



**MALAYSIA-UN  
SDG TRUST FUND**

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024

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# MALAYSIA-UN SDG TRUST FUND



**UNITED NATIONS**  
MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE,  
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



YAYASAN

**MySDG**  
FOUNDATION



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# Malaysia-UN SDG Trust Fund

## Introduction

Malaysia is fully committed to the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Efforts to deliver on this commitment and accelerate implementation in line with the UN Decade of Action have gained new momentum as the country addresses socioeconomic challenges and progresses towards high-income nation status.

The Government of Malaysia, through the *Yayasan Matlamat Pembangunan Mampan Malaysia* (MySDG Foundation), agreed to contribute as a donor to the Malaysia-UN SDG Trust Fund (the Fund) and collaborate with the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UN RCO) and the UN Country Team in Malaysia to support programmes and projects that address national priorities through a multi-stakeholder approach which fosters partnerships for innovative SDG solutions reaching persons and localities most at risk of being left behind. With the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office serving as the Administrative Agent of the Fund, all contributions are managed transparently, accountably and in full alignment with UN financial rules and regulations.

The Fund supports catalytic grassroot interventions that promote inclusion, partnerships and a whole-of-society approach to create equitable and inclusive pathways for sustainable development. Projects funded by the Fund are expected to place emphasis on local actions, that improve livelihoods and well-being across regions and communities, while contributing meaningfully to Malaysia's SDG progress.





The Fund is anchored in **three thematic pillars** - **People and Prosperity**, **Planet**, and **Peace and Partnership**; and in twelve (12) priority areas such as - poverty eradication, meeting nutritional and health challenges, addressing the human development needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged women, building the resilience of communities at risk from the impacts of climate change, and enabling the realization of socioeconomic rights for all people living in Malaysia.

The year 2024 marked the Fund's second year of substantive operations. Key activities included the disbursements to 14 grantees under the first Call for Proposals (CFP-2023), ongoing monitoring of progress and impact of the CFP-2023 funded projects, the launch of the second Call for Proposals (CFP-2024/25), and evaluation and selection of new project proposals under CFP-2024/25. Following detailed review by the Task Team<sup>1</sup> and Fund Secretariat, the Steering Committee selected 18 projects to proceed to the next stage of the vetting process, with disbursements of funds under the second CFP scheduled for 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> Task Team: A nominated team that engages on a regular basis with the Fund Secretariat on operational matters, providing advice and oversight beyond the formal meetings of the Steering Committee

## Summary for 2024

 Over <b>7,755</b> individuals impacted	 Over <b>450</b> trainings/classes held	 <b>171</b> consultations and partnership opportunities enabled	 Over <b>3,500</b> people reached through comms & engagement
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As of December 2024, initiatives under the Malaysia-UN SDG Trust Fund have collectively **impacted 7,755 individuals** from communities most at risk of being left behind across Malaysia, particularly in rural states such as Pahang, Sabah, and Sarawak. These include the Orang Asli (Indigenous) and coastal communities, refugees and asylum seekers, stateless individuals, women and youth from bottom 40% (B40) income group residing in low-income public housing.

Projects are advancing steadily, with several having met or nearing their targets, notably in women's economic empowerment, refugee health services, and rural sanitation infrastructure. Other initiatives, including those focused on education, youth skills development, and mobile healthcare for marginalized communities, have also reported consistent progress.

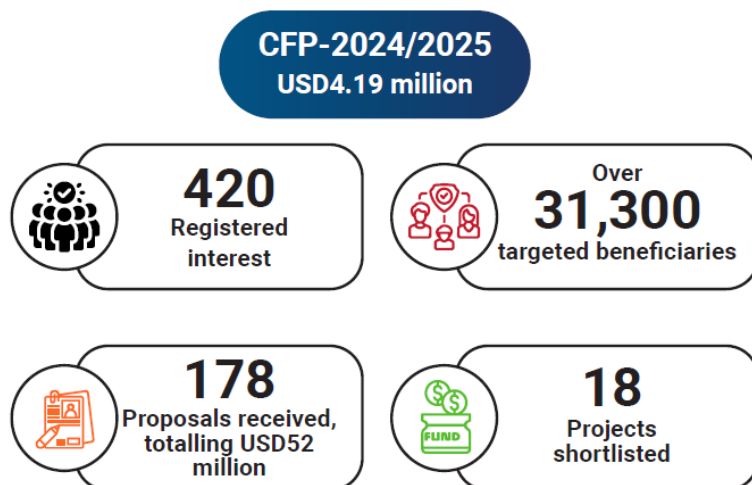
Throughout 2024, more than **450 training sessions and classes** were conducted by funded organizations; and in alignment with SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals, over 170 consultations and partnership links were established to support the implementation of the community-led solutions.

