



# MALAYSIA

## 2026-2027 IFRC network country plan



31 December 2025

### In support of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society



**88**

National Society branches



**105**

National Society local units



**93**

National Society staff



**89,200**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



**3,000**

Climate and environment



**26,000**

Disasters and crises



**472,000**

Health and wellbeing



**6,000**

Migration and displacement



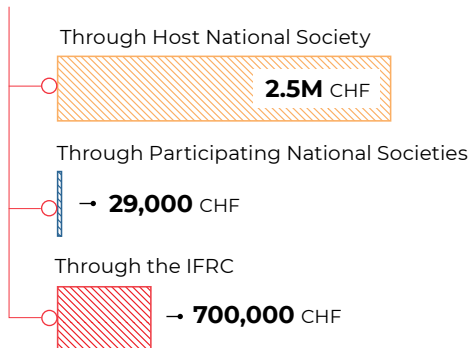
**8,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

**2026**

**Total 3.2M CHF**



**2027**

**Total 3M CHF**

*Projected funding requirements*

### Participating National Societies

Australian Red Cross

Italian Red Cross\*

### IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

**MAAMY002**

*\*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in 2025.*

## Hazards



Floods



Fires



Disease



Earthquakes



Migration

### 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 links

**INFORM Severity rating** **Low**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** **Low**

**Human Development Index rank** **67**

**World Bank Population figure** **35.6M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line** **6.2%**



National Society volunteers conducting relief efforts, distributing food aid and hygiene kits to flood-affected communities in Kelantan (Photo: Malaysian Red Crescent Society)

## Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
<b>Longer-term needs</b>				
Climate and environment	40,000		40,000	
Disasters & crises	500,000	200,000	500,000	200,000
Health & wellbeing	1.2M	240,000	1M	200,000
Migration & displacement	100,000		100,000	
Values, power & inclusion	150,000	60,000	150,000	60,000
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	500,000	200,000	500,000	200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.5M</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>2.3M</b>	<b>660,000</b>

### Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Italian Red Cross	2026	29,000			29,000			-	

# 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

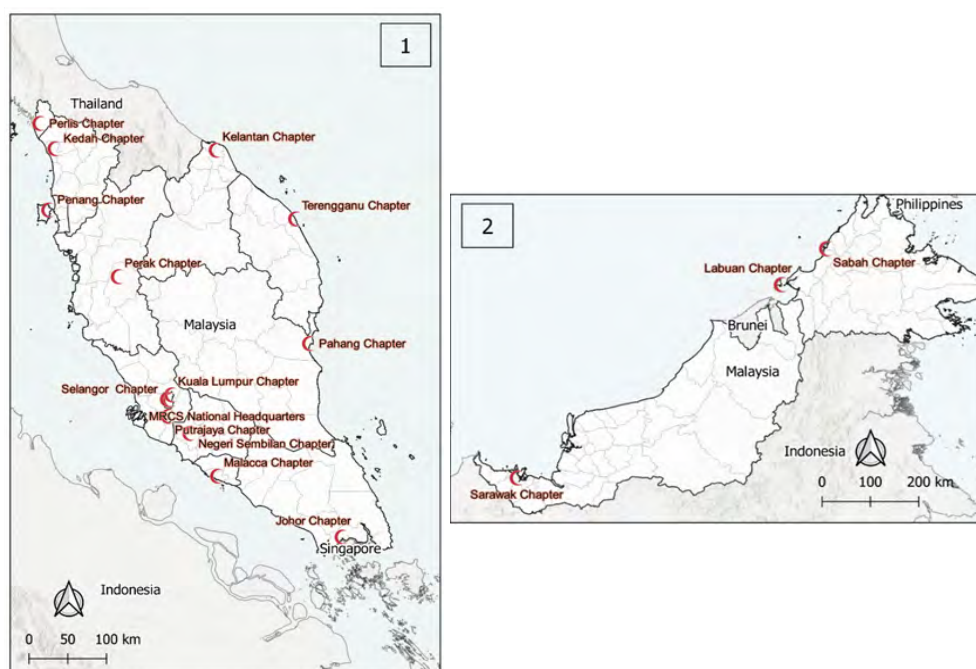
The Malaysian Red Crescent Society operates its flagship emergency ambulance service across Kuala Lumpur and 11 states, managing the 999-emergency assistance hotline and ensuring readiness even outside of disaster situations. Its immediate disaster response functions include complementing the search 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, rehabilitation of water infrastructure; delivery of multipurpose cash assistance and sustained sector-wide reach across all governorates through robust branch coordination.

