



UNITED NATIONS
MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE,
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



UN COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT

MALAYSIA 2024

**Consolidating
SDG Progress and
Enabling Malaysia's
Development
Transition**

 **OUR
COMMON
FUTURE**

 **OUR
COMMON
FUTURE**



02

Foreword

03

UN Country Team in Malaysia

06

Chapter 1
Country Context

09

Chapter 2
Key Results in 2024

- 2.1 Strengthening the protection and resilience of exceptionally vulnerable communities 11-14
- 2.2 Helping to advance to a healthier Malaysia 15-18
- 2.3 Advancing opportunities for decent work and green business practices 19-22
- 2.4 Driving environmental sustainability and promoting climate action 23-26
- 2.5 Advancing Human Rights, Child Protection, and Social Inclusion 27-30
- 2.6 Advocacy in Action: Highlights from UN events in 2024 31-33
- 2.7 Enabling Singapore and Brunei to deliver on the SDG agenda 34

35

Chapter 3
Serving the global community from Malaysia

- 3.1 UNHRD Kuala Lumpur 35
- 3.2 UNDP Global Shared Service Centre (GSSC) 36
- 3.3 WHO Global Service Centre (GSC) 36

37

Chapter 4
Securing resources for Malaysia

39

Chapter 5
UNCT Priorities in 2025

41

Chapter 6
Implementing Partners

42

Acronyms



KARIMA EL KORRI
UN Resident Coordinator

United Nations in Malaysia,
Singapore & Brunei Darussalam

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The UNCT remains committed to working closely with the Government, civil society, vulnerable populations, the private sector, and other stakeholders to help accelerate progress towards the SDGs”

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In 2024, Malaysia demonstrated continued progress towards achieving its high-income nation aspirations and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Madani Government's strategic investments and policy initiatives have made significant contributions to enable a socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable transition. The UN Country Team (UNCT), guided by the Malaysia UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025, is proud to have partnered with Malaysia on this journey, and this report reflects the key achievements of our collaborative efforts.

The UNCT helped to tackle inequities, supported human rights mechanisms, and helped foster social inclusion, in areas as diverse as women's empowerment and regional inequities. This included efforts to address poverty and inequality through policy dialogues and via integrated programming.

The UNCT's delivery work in 2024 maintained a commitment to strengthening protection and resilience for all but with a special focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. This specifically included supporting refugees, asylum seekers, and regular and irregular migrant workers. UN agencies assisted delivery and expanded access to healthcare, education, legal assistance, and resettlement support, ensuring that those most in need received critical services.

Recognizing the importance of inclusive public services, the UNCT championed initiatives to promote disability-inclusive health systems, strengthen tobacco control, and deliver a comprehensive HIV response. We also supported the Government in developing Malaysia's first National Action Plan on Children and Adolescent Mental Health and leveraging behavioural science for better health outcomes. The UNCT made significant contributions also, to advancing child protection.

In turn, the UN supported the development of a more equitable economy by promoting decent work, fostering responsible business conduct, strengthening minimum wage policies, and improving industrial relations. Working with both Government and enterprises, we enabled the integration of human rights within business practices and assisted the participation of MSMEs in global markets.

Environmental sustainability and climate action were crucial further areas of activity. The UNCT supported the conservation of biodiversity and forests as well as pioneering innovation in sustainable energy and technology solutions. We empowered youth for environmental action, notably, through the Youth Environment Living Labs (YELL) Joint Programme, contributing to a greener and more sustainable future.

Finally, through the MY-SDG Trust Fund, the UN working collectively with our partners in Government and the MySDG Foundation, enabled UNCT and NGO delivery of grassroots SDG projects targeted at groups and localities at risk of being left behind. In 2024, some USD4 million was disbursed to 14 projects operating across Malaysia.

These efforts demonstrate the power of collaboration and partnership. The UNCT remains committed to working closely with the Government, civil society, vulnerable populations, the private sector, and other stakeholders to help accelerate progress towards the SDGs and create a more inclusive and sustainable future for all in Malaysia. This commitment will be reflected in the development of the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2026-2030), which will guide the UN's collective support to Malaysia's national development priorities and its efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.



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Resident Agencies



Non-Resident Agencies



Global And Regional Centres



MEET THE UN TEAM IN MALAYSIA



KARIMA EL KORRI
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NILOY BANERJEE
UNDP
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UNU-IIGH
Director a.i



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UNESCO
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CYNTHIA VELIKO
OHCHR
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UN Women
Regional Director



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UNODC
Deputy Regional Representative



MARCO TOSCANO-RIVALTA
UNDRR
Chief Regional Office



PATRICIA ONGPIN
UNAIDS
Country Director



SYLVIE BETEMPS
ITC
Chief Asia-Pacific



KISHORE BABU YERRABALLA
ITU
Area Representative for
Southeast Asia



YANN KERVINIO
WHO
Global Service Centre
Director



SUMALEE STERUP-HANSEN
WFP UNHRD
Head



SYLVAIN ST-PIERRE
UNDP
Global Shared Services
Unit Director



JOAN SAWE
UNU
Director of Administration

CHAPTER 1

Country Context

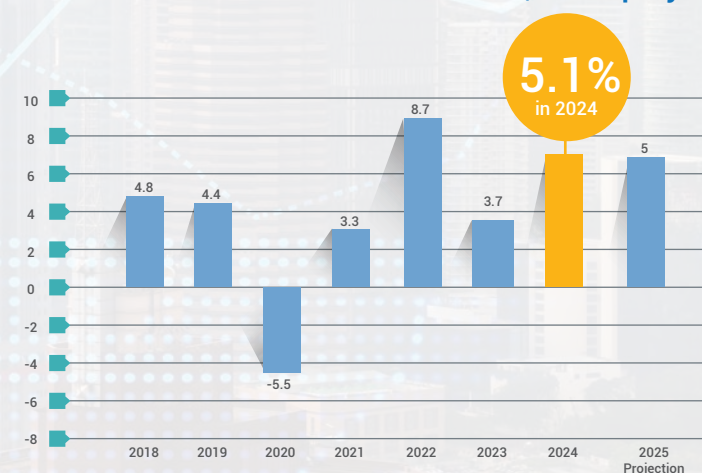
MALAYSIA IN 2024

Malaysia's economy performed well in 2024, growing at 5.1%, and it is projected to expand at around 5% in 2025. Underlying drivers included stronger consumer spending, high inward investment (notably in digital technology), and relatively buoyant exports. This is remarkable given ongoing global instabilities, and performance surpassed both Government and independent forecasts. Encouragingly, data for unemployment and inflation are also positive, with both falling below pre-pandemic levels (unemployment stood at 3.3% and inflation at 1.8% at the close of 2024).

