

**CAHAYA**  
**SOCIETY**  
EDUCATION FOR ALL

2023 Impact and Advocacy Report

**Education for  
All**



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# EDITOR NOTE

Cahaya Society or *Pertubuhan Pendidikan Anak Cahaya Sabah* is a civil society organization that operates alternative education advocacy, community empowerment and social analysis in Sabah, Malaysia.

Four (4) years before it was established- around 2015- Cahaya Society activists began to be called to respond to this issue when it was not the government's attention. Analysis and community mobilization began to be mobilized in villages on water and slums.

2019, we take responsibility to operate the Cahaya Community Center as a safe space for the Alternative Education Program for stateless children, community socioeconomic support and a volunteer & activist activity center. In addition, we fully support the operation of four Alternative Learning Centers developed by the community in Sandakan, Sabah.

Our activism has evolved to include the socioeconomic, health, and psychological spheres, field research, and community event management, as well as the production of long-term educational modules.

Cahaya Society will turn five years old in 2024. The fight continues, as do the demands. This 2024 Impact Report will present our Advocacy Plan until 2024.

Thank you Malaysians, fellow warriors, advocates, civil society organisations, and people who have always stood for us. The battle must continue!

**Editor Team,  
2023 Impact Report**



# STATELESSNESS IN SABAH

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Statelessness in Sabah is a ticking time bomb. The cynical narrative is that this issue is like dirty sewage that stagnates and no one wants to get their hands dirty to wash and sanitize it. Are we going to bear the number of communities without a country that is increasing every day without a concrete formula from all parties, especially the ruling team that decides the policy for the country?

Citizenship is a basic human right guaranteed in Article 15, Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Even so, Sabah is a region that records a high number of statelessness (no citizens) in the country. More than 23% of Sabah's population (according to the 2020 census statistics), which is more than 3 million, are non-citizens, including stateless communities.

This is a significant issue that requires careful consideration. We are on the verge of an inflow of individuals who do not have access to basic education, health care, legal settlements, or communities that are subject to security concerns. Are you prepared to witness young children being exposed to crime and labour at an early age as a result of neglect and a lack of education? Will we be in a frenzy when infectious diseases start spreading among stateless communities because they did not get protective vaccines earlier? Are we ready to see cases of abuse, harassment and sexual harassment including manipulation from interest groups on stateless communities leading to the contamination of the sovereignty of this sovereign territory?





# STATELESSNESS IN SABAH

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Therefore, we need vigorous advocacy to be mobilized from the bottom up. The government should kneel its ego and join hands with civil society organizations that are committed to solving this issue from the root.

Cahaya Society is consistent with its stance that in addition to responding to this issue from a civil and humanitarian lens, it demands the political will by the government to enact existing policies in order to maintain this no longer hidden genocide and oppression.

We must believe that this country need a sense of unity that does not leave anyone behind. Kudos to the government's ongoing efforts, as well as the activists who never stop speaking out in defence of this battle.

Long live!

**Regards,  
Committee  
Cahaya Society**





Pendidikan Anak Cahaya Sabah

# CAHAYA SOCIETY

EDUCATION FOR ALL | PENDIDIKAN UNTUK SEMUA

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# IMPACT & ADVOCACY



KAMI  
PENGALIHAN  
CAHAYA



# Alternative Education Programme

Since 2019, the Cahaya Learning Centre (CLC) has been developed to be a safe space for stateless and undocumented children for the purpose of educational programs. This includes learning and discussion related to film, art, philosophy, and book appreciation.

## ACHIEVEMENT

We have succeeded in minimizing the illiteracy rate, which means that 10 students have passed the basic literacy and numeracy level through the 2023 alternative education program.



## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

### Cahaya Learning Centre

> Alumni consisting of 6 children of Cahaya Alumni Club are now serving as community teachers.