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 the IFRC for all National Societies. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society's [Strategic Plan 2025–2030](#) sets out a comprehensive roadmap to advance its humanitarian mission across the nation. This forward-looking strategy is structured around several key priorities that guide the National Society's efforts over the coming years, ensuring more effective support for communities in need. The principal focus areas include:

- Strengthening disaster preparedness and response to deliver timely and effective assistance to vulnerable communities
- Building organizational capacity through investment in training, resources and technology, thereby empowering both volunteers and staff
- Promoting health and wellbeing, particularly among marginalized groups, with a strong emphasis on preventive health programmes and community education
- Fostering partnerships with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to broaden the reach and efficacy of humanitarian initiatives
- Prioritizing the adoption of innovative and sustainable practices to ensure long-term resilience and adaptability

In [2024](#), the Malaysian Red Crescent Society reached 1.1 million people through its long term services and development programmes and 39,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society Headquarters and provincial branches

*The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities*

# 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). The country's population is projected to reach 34.1 million in 2025, according to the [Department of Statistics Malaysia](#).

Malaysia remains one of the world's most [open economies](#), with a trade-to-GDP ratio consistently exceeding 130 per cent since 2010. This openness to global trade and investment has continued to drive employment and income growth, with around 40 per cent of jobs in Malaysia linked to export-oriented activities. Since recovering from the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis, the country's economy has grown at an average rate of 5.4 per cent annually. Economic growth is expected to remain [moderate](#) at around 4 per cent annually for 2025–2026. Malaysia is now on the cusp of transitioning from an upper middle-income to a [high-income economy](#), projected to achieve this milestone between 2024 and 2028.

While [income inequality](#) in Malaysia remains higher than in many other East Asian nations, it has gradually improved. Over the past decade, income growth among the bottom 40 per cent of earners has outpaced that of the top 60 per cent, though the absolute income gap has widened.

This disparity has led to continued perceptions of marginalization among certain groups. In response, the government has increasingly shifted towards targeted support for the poor and vulnerable, primarily through cash transfer programmes. The latest [Household Income and Poverty Report \(2022\)](#) recorded urban poverty at 4.5 per cent and rural poverty at 12 per cent, reflecting ongoing pressure on household purchasing power.

Malaysia remains politically stable under a coalition government, with policy priorities centered on economic resilience, social protection, and climate adaptation. Social challenges such as youth employment, housing affordability and mental health are gaining greater policy and public attention.

Environmentally, while Malaysia is largely shielded from major seismic risks, it continues to experience seasonal floods, landslides, haze and prolonged dry spells. The [2024–2025 monsoon floods](#) exposed persistent vulnerabilities across several states, while El Niño-driven dry conditions have renewed concerns over water security and agricultural productivity.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

Malaysia continues to face multiple natural hazards, including [floods](#), forest fires, haze, landslides, seismic activity, and epidemics, with floods remaining the most widespread and destructive hazard. Climate change exacerbates these risks, increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, is highly susceptible to flooding, and climate-related biodiversity loss further threatens vulnerable communities. Rising temperatures have also contributed to a surge in vector-borne diseases such as dengue, which has seen a significant increase in cases in recent years.

Malaysia's equatorial climate is shaped by the Northeast Monsoon. Observations from the [Malaysian Meteorological Department \(METMalaysia\)](#) show statistically significant warming between 1969 and 2023 along with a slight rise in annual rainfall totals. Recent monsoon seasons illustrate the hazard profile. The 2024–2025 Northeast Monsoon caused widespread flooding, mass evacuations and infrastructure damage in several states including Kelantan, Terengganu, Kedah, Johor, Sarawak and Sabah within a short period. Projections from the World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal indicate further warming and changes in precipitation that will increase flood, heat and rainfall-triggered landslide risks by mid-century. Seasonal air-quality degradation linked to regional biomass burning also recurs during the Southwest Monsoon. Alert Level 2 was activated for southern ASEAN in July 2025 due to heightened hotspot and smoke-haze activity.

