



MALAYSIA

2024-2025 IFRC network country plan

12 August 2024

Multi-year Funding Requirement **CHF 8.85M**

In support of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society



159

National Society branches



78

National Society staff



75,807

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



15,000

Climate and environment



50,000

Disasters and crises



50,000

Health and wellbeing



25,000

Migration and displacement



25,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk reduction
- Climate change adaptation
- Humanitarian protection and assistance for people on the move

Capacity development

- Auxiliary role strengthening
 - Volunteering
- Financial sustainability and resource mobilization
 - Digital transformation

Key country data

Population **33.9M**

INFORM severity rating **Medium**

INFORM Climate Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **62**

Population below poverty level **6.2%**

Funding requirements

2024

2025*

Total 4.4M CHF

Total 4.45M CHF

Through the IFRC

4M CHF

Through Host National Society

→ 450,000 CHF

Through the IFRC

4.2M CHF

Through Host National Society

→ 250,000 CHF

*Projected funding requirements

IFRC Breakdown

Longer-term needs

500,000 CHF

Climate and environment

752,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

1.60M CHF

Health and wellbeing

250,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

200,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

700,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

German Red Cross*

Italian Red Cross

New Zealand Red Cross*

Swiss Red Cross*

Turkish Red Crescent Society*

**National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.*

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAMY002

Hazards



Floods



Fires



Earthquakes



Disease



Migration

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Malaysian Red Crescent Society** was established as a branch of the British Red Cross in 1948 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1963. The National Society, initially incorporated under an Act of Parliament in 1965 as the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, later changed its name to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society through an amendment in 1975. It envisions becoming Malaysia's leading humanitarian organization, uniting people and institutions for the vulnerable.

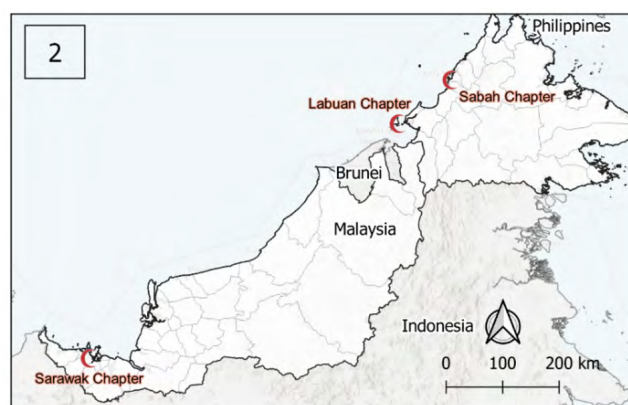
The Malaysian Red Crescent Society operates its flagship emergency ambulance service across Kuala Lumpur and 11 states, managing the 999-emergency assistance hotline and ensuring readiness even outside of disaster situations. Its immediate disaster response functions include complementing the search and rescue operations by government agencies, and the deployment of staff from the national headquarters to support assessments and initial assistance to people affected. The National Society delivers first aid, health screenings, other medical services and food assistance at relief centres in collaboration with key ministries. It also supports infectious disease prevention and control measures.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society is led by a 19-member National Executive Board (NEB), with one chair, one deputy chair, four vice-chairs, a treasurer, eight members, and the Secretary-General. The National Society has branches in 16 states and three federal territories, including Kuala Lumpur.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society initiated its [2030 Strategic Plan](#) in February 2023 in line with the global direction that has been set by IFRC for all national societies. The strategic plan was endorsed in June 2023 and an Operational Planning workshop with the support of IFRC was held in August 2023 to align the key actions with the strategic priority areas.

In [2022](#), the Malaysian Red Crescent Society reached more than 72,000 people under its disaster response and early

recovery programmes and more than 39,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes.



IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Malaysia, situated in Southeast Asia, comprises 13 states and three federal territories. It is geographically divided by the South China Sea into Peninsular Malaysia and Malaysian Borneo (East Malaysia). According to the [Malaysia Department of Statistics](#), the country's population is estimated at 32.75 million, with around 15.9 million females and 16.8 million males.