In terms of outreach and awareness, efforts have reached out to an estimated **3,511 individuals**, significantly enhancing engagement and visibility across target communities.

Together, these projects continue to lay critical groundwork for inclusive, community-led solutions aligned with the SDGs.

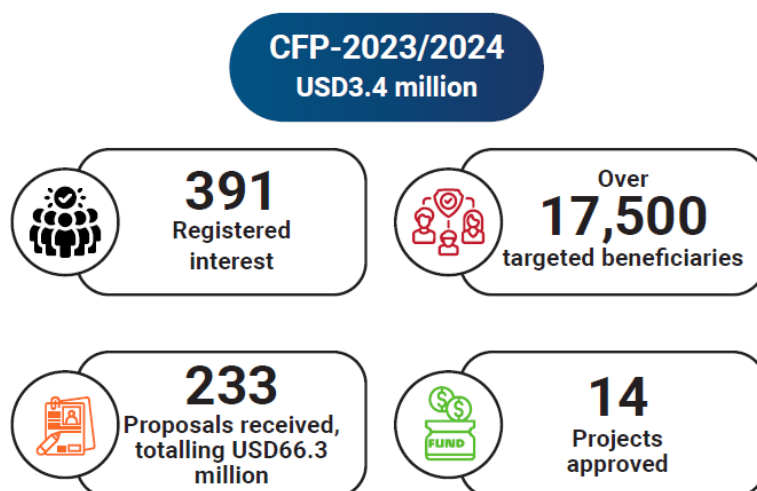
## Call for Proposals 2024/2025 (CFP-2024/25)

The 2024 Call for Proposals (CFP-2024/25) was approved by the Fund Steering Committee and officially launched on 17 September 2024 during the Malaysia SDG Summit in Kuala Lumpur. To support potential applicants, virtual information sessions on CFP-2024/25 were organized by the Fund Secretariat, **attracting over 420 participants** and a total of **178 project proposals were received** with a total funding request of USD52 million at the close of the call. **18 projects with an estimated budget of USD4.19 million** were selected to proceed to the next phase of detailed Project Document development and comprehensive vetting before final approval.



## Call for Proposals 2023 (CFP-2023)

The Call for Proposals 2023 (CFP-2023) opened on 1 July 2023 and received over 230 submissions by the closing date. Following a rigorous selection process, 14 projects were approved for funding, with a **total budget allocation of USD3.4 million**. Funds were successfully disbursed to all 14 projects, enabling their commencement and implementation in 2024.



## Project Details by SDGs and Beneficiaries

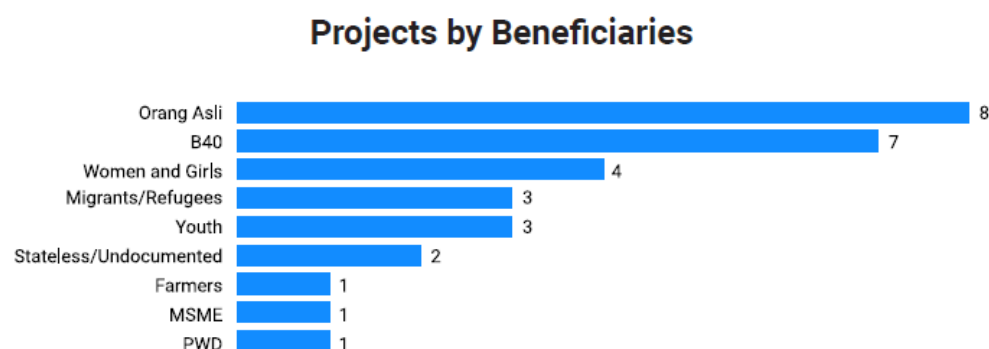
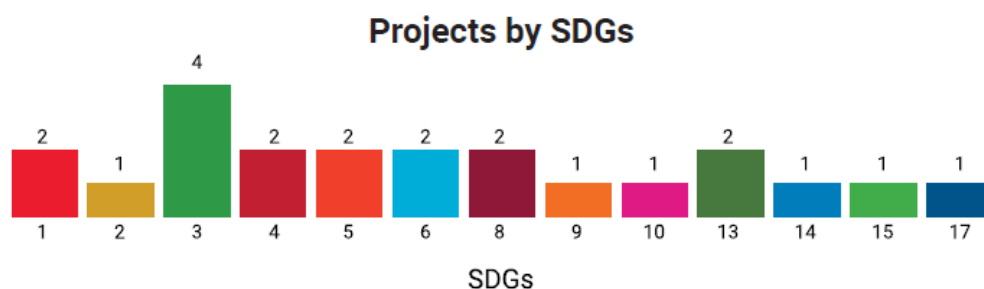
The inaugural 2023 Call for Proposals (CFP-2023) under the Malaysia-UN SDG Trust Fund supports a diverse portfolio of projects across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), key beneficiary groups, and geographic locations.