According to the [Climate Risk Country Profile Malaysia \(2021\)](#), flooding remains the most damaging natural hazard in the country, and its frequency and severity have increased. Projections indicate that this trend will worsen with continued global warming..

In addition to flooding, heat waves are expected to intensify significantly due to climate change. Under various emissions scenarios, Malaysia could experience temperature [increases](#) of up to 3.11°C by the 2090s. These rising temperatures will alter regional precipitation patterns, particularly in Sabah and Sarawak, and intensify drought and flood cycles.

Malaysia's land use and environmental pressures shape baseline exposure. Oil palm plantations covered about 5.65 million hectares in December 2003. A high and growing urban population concentrates people and assets in flood and heat-prone settings. The country also retains substantial mangroves, around 0.52 million hectares by recent Global Mangrove Watch estimates, which are critical for coastal protection and carbon storage.

Since 2001 about 9.5 million hectares of [tree cover loss](#) has been recorded. Municipal solid waste exceeds 39,000 tons per day, undermining drainage during heavy rain and contributing to air-quality problems when openly burned. Air quality tracking shows a mixed pollution index profile. These trends point to the need for stronger watershed management, risk-sensitive land use and improved waste systems to reduce hazard exposure and chronic pollution.

Malaysia updated its [National Policy on Climate Change 2.0](#) in 2024, setting five strategic thrusts, 15 strategies and more than 90 actions for low-carbon and climate-resilient development. The updated NDC (2021) commits to an unconditional 45% reduction in economy-wide emissions intensity compared to 2005 by 2030. The Government is formulating an inclusive [National Adaptation Plan \(MyNAP\)](#) with multi-stakeholder processes initiated in 2025 and an indicative completion timeline of 2026. A National Climate Change Bill (RUUPIN) has been prepared for tabling to provide a legislative anchor for climate governance. Aligning humanitarian and risk-reduction objectives with NCCP 2.0, the NDC and MyNAP will enable coherent, multi-year programming with government counterparts.

### 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; (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The National Society has demonstrated its commitment to addressing climate change and environmental degradation by signing the [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations 2022](#). This 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. The

National Society will strengthen institutional readiness for risk-informed action, promote environmentally responsible green operations across systems and logistics, and deepen whole-of-society partnerships that enable equitable adaptation.

At the same time the National Society will scale community resilience by ensuring at-risk populations can access actionable risk information and take early, locally led measures before hazards strike. This includes embedding climate considerations across preparedness, health, WASH and disaster risk reduction while advocating for inclusive access to climate-resilient services.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Implement Malaysian Red Crescent Society Climate Adaptation Strategy and [Green Response Policy](#) with clear governance, reporting lines and annual targets
- Convene a national multi-stakeholder Climate Forum and agree on an action set that supports Malaysia's climate priorities



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## Disasters and crises

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

Malaysia's primary hazard exposure is dominated by river [floods](#), the most common and chronic disaster, severely affecting the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia during the annual monsoon and causing frequent flash floods in urban areas. Significant exposure also exists to epidemics such as dengue fever, droughts often linked to the El Niño phenomenon, and landslides regularly triggered by heavy rainfall or slope disturbances. Coastal flooding is a growing concern linked to sea-level rise, while tsunamis pose a low-probability but high-impact risk to northwestern coastal areas. Earthquakes are not a nationwide threat but remain a significant localized hazard in Sabah, particularly in the Ranau and Kundasang regions.

Recent and ongoing [crises](#) reflect this risk profile with an increase in landslide events following periods of intense rainfall, particularly in hilly regions such as Selangor, Pahang and Sabah. In recent years unusually severe and recurring monsoon floods have caused major displacement and infrastructure damage. At the same time drought conditions and transboundary haze have periodically emerged during dry spells, affecting air quality and water resources. Floods, landslides and droughts are occurring more frequently and with greater impact, putting pressure on response systems and highlighting the country's growing vulnerability to climate change and environmental degradation.

