



# MALAYSIA

## 2025-2027 IFRC network country plan



Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 4.9M**

18 February 2025

### In support of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society



**159**

National Society branches



**142**

National Society local units



**90**

National Society staff



**75,807**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



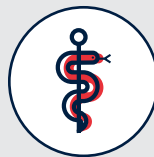
**18,000**

Climate and environment



**55,000**

Disasters and crises



**55,000**

Health and wellbeing



**30,000**

Migration and displacement



**50,000**

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 links

**INFORM Severity rating** **Medium**

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

**Human Development Index rank** **63**

**World Bank Population figure** **34.3M**

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

# Funding requirements

2025

2026\*\*

2027\*\*

\*\*Projected funding requirements

**Total 2.5M CHF**

**Total 2.4M CHF**

**Total 60,000 CHF**



See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

## Participating National Societies bilateral support for 2025

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
American Red Cross	174,000		●				

Total Funding requirement **CHF 174,000**

### IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

**MAAMY002**

### Hazards



Floods



Fires



Earthquakes



Disease



Migration



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)

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

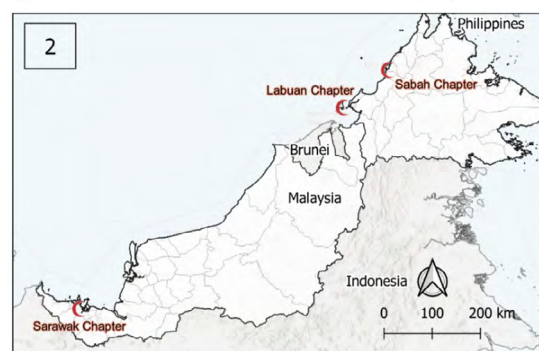
The **Malaysian Red Crescent Society** was established as a branch of the British Red Cross in 1948 and [admitted](#) to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1963. The National Society, initially incorporated under an Act of Parliament in 1965 as the Malaysian Red Cross 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 [2025-2030 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 2023, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society reached more than 13,000 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

## 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). As of 2024, the country's population is estimated at 33.5 million, with approximately 16.2 million females and 17.3 million males, 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. 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 programs. The average

household income in Malaysia rose by 2.4 per cent in 2022, reaching RM8,479 compared to RM7,901 in 2019, according to the Household Income and Household Expenditure Survey 2022. Data for 2023 is not yet available, but the rising trend in household income is expected to continue as the economy recovers and adapts to post-pandemic conditions.

As of 2024, there are no newly published figures available to update the Household Income Estimate ([HIES](#)) and Incidence of Poverty Report from 2022. The 2022 report from the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) highlighted that urban poverty rose from 3.9 per cent in 2019 to 4.5 per cent in 2022, driven by rising living costs and economic disruptions, while rural poverty decreased slightly from 12.4 per cent to 12 per cent over the same period. These trends underline the ongoing challenges in addressing income inequality and providing support to vulnerable urban populations.

Malaysia continues to experience a warm climate year-round, largely avoiding the natural hazards prevalent in neighboring countries within the Pacific Ring of Fire. However, it remains vulnerable to several risks, including floods, forest fires, haze, landslides, seismic activity, and epidemics. The anticipated effects of El Niño in 2024 have heightened concerns over prolonged dry weather and potential droughts, which could impact agriculture, water supply, and air quality, particularly due to the risk of [transboundary haze](#).

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Malaysia continues to face multiple natural hazards, including [floods](#), forest fires, haze, land-slides, 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.

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.

The impacts of climate change also pose severe threats to [agriculture](#), particularly in coastal regions. Coastal adaptation

and disaster risk reduction have become national priorities, as sea-level rise threatens key agricultural regions, especially in Sabah and Sarawak. Climate modelling indicates that major crops such as rice, rubber, palm oil, and cocoa will face production challenges due to increased droughts and floods during early growing seasons, affecting both yields and economic stability.

These growing environmental risks disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, particularly those reliant on agriculture, fishing, and other climate-sensitive sectors. Economic disparities are likely to increase, as these communities bear the brunt of climate change impacts. National efforts to strengthen disaster risk management and improve climate resilience are critical to mitigating these risks and protecting Malaysia's most vulnerable populations.

### 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. 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 WWF Malaysia to support these initiatives.

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Implement climate-smart disaster risk reduction initiatives and increase community resilience activities in targeted communities and implement simplified [early action protocols](#)
- Develop climate and environmental policies and strategies within the National Society as per the climate and environmental charter for humanitarian organizations
- Strengthen coordination with relevant government agencies to position the National Society in the climate action in Malaysia and with international stakeholders
- Continue partnership with WWF Malaysia to pilot [nature-based solutions](#) in climate change mitigation and adaptation projects

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### Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports 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 on fundraising through the Movement partners and other potential donors.



