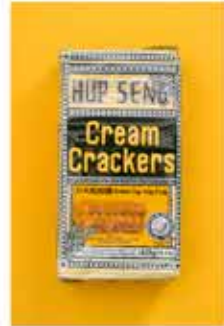




annual report excerpt 2020
dignity





Petrina Satvinder

Co-founder and CEO
Dignity for Children Foundation

chief executive officer's address

For decades, Malaysians have looked to 2020 as a milestone year of progress and prosperity. Who could have imagined 2020 would look the way it did? As our country was left reeling from the economic shutdown due to COVID-19, it was really the urban poor, migrants, and refugees among us who were hit the hardest. Many lost their livelihoods overnight.

I will never forget how the Dignity team rallied together to meet the needs of the community. Within the first week of the MCO, our preschool and several staff homes were transformed into ad-hoc food distribution centres, stocked by generous donors. We reached 1,800 children and our teachers (being our front-liners) made sure no child was left behind.

Throughout 2020, our motto was "be adaptable and flexible". Despite the limitations, we:

- Launched 10 Community Classrooms sponsored by UNHCR, reaching an additional 300 primary-aged children.
- Formed a Content Creation Team that produced digital and animated education materials for children under-12.
- Launched our A-Levels Boarding and Internship Pilot Program for 10 students.

This would not have been possible without each Dignity staff, trustee, donor (corporate and individual), supporter and volunteer who rose to the occasion during this difficult season. Most of all, I am profoundly grateful for the sustaining mercy and goodness of God. Because of Him, we look forward with hope.

2020 highlights

We celebrated the graduation of 140 Preschool, 133 Primary and 37 Upper Secondary students respectively. All ready to write the next chapter of their lives.

98 students went to live on a farm, away from their families. There, they attended to farm chores alongside academic lessons while building rapport with each other.





Six Upper Primary students participated in online maths camp organised by Sunway University. An in-person finale event was organised in August where our students bagged the most awards—one boy even won six awards!



48 Upper Secondary students sat for their Cambridge IGCSE examinations. All our science students passed all their subjects with credits, and four students scored straight A's. This was the best results achieved by our students to date.

Covid-19 Adaptations and Interventions

During the COVID-19 lockdown, we pivoted to implement online learning across all programmes.

The challenge with this was that parents were not able to guide their children at home and many families did not have sufficient devices with internet connection.

We also received reports of domestic abuse from our students when everybody is cooped up at home.

These were some of the initiatives and programmes that were organised in 2020 to meet the needs of the community:

Online lessons—all our education programmes implemented a specialised approaches that best suited their children.

Community Classrooms—grassroots community learning centres were the worst affected during the lockdown. The Community Classroom initiative empowered selected members of the community as facilitators to provide education to those around them. 10 Community Classrooms were set up in partnership with UNHCR.





Teachers training—our teachers learned how to use various platforms for remote learning and how to engage students online.

Support for frontliners—11,000 sets of personal protective equipment and 3,300 cloth masks were sewn and donated to frontline medical workers. This was made possible through the contributions of various donors.

Distribution of grocery packs—3,470 grocery packs were distributed which benefited 17,365 people from our community of students and their families.

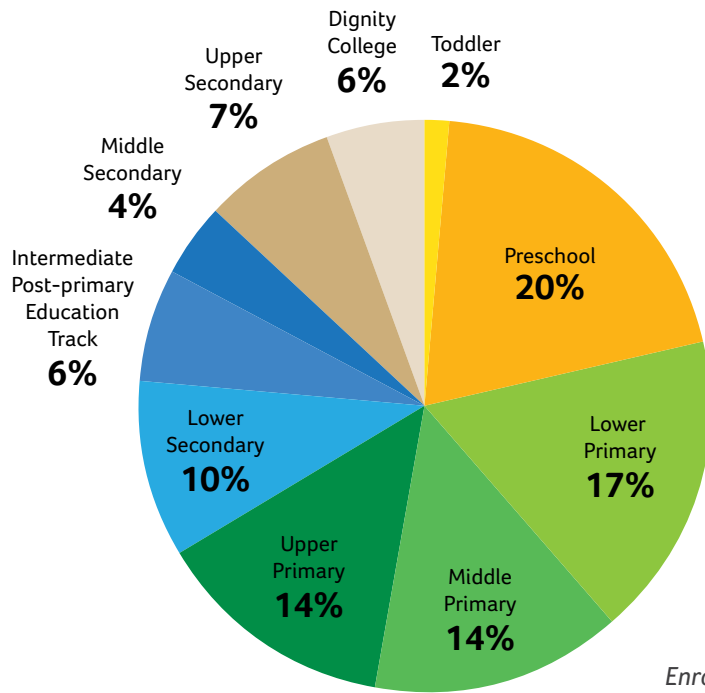
Rent assistance—17 families who were at risk of evictions were provided with financial assistance for their rents.

