



UNITED NATIONS
MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE,
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



UN COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT **MALAYSIA** 2021

**ENABLING A
SUSTAINABLE &
INCLUSIVE
RECOVERY
FROM COVID-19**



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Foreword

Supporting Malaysia's COVID-19 endgame



KARIMA EL KORRI

UN Resident Coordinator

United Nations in Malaysia,
Singapore & Brunei Darussalam

This is the second unified results report for the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Malaysia, and the first one covering Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. It reports mainly on the work and results of the 21 UN agencies, 8 resident and 13 non-resident, with programmatic activity in Malaysia. Throughout 2021, the UN continued to support Malaysia to tackle COVID-19 and its fallout, helping to end the pandemic, promote social and economic recovery, and accelerate climate action. As this report makes clear, the UN's support has been highly varied – ranging from technical assistance and policy advice, to targeted interventions and to direct provision for key vulnerable groups.

The past year was a pivotal one for Malaysia. It began with the hope promised by mass vaccination, then saw the emergence of new variants and spikes in infection rates; yet positively, it closed, with a well-founded recovery underway. This journey was an especially difficult one for vulnerable groups, and as we move on, the challenge will likely increasingly become one of ensuring that no one is left behind. We strongly welcome the successive stimulus packages adopted by the Government, which have included direct income support for poor and vulnerable families, and the inclusion of all people living in Malaysia in the national vaccination programme. We advocate for maintenance of this progressive approach, by enabling livelihood opportunities for all, and in making efforts to address the educational and health challenges which have arisen during the pandemic.

The United Nations (UN) is encouraged by the Government's renewed focus on Malaysia's long term development challenges, and we especially note the launch of the Twelfth Malaysia Plan and the explicit linkages it makes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We also welcome the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) revision in July and further commitments Malaysia made at the COP26 on climate change. We would urge policymakers to go still further by building back better from the pandemic, by boldly addressing Malaysia's deeper and structural challenges, by addressing gender inequality and by bolstering partnerships to achieve the SDGs and deliver on the Leave No One behind promise.

In recognition that the UN Office of the Resident Coordinator (RCO) and several of the UN agencies have multi-country mandates, this report includes details of the UN development system's engagement in Singapore and Brunei Darussalam. The UN, as always, stands ready to partner and support all three nations in their efforts to end the pandemic and promote recovery, while also addressing longer term developmental constraints.

UN Country Team



UNITED NATIONS
MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE,
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



RESIDENT AGENCIES



unicef



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



World Food Programme



IOM
UN MIGRATION



UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

NON-RESIDENT AGENCIES



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



UNAIDS



unesco



UN WOMEN
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women



UNDRR
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



UN environment programme



UN CDF
Inclusiveness • Capital Development



UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



International Trade Centre



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CENTRES



World Food Programme



World Health Organization



UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY



UNITED NATIONS UNCTAD

Meet the UN Team in Malaysia



KARIMA EL KORRI
United Nations
Resident Coordinator



NILOY BANERJEE
UNDP
Resident Representative



RASHED MUSTAFA
UNICEF
Representative



DR LO YING-RU JACQUELINE
WHO
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THOMAS ALBRECHT
UNHCR
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ASA TORKELSSON
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Representative



KENDRA RINAS
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ILO
Deputy Regional Director



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UN Women
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Regional Representative



LORETTA HIEBER GIRARDET
UNDRR
Chief, Regional Office



EAMONN MURPHY
UNAIDS
Director



SYLVIE BETEMPS
ITC
Senior Trade Promotion Officer



DR. S. ISMAIL SHAH
ITU
Area Representative -
Southeast Asia

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CENTRES



ANGUS PRINGLE
WHO
Global Service Centre
Director a.i.



SUMALEE STERUP-HANSEN
WFP UNHRD
Head



NONI MAFA BUNE
UNDP
Global Shared Services
Unit Director



JOAN SAWE
UNU
Director of Administration

CHAPTER 1
**MALAYSIA
IN 2021**



1.1 Overall context

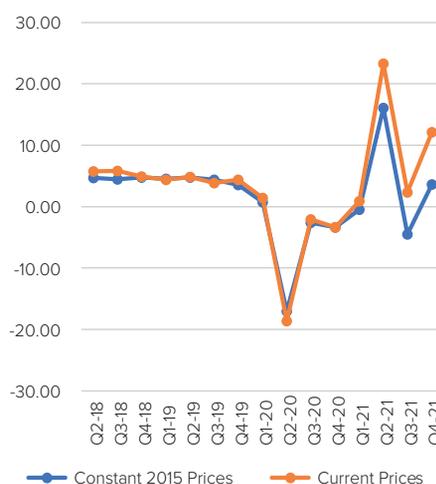
2021 was a year of dramatic change, successive waves of COVID-19, and the re-introduction of control measures at the mid-year point, gave way to optimism, as economic and social opening emerged in the latter months. Through effective containment of disease and progressive vaccination of the whole population, reaching 80% coverage by the end of the year, Malaysia made major strides towards normalization. Policy evolved under the National Recovery Plan (NRP) to a phased and evidence-based approach to social and economic opening. Deaths (31,012 in 2021) and hospitalizations (some 380,713 in 2021) were constrained, while - despite volatility - the economy expanded with GDP ending the year 3.1 percent higher.

In line with the authorities' cautious approach, public health restrictions, including masking, social distancing, and contact tracing remained in place, and the external border remained closed. These, and the tightened movement restrictions adopted in April and May 2021, initially added to the socioeconomic fallout, with reversals in livelihoods and unemployment. These effects come on top of estimated considerable increase in poverty from 5.6 to 8.9 percent (estimated for the midpoint of 2020).

Although these impacts improved considerably during the year, recovery was uneven; poverty and income data showed major variations between states and territories. Certain sectors, notably tourism and hospitality, peripheral areas and vulnerable groups fared less well than others. As a major trading nation, Malaysia was also buffeted by global pressures and dynamics, further adding to volatility and inequities.

Positively, the Government responded with further stimulus measures throughout the year, including additional social assistance transfers for poor and vulnerable Malaysians. The authorities successfully vaccinated all people living in Malaysia regardless of their nationality or migration status. Efforts were also

**QUARTERLY GDP GROWTH
(CHANGE ON LAST YEAR, DOSM)**



made to enable ongoing, home-based schooling, and to address some of the non-COVID health pressures that had built up, as case numbers declined in late 2021. Nevertheless, it is likely that the pandemic will still cast a long shadow over Malaysia's development trajectory. Interruptions to schooling and further education, and the non-immediate health impacts, including untreated long-term conditions, will require close attention.

Malaysia's path to recovery has also been affected by its long-established development challenges. The pandemic made clear the vulnerability of a large portion of the population to income shocks, given its limited social protection system and a sizeable informalized workforce. Re-accelerating of global trade and cross-national value chains, and with it, the spooling-up of Malaysia's large industrial sector, has restarted growth in emissions. Biodiversity loss and wider environmental degradation has also re-emerged. These questions sit within a wider policy agenda associated with Malaysia's transition to high income status.

1.2 Priorities for recovery during 2021



**GDP GREW BY
3.1%**
IN 2021, EDGING MALAYSIA
CLOSE TO HIGH INCOME STATUS



**UNEMPLOYMENT IMPROVED
BUT REMAINED
HISTORICALLY HIGH AT
4.3%**

Drawing on the above, as Malaysia recovers from the pandemic, it faces both near-term development priorities and a need to re-engage with its long-term objectives. The Chapter that follows sets out how the UNCT contributed to these aims in 2021, and the closing Chapter summarizes UN agency plans for 2022.

An absolute priority was and remains ending the pandemic, with as few fatalities as possible. The Government's approach, including universal vaccination and the maintenance of public health measures, was supported throughout the year by the UN.

Equally important was supporting the vulnerable, those in precarious work, migrants and refugees, and people living in peripheral areas where the recovery has been less marked. In addition to successive direct income transfers, the Government's adoption of the NRP paved the way for a phased and evidence-based economic reopening. Inevitably, however, some groups continued to fall between the gaps, and that was where the UN concentrated policy support and delivery efforts.

The launch of the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (12MP) in September, charting the Government's strategic direction for the next five years, signalled a major refocussing on the pre-existing development challenges. The 12MP presents proposals under three themes and 13 chapters, with the aims of delivering for a "prosperous, inclusive and sustainable Malaysia". The Plan looks forward to attaining high-income status, with growth in value-added sectors and development of a highly skilled workforce; social development, including investment in key public services; and a protected natural environment, alongside renewed measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The UN, particularly its development agencies, supported Government extensively before and after the Plan's publication. Encouragingly, the 12MP explicitly links its targets to those of the SDGs, heralding a new level of alignment with the 2030 Agenda. The UN also sought to provide specific new impetus in two further policy areas: reform of the social protection system through engagement with the Social Protection Council; and Malaysia's strengthened commitment to tackling climate change, announced at COP26.