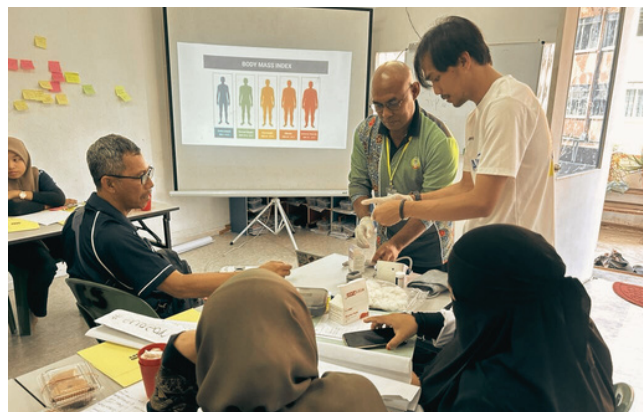
> The Cahaya Alumni Club under the Cahaya Society takes on the task of program management, teaching & learning and is actively involved in Capacity & Skills Development Workshops.

> *Projek Iskul* (School Project) under Cahaya Alumni Club is implemented consistently.



### Module Development - PFKK

> The field team mapped data involving the West Coast and East Coast in Sabah for the purpose of developing the Physical Education & Community Health module. This module is written and applied in several Alternative Learning Centres (ALCs) in Sabah.



### Training of Teachers (ToT)

> Training of Teachers (ToT) involving community teachers of the Alternative Learning Center regarding the Physical Education & Community Health module (PFKK).

> The Physical Education & Community Health (PFKK) module symposium includes community instructors from Sandakan's five (5) Alternative Learning Centres.



# Prihatin Cahaya

Cahaya Society believes that every community deserves fair and equal opportunities. To increase accessibility to vulnerable communities, we support in terms of social, physical and economic programs in distribution and distribution programs through #PrihatinCahaya, #PrihatinPendidikan, #PrihatinKesehatan and #PrihatinPembangunan.

## #PRIHATINKOMUNITI ACHIEVEMENT

- > **January:** A total of 109 families who are victims of the tide phenomenon in Kg.Forest, Sandakan have received the distribution of Forest Family Kits.
- > **March:** The distribution of fire aid through the #KitaBantuCenderamata project includes household needs, hygiene kits and school aid to more than 90 families in PPS PPR Batu Sapi, Sandakan.
- > **April:** We have launched Ramadhan For All to 350 households, which provides basic supply assistance to needy populations identified in the database.
- > **December:** More than 200 alternative center students in Sandakan, Sabah received study equipment kits for the continuation of education in 2024.

In 2023, the Prihatin Cahaya program has benefited from distribution and distribution to more than 700 families including children from Alternative Learning Centers around the city of Sandakan, Sabah.

## #PRIHATINPEMBANGUNAN ACHIEVEMENT

- > Repair the damaged Opak Bridge for community and children usage at the Opak Alternative Centre.
- > IIUM-UNESCO is collaborating with Cahaya Society to create Mini Community Libraries in two Alternative Centres.
- > Two big events, the Urang Muda Festival (FUM) and FESTA are organized to strengthen friendship and togetherness.

## #PRIHATINKESIHATAN ACHIEVEMENT

- > The Vulnerable Community & Socio-Economic (VCSE) Program with the Duchess of Kent Hospital, Sandakan with the support of the Sandakan Orthopedic Team maps data on vulnerable communities for each identified community.
- > Free health screening through Cahaya Medical Outreach (CMO) for communities above water and slums.



# Cahaya Research Centre

Research findings, data, and field observations serve as vital instruments in mobilising advocacy that has been established since 2019. As a result, the Cahaya Research Centre, a non-academic study and report writing organisation, was developed as organisational material and shared with the public, particularly academics and NGO/CSO friends.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- > Cahaya Society has constantly conducted, wrote, and archived community research with a focus on specific subjects that address social and environmental concerns such as the economy, challenges, health, and safety since 2019.
- > In 2023, a community study report titled Understanding Community Response to Disasters & Environmental Security Issues will be completed and shared with the general public.
- > Prior community research reports have been archived and made available on the organization's official website ([cahayasociety.org](http://cahayasociety.org)).



**2023 Community Research:**  
Understanding Community Response to Disasters & Environmental Security Issues



# Cahaya Garage

Community and organization economic development programs through collective product creation between organizations and communities are mobilized under *Garaj Cahaya*. It is also a learning skill for Cahaya children. Economic activities developed include Rumah Biskut Cahaya, support for biscuit products by community mothers. *Cahaya Chetak* (Cahaya Print), the production of products such as button badges, small wallets, shirts and tote bags using the silkscreen method.