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## Disasters and crises

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

The range of natural hazards that Malaysia faces include floods, forest fires, haze, landslides, seismic activity, and epidemics. Among these, floods remain the most significant and recurring hazard, particularly affecting both urban and rural areas. The risk of earthquakes is mainly confined to Sabah in East Malaysia, while landslides and droughts are more localized, primarily affecting smaller eastern regions.

The frequency and severity of floods have risen sharply in recent decades, and this trend is expected to worsen due to the ongoing impacts of global warming. Malaysia has experienced

unusual flooding patterns over the past three years, driven in part by changing weather systems and climate variability. The country is influenced by both El Niño and La Niña phenomena, with El Niño typically causing drier conditions, while La Niña can either reduce or increase rainfall, depending on its intensity. Moderate La Niña events have led to increased precipitation and flood risks, particularly along the east coast.

Malaysia's flood events in 2024 continue to reflect this upward trend, with severe floods affecting key regions, particularly during the year's monsoon seasons. The combination of La Niña's effect and seasonal monsoons has exacerbated the risk of flooding, particularly in low-lying areas. These recurring

flood events have led to significant disruptions in livelihoods, displacement of communities, and damage to infrastructure.

To address the growing risks posed by natural disasters, Malaysia has established a National Disaster Management Directive, providing a coordinated mechanism for disaster management in pre-, mid-, and post-disaster phases. This directive outlines the roles and responsibilities of all agencies involved in disaster response, including search and rescue, health services, logistics, and media communication.

Malaysia's disaster response is further supported by the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), and the ASEAN Standard Operating Procedures for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP). These agreements facilitate cross-border disaster coordination and enhance the region's overall resilience to emergencies.

Malaysia has enacted a range of legal frameworks to support disaster management, including the 1998 Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act, the 1998 Fire Services Act, the Malaysia Civil Defence Force Act 1951 (amended in 2016), and the National Security Council Act of 2016. These laws provide the legal foundation for coordinated disaster response, risk management, and the protection of vulnerable populations.

The [Eleventh Malaysia Development Plan](#) (2016-2020) highlighted disaster and climate resilience as a cornerstone for sustainable development. As Malaysia continues its journey toward achieving its development goals, efforts to enhance climate and disaster resilience are essential to mitigate the risks posed by [climate change](#). The plan emphasizes the integration of disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies into national development policies, ensuring that resilience is built across various sectors, including agriculture, infrastructure, and health.

### 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, sanitation, and hygiene ([WASH](#)) 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).

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Continue to increase community resilience through improved preparedness activities and [early warning/early action](#) initiatives
- Continue to improve [cash readiness](#) and response readiness, including accessing IFRC supply chain management support
- Establish a visualization system for emergency operations at the national headquarters
- Continue to build disaster response capacities through training programmes for first responders in relief, shelter, and water and sanitation
- Operationalize humanitarian field school to improve practical knowledge and qualifications of first responders
- Strengthen auxiliary role in disaster risk management and expand leadership in disaster law and legislative advocacy, including civil military relations
- Strengthen coordination with relevant government agencies to position the National Society in the anticipatory action in Malaysia

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### Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in preparedness and response to disasters by developing a disaster management strategy. The IFRC provides the National Society with technical support on cash readiness, recovery programming and disaster law, and supports the promotion of the Malaysian humanitarian field school within the country and across the region.

IFRC mechanisms such as the IFRC 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 2024, a DREF allocation was activated for the Malaysian Red Crescent Society for its dengue prevention and control from late 2023 to April 2024. The DREF operation has been described be-low:

[IFRC-DREF dengue prevention control](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 121,673 in November 2023 supported the Malaysian Red Crescent Society to assist 48,000 people in dengue prevention and control in Selangor areas of Malaysia. The National Society supported the targeted people over a three-month period with assistance such as WASH interventions, distribution of dengue prevention kits, awareness raising sessions, among others.



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 (38.1 per cent), overweight or obesity (50.1 per cent), high blood pressure (30.0 per cent), and high blood sugar (18.3 per cent). 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.

As of mid-2024, the Ministry of Health (MoH) reported a significant surge in dengue cases, with 67,775 cases by June, reflecting a sharp 170 per cent increase from the same period in 2023. This surge mirrors the rising trend reported in 2022. The MoH Crisis Preparedness & Response Centre (CPRC) has remained active in monitoring dengue through its Dengue monitoring portal, initiated in December 2022. Various control measures have been implemented to curb dengue transmission and reduce the incidence of other arbovirus cases across Malaysia.