CHAPTER 2

HELPING TO END THE PANDEMIC AND NURTURE THE NASCENT RECOVERY



2.1 UN management planning and programming in Malaysia during 2021

The 21 UN agencies supporting Malaysia, 8 resident and 13 non-resident, operate under their own managements, but work within the wider UNCT, led and coordinated by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC). Supported by a dedicated team, the RC is accredited as the representative of the UN Secretary-General in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam. In line with the global UN reforms of 2019, the UN in Malaysia operates within an overarching **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)** to guide programmatic activities over the five years between 2021 and 2025. This framework provides the objectives set out in agency planning and programming documents. The UNSDCF was completed in 2020. While it is still in the process of official endorsement, the UNSDCF has de facto framed and guided the work of the UN in Malaysia. Further details of its contents are provided in the final chapter of this report.

During the previous year, the UNCT adopted the **Socioeconomic Response Plan for COVID-19 (SERP)**, which aimed to support, augment and complement the work of the Government of Malaysia, recognising the UN's key comparative advantages. The SERP, which had a time frame of 18-24 months, continued to govern and drive UN support to the pandemic response. **A SERP update exercise** was undertaken in October 2021, providing new situational analysis and guidance on programming proposals.



2.2 Key results for 2021

In reporting the UN's achievements for the year, we have gathered results under five headings. Three of these draw on the Government's post-Covid objectives (as set out above), but we add one regarding the support delivered by the three regional and global centres based in Malaysia, and an additional key result for UN support to Singapore and Brunei. The key results in full are:



Results are supported with output and outcome data and by stories and testimonies from key participants and beneficiaries (Box Stories).



2.2.1 Key Result 1

Enabling Malaysia to bring the pandemic to an end

Key to Malaysia's effective containment of the pandemic in 2021, has been its highly successful health response – including a mass vaccination campaign, effective track and trace efforts, and improved treatment of those infected. UN agencies have supported and facilitated this approach, providing high level technical advice and inputs at the systemic level, and operationally by enabling Malaysia to widen its public health measures and reach herd-immunity levels of coverage, by supporting mass digital communications and vaccination of hard-to-reach groups.

Headline results include:



AN ESTIMATED
20.6
MILLION
PEOPLE ACCESSED
INFORMATION ON VACCINATION



OVER
61%
OF REGISTERED REFUGEES
WERE **VACCINATED** AGAINST
COVID-19

- **Delivering herd-immunity via vaccination: An estimated 20.6 million people accessed information on vaccination via the VaksinNation digital campaign; and over 61% of registered refugees were vaccinated against COVID-19 via direct outreach and communications.**

UNICEF, with support from the Australian Government and using Instagram as a platform, reached out to millions of Malaysians, particularly youth, with vital information on COVID-19 vaccination (with a total reach of 20.6 million and 494,191 video views).



UNHCR working through its delivery operations and communications, and alongside healthcare partners, facilitated the vaccination of 61% of refugees registered with the agency, some 81,200 people. This is one of the highest rates of refugee coverage in Asia-Pacific (see Box Story).

IOM, recognizing that no one is safe until everyone is safe provided technical planning support to ensure all migrants were included and received COVID-19 vaccinations. IOM produced informational materials and coordinated with migrant communities to communicate, inform, gather and support migrants to receive vaccinations, and provided personal protective equipment (PPE) and hygiene kits to over 2,000 migrants and refugees.



OVER
MYR 1.8
MILLION
MOBILIZED



400
OXYGEN
CONCENTRATORS
PROCURED

- Responding to new variants and spikes in COVID-19 infections: MYR 1.8 million was mobilized to procure 400 oxygen concentrators to meet acute demands. Malaysia's laboratories were enabled to undertake Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS), and thousands of healthcare workers were trained on bespoke COVID-19 infection control measures.



UNICEF, raising funds via public appeals, was able to source hundreds of oxygen concentrators to meet exceptional demand at the height of the Delta variant spike in the Klang Valley. These units, which enabled less severely affected patients to be treated at home, allowed hospital acute care beds to be freed-up, relieving pressures on the health system and likely saving hundreds of lives.

WHO maintained its role as a trusted provider of technical support to the Government of Malaysia on the control and treatment of COVID-19. A pivotal intervention was expanding the capacity of Malaysia's laboratories to undertake the identification of new variants, monitoring of geographical spread, point of entry screening and sampling via advanced WGS techniques. WHO also delivered ongoing capacity building on infection control and healthcare worker protection and isolation in clinical settings. Delivered via a training of trainers' modality, this cascaded to about 12,000 healthcare workers.

REACHING OUT, WITH MERCY MALAYSIA, TO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Refugees and asylum seekers faced major challenges during the pandemic, and often found themselves beyond the reach of mainstream public health efforts. Many were also fearful of coming forward.

Recognizing their vulnerability and the importance of reliable information, WHO supported MERCY Malaysia's risk communication and engagement, reaching out to more than 130,000 refugees and asylum seekers. By also working with UNHCR, MERCY clinics offered COVID-19 testing and, with partners, delivered food parcels, hygiene kits and personal protective equipment. And alongside the Ministry of Health, the partners reached out to ensure these communities were included in the national vaccination campaign. By enabling their inclusion, COVID-19 infection risks were reduced for all people living in Malaysia.

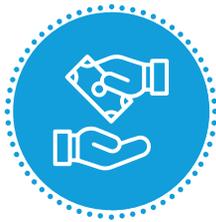


2.2.2 Key Result 2

Helping to protect and empower the vulnerable during the recovery

Alongside the health imperatives, the pandemic continued to heavily disrupt economic and social life in 2021. UN agencies, often working directly with Government, sought to address policy issues, plus any gaps, and deliver directly to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. This workstream became increasingly important as the recovery became better established, with the UN seeking to ensure no group was excluded from the benefits of easing movement restrictions and growing economic activity.

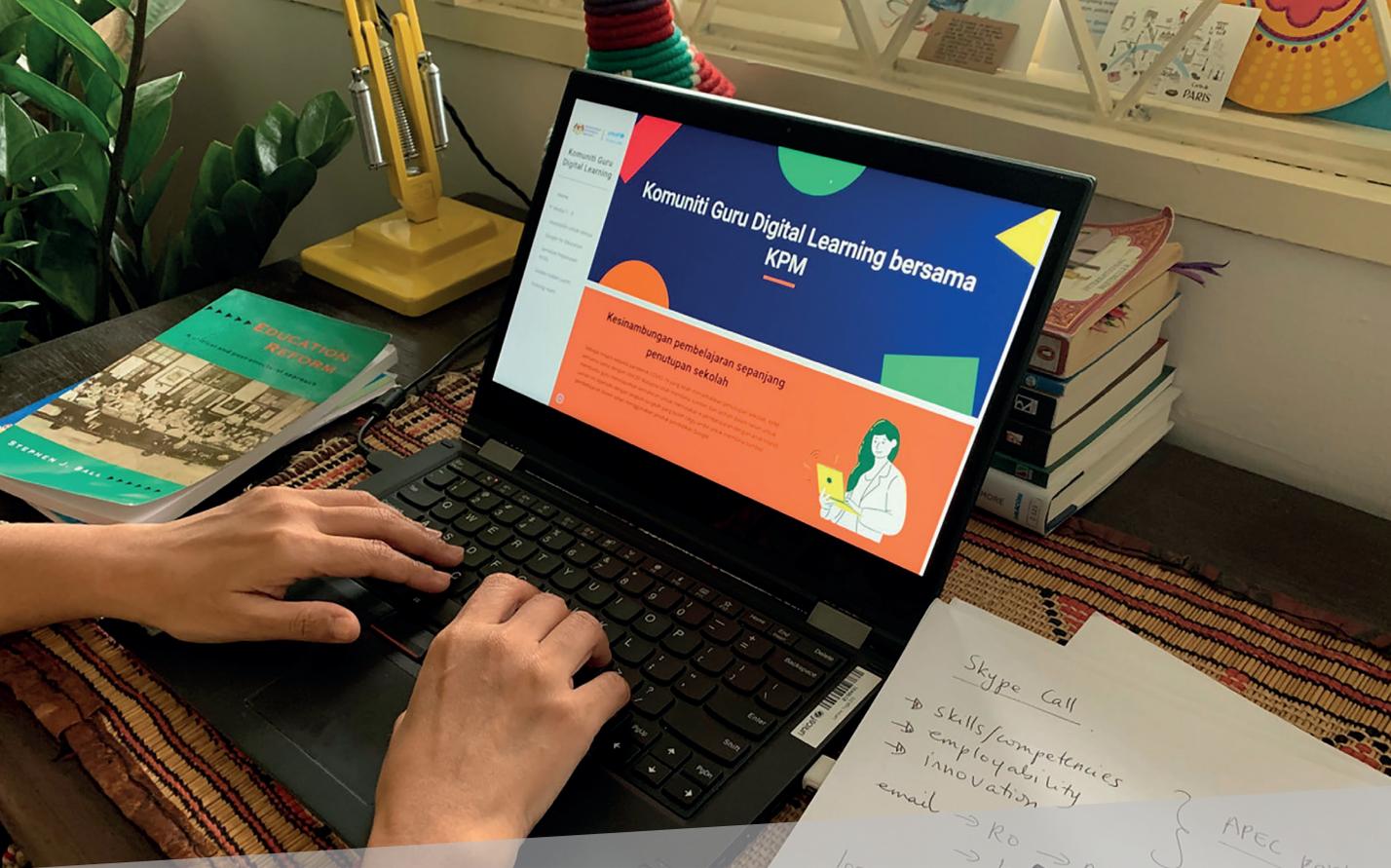
Headline results included:



OVER **3,200** REFUGEES
RECEIVED
MYR 3.7
MILLION
IN DIRECT INCOME SUPPORT

- **Securing the basic needs of refugees and accelerating registration, assessment and resettlement: Over 3,200 refugees received MYR 3.7 million in direct income support; some 36,000 refugees and asylum seekers documentation was renewed; 4,100 new asylum cases were assessed; and 2,600 refugees were submitted for resettlement, and over 1,300 were resettled.**

UNHCR working with NGO partners, delivered cash transfers to poor and vulnerable refugee families ensuring basic subsistence during successive lockdowns. Despite movement restrictions, refugee registration and assessment process remained operational throughout, and UNHCR was able to considerably reduce the backlog which arose over the previous 18 months. IOM and UNHCR successively took advantage of easing global constraints, to greatly expand permanent resettlement in third countries (with the submission rate rising 130 percent on the previous year). This involved a suite of services, including medical health screening, vaccinations, treatment of communicable diseases, providing cultural training prior to resettlement, and coordination of international travel, including arranging exit permission.



- **Ensuring continued learning during school closures for all children: Some 4.3 million pupils continued to be supported via digital learning platforms; and 2,700 refugee children were schooled via blended (in person/virtual) methods.**

UNICEF maintained its partnership with the Ministry of Education on the Digital Educational Learning Initiative Malaysia (DELIMa), to support Malaysia's e-learning platforms. UNHCR with the support of the Qatar Foundation, provided educational software and tablets to enable the children of refugees, who were previously often excluded from schooling, to learn in temporary centres and remotely during lockdown periods. This employed both face to face and virtual learning.



SOME
4.3
MILLION
PUPILS CONTINUED TO BE
SUPPORTED VIA DIGITAL
LEARNING PLATFORMS

MEDIA AND MIGRATION - YOUTH VOICES UNITE IN SOLIDARITY AGAINST XENOPHOBIA



A daunting feature of the pandemic was a surge in hate speech and xenophobia directed at migrants and refugees, especially via online channels and social media. To tackle this issue, IOM conducted a mass media virtual event - *Media and Migration: Youth Voices Against Xenophobia* - in partnership with Benar Betul, an independent youth group that promotes media literacy.

Around 40 social media practitioners, influencers, young professionals, youth leaders and university students participated in this innovative event. Funds were provided by the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) initiative.

Media and Migration: Youth Voices Against Xenophobia

Speakers:

- New Su Shern**
Founder, President, Project Liber8
- Hasan Al-Akraa**
Founder, Al-Hasan Volunteer Network, Refugee Representative
- Saqib Muneer Sheikh**
Project Director, Rohingya Project
- Elise Arya Chen**
Project Officer, Tenaganita
- Malarvili Meganathan**
Media & Communications Consultant, Trainer @ IOM

Presenter & Moderator: Malarvili Meganathan

8 May 2021 (Saturday) 2pm - 3.45pm

Logos: European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid, IOM UN MIGRATION, Benar Betul Initiative.

The event began with a broad overview of global migration and development, before zeroing in on the critical role of media in influencing public perceptions, the usage of accurate terminologies and the importance of stigma-free language in COVID-19 efforts. Participants were also briefed on the impacts of misinformation and how to effectively address rumours on social media and other digital platforms.





OVER
5,000
ORANG ASLI WERE SUPPORTED



25
COMMUNITY MARKETS
WERE ESTABLISHED

- **Indigenous people (Orang Asli) were empowered as stewards of natural resources: Over 5,000 Orang Asli were supported, 1,000 family enterprises saw improved incomes; 25 community markets were established; and community relations enhanced in 60 Orang Asli villages across 6 states.**

UNDP's Orang Asli Programme, working with local communities across Perak and Sarawak and the Department for Orang Asli Development, succeeded in improving livelihoods of indigenous people alongside securing their stewardship of the natural environment as a common pool resource. Interventions included training and capacity building, supporting improved production, opening-up marketing channels, and better governance. In addition to economic gains, the programme has delivered improved community, and better relationships with official entities.



- **Bearing down on human trafficking and protecting the employment rights of gig workers and migrants: Three major statutory mechanisms were amended to strength anti-trafficking provisions; and 4,350 migrants accessed support and employment advisory services.**

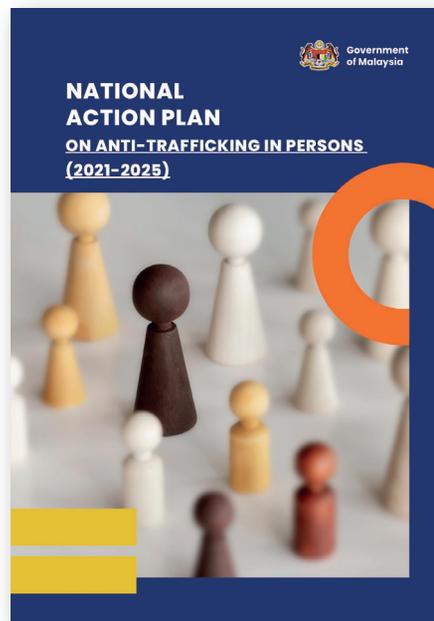
With ILO's coordination, IOM, UNICEF, UNDP and UNHCR provided high level policy and technical support to help develop the Anti-Trafficking of Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act and assisted in finalizing and rolling out the related National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons 2021-2025 (NAPTIP) and the National Action Plan on Forced Labour 2021-2025 (NAPFL). Working with trades unions and CSOs, ILO continued to deliver emergency support to informal sector workers and migrants to enable them to weather the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. This included food aid provided to 1,111 poor families, and legal advice to 2,439 workers facing employment rights violations.

IOM developed and released several research and knowledge products including the Operational Guidelines for Businesses on Remediation of Human Rights Grievances, which contributed to increasing stakeholder awareness, commitment and action towards safe labour migration. IOM worked closely with companies in palm oil and manufacturing, and recruitment agencies to improve understanding and develop ethical practices to reduce forced labour and exploitation of migrants.



4,350

MIGRANTS ACCESSED
SUPPORT AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY
SERVICES



EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (ORANG ASLI) AS STEWARDS OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



With funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Water, Department of Irrigation and Drainage, UNDP worked with NGO partners (the Global Environment Centre and Forever Sabah) to protect rivers and eco-systems in rural Malaysia. The aims were to both conserve the rich flora and fauna that local communities rely on, but also to open up opportunities for Orang Asli for gaining livelihoods.

Driven by successive mudslide events in recent years in river basins in remote areas of Perak and Sabah, this initiative supported activities to accompany remedial infrastructure works. These included capacity building for environmental monitoring and management of common pool resources, and the promotion of sustainable livelihood opportunities. The results were path-breaking for communities and life-changing for individuals and families, with considerable increases in incomes alongside greater environmental resilience.



2.2.3 Key Result 3

Helping Malaysia to build back better for all

As the recovery gathered pace, and social and movement restrictions were lifted, the UN looked to the longer term, and how agencies can help Malaysia address its underlying, pre-existing development challenges, and build back better for the benefit of everyone living in Malaysia, and for its rich and diverse environment. Efforts and interventions paralleled the Government's renewed strategic orientation, with the publication of the 12MP, delivery of the 2021 Voluntary National Review (VNR) and Malaysia's submission at the COP26.