The macroeconomic scenario bodes well for family and individual livelihoods. However, an important caveat is that these are aggregate data, and given the comparatively elevated level of inequality in Malaysia (a Gini coefficient of over 0.4), there will be variations in performance between areas and groups.

GDP
2024 Growth
5.1%

Annual GDP Growth - 2018 onward, 2025 projected



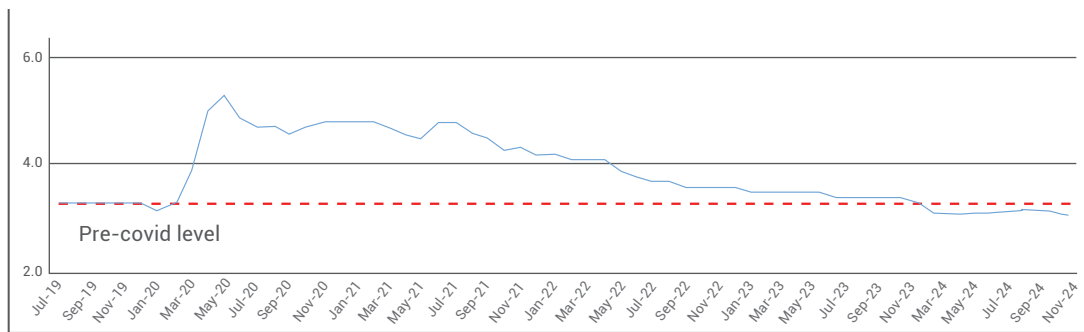
Unemployment Rate

3.3%

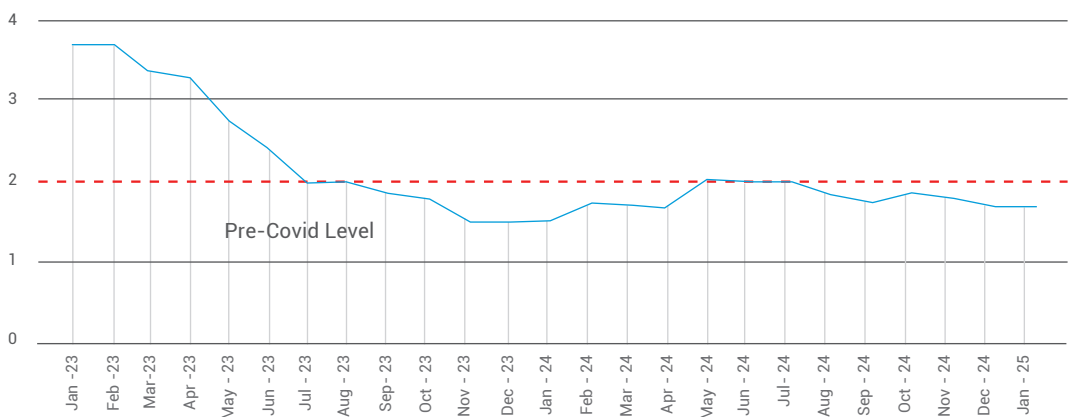
Inflation level (in 2024)

1.8%

Unemployment Rate (%)

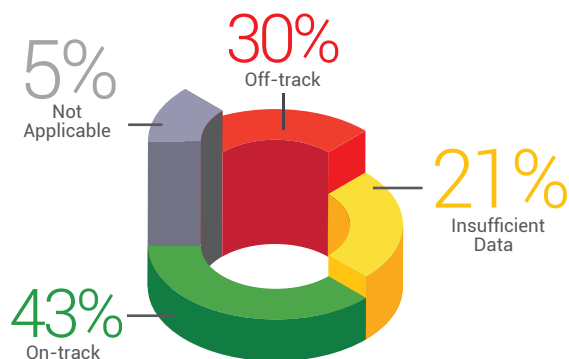


Inflation Rate (CPI Annualized (%))



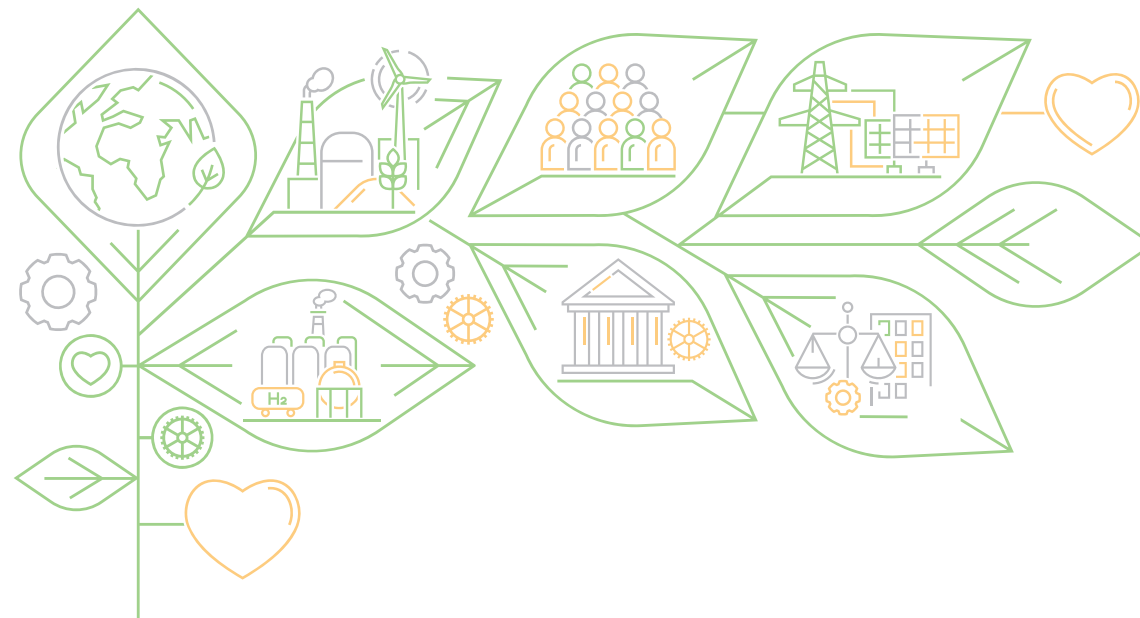
Wider development trends, notably SDG progress, while generally positive, were mixed. A National SDG Centre assessment found that Malaysia is on-track (for achievement by 2030) in around 43% of the SDG targets, 30% were off track, 21% lacked adequate data to make a judgement, and a further 5% of targets were not applicable. This contrasts very favourably with global data which in 2024 found that only 17% of targets were on-track. Nevertheless, Malaysia also faces several key SDG challenges. The National Centre identified five goals as priorities for action including SDG2, Food and Nutrition, SDG5 Gender Equality, SDG10 Reduced Inequality, SDG13 Climate Change, and SDG 16 on Peace and Institutions.