Malaysia's recurring natural [hazards](#), particularly floods and landslides, have severe impacts on the population. These include

- Scale up community risk information and early action in targeted high-risk locations Institutionalize green operations

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Malaysian Red Crescent Society's efforts under climate and environment by providing technical guidance and building network with relevant agencies on climate and environment interventions. The IFRC also supports the National Society in strengthening its institutional readiness for climate adaptation and environmentally sustainable programming. Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society in integrating climate considerations across its operations and promoting green practices in humanitarian response and disaster preparedness.

loss of life, widespread displacement and significant damage to homes, infrastructure and livelihoods. Vulnerable communities such as low-income groups and rural populations are disproportionately affected. The state demonstrates considerable coping capacity through a well-coordinated response system led by the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) and supported by agencies like the Fire and Rescue Department and the Civil Defence Force. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society, private sector and NGOs further bolster response efforts. Regional cooperation is enabled through ASEAN agreements such as the Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.

The primary focus remains on pre-disaster preparedness, early warning systems and post-disaster recovery, increasingly integrated with climate adaptation strategies. However, humanitarian response faces challenges such as geographical isolation of affected communities, urban complexity during flash floods, resource strains from frequent disasters and coordination difficulties among multiple actors. Malaysia's disaster management is underpinned by key legal frameworks including the [National Security Council Directive No. 20](#), the [Civil Defence Force Act](#) and the [Twelfth Malaysia Plan](#), which collectively emphasize disaster risk reduction and resilient development.

## Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will advance a coherent agenda to strengthen community resilience, deliver people-centered assistance and enhance institutional readiness. This approach aligns with the National Society's policies and Movement frameworks, including IFRC Strategy 2030, the IFRC Disaster Risk Management Policy, [Cash and Voucher Assistance \(CVA\)](#) guidance, Community Engagement and Accountability ([CEA](#)) and Protection, Gender and Inclusion ([PGI](#)) commitments, as well as technical standards such as Sphere and INSARAG where applicable. The National Society will ensure at-risk populations have access to actionable risk information and adopt anticipatory, locally led measures to reduce exposure and vulnerability to multi-hazard shocks, while ensuring assistance modalities remain context-appropriate.

This approach is fully aligned with Malaysia's disaster-risk governance and climate priorities, including the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) architecture, the National Security Council's Directive No. 20, the Twelfth Malaysia Plan's focus on resilience and ASEAN cooperation under AADMER. Through clear doctrine covering policies, strategies, and SOPs interoperable command and coordination, strengthened surge and information-management capacities, and institutionalized quality, accountability, and learning, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society will contribute tangibly to nationally coordinated disaster-risk management and whole-of-society resilience. These efforts will complement governmental commitments on preparedness, anticipatory action, and risk-informed recovery.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Consolidate risk information and school/youth disaster risk reduction platforms
- Embed locally led preparedness aligned with national disaster risk reduction and [anticipatory action](#) frameworks

- Strengthen [Cash and Voucher Assistance](#) arrangements and guidance
- Retain capacity for in-kind support where markets are disrupted
- Establish and validate command and coordination functions, including EOC readiness
- Uphold continuous learning and operate in close alignment with NADMA mechanisms and ASEAN cooperation

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in strengthening its disaster preparedness, response and [anticipatory action](#) capacities. It will assist in the areas of institutional readiness, operational coordination and the integration of community-based disaster risk reduction into national frameworks. Additionally, the IFRC will also extend support to enhancing systems for [early warning early action](#), information management and [Cash and Voucher Assistance](#).

IFRC mechanisms such as [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(IFRC-DREF\)](#) and [Emergency Appeals](#) will be drawn on as needed by the National Society. The IFRC approved two DREFs in support of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society:

[IFRC-DREF Flood 2024](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 396,876 in December 2024 supported the Malaysian Red Crescent Society to assist 14,315 people affected by floods which claimed 10 lives and caused widespread destruction. The National Society supported the targeted people over a six-month period with assistance such as WASH interventions, distribution of dengue prevention kits, awareness raising sessions, among others.