Headline results included:



COMMIT TO A
45%
REDUCTION IN
GREENHOUSE GASES (GHGS)



- **Securing a sea change in Malaysia's ambitions on climate change and environmental sustainability: Malaysia was supported to commit to an unconditional 45% reduction in greenhouse gases (GHGs) by 2050 at the COP26 in Glasgow. Ocean protection efforts were significantly boosted with adoption and roll-out of the National Marine Litter Policy and Action Plan.**

COP26 outcomes were enabled through extensive policy support from UNDP, including the hosting of 20 events, with a collective audience of of 18,000. Major events were the Policy Dialogue on Advancing Sustainability in the 12MP held with the Economic Planning Unit; the Malaysia Low Carbon Cities Conference organized with the Ministry of Environment and Water; and the Policy Dialogue on Ecological Fiscal Transfers hosted in partnership with the Ministry of Finance.

UNEP working with the Ministry of Environment and Water, the Marine Institute of Malaysia, and the private sector, enabled transformative reductions in plastic pollution of the oceans, through building better analytical capacity, regulations and incentivization.

- Promoting innovative Fintech and e-commerce as a means of securing greater inclusion: the FIKRA Islamic FinTech Platform went live in partnership with the Malaysian Securities Commission; 210 Orang Asli enterprises were trained on e-commerce and 63 started online businesses; and the Koondos e-marketing platform was established as a fully-fledged social enterprise and has reported income generation of US\$ 6,500.**



210
ORANG ASLI ENTERPRISES
 WERE TRAINED ON
 E-COMMERCE

Supported by UNCDF, FIKRA is an Islamic FinTech start-up facility offering advice and support and running an annual competition, which in 2021, selected 7 pilots for intensive mentoring, capacity building and access to financing. UNDP working with communities delivered training and grants to Orang Asli enterprises in Perak, Pahang, Sabah and Sarawak, and strengthened the *Koondos* e-marketing platform that connects producers with thousands of customers across Malaysia.



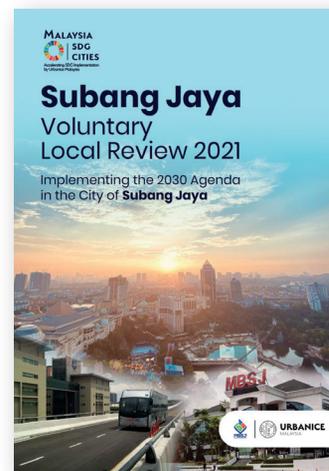
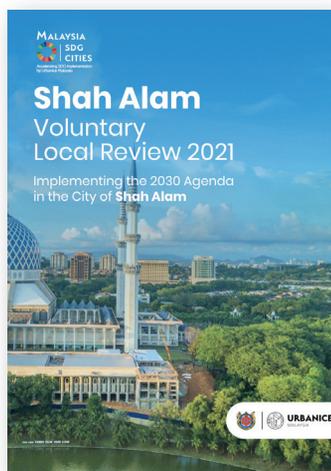


CLOSE TO
2,000
LABOUR MARKET
STAKEHOLDERS WERE
TRAINED ON FORCED
LABOUR TOPICS

- Promoting human capital and labour market development: Close to 2,000 labour market stakeholders (government, trades unions and CSOs) were trained on forced labour topics; 4 local technical and vocational education and training (TVET) pilots and 2 local partnerships set up in Sabah and Kedah benefiting over 150 local agencies and CSOs.

ILO's sponsorship of events, including preparation for the 14th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour, working in partnership with the Government and the Malaysian Employers Federation, built capacity nationwide on child labour and migration. Additionally, its field-based (partnerships and pilot) operations enabled development of local skills needs assessments and directly delivered training to 107 beneficiaries. These offer models that may now be replicated elsewhere in Malaysia.





- **Completion of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and presentation at the High-level Political Forum in New York and support to six Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs): Led by the RCO, the UNCT supported Malaysia's second VNR, in which the Government reported on progress and renewed its commitment to SDG achievements at the global level.**

The VNR was developed by the Economic Planning Unit in a consultative manner, with inputs from UN agencies, alongside submissions from civil society and academia. The UNCT supported the organisation of the Inception Workshop and Technical Working Group meetings in February 2021 that ensured wide stakeholder engagement in the process. In parallel, UN-Habitat supported the production of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) in 6 Malaysian Cities – Shah Alam, Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Subang Jaya, Melaka and Alor Gajah. The supporting VLR processes made a major contribution to local policy planning efforts, providing a rigorous framework for review and research, and consultations with key stakeholders.

- **Promoting step changes in gender equality: The UN delivered the 2021 Malaysia Women and Girls Forum (MWGF); helped to roll out the global Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) with 300 major participating Malaysian companies; and supported women's aid organizations to offer advice to 4,000 women.**



SUPPORTED WOMEN'S AID
ORGANIZATIONS TO OFFER ADVICE TO

**4,000
WOMEN**



UNFPA hosted the annual MWGF, which was officiated by the Minister of Health, and attended by 1,621 participants from the Government, parliament, civil society and private sector. Focused on securing women's bodily autonomy, the Forum adopted six major resolutions, including calling for adoption of new law on gender equality. UN Women worked with large corporates to secure adoption of the WEPs within business practices, and it delivered capacity support to 178 Women's aid organizations providing advice via hotline and social media.



SOME

350

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND
LEADING PRIVATE SECTOR
ACTORS WERE TRAINED ON
TRADE CAPACITIES

- **Helping to deliver long-term equitable and sustainable economic development: Some 350 government officials and leading private sector actors were trained on trade capacities. Energy efficiency and solar solutions were promoted within Government and piloted by 10 corporates via demonstration projects, and Government committed to launch of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights at a UN-supported conference.**

Working with Government and corporate partners, ITC delivered extensive trade-capacity building on investor-state dispute resolution, trade and quality standards, and specifically on agricultural exports - with the twin aims of expanding trade and driving higher value-added.



UNIDO working with Government and the private sector aimed to secure realization of greenhouse gas emission targets through policy inputs on standards and framing of new legislation, alongside the piloting of energy efficiency demonstration projects in commercial settings. This was further supported by engaging with 40 experts and 300 private sector users/potential users of these technologies. UNDP in partnership with SUHAKAM, Malaysia's human rights commission, via advocacy, dialogues and guidelines, promoted the adoption of human rights best practices with businesses.



2.2.4 Key Result 4

From Malaysia to the World – halting COVID-19 and ensuring a lasting global recovery



DELIVERED
328
METRIC TONNES
OF SUPPLIES

- Enabling mass vaccination and helping keep down infection rates in the developing world: WFP's Humanitarian Response Depot delivered 328 metric tonnes of supplies, including 100,000 vaccines to countries in the region.

WFP UNHRD delivered PPE to 172 countries on behalf of WHO during the first quarter of 2021, consolidated and delivered medical items to Timor Leste and together with UNDP, it provided much needed support to the country's public health system. WFP UNHRD also supported its partners' emergency responses not only in the Asia Pacific region but also to Africa and Latin America, reaching over more than 24 countries to support global efforts to end the pandemic.



DELIVERED
100,000
VACCINES
TO COUNTRIES
IN THE REGION

The WFP Global Passenger Air Service served 255 organizations ranging from NGOs, UN agencies, and the diplomatic/donor community, by providing 177 charter flights; transporting 6,373 passengers and 16 metric tonnes of cargo. This service contributed MYR 12.3 million (US\$ 2.9 million) to Malaysia's aviation sector.





UN GLOBAL SERVICE CENTRES
IN MALAYSIA SERVED

200
LOCATIONS

- **Delivering global operations support to the UN health response and efforts to facilitate recovery: the global service centres operated by UNDP and WHO hosted by Malaysia, supported around 200 locations and processed 2,052,648 transactions during 2021.**

These centres were pivotal in facilitating the WHO's essential work to advise national health authorities during the global roll-out of vaccination efforts, and UNDP Country Offices' work around the globe to promote a lasting, inclusive and sustainable recovery.



PROCESSED

2,052,648
TRANSACTIONS

2.2.5 Key Result 5

Standing by Singapore and Brunei Darussalam as they halt and recover from the pandemic



UNCT members with multi-country mandates (UNODC, UNCDF, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF and WHO) responded to requests and engaged proactively with the Singapore and Bruneian Governments in tackling the pandemic and addressing wider policy priorities.

In Brunei, UNICEF helped to procure 100,000 rapid antigen tests and 117,560 N95 face masks to contain a spike in infections, and it facilitated the transfer of 100,000 vaccines from the COVAX facility. UN-Habitat supported Brunei in hosting the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Forum, as part of the country's role as ASEAN Chair. WHO provided technical guidance and training on dietary salt intake and salt labelling, to support preparation of Brunei's National Salt Reduction Strategy.

In Singapore, UN-Habitat leveraged the city-state's core capacities at the international level to deliver the joint Leaders in Urban Governance Programme and the World Cities Summit's Advanced Urban Governance Programme. UNODC engaged with the Government of Singapore, building capacity and sharing best practice on child protection and trafficking, and on the regulation of crypto currencies.