Mental health care in Malaysia continues to be provided by psychiatrists, psychologists, and counsellors. Psychiatrists treat severe mental health conditions requiring medication, while psychologists and counsellors manage mild to moderate mental health issues. However, a significant gap remains in mental health services due to the shortage of allied health care workers, as noted in the 2021 report "The NCD and the Healthcare Worker" by NCD Malaysia.

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. In 2023, 1,087 cases of suicide were recorded in Malaysia, compared to 981 cases the previous year, which marks an increase of 10 per cent, or by 106 cases. According to statistics from the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM), within a period of five years, the number of suicide cases was highest in 2021 with 1,142 cases. This increase has been linked to multiple factors, including mental health issues, socio-economic pressures, and the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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. The Ministry of Health confirmed 26 cases of Mpox as of June 2024, with infections primarily concentrated in urban areas. The cases have been linked to international travel and close contact with infected individuals. 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 in 2024. While access to piped water in Peninsular Malaysia's rural areas rose from 42 per cent to 96 per cent by 2020, coverage in Sabah and Sarawak lags at 62 per cent, largely due to the challenging terrain and sparse populations, which make infrastructure development costly and complex.

Malaysia faces a multifaceted public health challenge in 2024, with rising NCD prevalence, a severe dengue outbreak, increased suicide rates, Mpox cases, ongoing mental health concerns, and infrastructural gaps in water supply. The government and key stakeholders continue to prioritize epidemic preparedness, mental health services, and vector-borne disease control to safeguard the population's well-being.

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

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society aims to leverage its 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, with a focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups. Priority areas for the National Society in 2025–2026 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.



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## Planned activities in 2025

- 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, which includes mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#))
- Increase access to affordable, appropriate, and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) services for vulnerable communities
- Scale up WASH services in emergencies, including clean water access and hygiene promotion
- Expand community access to affordable and clean water through hygiene promotion

- Continue to strengthen coordination and partnership with the Ministry of Health on epidemic/pandemic preparedness plan

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## Longer term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** offers technical support and guidance to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, facilitating collaboration with health authorities to mobilize communities for routine and emergency vaccination campaigns, developing [community-based surveillance](#), and raising awareness about non-communicable diseases. Additionally, the IFRC assists 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 such as gravity feed systems and rainwater harvesting in targeted communities.



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## Migration and displacement

Malaysia continues to be a major destination country for migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers, and international students, due to its economic opportunities and development status. Alongside Singapore, Brunei, and Thailand, Malaysia attracts large groups of migrants primarily from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, India, and the Philippines. Smaller migrant populations also come from countries such as Iran, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Pakistan, Nigeria, and various African nations.

As of 2024, the Malaysian government [reported](#) 2.1 million registered migrant workers, reflecting an increase from the previous estimate of 1.98 million in 2019. However, unofficial estimates suggest that the total number of regular and irregular migrants, including undocumented workers, could range from 1.5 million to 3.5 million. Migrants are concentrated in urban centres such as Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Johor Bahru, Melaka, and Kota Kinabalu, where employment opportunities in construction, manufacturing, services, and domestic work are most common. Rural areas, particularly in the plantation sector, also host smaller numbers of migrant workers, primarily engaged in labour-intensive jobs categorized as 3D (Dirty, Dangerous, and Demeaning), which are typically avoided by local Malaysian workers.

As of June 2024, there are approximately 185,500 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with [UNHCR](#) in Malaysia. The majority of these refugees belong to Myanmar's Rohingya community, while others come from countries such as Pakistan, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sri Lanka. Malaysia, though not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, remains a key transit and destination country for

refugees and asylum seekers due to its relative stability and economic opportunities.

Sabah, in East Malaysia, continues to face unique migration challenges, as it remains a significant destination for both documented and undocumented migrant workers, predominantly from Indonesia and the Philippines. Migrants in Sabah are primarily employed in agriculture, plantations, and urban services, where opportunities for work are plentiful but often in informal or low-paid sectors. Migrants in Sabah face challenges related to documentation, access to healthcare, and legal protections.

Migrant workers in Malaysia, particularly those in the 3D sectors, play a crucial role in supporting the country's economy. These workers fill labour shortages in industries that are vital to Malaysia's growth, including construction, manufacturing, and agriculture. However, despite their economic contributions, many migrants face poor working conditions, limited access to social services, and legal uncertainties, particularly those without proper documentation.