Malaysia stands as one of the world's most open economies, maintaining a [trade-to-GDP ratio](#) exceeding 130% since 2010. This openness to trade and investment has significantly bolstered employment and income growth, with approximately 40% of jobs in Malaysia tied to export-related activities. Following the Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998, Malaysia's economy has steadily ascended, achieving an average growth rate of 5.4% since 2010. The nation is poised to [advance](#) from an upper middle-income economy to a high-income status between 2024 and 2028.

Income inequality in Malaysia remains relatively high compared to other East Asian countries but is showing a gradual decline.

While income growth among the bottom 40% of earners has exceeded that of the top 60% over much of the past decade, the [absolute gap across income groups](#) has widened, leading to widespread perceptions of marginalized groups being left behind. Following the phase-out of broad-based subsidies, the government has increasingly shifted towards targeted measures aimed at supporting the poor and vulnerable, primarily through cash transfers to low-income households. However, the average household income in Malaysia rose by 2.4% in 2022 to RM8,479 from RM7,901 in 2019, according to the Household Income and Household Expenditure Survey 2022.

According to the Household Income Estimate (HIES) and [Incidence of Poverty Report 2022](#) by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), the urban poverty rate in Malaysia increased from 3.9% in 2019 to 4.5% in 2022. Concurrently, the poverty incidence in rural areas decreased from 12.4% to 12% during the same period.

Malaysia experiences warm weather throughout the year and is relatively spared from some of the natural hazards affecting its neighbouring countries within the Pacific Ring of Fire. However, it remains vulnerable to several natural [hazards](#) such as floods, forest fires, haze, landslides, seismic activity, and epidemics.



Malaysian Red Crescent Society volunteers providing relief, aid and psychosocial support to families post heavy rains and flash floods across the country. (Photo: Malaysian Red Crescent Society)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Malaysia faces multiple natural hazards, primarily [floods](#), forest fires, haze, landslides, seismic activity, and epidemics, with floods being the most widespread. Climate change exacerbates these risks, increasing exposure to extreme weather events and disasters in Southeast Asia, a region highly susceptible to flooding. Biodiversity loss and climate impacts further threaten communities, with rising temperatures linked to increased vector-borne diseases like dengue.

The [Climate Risk Country Profile Malaysia \(2021\)](#) highlights the country's vulnerability to flooding, which causes the most damage among natural hazards. Flood frequency and severity have risen recently and are projected to worsen with continued global warming. Heat waves are also expected to intensify significantly due to climate change. Under different emissions scenarios, Malaysia anticipates temperature rises by 3.11°C and 0.8°C respectively by the 2090s, influencing regional precipitation patterns, especially in Sabah and Sarawak.

[Coastal adaptation and disaster risk reduction](#) are critical national priorities, as vulnerability assessments foresee threats to agriculture from sea-level rise, particularly affecting Sabah and Sarawak. Climate modelling indicates potential severe impacts on rice, rubber, palm oil, and cocoa production due to increased droughts and floods early in the growing seasons. These challenges heighten economic disparities, impacting vulnerable populations reliant on climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture and fishing.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society is part of the [IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk

reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The National Society demonstrated its commitment to addressing climate change and environmental degradation by signing the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations in 2022. The charter outlines three key commitments: conducting climate-smart disaster risk reduction activities, developing and implementing environmental policies within the National Society, and collaborating across the humanitarian sector to climate and environmental action.

Additionally, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society is advancing its efforts in climate change mitigation and adaptation by adopting environmentally sustainable practices. The National Society plans to pilot nature-based solutions as part of its climate change projects and will leverage strategic partnerships with [WWF Malaysia](#) to support these initiatives.

