



Another Successful Year in Sumbawa

Sumbawa Diary Summer 2026

HealthAccessSumbawa.org

392 E. Neck Rd, Nobleboro ME
04555

Sumbawa Diary is a small window into the world of humanitarian work that you make possible. I'm trying something a little different with this edition. HAS's mission- "Health for Remote Communities" - provides a unique opportunity for "adventure travel with a purpose". It's part of what has kept me so motivated for 14 years. So, come along. Join us in this great adventure. Let's Go!

Jack Kennedy, Co-Founder

Health Access Sumbawa Inc.

August 2025

Preparing for The Big Push

While I was in Maine raising funds and making a living, the HAS team in Sumbawa worked independently with confidence and skill. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to stockpile equipment and finalize plans for the big pre-rainy-season campaign in November. Part of our successful multi-year effort to **eliminate malaria from Sumbawa.**



HAS malaria team hanging LLIN bednets in partnership with the local health department.

**Late October
A Grandson Joins the Adventure**

I flew to Indonesia in October. Our grandson Aidan took a month off from his job in San Francisco to join the team and experience Indonesia



Aidan in front of Panubu clinic

for the first time. I carved out a little R & R time in Bali. Aidan loves reptiles. He has a pet snake at home! After a business meeting



with Zack Petersen of 1,000 Days Fund, we visited Bali Reptile Park. A few days later, we started our trek to Sumbawa, a 3-day journey by car involving 2 ferries.

**November 2
We Swim with Whale Sharks**



To break up the long drive, we stopped in Saleh Bay—one of Indonesia’s most reliable whale

shark habitats. These gentle giants gather beneath the bright lights of traditional fishing platforms called *bagans*. We swam alongside sharks over 12 meters long, an unforgettable moment for both of us.



Whale sharks in Saleh Bay, Sumbawa

Organic Farming & Garden Haircut



In Lakey Peak, Aidan planted fruit trees at Tuti’s Organic Farm. Tuti—an early HAS partner—has built a thriving teaching farm that now serves as a model for the region. Earlier that day, I got a haircut in the garden. In Indonesian, *rumpot* means grass and *rambut* means hair—so perhaps it’s fitting that the gardener is also a skilled barber.



HAS clinic in Panubu

November 6 Return to Panubu

We crossed Cempi Bay to check on our clinic in Panubu hamlet, the only Health Post on this stretch of coast. HAS maintains an orchard, vegetable farm, and a simple guest cottage—bamboo mat walls, no glass or screens, but running water, bottled gas, and even Starlink wi-fi.



Bedroom at HAS guest house, Panubu. We sleep on the floor under mosquito nets.

After a night of rain, we inspected the farms. A new gate now keeps goats and cows out of the clinic garden. A new bath house is nearly complete.



New clinic gate & HAS funded public toilet / bath house, Panubu

November 14

On to Ropang

Our next project: Hanging bed nets in the remote district of Ropang. Along the way we picked up our Community Organizer, Yani, who demonstrated traditional coffee roasting over a wood fire. His wife Anisa runs a rooftop catering business—her fried bananas are legendary.



Yani roasts organically grown Tambora Mountain coffee beans over wood fire.

November 16

Malaria Control in Mining Area

. We joined a combined HAS–Health Department team to install bed nets in Ranan hamlet, gateway to the gold mining region where malaria persists. The province’s Director of Infectious Diseases, Mr. El Simba, joined us. Gold mining attracts workers from distant

islands, making parasite elimination difficult.



Group photo of malaria control team

HAS is collaborating with provincial, regional, and village authorities—as well as police and military—to screen everyone traveling the access trail to the mines. We reactivated and staffed an old health post. Miners receive malaria screening, free bed nets and mosquito repellent.



Malaria education poster outside health post

The camps are an eight-hour hike in the mountains. Supplies are carried

in by horses. Workers stay three to four months before returning home.

November 30
Rough Seas & a Boat Transfer

Returning to Lakey Peak, our hired boat couldn't reach the beach to meet us due to large waves. We hired a fisherman to ferry us through the surf in his outrigger.



We transferred to the larger boat offshore—no small feat in heavy swells—but made it with all passengers and cargo intact.



Posyandu:

Model for Community Health

After returning to Bali, I visited a village *posyandu*—Indonesia’s monthly community health check. Bali’s *posyandu* are especially well organized and well-funded. Children, elders, and teenagers all receive biometric checks, recorded on personal health cards and in a community ledger. Before leaving, each participant receives a nutritious food packet, both a supplement and an incentive.



Child is weighed at posyandu in Taman

The visibility this system provides into community health is remarkable. Strengthening this model in Sumbawa would be a worthy future project for HAS.

This trip reminded me that so much good can be accomplished when communities, governments, and donors pull in the same direction. Your generosity makes possible every bottle of antibiotics, every net hung, every health outpost strengthened by HAS. Thanks for partnering with us in this adventure!

Gratefully,

Jack



Recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3)
Public Charity

Jack Kennedy, Co-Founder/President

Pete Skinner, John Monterisi Directors

Postscript: Great News! Ropang District reports no new malaria cases since January 2026. The program is working! Thank you!!!

How to Donate

Credit Card Donations:

www.healthaccesssumbawa.org

Or Mail a Check Payable to:

“Health Access Sumbawa Inc.”

Jack Kennedy, 392 East Neck Road,
Nobleboro, Maine 04555