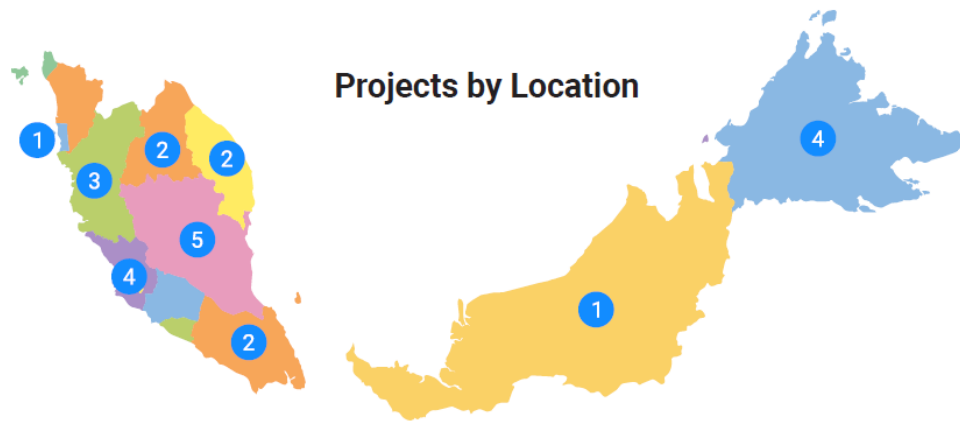
**SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being**, was the most commonly aligned goal, with four (4) projects focused on it. This was followed by SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 10 (Reduced Inequalities), each represented by at least two (2) projects.

In terms of beneficiaries, Orang Asli (Indigenous), were the most targeted group, featured in eight (8) projects, followed by B40 communities in seven (7) projects. Other key target groups included women and girls, migrants and refugees, persons with disabilities, and youth – in line with the Fund’s primary aim of reaching those furthest behind.

Projects were implemented across multiple states in both Peninsular and East Malaysia with the highest concentrations in Pahang (five projects), and Selangor and Sabah (four projects respectively).

Several projects target interconnected SDGs, beneficiary groups, and geographic areas, showcasing the Fund’s commitment to a synergistic and integrated approach that maximizes impact and resource efficiency.





*\* Several projects target multiple locations.*



## Call for Proposals 2023 (CFP-2023) Projects in Summary

Recipient Organizations and Project Titles	Funds Disbursed in 2024 (USD)	Targeted Beneficiaries	Achievement as of 31 December 2024
<b><i>Pillar: People and Prosperity</i></b>			
<b>UNDP-ILO:</b> Improving People with Disabilities' Access to the Open Labour Market with Enhanced Social Protection	249,987	Persons with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>70</b> individuals from 5 major disability groups engaged in structured consultations</li> <li>• <b>74</b> government officials from 6 bodies were engaged</li> <li>• Strategic partnership formed with Malaysia Employers Federation (MEF) to engage business sectors</li> <li>• Cross-agency collaboration initiated to address policy and implementation gaps</li> </ul>
<b>UNHCR-WHO:</b> Enhancing Access to Key Health Services for Refugees	300,000	3635 vulnerable individuals and refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>845</b> individuals received primary healthcare services, and <b>50</b> individual cases referred to hospitals</li> <li>• <b>135</b> vulnerable patients supported with urgent medical interventions</li> <li>• <b>87%</b> of critical care patients achieved full recovery</li> <li>• Mobile clinics deployed and medical subsidies provided with an average of 200 beneficiaries per session</li> <li>• Refugee Medical Insurance (REMEDI) insurance scheme launched with Allianz General for hospital admission coverage</li> </ul>
<b>UNEP-UN Habitat:</b> Enhancing Wastewater, Nutrient	300,670	500 individuals from the marginalized coastal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10</b> modified Independent Sewerage Treatment Plant (ISTP) tanks developed</li> </ul>