Planned activities in 2024

- Implement climate-smart disaster risk reduction initiatives under the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme
- Develop and implement environmental policies within the National Society as per the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations
- Collaborate with WWF Malaysia to pilot nature-based solutions in climate change mitigation and adaptation projects

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide support on technical guidance to Malaysian Red Crescent Society on this area, also support on building networking with relevant agencies on climate and environment. IFRC will also support the National Society on fundraising through the movement partners and other potential donors.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Malaysia](#)

Hazards affecting Malaysia include floods, forest fires, haze, landslides, seismic activity and epidemics. Floods are the primary hazard affecting the country, with a risk of earthquakes mainly in Sabah, East Malaysia. Landslides and droughts are significant, although their effects are limited to smaller eastern regions.

The frequency and severity of flood events have been on the rise in recent decades and are projected to continue increasing due to ongoing global warming. Malaysia has experienced unusual flooding over the past three years.

Malaysia experiences both El Niño and La Niña phenomena. El Niño has consistent impacts across different intensities, while La Niña can vary significantly. Strong La Niña events typically reduce wet precipitation over Peninsular Malaysia from December to February, potentially increasing the risk of widespread flooding on the east coast. However, moderate La Niña events may have the opposite effect, increasing precipitation and the flood risk.

A directive has been established in Malaysia to set national guidelines for disaster management. It establishes a coordinated mechanism for pre-, mid- and post-disaster phases, and determines the roles and responsibilities of all agencies involved – including search and rescue, health, logistics and media.

Malaysia has also implemented numerous other guidelines such as the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, the ASEAN Standard Operating Procedures for Regional Standby Arrangements and the Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations, alongside various supporting laws. The most recently established are the 1998 Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act, 1998 Fire Services Act, Malaysia Civil Defence Force Act 1951 (amended in 2016), and the National Security Council Act of 2016.

The Eleventh Malaysia Development Plan for 2016 to 2020 highlights disaster and climate resilience as one of the cornerstones for sustainable and resilient development in Malaysia.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society aims to ensure that people affected by crises and disasters receive timely, adequate, and flexible assistance that strengthens their agency, especially targeting vulnerable and marginalized communities. Additionally, the National Society seeks to bolster disaster response capacities across Malaysia, Asia Pacific National Societies, and external actors by improving

the qualifications and practical knowledge of first responders through specialized trainings in relief, shelter, water and sanitation, among others, and by testing new products and methodologies. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will prioritize operationalizing its Humanitarian Field School between 2024 and 2025.

The National Society aims to effectively respond to a broad range of evolving crises and disasters, with a well-defined and recognized auxiliary role in disaster risk management. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will focus on strengthening its disaster law and legislative advocacy, including efforts to bolster Civil-Military Relations (CMR).

Planned activities in 2024

- Increase community resilience through improved preparedness activities and early warning/early action initiatives
- Improve cash readiness and response readiness, including accessing IFRC supply chain management support
- Build disaster response capacities through training programmes for first responders in relief, shelter, and water and sanitation
- Operationalize its Humanitarian Field School to improve practical knowledge and qualifications of first responders
- A visualization system for emergency operations will be established at the national headquarters
- Strengthen its auxiliary role in disaster risk management and expand its leadership in disaster law and legislative advocacy, including civil military relations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Malaysian Red Crescent Society to become more prepared to respond to disasters by developing a disaster management strategy. The IFRC will provide the National Society with technical support on cash readiness, recovery programming and disaster law, and support the promotion of the Malaysian Humanitarian Field School within the country and across the region.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2023, IFRC provided a DREF allocation to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society for its flood response from late 2022 to June 2023.

The **Italian Red Cross** will support the National Society to operationalize its Humanitarian Field School.



In Malaysia, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for 73% of total deaths, with 35% occurring among the working-age population. The National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) indicates an upward trend in all NCD risk factors. As of 2019, prevalence rates among adults aged 18 and above include high blood cholesterol (38.1%), overweight or obesity (50.1%), high blood pressure (30.0%), and high blood sugar (18.3%), contributing to an expanding at-risk population.