National SDG Centre Assessment



¹World Bank, Macro Poverty Outlook for Malaysia, 2022

“Environmental, Social, and Governance”



The Government's policy choices, governed by - the Ekonomi Madani framework - and its twin objectives of Raising the Ceiling (accelerated economic performance) and Raising the Floor (ensuring greater inclusion and improved public services) have played a positive role. Recent budgets have committed to significant public investment in infrastructure, digital connectivity, and sustainable energy initiatives. Incentives are also to be introduced to attract capital flows into high value-added sectors. Noteworthy re-distributional policy measures include expanded social protection spending, efforts to make the tax system more progressive, and raising the minimum wage, alongside introducing the benchmark living wage.

Government policy also tilted towards delivering greater environmental sustainability and protection. Signalled by bold aspirations to achieve net zero by 2050 reiterated at successive global climate change events, including in 2024, Government has concretized its ambitions through adoption of the National Energy Transition Road Map. Specific policy steps have been limited, however. The Government has begun the process of fossil fuel rationalization and the phase-out of coal-fired electricity generation, but further decisive actions are needed. Similar commitment to biodiversity and greening of the economy and protection of the environment, require a renewed focus on implementation.



Key results in 2024



2.1

KEY RESULTS 1

Strengthening the protection and resilience of exceptionally vulnerable communities



A multi-agency effort to deliver protection, build resilience, and promote inclusion to migrants and refugees

As part of longstanding commitments, the UNCT in Malaysia dedicates significant resources to delivering support to refugees, asylum-seekers and migrant workers. While this focuses on joint agency efforts to deliver refugee registration and resettlement, the UNCT's mandate extends beyond this, encompassing support for refugee children, women and girls, and other at-risk populations. Additionally, the UNCT continues to work on strengthening the Government's capacity to address these challenges, with the aspiration of this work being progressively taken on by national actors.

This coordinated approach aims to enhance protection mechanisms, build resilience, and promotes social inclusion through provision of essential services, empowerment programmes, and advocacy efforts. The following graphic highlights key achievements in 2025, showcasing the collective impact of UNCT agencies in ensuring that no one is left behind and that all individuals, regardless of their immigration status, have access to the services and protections they need.



@UNHCR Malaysia



Protection and Assistance


Refugees and Asylum-seekers

Healthcare


40,087
health consultations provided


845
Primary care provided to refugees/asylum-seekers through a mobile clinic

Education


12,066
children enrolled in education

Resettlement


9,125
refugees assessed for resettlement

Legal Aid & Advocacy


966
individuals released from detention


168
individuals assisted through court cases


Documentation


15,549
individuals registered and issued documentation

Migrant workers

Outreach & Support


2,550
migrant workers benefited from outreach, training, and case management


Resource Centers
Partnerships with MTUC, CSOs to run Migrant Worker Resource Centers (MRCs)


Specific Services
SaverAsia boosts remittances & offers overtime calculator

Children

Child Protection


434
at-risk children received protection assessments and relevant interventions


177
unaccompanied children in alternative care


72
Child Protection Case management services provided to children

Survivors of Gender-based violence (GBV)

Specialized Programmes


1,848
persons at risk benefited from GBV programmes

Shelter



255
survivors accessed temporary shelter

Psychosocial Support


671
persons had access to psychosocial support services

Capacity Building and Advocacy

Government Officials


381
high-level government officials engaged on refugee protection

Law Enforcement



Consultations, training, and dialogues with police, prosecution, and judiciary.



Training of Trainers for Victim Assistance Specialists and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sessions

Community Facilitators


30
female & male refugee facilitators trained in Engaging Men for Accountability Practices



Malaysia-UN SDG Trust Fund disburses over USD3.4 million, and completes second call for project proposals serving communities most at risk of being left behind

During 2024 the Malaysia-UN SDG Trust Fund, an innovative, pooled funding platform, both disbursed funds to grantees from its first call for proposals (CFP1, run in 2023) and completed its second call (CFP2) and initial vetting (with disbursements set to take place in 2025). This is a major ongoing partnership between the UNCT, the Government of Malaysia and the MySDG Foundation. To date, it has raised more than USD 8 million to support people-centric projects to meet the needs of groups and areas facing SDG deficits, which are also often beyond the reach of regular public services. The Fund is open to all not-for-profit entities, including NGOs/ CSOs, academic institutions and UN agencies. Therefore, it also seeks to catalyse a whole-of-society approach to achieving the goals.



USD8 million
Cumulatively over USD8 million raised and USD3.4 million disbursed to 14 organizations in 2024



Call for Proposal 1
14 grantees with over 17,500 beneficiaries



Call for Proposal 2
178 applicants with bids totaling USD52 million

2.2

KEY RESULTS 2

Helping to advance to a healthier Malaysia



@UNHCR Malaysia

Promoting a disability-inclusive health system

The UNCT in Malaysia played a key role in advancing a health system that is inclusive of persons with disabilities. This is through both high-level policy advice and advocacy, and tailored delivery programmes, often addressing the more challenging areas of provision.

Notably, the UNCT supported a Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop, equipping 70 facilitators from the National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN) to deliver sexual and reproductive health education programmes for people with disabilities. As a result, 14 PEKERTI@Community programmes reached 616 participants across Malaysia, ensuring broader access to essential health education. These efforts contribute to a more inclusive health system by expanding knowledge, reducing stigma, and ensuring that persons with disabilities, have access to critical sexual and reproductive health information.



Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop, equipping 70 facilitators from the National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN)

70
LPPKN

facilitators trained to conduct sexual reproductive health education programmes for parents of children with disabilities

14 PEKERTI@Community programmes held

616 participants engaged

Catalyzing tobacco-control actions to tackle tobacco addiction

The UNCT supported the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) in 2024 which provided crucial data for evidence-based advocacy, contributing to the passing of Act 852, which significantly expanded tobacco control legislation to include emerging tobacco products like vaping devices. The law introduced new non-smoking/vaping areas, prohibited sales through specific channels (online, vending machines, educational institutions), and mandated standardized plain packaging and restricted display of tobacco products.