National Society volunteers giving first aid training for the visually impaired (Photo: Malaysian Red Crescent Society)



## Health and wellbeing

In Malaysia, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) continue to account for 73 per cent of total deaths, with 35 per cent of these deaths occurring among the working-age population. The latest findings from the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) highlight a persistent upward trend in NCD risk factors. As of 2023, the prevalence rates among adults aged 18 and above include high blood cholesterol, overweight or obesity, high blood pressure and high blood sugar. These figures contribute to a growing population at risk for NCD-related complications.

Children remain vulnerable to NCDs due to unhealthy lifestyles involving poor diets, lack of physical activity, smoking, and stress. Malaysia's healthcare system faces increasing challenges in providing quality management for NCD patients, with complications often exacerbated by late diagnoses. Backlogs in surgeries and treatments have led to premature morbidity and increased mortality rates among those with NCDs.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services are increasingly prioritized, not only in disaster contexts but also in addressing socio-economic challenges, stigma, social exclusion, and gender-based violence. The government and health authorities are intensifying efforts to expand mental health support services and raise awareness around suicide prevention.

Mpox (Monkeypox) Cases Malaysia has also reported an emergence of Mpox (previously known as Monkeypox) cases in 2024. As of May 2025, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has reported 10 confirmed Mpox cases in Malaysia, all linked to the less severe Clade II variant. The Ministry has implemented containment measures, including quarantine protocols and public awareness campaigns, to limit the spread of the virus.

Waterborne and vector-borne diseases persist as public health concerns in Malaysia, with dengue fever being the most pressing challenge. Dengue fever remains one of Malaysia's most serious health challenges, with large outbreaks occurring almost every year, exacerbated by rapid urbanization and changing weather patterns. While the impact of COVID-19 has significantly reduced, it serves as a reminder of the need for continued preparedness for future outbreaks. Malaysia's immunization programme remains strong, ensuring most children receive essential vaccines. Various control measures have been implemented to curb dengue transmission and reduce the incidence of other arbovirus cases across Malaysia.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will pursue a coherent, multi-year agenda focused on strengthening community health, protecting dignity in emergencies, and integrating environmental public health considerations across all programmes. This agenda is anchored in Movement frameworks such as IFRC Strategy 2030, the IFRC Health and Care Framework, and

the IFRC Asia Pacific Emergency WASH Strategy 2021–2030 and guided by recognized standards. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will prioritize preventive and promotive health, people-centered service delivery, and accountability to affected populations, with systematic attention to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will advance inclusive, evidence-based primary and community health services, expand risk communication, and promote healthy behaviours while maintaining readiness for epidemics and pandemics. This includes strengthening first aid and ambulance capacities, operationalizing the Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Plan and integrating public-health WASH measures to reduce water- and vector-borne risks. Mental health and psychosocial support will be mainstreamed to ensure communities, volunteers, youth and staff receive appropriate care before, during and after crises. Throughout, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society will prioritize equitable access by adapting service delivery and modalities to context, needs, and market functionality.

In its humanitarian diplomacy role, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society will deepen structured engagement with the Ministry of Health and other national and sub-national stakeholders, align with sectoral plans and standards and contribute to nationally coordinated preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

### Planned activities in 2026

- Engage national/sub-national platforms to clarify and operationalize its auxiliary role in health system strengthening, health in emergencies and WASH
- Institutionalize beneficiaries-feedback and satisfaction-review systems to drive adaptive management and demonstrate outcome improvements
- Expand community-based and mobile health services (including community based health and first aid), with emphasis on NCD risk reduction, health promotion and referral linkages to public care
- Maintain operational water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) capacity
- Finalize and apply mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) guidance to support communities, volunteers, youth and staff across preparedness, response and recovery

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in strengthening its community health, public health and mobile clinic services. It will also provide assistance in enhancing service delivery systems, technical capacities, and programme quality to ensure sustained and scalable health interventions nationwide.



Malaysia is both a destination and transit country for migrant workers from ASEAN and South Asia and hosts a significant refugee and asylum-seeker population. Internal displacement occurs episodically due to disasters rather than conflict. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and official statistics, approximately 3 million [international migrants](#) resided in Malaysia as of July 2023, representing about 8.9 per cent of the population. UNHCR reports over 180,000 [refugees](#) and asylum seekers, primarily from Myanmar (including Rohingya), living mainly in urban areas of Peninsular Malaysia. Disaster-related internal displacement is recurrent during monsoon seasons but generally short-term, as noted in the [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's \(IDMC\) country profile and global reporting](#).