Children are also vulnerable to NCDs due to unhealthy diets, excessive alcohol consumption, smoking, lack of exercise, and stress. Malaysia's healthcare system faces significant challenges in providing quality management for NCD patients and their complications, exacerbated by late diagnoses leading to costly and complex treatments. Backlogs in surgeries and treatments for NCDs contribute to premature morbidity and excess mortality.

As of May 2023, the Malaysian Ministry of Health (MoH) had reported 43,619 cases of dengue fever, marking a 170% increase from the same period in 2022 (16,144 cases). Since December 2022, the MoH Crisis Preparedness & Response Center (CPRC) has activated a Dengue monitoring portal. The Ministry of Health has undertaken various control activities aimed at reducing the incidence of dengue and other arbovirus cases.

Currently, mental health services in Malaysia are provided by psychiatrists, psychologists, and counsellors. Psychiatrists primarily treat severe mental conditions requiring medication, while psychologists and counsellors attend to individuals with mild to moderate mental health issues. According to the 'The NCD And The Healthcare Worker report' by NCD Malaysia in 2021, there is a significant shortage of allied health care workers, particularly in mental health care.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) are increasingly prioritized not only during disasters but also to aid those affected by socio-economic impacts, social exclusion, stigma, and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

Waterborne and vector-borne diseases persist alongside COVID-19 in Malaysia. While rural areas of Peninsula Malaysia saw piped water coverage increase from 42% to 96% by 2020, Sabah and Sarawak lagged at 62%, attributed to challenging terrain and sparse populations making infrastructure costs prohibitive.

The Ministry of Health's Malaysia Strategy for Emerging Diseases (MySED), derived from the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED), is currently under review for a 2023 revision. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society has aligned its Epidemic Preparedness Plan with MySED to strengthen readiness and response capabilities.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society aims to leverage its governmental auxiliary role to bolster its position in shaping national public health strategy, advocacy, and policy platforms. Strengthening these roles in healthcare will be a primary focus for the National Society in 2024–2025.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society is committed to enhancing the health and well-being of communities by ensuring access to sustainable, affordable, and quality health services throughout life, with a focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups. Priority areas for the National Society in 2024–2025 include strengthening ambulance services, enhancing first aid training, and operationalizing its Epidemic/Pandemic Preparedness Plan developed in 2023.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society aims to improve access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services for vulnerable communities at risk from pandemics and epidemics. Scaling up WASH services during emergencies, including clean water access and hygiene promotion, will be a priority for the National Society in 2024–2025. Additionally, it seeks to increase community access to these essential services through expanded hygiene promotion efforts and pilot projects aimed at improving access to affordable clean water.

Planned activities in 2024

- Prioritize strengthening ambulance and first aid services and training
- Operationalize epidemic/pandemic preparedness plan developed in 2023
- Protect and improve community health and well-being through sustainable, affordable, and quality health services
- Increase access to affordable, appropriate, and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services for vulnerable communities
- Scale up WASH services in emergencies, including clean water access and hygiene promotion
- Expand community access to affordable, clean water through hygiene promotion

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will offer technical support and guidance to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, facilitating collaboration with health authorities to mobilize communities for routine

and emergency vaccination campaigns, develop community-based surveillance, and raise awareness about non-communicable diseases. Additionally, the IFRC will assist in building the capacity of staff and volunteers to effectively

engage in these activities. It will aid the National Society in developing and implementing WASH projects, focusing on localized water supply solutions like gravity feed systems and rainwater harvesting in targeted communities.



Migration and displacement

A significant number of migrants travel to Malaysia primarily due to its economic status and development opportunities. Malaysia, alongside Singapore, Brunei, and Thailand, is considered a destination country for migrant workers. It also serves as a transit and destination for refugees, asylum-seekers, and international students attending its institutions of higher learning. The largest groups of migrants come from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, India, and the Philippines, with smaller populations from countries like Iran, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Pakistan, Nigeria, and various African nations.