Garaj Cahaya, which is frequently active in social programmes and activities, currently stands alongside local brands and other local products in Sandakan, Sabah, in 2023.

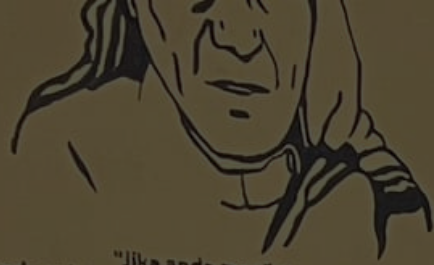
Messages carried through printing on t-shirts and tote bags are becoming increasingly popular among people of all walks of life.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- > Consistent support for *Rumah Biskut Cahaya* through orders and sales of assorted biscuits by community mothers on major festivals, especially Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration.
- > Limited edition Garaj Cahaya tote bag made by community mothers in conjunction with Cahaya in the City by Light in The City (LITC) in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.
- > Garaj Cahaya has participated in 15 social engagements, which are programs/activities centred on art, culture, and capacity building, among other things.







"Jika anda menilai orang  
anda tidak punya waktu untuk mencintai mereka"  
(Mother Teresa)



"Kami takut, tapi kita  
keber  
(Mplal

# ACHIEVEMENT, PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT





# ACHIEVEMENT & SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Cahaya Society 2023



The total accessibility to families from January to November 2023 is over **600 families** including vulnerable communities around Sandakan, Sabah.



Cahaya Society in the year 2023 appears in mass media and other general news medium. These include Wikilmpact, Free Malaysia Today and *Sinar Harian*.



**More than 20 workshops** including Training of Teachers (ToT) were implemented involving disaster training, education modules, capacity building workshops involving NGOs, community leaders, community teachers and students.



For the year 2023, **13 localities** involving outreach and field analysis include the East Coast and West Coast of Sabah.



Cahaya Society through Garaj Cahaya has participated in around 15 social engagements which are programs/activities focused on art, culture, capacity building and so on.



A total of 30 Cahaya Society engagements and networking with academics, activists, NGOs/NGIs, media and the general public throughout the year 2023.



A series of 12 online webinars covering topics such as human rights, education and health have been consistently implemented. The total number of panels from the entire 12 webinar series is over 30 people.



In 2023, Cahaya Society has been accredited as a Social Enterprise by the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Malaysia (KUSKOP).





# Social Participation



Governance Forum with Sabah State Assembly Members  
(by the European Union)



Mountaintop: Nature-Centered Governance & Regeneration Practices (by Forever Sabah Institute)



SDG National Partnership Workshop 2023  
(oleh MySDG Academy)



Study Trip to  
Metchai Bamboo School, Thailand



Improving Support and Protection for Child Sexual Crime Victims (by WCC Penang)



Rakan Sinergi  
PERKESO



Networking Program and Knowledge Sharing Session with the Network of Stateless Organizations, Undocumented People & Migrants in Sabah (by ANAK)



