing for children and their parents is honestly remarkable and we left in awe of the strength of the mothers and the dedication of the project staff we met along the way.

We wish we could have brought every one of you along for the journey, but for now, we hope you'll find a quiet moment to sit in your comfiest chair with a cuppa and read about what God is doing in the lives of mums and bubs in Indonesia, thanks to you!

With love,
The Mums and Bubs Team

Thanks to the outpouring of support from incredible people all over Aotearoa, we've been able to expand the Mums & Bubs project to three NEW locations.



Get to know the new project in Denpasar

Because of your generosity, we've been able to extend Mums & Bubs into Denpasar—the capital city on the island of Bali. While Bali is known for its dazzling beaches and luxury clifftop hotels, life can be hard for many new mums and their babies who live there.

Meet the mums

The mums involved in the project are mostly migrants from other areas of Indonesia who came to Denpasar looking for work and a better life. They are typically stay-at-home mums while their husbands work in low-paying jobs in delivery, hospitality or the junkyard earning income from what tourist resorts throw away.

Together, the families mostly live in boarding houses where they rent a one-room space where they sleep, eat and care for their baby and any other children while sharing a combined kitchen and bathroom space with up to 12 other families. Most mums in the project have no clean running water in their home. Thankfully, because of your support, the project can supply clean drinking water.



📷 Baby Karen is carefully measured with mum Eleanor close by.
Photo: Helen Manson

Your support creates a circle of protection

Your support provides each mum in the project with:



**Essential supplies
to care for
themselves and
their babies.**



**Pre-natal and
postnatal holistic
care and wellbeing
checks.**



**Much-needed
social connection
and mental health
support.**



*A message from the Programme Director,
Dominguez*

“As migrants, the mums are often scared when navigating the health system. So, our project staff will often advocate for and stand up for them... I am certain that lives have been saved [through the project], especially from preventable diseases.

“While this makes me so proud, my true passion is not just to see babies survive, but to see their whole family healthy and thriving—because I grew up in this community, in this church and my life’s mission is to release children from poverty in this area.”

God's love in action

Kelly Burgess is one of the faces behind the Mums & Bubs project and recently travelled to Bali to visit the new project in Denpasar, Indonesia.

On the first day of our visit, we were welcomed into the homes of three mums and their little ones. It was both beautiful and sobering. All the mums we visited in this bustling urban area live in cramped boarding houses with no running water and shared facilities. However, the project supplies new mattresses, baby baths and essential baby items to each mum, and it was good to see these donations in person.

The following morning, we joined 15 mums and their babies at the project for a group learning activity. There were laughs and hilarious translations backwards and forwards, but we all connected. I expected to hear gratitude for the medical care, food parcels, and well-being checks, of which there was plenty, but what the mums said they benefitted most from was the togetherness.

The social connection offered through the project is a lifeline for these new mums and their children in this community. It reminded me of the first time I visited a playgroup with my own newborn. That space was such a source of comfort as we empathised with one another over the lack of sleep and the uncertainties of this new life. I could sense this feeling of belonging and comfort was exactly what these mums were experiencing too.

As we wrapped up our day, it washed over me what a privilege it was to have spent time with this incredible group— to hold their precious babies in my arms, to pray, laugh, and cry with them. We truly got to see for ourselves what one new mum named Debbie had put into words saying, *"There is so much fullness in my life now that wasn't there before."*

The women we met were aware that New Zealanders were supporting them, with one mum telling me, *"I'm so thankful for the families in New Zealand who support us. Please tell them that without them we wouldn't be here [together in the project space]. Please keep praying for us, I'm so grateful!"*

And we are also grateful for you and for your support in making this project a reality.



📷 Kelly with mum Yuliana and five-month-old baby Patricia. Indonesia



📷 Debbie and Alona (far left) join in worship with other mums and their babies. Indonesia

How your support is making a difference



Kupang 2022

A child specialist visits baby Matica to discuss her health and growth with her family after her birth. On this home visit, baby and her mum are doing well.



Kupang 2022

Child specialists carefully monitor the growth of babies in the Mums and Bubs programme each month. We also educate new parents about the importance of attending all their checkups and advocate for them in the health system.



North Maluku 2022

It's medical checkup day for our survival beneficiaries. Doctor Fendy examines Baby Regan, who is accompanied by his grandmother.

A Child Specialist visits baby Trifesia at home in September. Today they talked about the importance of building a bond between mum and baby and other members of the family as well. They close their time in prayer.



North Maluku 2022



North Maluku 2022

At this group activity, a Child Specialist educates mums about the stages of language development from birth to 36 months and strategies to help.

Send some love!

If you have a word of encouragement to share with the mums, feel free to email us at: info@tearfund.org.nz and we'll pass it along.