Working in both Brunei and Singapore, UN Women created a pool of 20 trainers on services for survivors of gender-based violence. This aimed to build a critical mass of facilitators able to conduct training across ASEAN.

2.3 Building partnerships and financing the recovery and delivery of the SDGs



ESTIMATED
MYR 1.1
BILLION
TO ENABLE
OPPORTUNITIES
THROUGH EXPANDED
TRAINING



GRANTS OF
MYR 284
THOUSAND
TO UNICEF FOR GLOBAL
REGULAR RESOURCES



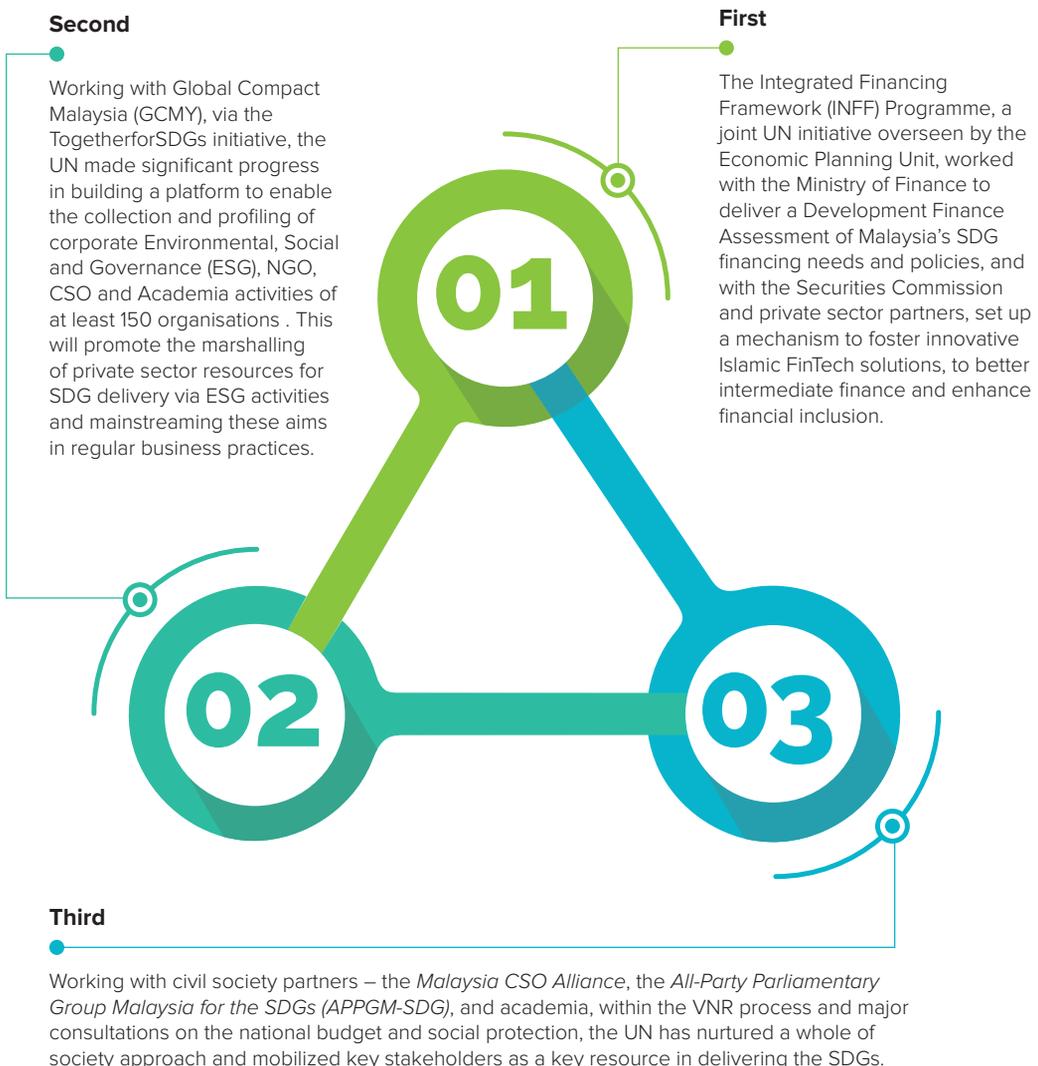
ALLOCATION
MYR 20
MILLION
TO THE MYS DG FUND

Central to ending the pandemic and enabling recovery, is the need to ensure that development resources are available. This is both in the short run to enable opportunities and to protect basic needs, and in the longer run to deliver a more inclusive economy, stronger public services and a more sustainable environment.

During 2021, this was a key priority for the UN. Efforts included engagement in a variety of processes with Government – the Voluntary National Review, the national budget consultations, and development of the 12MP. Significantly, the Government, within each of these policy processes renewed its commitment to the SDGs and sought to link national policies to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We note specifically, that the 2022 budget has earmarked an estimated MYR 1.1 billion (USD 261 million) to enable opportunities through expanded training and has retained social assistance, and the 12MP hardwired the core SDG themes of socioeconomic inclusion and environmental sustainability. Additionally, at COP26, the Government strengthened its commitments to the mitigation of emissions, and a new agenda on adaptation.

The UN also specifically acknowledges the generous level of support provided to many agencies working in Malaysia. This is a vital resource given the level of UN core and donor funds is low given Malaysia's position as a country just short of high-income status. Particularly noteworthy, and additional to contributions to core funds, are the grants of MYR 284,000 to UNICEF for global regular resources, and allocation of MYR 20 million (USD 5 million) to the MySDG Fund, which will be deployed from 2022.

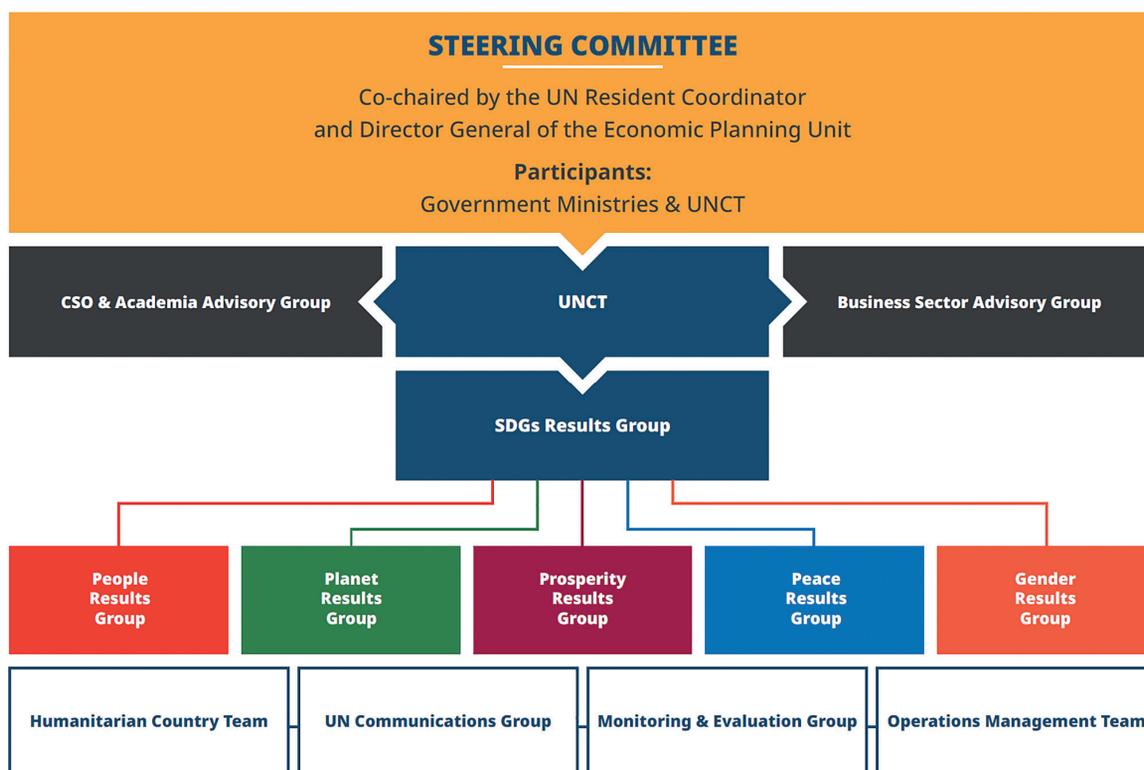
Resolving resourcing challenges is crucial to implementing the SDGs, and the UN continues to support this via three channels:



2.4 The UN Country Team working as one

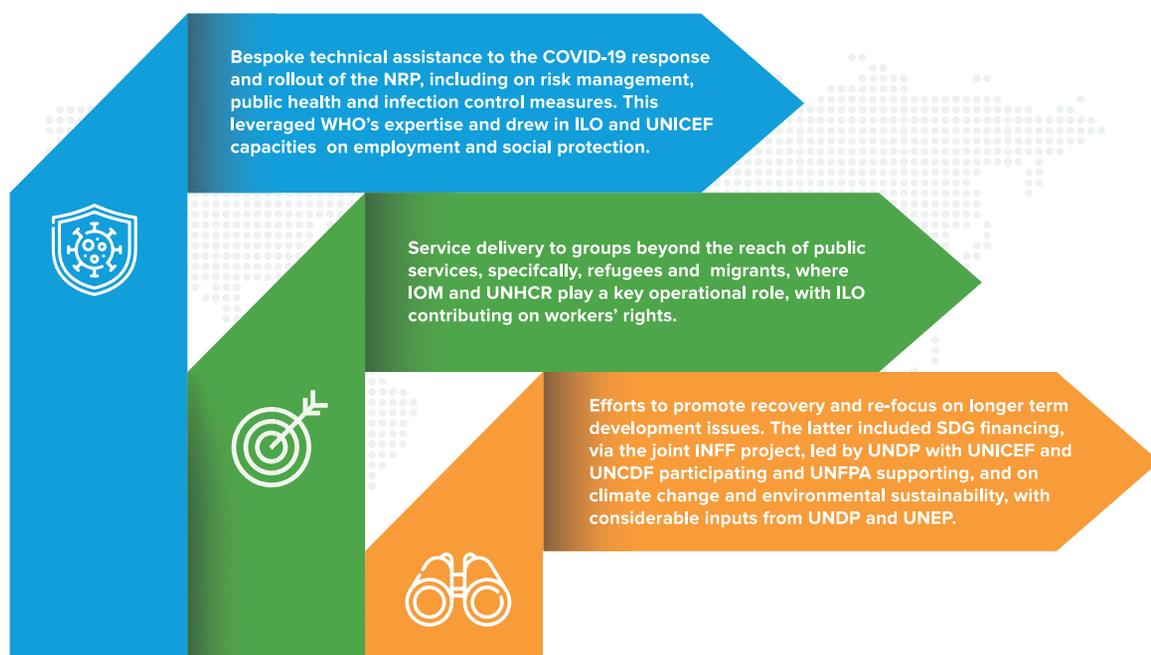
The UN’s 8 resident and 13 non-resident agencies for Malaysia operate within the UNSDCF, and under the overall coordination of the Resident Coordinator. Jointness in purpose and action is strengthened via the UNSCDF governance and institutional structure. These include *Partnerships* as an umbrella Results Group, four others reflecting SDG priorities (*People, Planet, Prosperity and Peace*) plus *Gender* as a cross-cutting priority. The UNCT is also matrixed to Government via the Steering Committee and to CSOs and business sector through separate reporting groups.

UNSDCF Governance: spanning 5 priority areas and matrixed to key stakeholders



The UN's collective response to the pandemic in Malaysia continued to be driven by the UN Socioeconomic Response Plan (SERP) to COVID-19, adopted in 2020, and updated in October 2021, to recognize the changing policy direction in Malaysia and elsewhere, towards living with the virus and identifying pathways to endemicity. This is in line with Malaysia's National Recovery Plan (NRP) adopted in mid-2021, which set out a phased process of social and economic normalization, following completion of the national vaccination campaign. The SERP update exercise also reflected the UN's emergency response to the Delta variant wave of infection and probed the deeper socioeconomic impacts and fallout. Analysis focused on the poor and left behind populations (migrants and refugees), but also picked-up on certain exposed groups, chiefly workers in the informal sector and those employed in economic activities that have suffered disproportionately during the pandemic. Emergency response spending was recorded at around USD 11.49 million, and referencing the following section, total SERP-related delivery in 2021 for the UN, reached USD 4.23 million, or 11.09 percent of total delivery.

Major areas of joint activity include:



The UNCT continued to oversee UN COVID-19 operations via the specially established Crisis Management Team (CMT). This approach proved pivotal in enabling the rapid dissemination of advice and information on the pandemic, linking agencies working on the health response and service delivery. Latterly, it has also aided agencies focused on supporting socioeconomic recovery and building back better.

2.5 Learning & Improving

Evaluation of the operating environment, and learning lessons, remained central to the UN's mission in Malaysia. Given the continuing COVID-19 pressures and external volatility, flexibility and responsiveness were hallmarks of the UN's approach to policy advisory support and programming. The SERP update exercise, which included a supporting paper and discussion at UNCT, was a key input to this process. By drawing on the growing availability of data, this enabled refining of UN's approach, and consideration of the changing policy direction towards re-opening of society and the economy, with a view to living with COVID-19.

Key learning points included:



The need to respond rapidly and constructively to events and official COVID-19 priorities.

This includes supporting national authorities' responses to changes in the profile and pattern of the disease and engaging positively in policy dialogues on social and economic opening.



Reconfiguring office and field working modalities as merited.

This included progressive easing of operational constraints and enabling full vaccination of staff, and reconfiguring work practices in line with national and UN corporate guidance.



Leaving no one behind must be central to the UN's mission, but this requires analysis to identify all of those who are at risk.

While this clearly includes the poor and marginalized groups (notably migrants and refugees), other non-traditionally at-risk groups have also been heavily affected, particularly workers in heavily impacted activities (e.g., tourism) and those in the informal sector.



The need to *tilt* UN delivery to the recovery effort and to re-engage with Malaysia's longer term development challenges.

As the health crisis has begun to abate, Government and the UN development system have shifted strategy to pathways to endemicity and with it, building back better for the longer term.

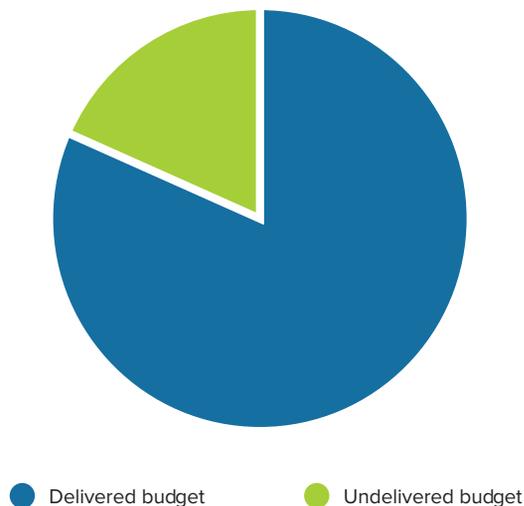
2.6 Mobilizing resources for Malaysia

2.6.1 Overview

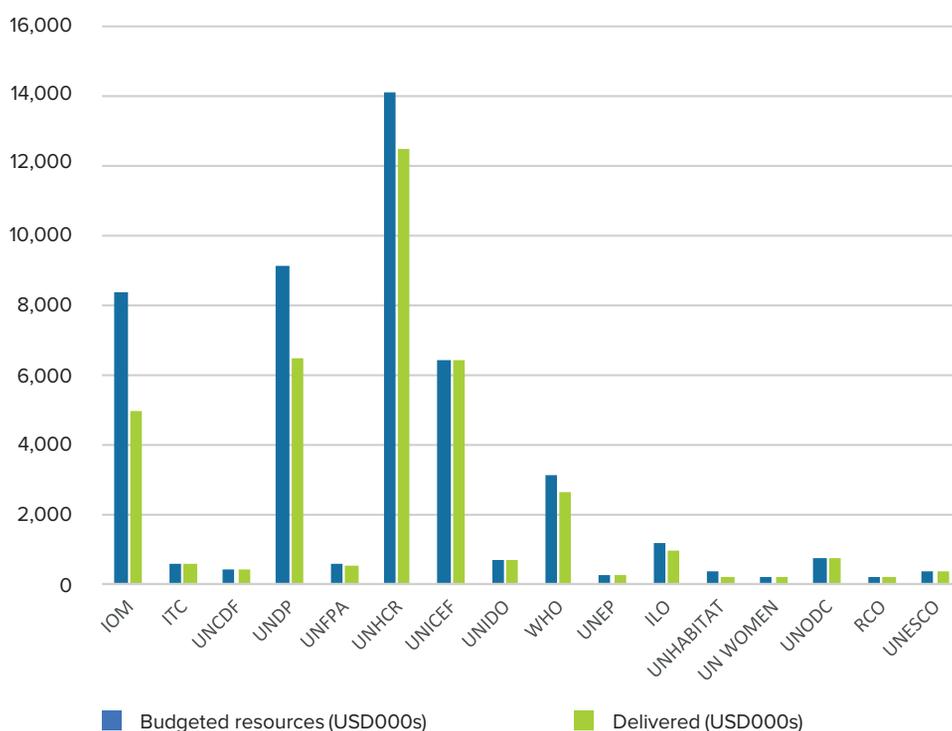
In 2021, the United Nations delivered in total some USD 37.6 million (MYR 158.0 million) of support to Malaysia, respectively 56 percent of the targeted amount and 80 percent of the budgeted amount. Although slightly down on the 2020 value, this remains a strong result given the ongoing operational pressures imposed by the pandemic

Some 9 of the 16 reporting agencies achieved delivery rates at above 95 percent of their budget (see chart). The four largest agencies, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR together continued to account for 79 percent of total delivery.