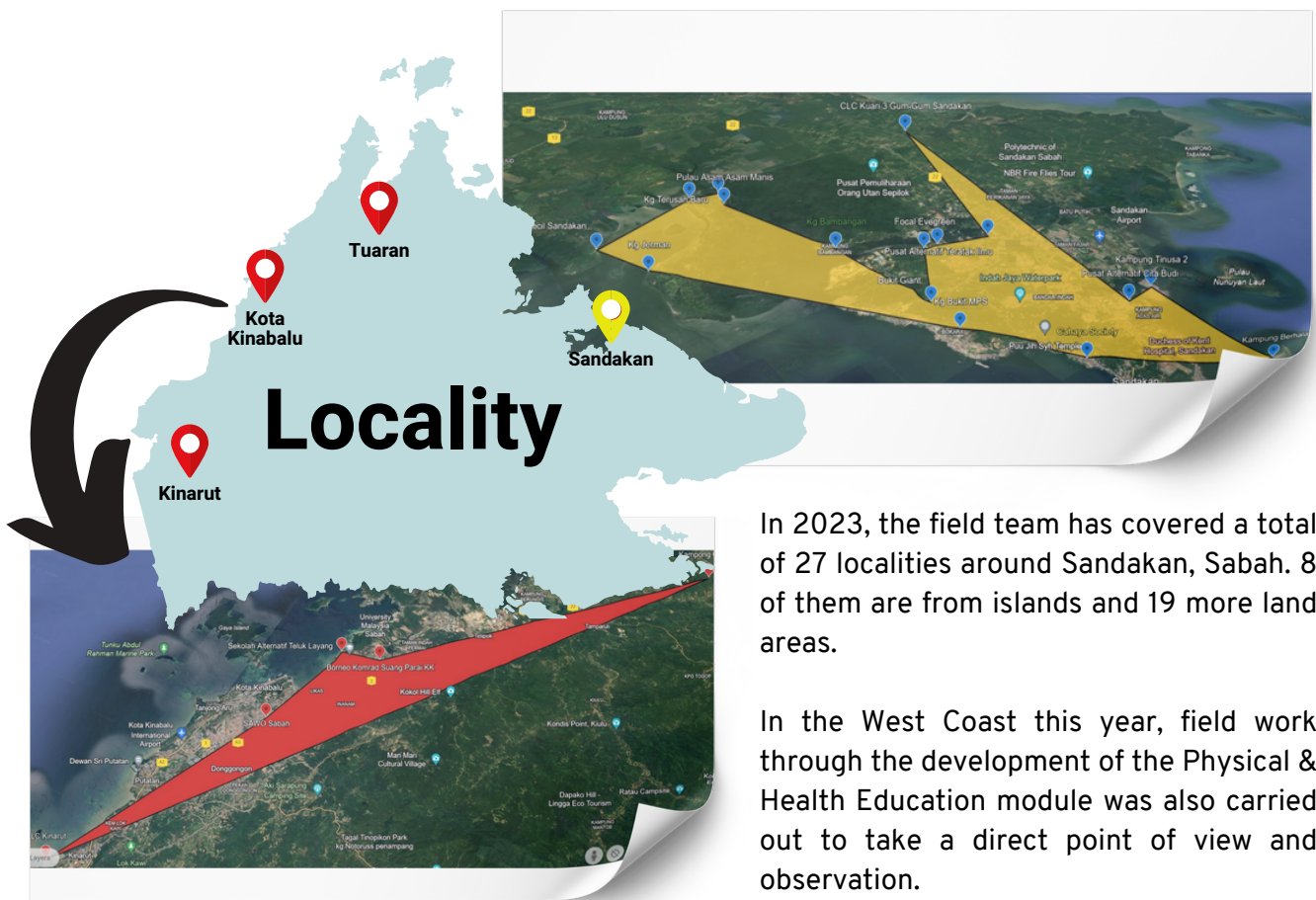
Engagement: Cahaya Society and PBT



# FIELD & MITIGATION PLAN







In 2023, the field team has covered a total of 27 localities around Sandakan, Sabah. 8 of them are from islands and 19 more land areas.

In the West Coast this year, field work through the development of the Physical & Health Education module was also carried out to take a direct point of view and observation.

Community (PFKK) contributes to network expansion, material input as well as mapping issues in the field from several organizations and alternative learning centres.



Findings in the field found that out of 27 localities, the majority had serious health problems. Among the reasons:

- Clean water supply affected
- Waste management
- No access to health facilities



Regarding the security issues that many communities experience are caused by:

- Demographic area of the settlement that is not conducive
- Frequent natural disasters
- Distribution of prohibited substances in the Community
- Wild animal attack



One of the most serious issues is education, which is caused by:

- Community Economy
- Documentation Issues
- Limited space and opportunities





Data collecting in 2023 seeks to introduce an attempt in 2024 to link, minimise, and enhance social and development development. In the coming year, the dynamic and unexpected social character will also be a difficulty. Here are several mitigations that are being worked on in 2024.

### The implementation of Mobile Education

Based on 2023 mapping and data collection, field team discovered that all localities face the problem of children dropping out of school as young as seven to eight years old, with the result that these children grow up without strong tools, making social problems and exploitation more likely.



### Disaster Risk Deduction Management

- > Hold disaster-response workshops for communities.
- > Create a more complete map for the community to comprehend the degrees of security hazards when a crisis strikes.
- > When a calamity strikes, plan and organise the appropriate safety equipment.
- > A strategic plan for the community that can be adopted during a calamity.