Live-In Programme—selected students from the Secondary Programmes lived on-campus with their teachers. Everyone took a COVID-19 test and self isolated before living on campus. While here, they took part in lessons during the day and attended extra classes at night.

Home education packs—various educational resources were prepared, packed and delivered to 400 students living across the Klang Valley with the help of Teleport.

Device and data distribution—68 used laptops, 100 new Chromebooks, and 200 SIM cards were distributed to our students for online lessons.

RM1.4 million in financial and in-kind contributions was raised in aid of those who needed support during the MCO. RM 934,454 were financial donations and the rest were in-kind donations.



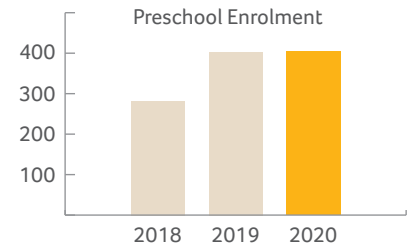
Enrolment according to programmes.
Total enrolment: **1,885 students.**

our programmes

Preschool Programmes

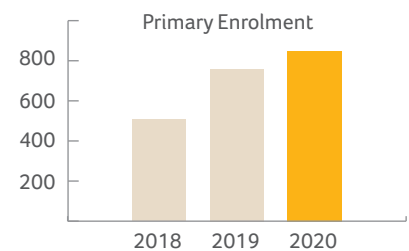
405 children enrolled into our Formative Years Programme in 2020 with a completion* rate of 65% (264 children). The completion rate was down from 78% in 2019, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some parents were hesitant to send their children to school and even opted out of online lessons.

* Completion is defined as having completed an academic year of education in the programme.



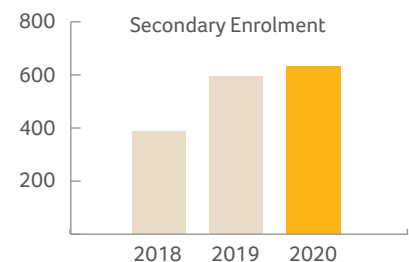
Primary Programmes

A total of 849 children were enrolled into our Primary Programme in 2020. Of this, we recorded a completion rate of 90% (763 students), down 3% from the year before (93%). This is an achievement as many of our Primary children did not have their own devices to participate in online lessons. They relied on their parents' phones and this was particularly challenging for families who have multiple children.



Secondary Programmes

631 youth enrolled into our Secondary Programme in 2020, up 6% from 2019 (594 students). We also recorded a higher completion rate of 87% (550 students) in 2020, up from 81% (483 students) in 2019. Various initiatives were rolled out in 2020 to ensure that learning continues despite the lockdown. One such initiative was the Live-In Programme.





Student Welfare and Mental Health

The welfare and mental health of our students are just as important to us as their education.

In 2020, we organised the following initiatives:

Peace Camp—60 participants benefitted from this camp, developing a sense of camaraderie with each other.

Tele-counselling and Hotline—this ensured that students continued to have their counselling sessions throughout the lockdown.

COVID-19 Awareness Booklet—a booklet was compiled and distributed to parents and teachers.

This helped children to learn about the virus, how to stay safe, and how to handle the emotional aspect of living in a pandemic.

Sexual Education—children were educated on how to stay safe at home and online in order to prevent sexual grooming and abuse. 80 Lower Secondary students benefitted from this workshop.

Mental Health Screening—teachers raised concerns about the mental health well-being of their students during the lockdown. This screening was done to help us identify those who need support.

our transformational enterprises

During the lockdown, our Transformational Enterprises focused on fulfilling corporate orders and online sales through digital platforms such as Grab, Airasia, Foodpanda and Beepit.

	eatXdignity (RM)	sewXdignity (RM)	bakeXdignity (RM)	cutXdignity (RM)	Total (RM)
Income	459,261	327,705	85,906	96,135	969,007
Expenses	549,147	301,465	77,357	170,793	1,098,762
Total	(89,886)	26,240	8,549	(74,658)	(129,736)

Income and expenses of all operating transformational enterprises (does not include other training initiatives such as artXdignity and growXdignity that are not yet on a full business model).