Migration remains a complex issue in Malaysia, with millions of migrants and refugees contributing to the nation's workforce and economy while facing significant challenges. Efforts to manage regular and irregular migration, particularly in regions like Sabah, remain essential to ensuring the rights and wellbeing of migrant populations. Malaysia's reliance on migrant labour underscores the need for continued dialogue and policies to protect and integrate these populations, while also addressing the social and economic dynamics that migration presents.

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

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society has developed a migration and displacement plan for 2021–2024. 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 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.

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.

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## Planned activities in 2025

- Implement the migration and displacement policy and strategy and its action plan
- Continue to 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
- Continue to provide comprehensive training and guidance to staff and volunteers involved in migration and displacement efforts, aligned with [IFRC Global Migration Strategy](#) and Movement frameworks
- Continue to increase the integration of migration approaches across humanitarian activities, tools, and methodologies, emphasizing their role in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery

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## Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports 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. The National Society is also supported in its effort to enhance its capacity under migration and displacement initiatives, which includes advocating with relevant agencies for migrants, building the capacity of staff and volunteers, campaigns, and other humanitarian interventions in the country.



Malaysian Red Crescent Society volunteers providing help with evacuation, food supplies, and first aid to flood-affected households. (Photo: Malaysian Red Crescent Society)



## Values, power and inclusion

According to the [2019 National Health and Morbidity Survey](#), one in four adults in Malaysia and 4.7 per cent of children aged two to 17 experience functional difficulties. Despite the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2008, there remains a significant gap in adopting a rights-based approach to disability inclusion. Vulnerable groups, particularly children with disabilities and their caregivers, continue to face barriers such as stigma, discrimination, and social isolation, issues that have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF reports that these challenges have hindered access to essential healthcare and education services, resulting in psychological stress and financial losses for caregivers, especially during lockdown periods.

Annual flooding in Malaysia continues to disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, homeless individuals, out-of-school children, indigenous minorities, and migrant and refugee communities. These groups face greater risks during disasters due to limited access to social services and emergency response measures. There is an ongoing need for anticipatory actions, disaster preparedness programs, and education to mitigate these impacts. People living in rural and semi-urban areas are particularly affected, as access to emergency services can be delayed, and their vulnerabilities are heightened during severe weather events.

Approximately one in three adults in Malaysia has low health literacy, which hinders their understanding of health risks, information, and the benefits of available treatments. This gap in health literacy affects the public's ability to make informed decisions about their health, which poses challenges for improving public health outcomes. Addressing this issue is critical to ensuring more effective health communication and enabling individuals to take proactive steps toward better health management.

In 2024, Malaysia continues to face significant challenges related to disability inclusion, disaster impacts on vulnerable communities, and public health literacy. Addressing these challenges, particularly through improved health literacy and targeted support for vulnerable populations, will be key to fostering long-term positive outcomes in public health and disaster preparedness.

### 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 achieved 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.

#### 11 Country plan • Malaysia

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 (CEA) strategies across all levels, from programme and operational staff to senior leadership.

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### Planned activities in 2025

- 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
- Continue to expand the Safe Step Kids project initiated in 2023 with funding from Prudence Foundation through IFRC into 2025-2027
- 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
- Improve the [PGI](#) organizational capacity, through self-assessment process and capacity building action plan

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### Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC guides and supports the National Society to review and adopt existing policies on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) for all staff and volunteers. It also endorses 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 institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process in 2015. The self-assessment is

intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.



### Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Develop and implement the National Society resource mobilization strategy
- 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
- Establish and sustain donor relationship management for National Society through a variety of approaches

#### Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC continues 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
- Review the organizational capacity assessment and certification ([OCAC](#)) targets
- 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
- Implement its resource mobilization roadmap for financial sustainability, with the focus on capacity building funds

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

#### Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides 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. The IFRC also extends its support in disaster law initiatives. IFRC continued to support Malaysian Red Crescent Society's Red Ready project until January 2026. The National Society was also supported in submitting a proposal on mosquito-borne diseases preparedness to the Takeda company. Additionally, IFRC funding mechanisms such as the IFRC capacity building fund ([CBF](#)), the IFRC-ICRC National Society investment alliance ([NSIA](#)), and the Empress Shoken fund are utilized for National Society development initiatives.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the National Society to operationalize its road safety regional project in 2025.



## 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
- Identify, train, and coach media spokespeople at national and sub-national levels
- Re-engage the government to review and update National Society's auxiliary role and position the National Society as the main humanitarian actor in the country
- Jointly raise awareness on international humanitarian law (IHL) and humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides 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 provides 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 2023 to 2024.

## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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. 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 2025 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 Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- 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 2025 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 Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- 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 databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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