According to government data as of September 2019, there were 1.98 million migrant workers in Malaysia. The unofficial estimates suggest the total of regular and irregular migrants range from 1.4 million to three million. As of June 2023, approximately 181,560 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR in Malaysia. Myanmar's Rohingya community constitutes the majority with the rest originating from Pakistan, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sri Lanka, and other countries.

Sabah faces a unique migration challenge in Malaysia, being a significant destination for both documented and undocumented migrant workers primarily from Indonesia and the Philippines. Many migrants are concentrated in urban centres such as Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Johor Bahru, Melaka, Kota Kinabalu, and other major cities, where opportunities in construction, manufacturing, services, and domestic work are prevalent. Rural areas also host smaller migrant populations, particularly in the plantation sector. These migrants typically engage in jobs categorized as 3D — Dirty, Dangerous, and Demeaning — which are generally avoided by local Malaysian workers.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society has developed a migration and displacement plan for 2021–2024, supported by the IFRC and the ICRC. This plan aims to improve the National Society's capacity in migration and displacement, improve humanitarian responses, and foster partnerships and humanitarian diplomacy.

The Migration and Displacement Policy and Strategy of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society is set to be finalized and endorsed by 2023. It will remain aligned with the 2021–2024 Plan of Action, focusing on:

- Strengthening the National Society's capabilities in migration and displacement.
- Enhancing humanitarian responses to migration and displacement.
- Building partnerships and engaging in humanitarian diplomacy

The National Society aims to ensure migrants and displaced persons receive humanitarian assistance and protection along migratory routes, and access durable solutions when appropriate.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society is committed to deepening its engagement with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to more effectively assess, understand, and respond to their urgent needs. Central to this strategic endeavour is advocating for improved access to essential public services tailored to the unique circumstances of migrants and displaced persons. To achieve these goals, the National Society will provide extensive training and guidance to its staff and volunteers engaged in migration and displacement efforts.

The National Society aims to embed migration-sensitive approaches across its humanitarian activities, tools, and methodologies. This integration will emphasize the incorporation of migration considerations into emergency preparedness, response, and recovery initiatives, ensuring a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to humanitarian assistance.

Planned activities in 2024

- Finalize and endorse the Migration and Displacement Policy and Strategy in alignment with the 2021–2024 Plan of Action
- Engage with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to assess, understand, and respond to their priority needs effectively

- Advocate for access to essential public services for migrants and displaced persons
- Provide comprehensive training and guidance to staff and volunteers involved in migration and displacement efforts, aligned with IFRC Global Migration Strategy and Movement frameworks
- Integrate migration approaches across humanitarian activities, tools, and methodologies, emphasizing their role in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the ongoing technical guidance to the National Society for implementing its Migration and Displacement plan, as well as to assist in fundraising activities through movement partners and potential donors.



Values, power and inclusion

One in four adults in Malaysia, along with 4.7% of children aged two to 17, experience functional difficulties, as reported by the [2019 National Health Morbidity Survey](#). Despite the introduction of the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2008 by the Government, there remains a gap in adopting a rights-based approach to disability inclusion.

The pandemic has exacerbated challenges for vulnerable groups, particularly children with disabilities and their caregivers, amplifying issues like stigma, discrimination, and isolation. UNICEF reports these challenges have hindered access to healthcare and [education](#), causing negative psychological impacts and financial losses for caregivers during lockdown periods.

Annual flooding disproportionately affects vulnerable communities in Malaysia, including people living on the streets, out-of-school children, indigenous minorities in rural and semi-urban areas, people with disabilities, migrants, and refugees. Anticipatory actions and educational programs are crucial to mitigate these impacts.