Seasonal hazards such as floods, landslides, haze, and heat waves disrupt livelihoods and often trigger short-term evacuations. Demographic profiles vary: migrant workers are predominantly of working age, with gendered patterns in employment (e.g., women in domestic work), while refugees and asylum seekers include large numbers of families and children. Across all groups, vulnerabilities increase for people with irregular status, children (including unaccompanied or separated), older persons, persons with disabilities, and women (including pregnant or lactating), due to barriers in documentation, language, mobility, and access to essential services.

Humanitarian needs center on access to health, protection, education, and safe livelihoods, alongside inclusive disaster preparedness. For refugees and asylum seekers, the absence of a statutory asylum framework limits lawful work, schooling, and affordable healthcare, increasing protection risks and reliance on community systems and UNHCR referral pathways. Migrant workers especially those in irregular situations face gaps in occupational safety, wage protection, and access to affordable healthcare. During flood seasons, evacuation, shelter, and WASH services must account for language and documentation barriers to prevent exclusion from assistance and registration.

The policy environment is anchored in the Immigration Act of 1959 and 1963. Malaysia is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or the 1967 Protocol and has no domestic asylum law, with UNHCR responsible for mandate registration and casework. [Anti-trafficking and smuggling are governed by the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act \(ATIPSOM\) 2007](#), implemented through the inter-agency Council for Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants (MAPO) mechanism, which is periodically revised. The [2025 Trafficking in Persons](#) report summarizes current provisions. Looking ahead, sustained labour demand, regional instability, and climate-related hazards suggest continued mixed-migration pressures and periodic disaster-related displacement, underscoring the need for multi-hazard preparedness that is inclusive

of migrants and refugees and aligned with government coordination arrangements.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will pursue a coherent, multi-year agenda on migration and displacement that safeguards humanitarian access, protection, and dignity for migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced persons along the continuum of movement. The Migration and Displacement Policy and Strategy of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society is aligned with the 2021-2024 Plan of Action which focuses on strengthening the National Society's capabilities in migration and displacement, enhancing humanitarian responses to migration and displacement, and building partnerships and engaging in humanitarian diplomacy. These objectives complement governmental commitments by working with public authorities through existing legal and coordination frameworks. It aims to improve inclusion in health, [WASH](#), protection, and education services, while reducing disaster-related risks and short-term displacement through anticipatory and community-based approaches. In parallel, they uphold protection safeguards consistent with national counter-trafficking efforts. The National Society will deepen two-way engagement with migrant and host communities so that feedback informs service design and vulnerabilities linked to status, age, gender, or disability are addressed across preparedness, response and recovery.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Implement the migration and displacement policy and strategy and its action plan
  - Advance dialogue with authorities and service providers to facilitate migrants' and displaced persons' access to essential public services
  - Maintain readiness to provide assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes and in high-density urban areas
  - Consolidate staff/volunteer training and operational guidance on migration and displacement
  - Integrate displacement-risk reduction and inclusive preparedness into disaster planning in flood- and landslide-prone areas
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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in strengthening its community health, public health and mobile clinic services. It will also provide assistance in

enhancing service delivery systems, technical capacities, and programme quality to ensure sustained and scalable health interventions nationwide.



## Values, power and inclusion

Malaysia has an extensive but unevenly accessed education system. In 2023, there were 10,231 government and government-aided schools serving nearly 5 million pupils, with 1.27 million enrolled in higher education. Despite this scale, access gaps persist for rural and remote communities, especially in Sabah and Sarawak and for migrant, refugee, and stateless children facing documentation, language, and digital barriers.

Seasonal hazards such as floods, landslides, and haze disrupt schooling, particularly on Peninsular Malaysia's east coast and inland Borneo.

Risks of violence, discrimination, and exclusion are highest where gender, disability, age, and minority status intersect. Key concerns include sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, barriers for persons with disabilities and older persons in accessing spaces, information, and services especially during evacuations and in temporary shelters and child-protection risks such as separation, neglect, and exposure to violence during hazard seasons. Recurrent floods, landslides, haze, and densely built urban environments can further heighten these risks if shelter, WASH, health, and safeguarding standards are not consistently applied.