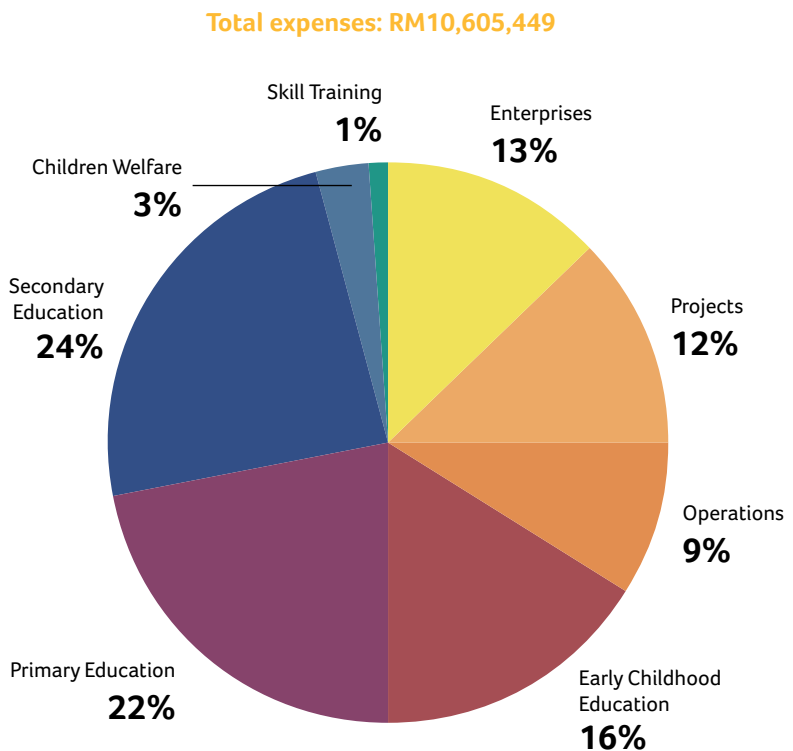
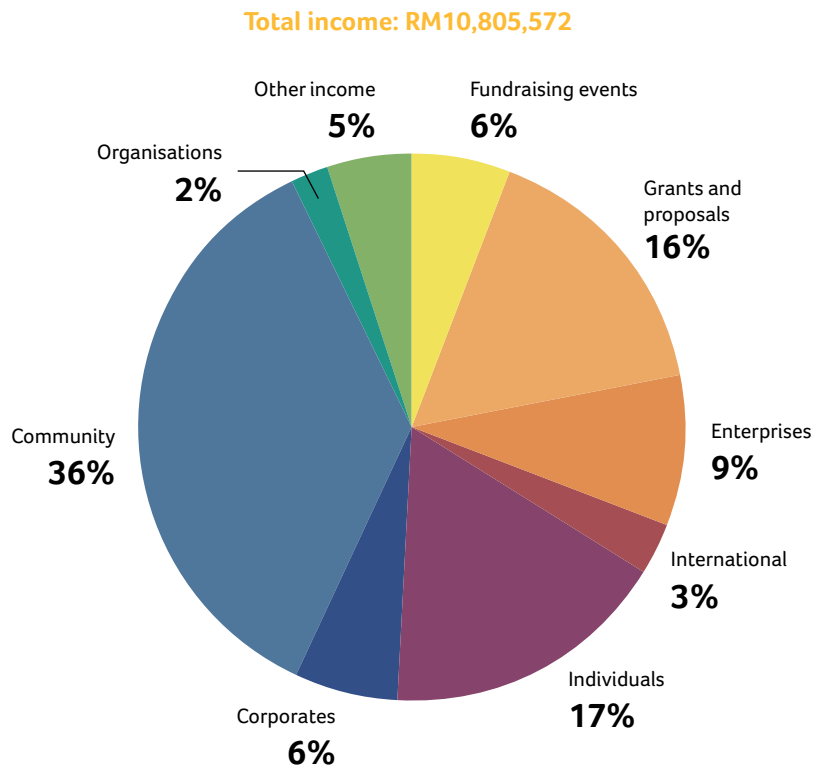
53% of our total expenses was attributed to personnel costs totalling RM 577,524. This included RM 146,687 that was paid out to community members via part-time employment as we fulfilled bulk corporate orders during the festive seasons. We also retained all existing enterprise staff (20 individuals) with no wage reductions throughout the year to assure them a livelihood through the lockdown.

our finances

It is the generous contributions of our supporters and partners that make it possible for us to empower and care for so many children. Thank you for partnering with us in this journey of transformation.

Individuals with donations above RM 20,000

Celestia Chan Sze En
 Chin Cheow Ting
 Christina Yap Phaik Kwai
 Chung Keen Mean
 Dato' Ong Eng Bin
 Dato' Yeoh Seok Hong
 David Richard Thomas
 Dr. Chan Boon Kheng
 James Ling Wan Chye
 Late Dato' Teo Chiang Quan
 Seelan Singham
 Sugeeta A/P R Bhanoo
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