Malaysia's Strengthened Tobacco Control: From Open Display to Comprehensive Regulation

Contributing UN Entities



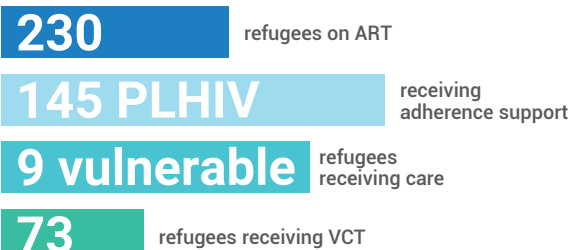
Delivering a Comprehensive HIV Response to Malaysia

The UNCT in Malaysia provided support to the Government to drive a more inclusive and effective HIV response. A series of UN-supported targeted interventions expanded HIV services for vulnerable and marginalized populations. Some 230 refugees and asylum seekers received antiretroviral therapy (ART), while 145 people living with HIV (PLHIV) benefitted from treatment adherence support. Additionally, rehabilitative care was provided to nine highly vulnerable refugees, and 73 refugees accessed community-based HIV voluntary counseling and testing (VCT). The UNCT successfully advocated for improved ART access, leading to the Ministry of Health's commitment to procure the TLD¹ drug combination therapy for 35,000 PLHIV in 2024, scaling up to 43,000 by 2026, with a 98% coverage target by 2030.

HIV services for the most affected groups were strengthened through community-based care, and hosting of a regional workshop on HIV-Tuberculosis record-linking which improved surveillance and data management. In addition, the UNCT helped to strengthen HIV strategic information, modelling, and Global AIDS Monitoring, while advocating for optimal ART regimens to improve treatment outcomes and multi-sectoral collaboration.

UN efforts also focused on prevention; access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) was expanded from 21 to 31 clinics, benefiting 6,759 individuals, alongside a Community-Led PrEP initiative for at-risk populations. The UNCT also enhanced capacity-building for harm reduction and supported drug policy reforms, promoting voluntary, community-based services. Technical assistance improved prison health services.

Direct Support to People:



Expanding Access to Treatment & Prevention



¹TLD refers to a combination of three antiretroviral (ARV) drugs used for HIV treatment:

- Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF)
- Lamivudine (3TC)
- Dolutegravir (DTG)

Capacity Building and Advocacy



Strengthening Child and Adolescent Mental Health

The UNCT supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) in preparing Malaysia's first National Action Plan on Children and Adolescent Mental Health, providing technical advice and facilitating the development of a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework. Over 30 technical professionals were trained on M&E framework development. WHO also initiated the mapping of existing mental health services to improve coordination and referrals. These efforts contributed to a data-driven approach, enabling the Malaysian Youth Mental Health Index (MyMHIND'23) to be launched. This comprehensive approach seeks to enhance the mental well-being of young people and build a more responsive and effective mental health system.



Tackling Major Public Health Threats: NCDs and Antimicrobial Resistance

In 2024, the UNCT directed its efforts in two major public health threats: Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). A UNCT-supported report analyzed the economic impact of NCDs, revealing substantial costs and demonstrating the significant benefits of investing in prevention (saving over 180,000 lives and recovering around USD6.8 billion). The report emphasized multi-sectoral collaboration and key strategies like salt reduction and tobacco control. At the same time, Malaysia launched its National Action Plan for AMR, focusing on surveillance, consumption monitoring, and stakeholder engagement. UNCT-supported initiatives, including World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, enhanced community engagement. Malaysia actively participated in the Regional Tripartite AMR Project, strengthening One Health approaches and cross-sector coordination.

Leveraging Behavioural Science for Better Health Outcomes in Malaysia

The UNCT collaborated with the MoH to develop the first National Blueprint for Behavioural Insights in Health, involving extensive consultations with over 150 representatives from multiple ministries and partners. A dedicated Behaviour Insights unit was established within the Ministry of Health. Simultaneously, the UNCT supported three C4D Centres, conducted 18 Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) workshops for nearly 1,000 partners, and formed a national alliance to create a community of practice on Behavioural Insights. Partnering with the MoH and Ministry of Education, the UNCT also helped the ministries to develop a Health Promoting Institution (HPI) Implementation Guide and a National Health Behaviour Intervention Module, integrated into training programmes for health professionals.



2.3

KEY RESULTS 3



Advancing opportunities for decent work and green business practices



Responsible Business



172

participants trained

Promoting Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) & Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD)

Fair Wages



Strengthening Wage Policies & Minimum Wage Setting

Industrial Relations



30 officers trained

Enhancing Conciliation Skills & Labor Dispute Resolution

Global Integration



Supporting MSMEs in global markets and sustainability practices (ARISE Plus)

Inculcating responsible commercial practices as part of successful business models

The UNCT spearheaded initiatives to foster responsible business conduct, strengthen wage policies, improve industrial relations, and support the integration of Malaysian businesses into global markets. Capacity-building programmes reached 172 participants from various sectors, enhancing their understanding of Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) and Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD). The UNCT was involved in the development of Malaysia's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAPBHR), which is informed by a National Baseline Assessment on Business and Human Rights in Malaysia (NBA) completed in August 2024, and aligned with ILO conventions. Through ARISE Plus Malaysia, support was provided to Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to navigate global markets and adopt sustainable practices, benefiting over 2,350 representatives.

Working with Government counterparts, the UNCT provided technical assistance to improve the national minimum wage setting process and enhance the conciliation skills of 30 industrial relations officers. Additionally, the actuarial and statistical capacity of SOCSO staff was improved to support future actuarial valuations and social security reforms, and recommendations of the study on the Employment Insurance Scheme (EIS) were also implemented.



Empowering Youth, Women, and Vulnerable Groups for a Brighter Future

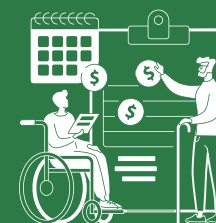
The UNCT helped workers' representatives and CSO collaborators acquire technical knowledge to enhance their ability to advocate for, negotiate and improve policy implementation. Young people participated in skills development sessions at the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS) TVET Centers. The "Future Skills for All" initiative empowered children and teachers with a focus on out-of-school children, indigenous children, and children with disabilities. Persons with disabilities were consulted to tailor work-based learning activities and skills training programmes.

The UNCT actively promoted gender equality in the business sector through events like "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality" and the "Gender Action Lab Summit," engaging numerous stakeholders and recognizing companies committed to the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPS). Advocacy efforts addressed child rights deprivations in the palm oil sector; a roundtable discussion, bringing together feedback from the government, NGOs, and relevant stakeholders was held; and a national stakeholder mapping analysis to identify potential implementing partners among women - and girl-led organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities was conducted.