Malaysia's policy framework offers strong entry points through laws on child protection, domestic violence, disability rights, anti-sexual harassment, and anti-trafficking, but implementation remains uneven. Gaps include physical and digital access, language barriers, stigma, and limited disaggregated data for equity monitoring.

By early 2025, internet penetration in Malaysia reached 97.7 per cent, with 25.1 million social media accounts across platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, and short-form video apps making multilingual, mobile-first communication essential. In 2024–2025, Malaysia introduced a licensing regime for major social platforms to curb harmful content and enhance online safety, with compliance beginning in early 2025. Authorities have also pushed for stronger age verification to protect minors. While high connectivity enables rapid outreach and feedback loops, it also raises expectations for timely, clear, and independent information—especially during hazard seasons or politically sensitive periods when public trust is fragile.

## 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. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will advance a coherent agenda in 2026–2027 that upholds dignity, access, participation and safety across education, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA). The National Society will strengthen equitable learning continuity in hazard-prone areas, embed survivor-centered PGI safeguards in all operations, and operate reliable, multilingual feedback and complaints systems. Staff and volunteers will be equipped with clear guidance and training, so engagement remains consistent, safe and impartial.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will align its objectives with Malaysia's legal and policy framework for education, child protection, domestic violence, disability inclusion, anti-sexual harassment and anti-trafficking, as well as with national disaster-risk arrangements for school safety and public information. The National Society will work constructively with public authorities and specialized agencies to improve inclusive access to schooling, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and protection services, with focused attention on inland areas of Sabah and Sarawak and flood-prone urban corridors.

## Planned activities in 2026

- Provide risk education, psychosocial support and referrals for learners facing documentation, language or digital barriers
- Run multilingual, mobile-first feedback and complaints channels with safe options for sensitive cases
- Train staff and volunteers on PGI, safeguarding, child protection and CEA
- Engage ministries and local authorities to align with national laws and school-safety/DRR arrangements
- Participate in joint assessments and information-sharing in high-risk districts

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in advancing technical capacities in protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA). It will also support in reinforcing safeguarding and feedback mechanisms across all the programmes. Additionally,

the IFRC will support the National Society in embedding inclusive practices that promote dignity, participation and equitable access in all operational contexts.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2015. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.



### Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Health, accident and death compensation for volunteers
- Digital transformation roadmap
- Data management system
- Youth engagement strategy
- Strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanism
- PSEA action plan and policy



## Strategic and operational coordination

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will consolidate its auxiliary role by deepening structured coordination with national and sub-national authorities, while strengthening Movement and membership coordination to ensure coherent and principled action. In parallel, the National Society will professionalize domestic resource mobilization and public engagement to sustainably grow unrestricted income, public trust and understanding of the National Society's mandate.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will establish predictable engagement with line ministries and priority NGOs, document follow-ups from targeted meetings on areas such as Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

(MHPSS). Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Disaster Management and align messaging with Movement partners. It will issue two peer-reviewed policy briefs annually and run a structured media programme, including press briefings and journalist field visits, to translate field data into policy dialogue. Additionally, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society will professionalize fundraising by delivering three income-generating events, appointing a public relations and marketing agency to lead an annual digital campaign and launching one national advocacy and fundraising drive that leverages influencers and crowdfunding, while expanding social media reach and engagement. Finally, the National Society will synchronize advocacy calendars, campaign narratives and after-action learning across headquarters and chapters to ensure principled and interoperable public engagement.

## 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. It will also support the National Society in improving

Movement and membership coordination, supporting engagement with national authorities and humanitarian partners and promoting effective communication and policy dialogue. The IFRC will also provide technical advice to help the National Society gradually advance its domestic resource mobilization and public engagement efforts.