### Consistent Health Screening


- > Regular monthly checks aim to provide awareness to the community regarding their health level so that the community is always more aware.
- > Reduce the risk of infectious and chronic diseases affecting vulnerable communities.



### Community Empowerment

- > Planning for community empowerment seeks to guarantee that the community is given the chance to develop collectively, independently, and formally.
- > Action plans for community empowerment include those pertaining to technical skills, community development, and economic prospects.
- > Being aware of the state of the economy, immigration, and neighbourhood issues all year long.



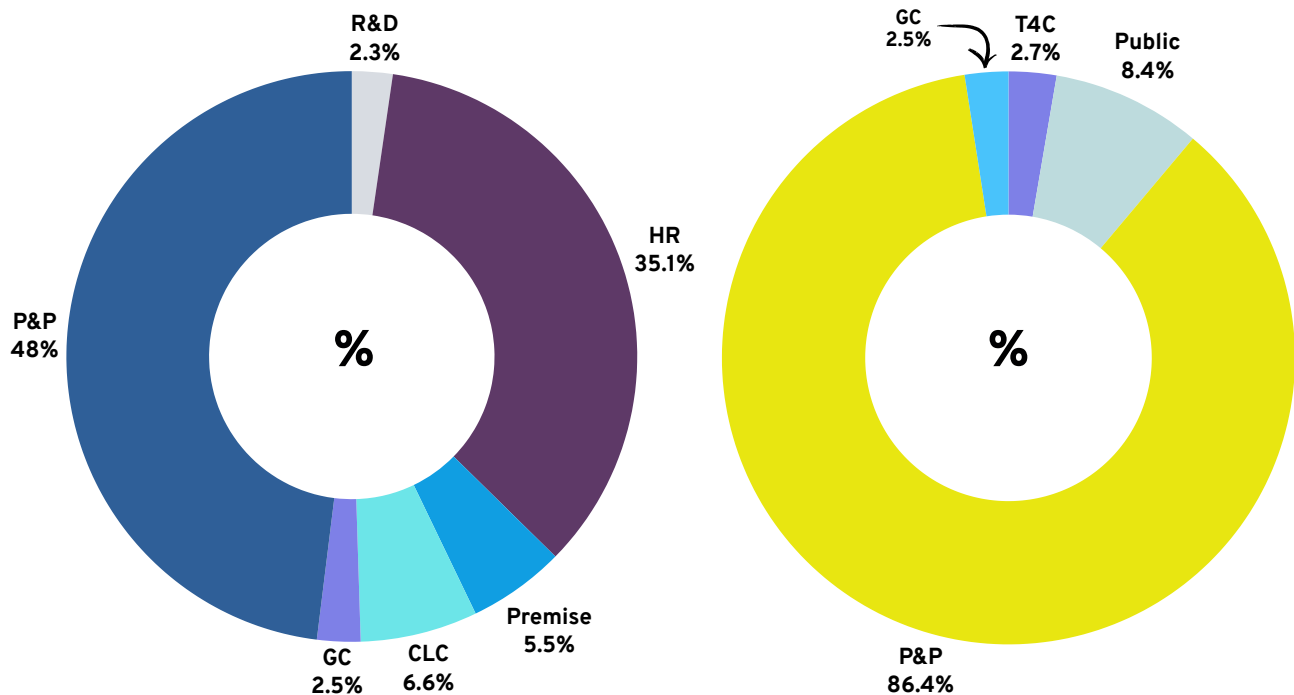


# FUND & EXPENSES



# Fund and Expenses, 2023

Until November 2023, the total expenditure is RM509,382.04. This amount is divided into several resource divisions. Here is the breakdown.