911 participants

43,838+ children and teachers empowered



60

Persons with Disabilities

2.4

KEY RESULTS 4

Driving environmental sustainability and promoting climate action

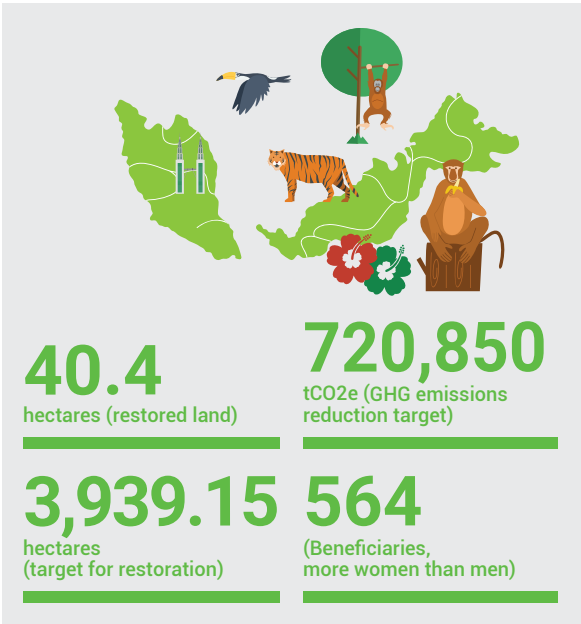


Contributing UN Entities

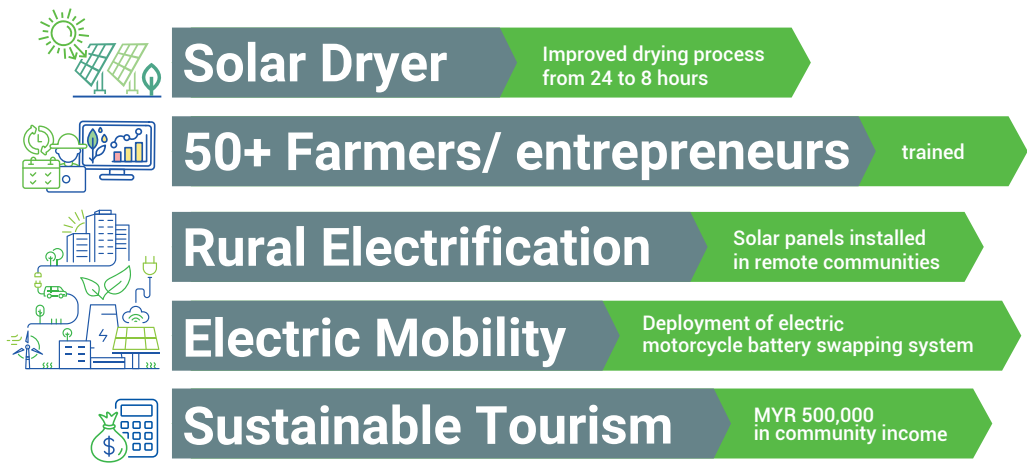


Conserving Malaysia's biodiversity and forests

The UNCT supported the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES) in reviewing its National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) to align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The National Policy on Biological Diversity (NPBD) 2026-2030 (Malaysia's NBSAP) was launched, and technical support was provided to roll-out and mainstream the NPBD at national and sub-national levels. An online monitoring system to track NPBD implementation was also supported. Working at the grassroots level, 40.4 hectares of degraded forest land were restored, and nine new grant proposals were approved, aiming for a total restoration of 3,939.15 hectares and a reduction of 720,850 tCO2e of GHG emissions.



Pioneering Innovation in Sustainable Energy and Technology Solutions



Pioneering Innovation in Sustainable Energy and Technology Solutions

The UNCT supported the second phase of the Japan Innovation Challenge, which enhanced the efficiency of smart solar dryer panels. These improvements significantly reduced crop drying time, benefiting over 50 farmers and microentrepreneurs, half of whom were women.

Grants were awarded to local NGOs and a research centre to install green energy solutions in rural areas. This included the installation of solar panels at multiple locations, providing electricity to local communities, and the setting up of Village Energy Committees.

The UNCT continued to scale up electric mobility by deploying electric vehicle battery-swapping technology and renewable energy-based smart charging. A flagship demonstration project with electric motorcycles was launched in Penang, and a partnership with Prasarana was established to support electric bus charging stations. In 2024, UNDP's Sustainable Tourism division achieved significant milestones in partnership development, economic growth, environmental impact, and governance. Over 15 innovative and sustainable tourism products were introduced, generating a fivefold financial return and over USD113,000 in community income.

A total of 28,615 technicians were trained and certified in handling refrigerants, including new alternatives, contributing to both ozone layer protection and climate change mitigation. Malaysia achieved a cumulative reduction of 146.24 Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP) tonnes of HCFC. The next stage of the project, aimed at phasing out 257.67 ODP tonnes of HCFCs by 2030, was launched. Additionally, 14 units of Refrigrant Identification (RI) equipment were maintained and calibrated for enforcement purposes, and World Ozone Day 2024 was attended by over 200 participants.

Empowering Youth for Environmental Action in Malaysia



The Youth Environment Living Labs (YELL) Joint Programme, a partnership between UN agencies, Amanah Lestari Alam (ALAM), the EU, and OSK Foundation, achieved key milestones in empowering Malaysian youth for environmental action in 2024. YELL awarded seed grants to a total of 12 organizations (eight NGOs, one academic institution, one association, and two social enterprises), fueling youth-led environmental projects across the country. These projects directly engaged and benefited 3,239 young people (with a strong focus on girls' participation) in diverse capacity-building initiatives, including biodiversity monitoring, traditional knowledge preservation, climate action advocacy, and sustainable waste management. Some 85% of youth participants demonstrated improved knowledge and skills as a result of these interventions.

Beyond direct project implementation, YELL developed 34 innovative tools and resources, including teaching and learning modules and storybooks. These resources, along with other YELL publications and communications materials, reached over 1,029,074 people. YELL also fostered a vibrant online presence, achieving over 1 million social media impressions and producing 165 media and communication pieces. Additionally, YELL staged a virtual exhibition at the COP29 Malaysia Pavilion showcasing the work of local climate champions.

2.5

KEY RESULTS 4

Advancing Human Rights, Child Protection, and Social Inclusion

Contributing UN Entities
unicef

© UNICEF Malaysia

Enhancing Child Protection and Access to Justice

Progress was made in strengthening child protection and ensuring access to justice for children. The UNCT provided technical assistance to the Steering Committee of the National Strategic Plan in Handling the Causes of Child Marriage 2021–2025 and contributed to its mid-term review. The UNCT, in collaboration with the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department, conducted a joint study examining challenges faced by children subjected to sexual abuse within the justice system. This study contributed substantially to amendments to the Evidence of Child Witness Act, enabling a more child-sensitive system. The UNCT also supported a knowledge-sharing visit to the Philippines for Government and CSO partners and subsequently, the drafting of policy briefs advocating for the professionalization of the social service workforce. A foundational training curriculum for Child Protection Officers was finalized in preparation for the expected tabling of the draft Social Work Profession Bill in 2025. Five consultations were held with 147 participants attending, and a baseline assessment report is on schedule to be finalized by Q1 2025.