## National Society development

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will streamline governance and management arrangements, strengthen branch performance and invest in people systems, including leadership, human resources, volunteering, and youth guided by the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC), Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) and Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) findings. The National Society will advance financial sustainability through improved financial systems, consolidated reporting and diversified revenue streams. In 2026–2027, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society will consolidate a robust branch network and capable leadership cadre through OCAC, BOCA and PER-driven improvements and governance development. A Volunteer Development and Human Resource Strategy with clear roles and safeguards, combined with readiness for mental health and

psychosocial support in emergencies, structured recruitment, induction, and engagement will professionalize workforce and volunteer management. Enhanced financial competencies, timely consolidated reporting and a functioning Finance System Platform will improve transparency and decision-making, while diversified domestic revenue streams through events, CSR partnerships and digital campaigns will strengthen resilience.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in advancing its organizational development priorities and strengthening governance, leadership, volunteering and youth engagement as per OCAC, BOCA and PER findings. The IFRC will also provide technical guidance to enhance financial systems, branch performance and learning exchanges that contribute to a stronger and more sustainable National Society.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will strengthen its auxiliary role and public trust by exercising principled humanitarian diplomacy and strategic communication that is evidence-based, solutions-oriented and aligned with Movement standards. Over the medium term, the National Society will cultivate authoritative voice and convening power with public authorities, media, civil society and the private sector; translate operational insights into policy options; and expand domestic engagement to mobilize resources and shape positive public behaviours.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides technical guidance to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in strengthening humanitarian diplomacy and communications aimed at positioning the National Society as the partner of choice for humanitarian assistance and community resilience. It will also provide assistance improving communication systems, strengthening public information and visibility and supporting engagement with authorities, media and other partners.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society will embed an organization-wide culture of accountability, risk management, and continuous improvement. Key priorities include strengthening human resource safeguards, ensuring transparent and timely financial management, mitigating integrity risks such as protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and building resilient supply chain and logistics systems. Results-based management will be reinforced through strong data governance, supported by digital transformation as the backbone for scale, speed, and inclusion. Interoperable systems, standardized processes, and enhanced digital skills will ensure data protection and business continuity. The other objectives of the National Society include:

- Update, approve and internalize core governance instruments
- Implement a unified planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting framework supported by digital survey

tools, dashboards and multilingual feedback and complaints channels

- Deploy mission-critical systems such as real-time crisis communications, warehouse and inventory management, e-procurement, centralized disaster information management, and training management
- Upgrade IT backbone at headquarters for continuity and protection, enhance staff digital literacy and implement a [Digital Transformation plan](#)
- Improve staff well-being and cross-department coordination through ergonomic reconfiguration, targeted refurbishments and an internal collaboration platform

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in strengthening accountability, transparency and agile management systems. The IFRC will provide technical support to the National Society in areas such as integrity, financial management systems, [digital transformation](#), and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER). It will also provide technical support to help the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in applying learning and evidence for more efficient and accountable decision-making.

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## 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.

The IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur provides technical and strategic support in areas such as planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; communications; finance; health; disaster, climate and crisis management; procurement; and mental health and psychosocial support.

In recent years the IFRC supported the National Society through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations in relation to flood. In December 2024 and March 2025, the IFRC approved two [DREF](#) for floods.

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

## Movement coordination

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross 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 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.



National Society volunteers carrying out a humanitarian relief programme in Beaufort District, Sabah for communities affected by recent floods  
(Photo: Malaysian Red Crescent Society)

## 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.

At the national level, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society works closely with NADMA on disaster preparedness, response coordination and contingency planning, and coordinates with the Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team for joint training and field operations. In the health sector, it collaborates with the Ministry of Health on medical stockpile management, blood donation drives, ambulance and emergency medical services, and health promotion campaigns, including the ASEF Stockpile Project (2023–2025) aligned with public health priorities. The National Society also partners with the Ministry of Education on the Safe Steps Kids initiative, promoting safety and resilience among schoolchildren nationwide. In the area of climate and environment, it works

with organizations such as WWF-Malaysia to raise awareness on climate action and nature-based solutions. For capacity building and first aid training, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society implements a project supported by the Human Resources Development Corporation to train workers in emergency response skills, aiming to enhance workplace safety and expand access to certified first aid training through collaborations with corporate partners.

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. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society engaged with relevant government agencies to develop the National Anticipatory Action 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, IOM and UNHCR, focusing on migrant support to ensure the delivery of coordinated health services to migrants.



**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 16 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.

### About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and 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.

### Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC network databank](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
  - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
  - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

### Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC network databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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