**2023 Expenses Total: RM509,382.04**

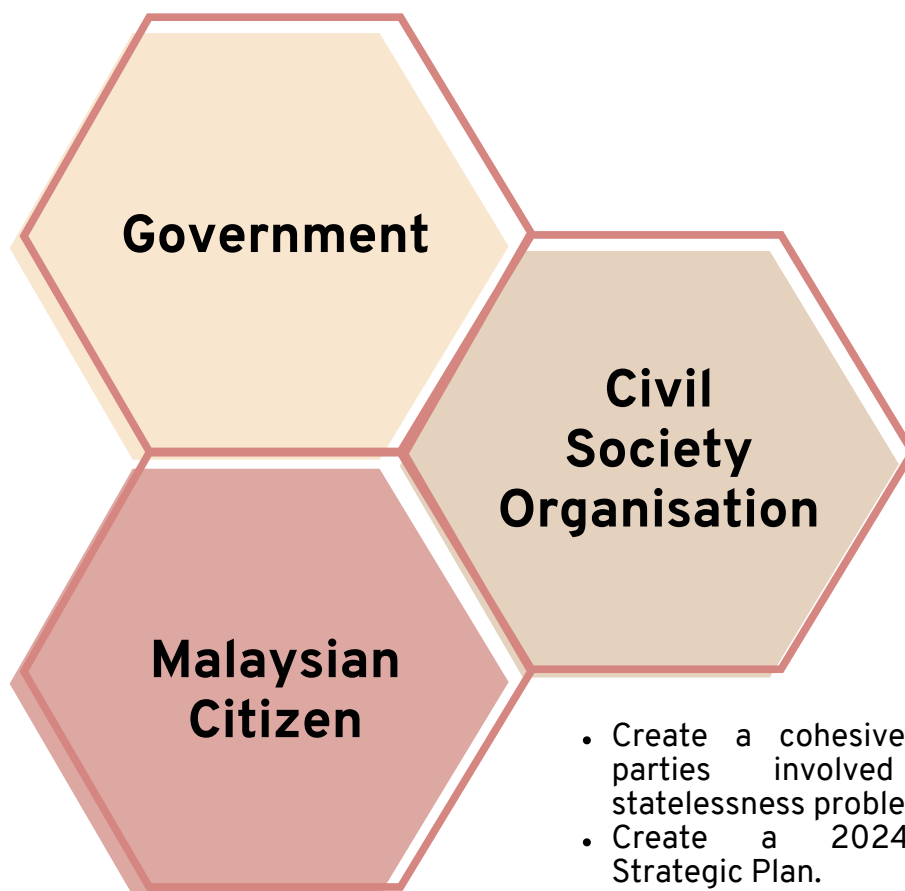
**NOTE:** Cahaya Society appointed the audit company Ecovis FHC as a third party for the financial audit of the organization. Currently the organization's finances for 2019 have been completed. The year 2020-2022 is undergoing an audit process for accountability and transparency purposes.

# RECOMMENDATIONS





- Create a Special Committee on the Education of Stateless Children.
- Allowing the operation of Community-Based Alternative Learning Centers under the Alternative Guidance Center category.



- Create a cohesive alliance with all parties involved in Malaysia's statelessness problem.
- Create a 2024-2030 Stateless Strategic Plan.

- Support community leaders and advocates to organise stateless community development projects.



# Network & Collaborating Partners

## Organisation

Allianz Malaysia  
Yayasan Hasanah  
Mercy Malaysia  
Iltizam by Ekuinas  
Budimas Charitable Foundation  
KitaMatch Foundation  
UNICEF Malaysia  
CSO Platform for Reform  
Forever Sabah Institute  
IIUM UNESCO Club  
Bunga Pad  
Borneo Komrad  
ANAK  
Liga Rakyat Demokratik  
Etania  
Pacos Trust  
Pangrok Sulap  
Light in the City  
KASIH Sabah  
SERATA  
Suruhanjaya Hak Asasi Manusia (Sabah)  
Sabah Human Right Centre  
Iskul Sama DILaut Omdal  
Red Bubbles  
Belantara School  
Call Over Ridges  
Etania Schools  
CLC Kuari 3  
ALC Teratak Ilmu  
ALC Cita Budi  
ALC Anjung Bakti  
ALC Opak Lestari  
Islamic Relief Malaysia  
Yosh Sandakan  
Jabatan Pediatrik HDOK Sandakan  
WCC Penang  
Majlis Perbandaran Sandakan  
Sabah Society for The Blind  
PERKESO  
Pertubuhan Tangan Emas