@ UNICEF Malaysia

Fostering Social Inclusion and Addressing Poverty

Consensus was built on nine existing indicators and six proposed progressive indicators for the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI) through a participatory approach involving over 100 government officials, Members of Parliament (MPs), CSOs, indigenous community leaders, and beneficiaries.

The UN published the latest iteration of its well-respected urban poverty panel survey, Living on the Edge, garnering wide press coverage and extensive social media reaction. Building on this, the UN led an evidence-based policy dialogue on urban child poverty, resulting in a government allocation of USD1.1 million for the UNCT to design a cash-plus model for urban families, with the potential for national scale-up. Two models of integrated social protection were designed at the sub-national level, and eight localities implemented the Child-Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI).

The UNCT engaged in strategic advocacy to support the Government in establishing alternatives to immigration detention and concluded a mapping study on children in immigration detention. The UNCT advanced its policy dialogue with the Government, foreign missions and non-governmental organizations on strengthening intersections between anti-trafficking and child protection mechanisms.

The National Baseline Assessment for Business and Human Rights in Malaysia was launched with the support of the UNCT.



Bolstering Human Rights Mechanisms and Accountability in Malaysia

The UN facilitated dialogues with Volker Türk, High Commissioner for Human Rights; Elisa Morgera, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; and Claudia Mahler, the UN Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of All Human Rights by Older Persons. A further six high-level UN missions were hosted by the Malaysia UNCT in 2024.

The UNCT supported the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia's (SUHAKAM) participation in the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights. Support was also provided to SUHAKAM in organizing a colloquium on identity issues in Sabah.

The UNCT participated in an inter-governmental agency workshop on follow-up actions for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. A mock Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) session was organized to prepare the Malaysian delegation for its dialogue with the CEDAW Committee. Engagement continued with the Government in support of its state party report on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). These efforts aimed to strengthen human rights mechanisms, promote accountability, and ensure compliance with international standards.

2.6

KEY RESULTS 6

Advocacy in Action: Highlights from UN events in 2024





The UNCT in Malaysia played a role in driving open dialogues and advocating for UN norms and standards, both at designated UN days, and throughout the year in other UN-supported events.

At International Women's Day 2024, with the theme "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress in Malaysia," the UNCT actively championed women's empowerment in collaboration with national partners. This annual event included a series of high-level panel sessions, reaching over 1,000 participants and engaging with Malaysia's commitment to closing the gender gap.

At United Nations Day 2024, titled "Our Common Future: A Call for Peace, Dignity, and Prosperity for All" our advocacy focused on contributions to Malaysia's 2030 Agenda. Through interactive plenary sessions, and agency and NGO stands, the UNCT advocated for social protection, education, health, governance, and sustainability and announced new partnerships to further these goals.

At Human Rights Day 2024, under the strapline "Empowering Our Rights, Securing Our Future: Business Responsibility for People and Nation", the UN joined with its longstanding partners, SUHAKAM, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department to deliver a series of plenaries and expert panels to raise awareness on human rights compliance. This event also included the launch of rights-based educational resources in Bahasa Melayu,

A key focus of advocacy during the year, in both Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam, was the global Summit of the Future (SOTF) and the outcome Pact for the Future. The UNCT actively facilitated dialogues and consultations with governments, civil society, and youth, ensuring their voices were heard in global negotiations.

By engaging thought leaders and academia, the UNCT amplified its advocacy for the Summit and Pact. Through these diverse and proactive efforts, the UNCT in Malaysia effectively translated global aspirations into tangible, locally owned visions.

2.7

KEY RESULTS 7

Enabling Singapore and Brunei to deliver on the SDG agenda

Enabling Brunei to build best-in-class SDG M&E and policy feedback systems

The UN, via a dedicated team at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), provided technical assistance to the SDG unit in Brunei Darussalam to update the progress assessment created for Brunei's Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2023. By revisiting national target value setting and re-conducting the analysis, the Bruneian authorities were able to deliver updated periodic reporting, which is made available online.

Brunei SDG profile:

Linked to this, the ESCAP team supported the building of SDG linkages in the policymaking space. As an outcome of the VNR, Brunei identified a need to establish an SDG Transformation Sub-Committee with two working groups focused on priority areas revealed by the SDG progress assessment, (Food Systems and Sustainable Consumption and Production). These bodies are tasked with advancing SDG commitments by identifying actionable policies and developing an implementation plan, which is tracked by SDG data. ESCAP supported the country with the EPiC methodology (Every Policy is Connected), ensuring coherence between policies and statistics.

Supporting Singapore's multilateral footprint

The UN and agencies with mandates for Singapore continued to support the Government of Singapore with its interactions within various global forums and to connect the City State to developments within the multilateral system. This is specifically by supporting its role within the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) grouping and connecting it to the global Sustainable Development Agenda, notably in 2024, enabling its deeper engagement in the UN Summit and the Pact for the Future. The UN also maintained a physical presence in Singapore in the form of the regional offices of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the World Intellectual Property Rights Organization (WIPO), along with UNDP's Global Innovation Centre. These enable Singapore to share its well-renowned development experience and to articulate its positions on the global and regional stages.



Brunei Darussalam's SDG progress can be tracked through the SDG tracker which incorporates data on SDG indicators. <https://www.sdgbrunei.gov.bn/national-progress/>

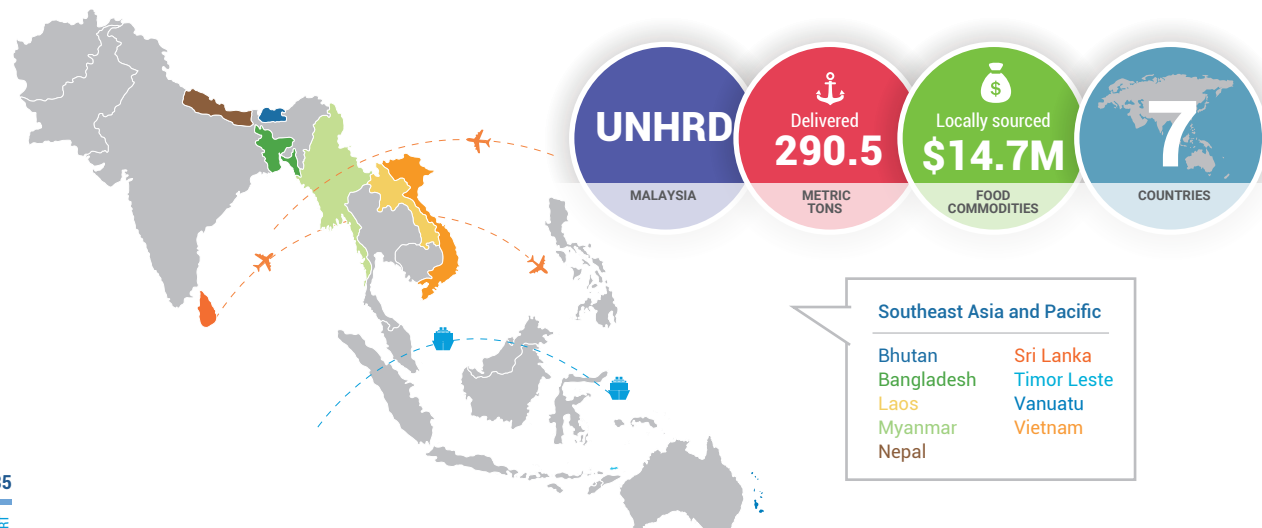
Serving the global community from Malaysia