**OVERALL UN DELIVERY
OF 80% PERCENT IN 2021
(VERSUS BUDGET)**



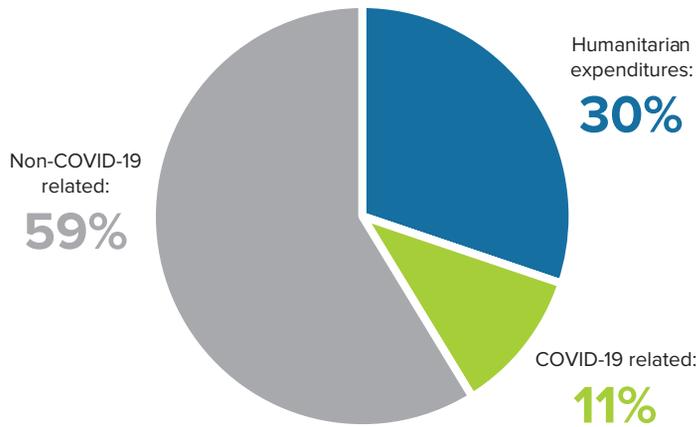
AGENCY DELIVERY REMAINED HIGH (USD000S)



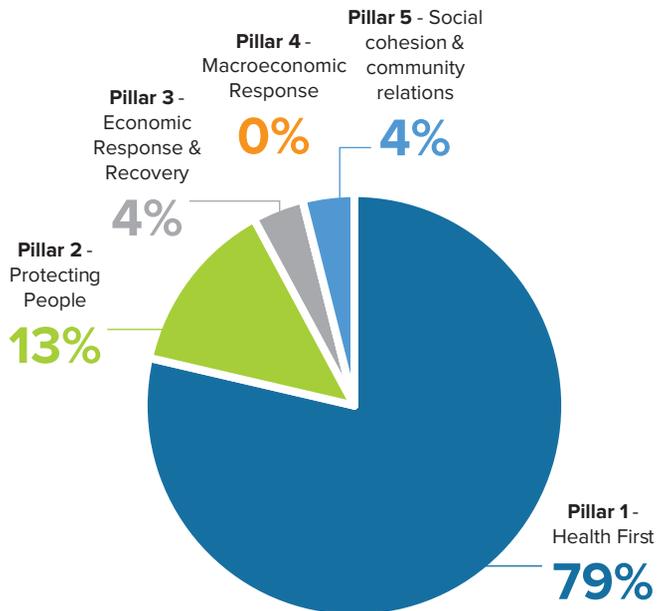
Reflecting the shift to recovery efforts, the level of COVID-19 specific support fell to USD 4.2 million (MYR 17.6 million) just over half the value in 2020 and some 10 percent of total spending. General development (non-COVID-19) support remained the largest call on UN budgets at 55 percent of the total.

Within COVID-19 related spending, delivered under the SERP, the Health First Pillar accounted the overwhelming share at 79 percent, followed by the Protecting People Pillar at 13 percent. There was no spending on the Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Coordination Pillar.

**DEVELOPMENT (NON-COVID-19) SPENDING DOMINATED
UN AGENCY OUTLAYS IN 2021**

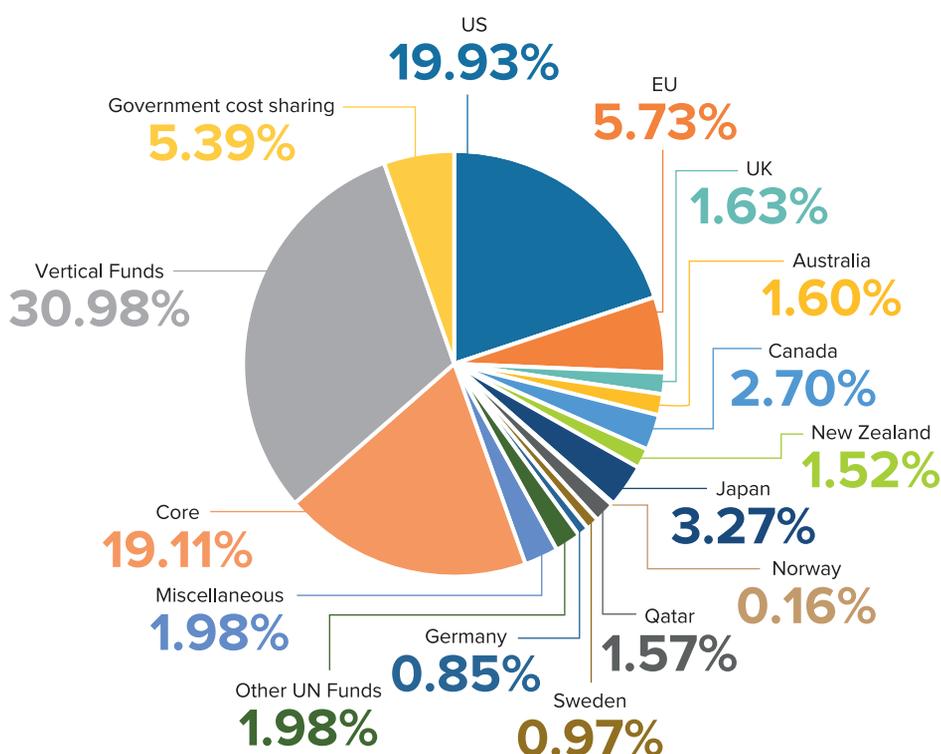


**WITHIN COVID-19 SUPPORT, THE HEALTH & PROTECTING PEOPLE
PILLARS ACCOUNTED FOR 92% OF SPENDING**



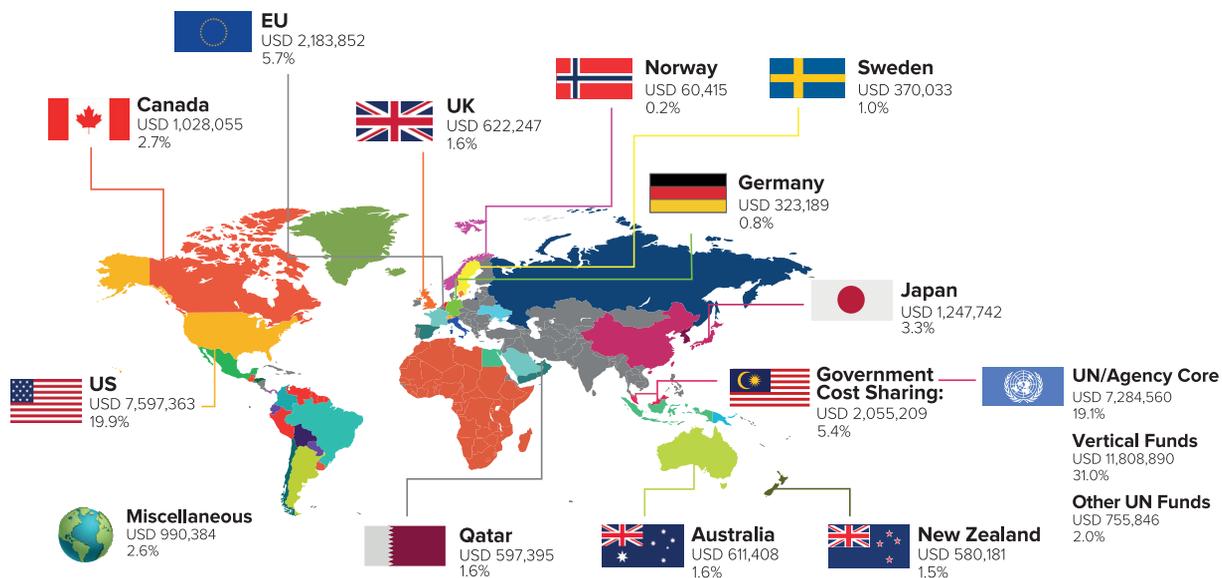
2.6.2 Resource Mobilization

UN AGENCIES MAINTAINED A DIVERSIFIED SET OF FUNDING SOURCES IN 2021



Agencies mobilized around USD 16.4 million (MYR 68.9 million) from external donors in 2021, the largest being the United States (around 20 percent of the total). Cost sharing by the Government of Malaysia (at around 6 percent) was also substantial. UN central resources (core and vertical funds) continued to make up around half of total expenditures. Sources became further diversified in 2021, underlining the UN's increasingly stronger and varied resource base.