## Individuals

Radzi Jamaluddin  
Jameyah Sherif  
Sham Latiff  
Norhelza Ujang  
Azlin Yasmin  
Elis Musa  
Jaswinder  
Naim (Ing)  
Hani Mahdi  
Nadiyah Hanim  
Nurhayati Yahya  
Ahmad Jimmy & Dila  
Dr. Adlina Awanis  
Beverly Joeman  
Jerald Joseph  
Nizam Andan  
Sofia Sakina  
Putri Purnama Sugua  
Tan CK  
PC Foo  
Alimie Liman  
Carol Cheam  
Mahirah  
Haslina  
Nia M.Natsir  
Dr. Elaine Kong  
Nur Syafiqah Amran  
Gina Onn  
Siti Siryani Sofian  
Ali Gardo  
Junaini Md Ali  
Shawaleeny Mahmud  
Affa Atan  
Armin Sahiron  
Siti Aisyah Safee  
Ramizah Abd Rashid  
Azwa  
Norlita  
Nazir Omar  
Roslan Osman

Dayang Zaihaswani  
Salina Abd Kadir  
Anisa Yasmin  
Danie  
Mariam Melatu  
Syed Farid  
Nazuin Sairan  
Rabiatul Adawiyah  
Nur Ajeera  
Lyda Ibrahim  
Atirah Ameer

👉 We are grateful to all of our network partners, contributors, and friends of the Cahaya Society in 2023. We appreciate your faith and hope to fight this together in the future. Kudus! 🙏

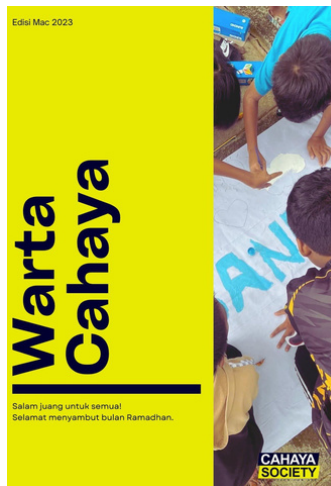




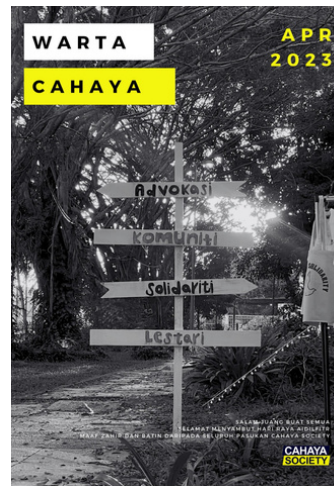
January



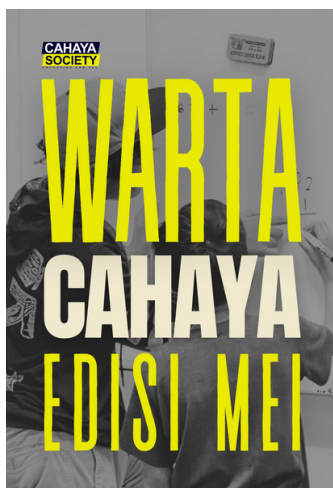
February



March



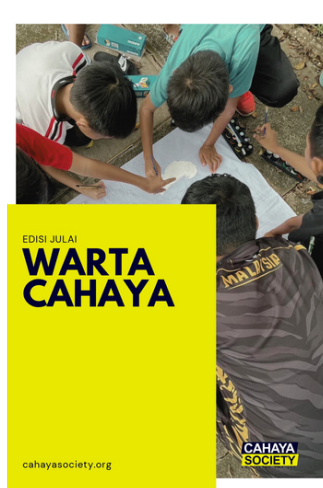
April



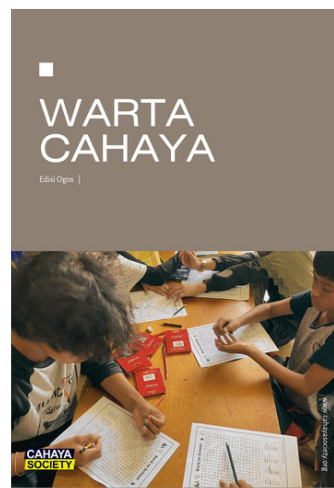
May



June



July



August



September



October



November

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