Besides implementing programmes through the UNCT, Malaysia hosts key regional and global facilities, including one of five UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) global hubs and shared service centres for UNDP and WHO. These centres employ over half of the UN system's workforce in Malaysia and deliver services at local, regional, and international levels.

3.1 UNHRD Kuala Lumpur

In 2024, UNHRD Kuala Lumpur (KL) continued its vital role in supporting humanitarian operations across Asia, the Pacific, and beyond. Achievements in 2024 include:

- **Emergency Response:** Handled 15 emergency consignments, delivering 290.5 metric tons of relief items and support equipment, with a total value of over USD1 million.
- **Procurement:** Partnered with local suppliers to procure USD14.7 million worth of food commodities for operations in Asia and Africa.
- **Operational Coverage:** Supported operations in 7 countries, primarily in South and Southeast Asia and the Pacific.
- **Transport:** Delivered over 52% of shipments via air, 40% by sea, and the remainder through multimodal transport.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborated with WFP, AHA Centre, World Vision, Good Neighbours International, and Taiwan's Tzu Chi Foundation.
- **Emergency Response:** Supported the Typhoon Yagi response in Laos and Vietnam, utilizing the Republic of Singapore Air Force to deploy relief items.
- **National Collaboration:** Continued collaboration with NADMA, hosting representatives from WFP Philippines and DSWD for knowledge-sharing and potential partnerships.
- **Capacity Building:** Hosted the FAO Regional Workshop on Supply Chain Management and Logistics and supported the AHA Centre's ERAT Level 2 Programme in Cambodia.



3.2 UNDP Global Shared Service Centre

UNDP's Global Shared Service Centre (GSSC) based in Cyberjaya provided critical support services in 2024, including:



3.3 WHO Global Service Centre

The WHO Global Service Centre (GSC) continued to deliver essential support services to WHO offices and other UN entities globally. Key areas of support included:



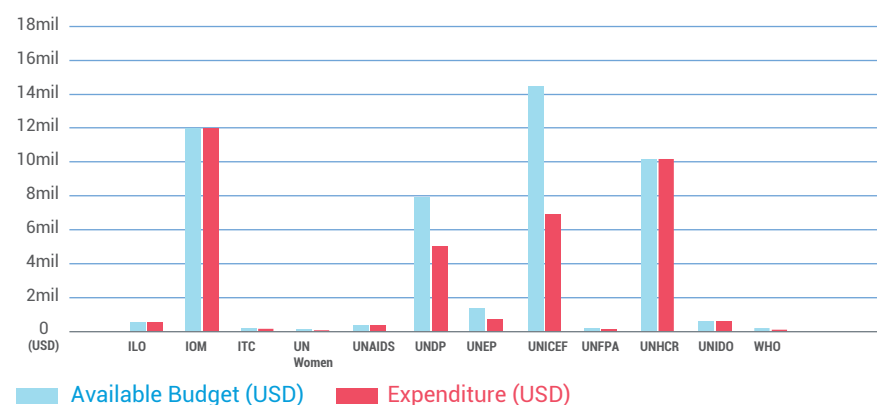
The UN in Malaysia demonstrated its continued commitment to supporting humanitarian efforts, sustainable development, and global health initiatives in 2024. The UNHRD, UNDP-GSSC, and WHO-GSC played crucial roles in delivering essential services and assistance to those in need in this region and beyond.



Securing resources for Malaysia

The UNCT delivered USD36.1 million in support of Malaysia's sustainable development in 2024. This represented 76.9% of the total available UNCT budget of USD 47.1 for the year. The table below shows the resources that the UNCT has allocated and spent for the country.

2024 Available Budget and Expenditure by UN Entity



List of UN entity financial figures:

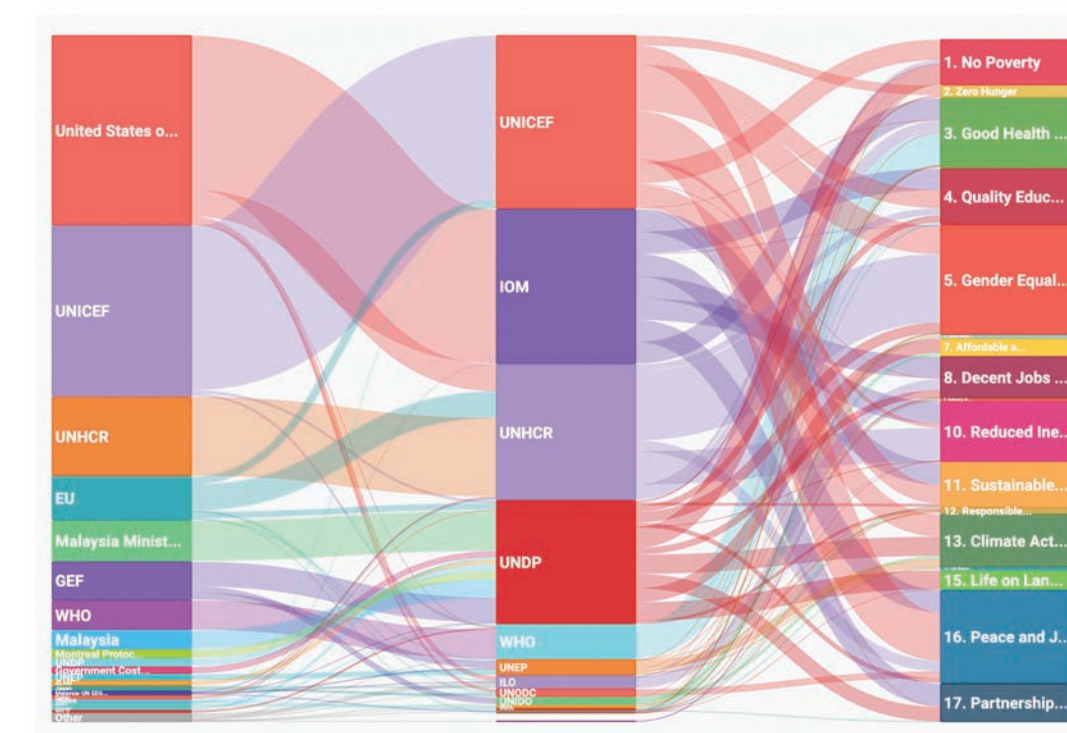
UN Entity	Required (USD)	Available (USD)	Expenditure (USD)
ILO	405,021	405,021	405,021
IOM	11,986,000	11,959,685	11,959,685
ITC	50,000	50,000	50,000
UN Women	40,000	40,000	26,767
UNAIDS	235,581	204,853	204,853
UNDP	6,513,027	7,609,962	4,457,221
UNEP	1,090,387	1,025,387	551,003
UNICEF	13,587,734	14,330,117	7,563,008
UNFPA	105,500	105,500	105,500
UNHCR	10,641,974	10,641,974	10,641,974
UNIDO	530,996	530,996	80,000
WHO	101,800	101,200	90,937
Total	45,288,020	47,004,695	36,135,969