OUR DONORS



Donor	USD	Share (%)
Vertical Funds	11,808,890	31.0%
US	7,597,363	19.9%
Core	7,284,560	19.1%
EU	2,183,852	5.7%
Government cost sharing	2,055,209	5.4%
Japan	1,247,742	3.3%
Canada	1,028,055	2.7%
Miscellaneous	990,384	2.6%
Other UN Funds	755,846	2.0%
UK	622,247	1.6%
Australia	611,408	1.6%
Qatar	597,395	1.6%
New Zealand	580,181	1.5%
Sweden	370,033	1.0%
Germany	323,189	0.8%
Norway	60,415	0.2%
	38,116,770	100%

CHAPTER 3

RECONNECTING WITH MALAYSIA'S LONGER TERM DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES



3.1 UNSDCF 2021-2025

During 2021, the UN operated with the UNSDCF (2021-2025) as the de facto cooperation framework, while working diligently with the Government on its formal adoption. The UNCT therefore adopted the planning and M&E framework agreed upon in the UNSDCF, and several UN agencies developed Country Programme Documents derived from the UNSDCF and aligned with its objectives.

The UNSDCF is designed around four strategic priorities, which align closely with the 5Ps, first set out in the Secretary General's 2015 SDG Synthesis Report¹:



PEOPLE: Leaving no one behind - focused on key social services and associated reforms and strengthening of social norms.



PLANET: Environment, climate change and resilience - supporting decarbonization, resilience and adaption, and combating environmental derogation and biodiversity loss.



PROSPERITY: Inclusive and sustainable economic growth - enabling equitable growth via decent work and financial inclusion, women's economic empowerment, and sustainable urban development.



PEACE: Social cohesion governance and human rights - helping to maintain Malaysia strong community relations, alongside institutional strengthening.

The framework is operationalized as 13 collaborative outputs, as shown below:

UNSDCF COLLABORATIVE OUTPUTS (CO)	UNSDCF OUTCOMES	SPA 1: PEOPLE: Leaving No One Behind	SPA 2: PLANET: Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience	SPA 3: PROSPERITY: Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth	SPA 4: PEACE: Social Cohesion, Governance and Human Rights		
CO 1.1	Sustainable social protection system		CO 2.1	Towards a decarbonised and resource efficient economy	CO 4.1	Inter-ethnic and cultural harmony and cohesion	
CO 1.2	Social services are strengthened to ensure access to high quality, equity-focused provision that promotes the wellbeing of all		CO 2.2	Sustainably managed natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystem	CO 3.2	Women's equality in the economy	
CO 1.3	Adoption of inclusive social norms and values		CO 2.3	Preparedness and resilience against disaster risk	CO 3.3	Corporate alignment to SDGs and international standards	
				CO 3.4	Sustainable and inclusive urban development	CO 4.2	Inclusive political processes and fundamental freedoms
						CO 4.3	System of checks and balances across government

Prior to submission to Government, the UNSDCF was updated to reflect the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the efforts needed to deliver a rapid and inclusive recovery. The SERP update exercise provided a steer to further tailoring of UN programming. Additional efforts were undertaken to further update the situational analysis during the second quarter of 2021.

¹See: <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/publications/synthesis-report.html>

3.2 UN agencies delivery plans for 2022 and beyond

Country Programme Documents for UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA for the current cycle have been approved by Government and the respective agency boards. These, and UN workplans for 2022, continue to be framed by the UNSDCF objectives and are fully supportive of Malaysia's development planning objectives, as set out in the 12MP.

UN work-plans and their delivery are coordinated by the six Results Groups (see page 31). Highlighted activities for the coming year include:

 <p>PEOPLE: Research into the plight of the undocumented population in Sabah (joint project). Research on trafficking in persons trends and profiles (IOM). Policy inputs on social protection reforms and delivery arrangements (UNICEF and UNDP). Acceleration of refugee registration and resettlement to clear COVID-19 backlogs (UNHCR). Further technical assistance on COVID-19 surveillance and exit (WHO).</p>	 <p>PLANET: Policy inputs to support delivery of the Government's strengthened climate change targets (UNDP and UNEP). Research and insights on acceleration of Malaysia's adaptation efforts (UNDP). Phase II of an electric mobility project in line with Malaysia's low carbon mobility agenda and aspiration to be a prominent global value chain player and preferred technology partner for electric vehicles (UNIDO). Research on migration and climate change (IOM).</p>	 <p>PROSPERITY: Publication of the Development Finance Assessment and completion of SDG Costing and Budgeting Exercises, with the Ministry of Finance (UNDP). Research on undocumented migrant workers and those in the construction sector; launch of an alternative dispute resolution mechanism in partnership with the private sector; and partnering with business in various sectors to promote responsible employment and recruitment of migrant workers (IOM).</p>	 <p>PEACE: Research into the right to social security (OHCHR). Support to strengthening Malaysia's strong community relations and following-up on human rights recommendations (UNDP, OHCHR). Youth engagement and awareness raising campaigns on migrant and refugee issues (IOM).</p>	 <p>PARTNERSHIP: Joint hosting, with the Government and other partners of the Malaysia SDG Summit 2022. Establishment of the MySDG Trust Fund. Support to the development of the National SDG Roadmap Phase II. TogetherforSDGs Hub.</p>	 <p>GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN: Advocating for necessary legal, planning and monitoring frameworks concerning gender equality and women's empowerment including promoting quality sexual harassment bill and gender-based violence action plan, enabling access to justice and socio-economic provisions for underrepresented or marginalised groups, and gender-responsive budgeting.</p>
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Links to key materials

UNCT in Malaysia: <https://malaysia.un.org/>

UNDP in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam: <https://www.my.undp.org>

UNICEF Malaysia: <https://www.unicef.org/malaysia/>

WHO Malaysia: <https://www.who.int/malaysia>

UNHCR Malaysia: <https://www.unhcr.org/en-my/malaysia.html>

UNFPA Malaysia: <https://malaysia.unfpa.org/en>

IOM Malaysia: <https://www.iom.int/countries/malaysia>

UNU-IIGH: <https://iigh.unu.edu/>

ILO: https://www.ilo.org/asia/WCMS_398777/lang--en/index.htm

UNCDF: <https://www.uncdf.org/malaysia>

UN-Habitat: <https://unhabitat.org/malaysia>

UNIDO: <https://open.unido.org/projects/MY/projects/>

UNEP: <https://www.unep.org/regions/asia-and-pacific>

UNESCO: <https://en.unesco.org/fieldoffice/jakarta>

OHCHR: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/asia-pacific-region>

UN Women: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en>

UNODC: <https://www.unodc.org/roseap/>

UNDRR: <https://www.undrr.org/about-undrr-where-we-work/regional-office-asia-and-pacific>

UNAIDS: <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/asiaandpacific>

ITC: <https://intracen.org/>

ITU: <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/asiapacific/>

WHO-GSC: <https://www.who.int/about/global-service-centre>

UNDP-GSSC: <http://www.undpglobalsharedservicescenter.org/>

WFP- UNHRD: <https://www.wfp.org/unhrd>

UNU: <https://unu.edu/>

UN Socio-economic Response Plan (SERP) for COVID-19 in Malaysia: <https://malaysia.un.org/en/114558-socio-economic-response-plan-serp>

Acronyms

APPG	All Party Parliamentary Group on the SDGs
COVAX	COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access
COVID-19	Novel Corona Virus 2019 (infection)
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DELIMa	Digital Educational Learning Initiative Malaysia
DFA	Development Finance Assessment
DOSM	Department of Statistics Malaysia
E-ELCT	Energy Efficiency Low Carbon Transport (project)
EPU	Economic Planning Unit
FOTE	Families on the Edge (Survey)
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSSC	Global Shared Services Centre
GSSU	Global Shared Services Unit
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IR4	Fourth Industrial Revolution
KLIA	Kuala Lumpur International Airport
MITI	Ministry of International Trade and Industry
MCO	Movement Control Order
MPMA	Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association
MOE	Ministry of Education
NADMA	National Disaster Management Agency
NIP	National Immunization Plan
RAHIS	Rapid Household Impact Survey
RC	Resident Coordinator
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SERP	(UN) Socio-economic Response Plan for COVID-19
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SUHAKAM	National Human Rights Commission
UN	United Nations
UNCDF	UN Capital Development Fund
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	UN Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organization
UN-Habitat	UN Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNGPs	UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
UNODC	UN Office for Drugs and Crime
UN RCO	UN Resident Coordinator's Office
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
VNR	Voluntary National Review on SDG Progress
WAO	Women's Aid Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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