As the volunteering landscape evolves in Malaysia with diverse stakeholders addressing community needs, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society is prioritizing a more inclusive approach in its operations. Embedding Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) into disaster risk reduction, [anticipatory action](#), and Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) programs is crucial to increase awareness among volunteers and community members.

Approximately one in three adults in Malaysia has low health literacy rates, highlighting a gap in understanding health risks, information, and treatment benefits. Addressing this gap is essential for improving public health outcomes.

Community engagement and accountability (CEA) at the community level is still critical to encourage as many people as possible to get vaccinated. According to the perception survey conducted by the Malaysian Red Crescent Society from 2020 – 2021, there are recommendations to look at the ways the Malaysian Red Crescent Society shares information and capture community voices through the appropriate channels such as social media, television, and videos.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society aims to contribute to a positive change in communities through wider understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of fundamental principles and humanitarian values, focusing especially on young people's knowledge, skills, and behaviour. This will be through scaling up its technical and financial support for youth-led education and action and building on the [Youth Engagement](#) Strategy and other youth-led initiatives.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society aims to ensure safe, equitable, and uninterrupted access to quality education for all, particularly for children affected by disaster, crisis, or displacement. This goal will be pursued through the establishment of strategic partnerships and innovative collaborative mechanisms in humanitarian education with key stakeholders, including education authorities. Additionally, the National Society aims to advocate effectively for the importance of maintaining safe and equitable access to education in humanitarian contexts. In 2023, the Safe Step Kids project, funded by the Prudence Foundation through IFRC, was launched as a pilot initiative. The intention is to expand this project further in 2024 – 2025.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society aims to empower individuals and communities vulnerable to and affected by crises. This objective will be achieved by increasing engagement

and accountability towards vulnerable communities through integrated mechanisms for communication, participation, and feedback. The National Society will also focus on strengthening its understanding and capacity to implement community engagement and accountability strategies across all levels, from program and operational staff to senior leadership.

- Strengthen engagement with and accountability to vulnerable communities by integrating mechanisms for communication, participation, feedback, and complaints within programs and operations
- Improve understanding and capacity to implement community engagement and accountability approaches across all levels, from program staff to senior leadership

Planned activities in 2024

- Promote safe, equitable, and continuous access to quality education, especially for boys and girls affected by disaster, crisis, or displacement through strategic partnerships and advocacy efforts
- Expand the Safe Step Kids project initiated in 2023 with funding from Prudence Foundation through IFRC into 2024-2025

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will guide and support the National Society to review and adopt existing policies on protection, gender and inclusion for all staff and volunteers. It will also endorse mandatory onboarding courses for all staff and volunteers as a prerequisite for deployment to missions.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2015. The

self-assessment is designed to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies concerning a wide range of organizational capacities.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Complete its resource mobilization strategy, accompanied by an implementation plan for 2024 to 2025
- Boost domestic fundraising and international support, while ensuring transparent and efficient financial management
- Expand the National Society's network and enhance its auxiliary role to address community challenges, including participation in development forums

- Strengthen partnerships in disaster management and health sectors
- Increase focus on migration and displacement issues

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide technical guidance to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in various areas, including resource mobilization, strategic engagement and partnerships.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Evaluate and update the National Society's legal framework and strategic plans
- Operationalize its Humanitarian Field School (HFS) as a learning facility for the next generation of first responders.
- Promote a diverse volunteer base through strengthened recruitment, recognition and retention strategies
- Improve protection for volunteers with psychosocial support and assistance to families of those injured or killed in service
- Strengthen youth and volunteer involvement in decision-making and innovation through inclusive programmes and operational plans aligned with the 2022 Youth Strategy
- Develop a resource mobilization roadmap for financial sustainability, with the focus on capacity building funds

- Align all external support on National Society development ([NSD](#)) with the [NSD Compact](#), ensuring the sustainable delivery of quality services

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide technical guidance to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in various aspects of membership services including legal base development, and the operationalization of its Humanitarian Field School. IFRC will also extend its support in disaster law initiatives. IFRC continued to support Malaysian Red Crescent Society's Red Ready project until December 2023 and is actively helping prepare a proposal for Red Ready Phase III, scheduled to commence in 2024. The IFRC also supported the National Society in submitting a proposal on stockpiling for pandemic and emerging diseases preparedness, to the Asia Europe Foundation funded by the Japanese government.