In cash terms, the UNCT's focus in 2024 was heavily weighted towards the 'People' pillar, with 'leaving no one behind' as a core priority, as evidenced by a resource allocation of 77.4%. In comparison, the 'Planet' pillar accounted for 14.5% of expenditure, indicating a still significant, area of focus. The 'Prosperity' and 'Peace' pillars represent areas of lesser financial investment.



Within the 'People' pillar, the UNCT invested the most in:

Output 1.1 A more efficient, effective and sustainable social protection system is in place that provides increased protection against contingencies throughout the life cycle (at \$11,956,000).



This chart displays the top 20 contributors on the left side. It excludes some contributing partners and agencies due to data visualization limitations. For more details, please download the UN team's joint workplan from <https://uninfo.org/data-explorer/cooperation-framework>

UNCT Priorities in 2025

The UNCT in Malaysia has identified several priorities for 2025, guided by the four strategic priority areas of the 2021-2025 Cooperation Framework: People, Planet, Prosperity, and Peace, and guided by agency programming and planning frameworks. The UNCT will build on its ongoing work while also addressing emerging challenges and opportunities.

People

In the coming year, the UNCT will prioritize health, gender equality and social and economic rights. The UNCT will support the Global Health Symposium, focusing on the role of private actors in global health, women's well-being, governance of health systems, digital health security and planetary health. Ongoing efforts to improve the quality and efficiency of public healthcare in Malaysia will continue, including support for the modernization of pharmaceutical regulations, expanding age-friendly initiatives, and addressing mental health, immunization, and health security. The UNCT will also prioritize disability inclusion and support efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance.

Gender equality represents a special focus of the work under the People Pillar. Ongoing projects on comprehensive sexuality education, family planning as these encourage female labor force participation, and addressing gender-based violence will be accelerated. Partnerships with various stakeholders and gender mainstreaming with all UNCT activity will be strengthened via the work of the cross-cutting Gender Results Group.

Planet

Under Planet, the UNCT will prioritize better environmental stewardship and help to concretize climate actions. The UNCT will support efforts to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, finalize the treaty on plastic pollution, and foster collaborative initiatives on environmental issues. The latter refers to enabling Malaysia to make good on its bold climate change commitments. This includes active involvement in coalface projects related to electric mobility, reducing carbon emissions in food transportation, and promoting sustainable cities.

Prosperity

Within the Prosperity portfolio, the priority areas of work will include urban development, housing, flood retention, and urban greening, alongside efforts to advance fundamental principles and rights at work and their compliance including the promotion of responsible business conduct and support decent work in key sectors such as electronics, automotive, and fisheries.

Peace

For 2025, under the Peace pillar, the UNCT will support regional cooperation, particularly in line with the ASEAN-PAC Chairmanship priorities. This includes collaborating on issues such as anti-money laundering, smuggling of migrants, and cybercrime. The UNCT remains dedicated to working collaboratively with the Government of Malaysia, civil society, the private sector, and other partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals via a number of avenues, notably by supporting Malaysia's third Voluntary National Review of SDG progress and in further strengthening M&E capacities.

Implementing Partners

The UNCT acknowledges the many valuable partnerships established in 2024. These collaborations encompass a diverse range of stakeholders, including government ministries and agencies, state governments, civil society organizations, workers organizations, and non-profit entities.

- ASEAN Centre for Energy
- Dignity for Children Foundation
- Elshaddai Centre Berhad
- Malaysia Automotive Institute
- Malaysia Department of Agriculture
- Malaysia Department of Environment
- Malaysia Department of Fisheries
- Malaysia Department of Fisheries Sabah
- Malaysia Department of Standards
- Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF)
- Malaysia Green Technology Corporation
- Malaysia Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT)
- Malaysia Palm Oil Board
- Malaysia Productivity Corporation
- Malaysia Timber Certification Council
- Malaysia Timber Industry Board
- Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC)
- Malaysia Water Partnership
- Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI)
- Malaysian Cocoa Board
- Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER)
- Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA)
- Malaysian Palm Oil Council
- Malaysian Pepper Board
- Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association
- Malaysian Rubber Board
- Malaysian Rubber Council
- Malaysian Technology Development Corporation
- Mercy Malaysia
- Ministry of Human Resources (MOHR)
- MyKasih Foundation
- National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA)
- National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
- Perlis Bioinformatics and Biodiversity Centre
- Selangor Human Resource Development Centre
- Tenaganita
- The Borneo Project
- The Malaysian Nature Society
- The National Tech Association of Malaysia (PIKOM)
- The Tropical Rainforest Conservation and Research Centre (TRCRC)
- Wildlife Conservation Society Malaysia

12MP	Twelfth Malaysia Plan
CFSMP	Central Forest Spine Master Plan
DELIMa	Digital Educational Learning Initiative Malaysia
DFA	Development Finance Assessment
IMM	Impact Measurement and Management
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
KM²	Square kilometres
MOE	Ministry of Education
NPOP	National Policy on Older Person
NQP	National Quality Policy
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PEKERTI	Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy and Action Plan
SOCISO	Social Security Organization
STEM	Science, Technological, Engineering, and Mathematics
UN	United Nations
UN RCO	Office of the UN Resident Coordinator
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
CF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UN-Habitat	UN Human Settlements Programme
UNCDF	UN Capital Development Fund
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organisation
UNODC	UN Office for Drugs and Crime
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WAO	Women's Aid Organisation
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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