The **Italian Red Cross** will support the National Society to operationalize its Humanitarian Field School. It is also in discussions on support for a road safety regional project.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Improve visibility, public trust, and impact through improved communications and advocacy efforts at national and local levels
- Undertake advocacy to promote behavioural change through public policies

- Increase involvement in civil society and coalitions at national and local levels

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide technical guidance to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in humanitarian diplomacy and communications aimed at positioning the National Society as the partner of choice for humanitarian assistance and community resilience.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Formulate strategies to mitigate fraud, corruption, sexual harassment, and abuse within the National Society
- Strengthen gender, diversity, and inclusion in its institutional culture and humanitarian operations, with improved monitoring and mechanisms
- Develop a safety and security policy, and conduct a review of its business continuity planning

- Create a common data model across the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, while adopting best practices in data protection
- Involve vulnerable communities and volunteers in [digital transformation](#) initiatives

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide technical support to the National Society in areas such as integrity, risk management, digital transformation; and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER).

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has its Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia. The IFRC provides support as needed to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, in alignment with the latter's Strategic Plan for 2021–2025. Since 2020, a dedicated team from IFRC APRO has been embedded within the Malaysian Red Crescent Society at its national

headquarters, providing strategic support to strengthen its organizational and response capacities. In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Society through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operations](#) including a flood response from late 2022 to 2023.



*The National Society volunteers providing aid to affected communities post 2023 floods in Johor.
(Photo: Malaysian Red Crescent Society)*

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance,


and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The following participating National Societies are supporting the Malaysian Red Crescent Society:

The **Australian Red Cross** is supporting the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in project implementation.

The **Italian Red Cross** is supporting the National Society's Humanitarian Field School and is in discussions on support for a road safety regional project.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Italian Red Cross							

Movement coordination

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly-adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The **ICRC** Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur will be closing by December 2023. Nevertheless, it will still have a few representatives in Kuala Lumpur. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society and the ICRC established a five-year partnership agreement for the period 2021 to 2026, to jointly cooperate in the areas of migration and restoring family links, and the overall development of the National Society, including its role as auxiliary to public authorities.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society works closely with a range of governmental bodies, particularly the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, and the Ministry of Health. During emergencies, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society coordinates with the governmental bodies at both national and district levels. Foremost among these is the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA), the lead agency for disaster response in Malaysia, under the Prime Minister's Office. Other governmental bodies involved typically include the Social Welfare Department and the Malaysian Civil Defence Force. The immediate response functions of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society include complementing the search and rescue operations by government agencies, and the deployment of staff from the national headquarters to support assessments and initial assistance to people affected.

The National Society also actively collaborates with various agencies to increase preparedness activities, including partnering with the Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre of the Ministry of Health to develop an Epidemic/Pandemic Preparedness Plan. Moving forward, the Malaysian Red

Crescent Society plans to engage with relevant government agencies to develop its El Nino preparedness plan.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society received support from IFRC to establish connections with the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF), resulting in an invitation to participate in the Five Power Defence Arrangement exercise. IFRC provided technical guidance on engaging with MAF and preparing the National Society for its involvement.

With the support of IFRC, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society has engaged with humanitarian agencies such as Medecins Sans Frontieres Malaysia, focusing on migrant support to ensure the delivery of coordinated health services to migrants.

(Place in box): This plan reflects the priorities of the National Society, its partner National Societies, and the IFRC Secretariat for 2024 and subsequent years. It is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the National Society, its partner National Societies, and the IFRC Secretariat for 2024 and subsequent years. It is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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