Management and Sanitation Provision for Marginalized Coastal Communities in Sabah, Malaysia		communities in Sabah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation underway to serve 1 local school and 4 households – for over <b>330 beneficiaries</b></li> <li>• <b>2</b> community-based enterprises launched</li> <li>• <b>&gt; 1,700</b> individuals reached through outreach and engagement activities</li> <li>• <b>39 local and international</b> participants took part in an awareness dialogue to establish technical cooperation among wastewater utilities stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>Global Peace Foundation Malaysia (GPFM):</b> Orang Asli Farmers: Pioneering Circular Economy through Sustainable Poultry Farming	211,298	60 Orang Asli (indigenous) farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>60</b> Orang Asli farmers engaged</li> <li>• <b>2 training modules</b> developed</li> <li>• <b>4</b> hands-on sessions completed on syntropic farming and chicken coop design and maintenance</li> </ul>
<b>Dignity for Children:</b> Empowerment through Skills: Training Courses and Job Placements for Marginalized Communities	200,000	300 youths from marginalized communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>125</b> marginalised youth enrolled</li> <li>• <b>116</b> completed training</li> <li>• <b>144</b> food and beverage classes conducted</li> <li>• <b>104</b> early childhood education sessions held</li> <li>• <b>188</b> hairdressing modules delivered</li> <li>• <b>31</b> students secured internship placements</li> <li>• <b>42</b> industry partners engaged to support curriculum and job placement</li> </ul>
<b>Malaysian Red Crescent:</b> Health Equity and Empowerment for All Populations (HEEAP) Project	500,000	8472 individuals from vulnerable groups in Peninsular Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>60</b> mobile clinic sessions</li> <li>• <b>5,127</b> individuals reached</li> <li>• <b>219</b> refugees and asylum seekers received referrals to medical care, legal aid, and protection support</li> <li>• <b>10</b> Community Health Workers (CHWs) trained</li> <li>• CHW training module developed</li> </ul>

<b>Women of Will (WOW):</b> Empowering Women to Empower Their Communities	288,989	200 women entrepreneurs from low-income public housing communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>200</b> women from 6 low-income housing communities participated in entrepreneurship training</li> <li>• <b>80%</b> of participants showed improved knowledge in financial literacy, digital marketing, and business planning</li> <li>• <b>RM178,000</b> in business capital disbursed to <b>178</b> women participants, with each receiving RM1,000</li> </ul>
<b>World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Malaysia:</b> Revitalizing Gelam Forests for Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity Conservation in Setiu Wetlands, Terengganu	200,000	100 participants from vulnerable groups (including women and young adults)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>15</b> community members, especially young adults and women were engaged</li> <li>• <b>2</b> forest restoration sites identified</li> <li>• <b>&gt; 80</b> stakeholders engaged</li> <li>• Partnerships initiated with the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA)</li> </ul>
<b>Malaysian Relief Agency (MRA) (Health):</b> Healthcare Services Through Mobile Clinic for Marginalized Communities	170, 930	1000 Orang Asli (indigenous) and stateless individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>289</b> individuals reached</li> <li>• <b>271</b> individuals received basic medical treatment</li> <li>• <b>164</b> individuals participated in health education sessions</li> </ul>
<b>Malaysian Relief Agency (MRA) (Project IQ):</b> Free Tuition Programme for Left Behind Primary School B40 Students, Targeting Improvement of Literacy and Numeracy Skills	187,549	235 primary school children from low-income household (B40 household)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>217</b> students enrolled across <b>5 states</b> in Malaysia</li> <li>• <b>55%</b> of students showed improvement in literacy and numeracy</li> </ul>

<b>National Cancer Society Malaysia (NCSM):</b> Malaysian SDG Community Health Observatory Network (MASCHON)	123,000	1448 individuals from low-income communities (women and <i>Orang Asli</i> (Indigenous))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MASCHON National Steering Committee being established</li> <li>List of <i>Orang Asli/Orang Asal</i> communities within Malaysia being secured</li> </ul>
<b>MERCY Malaysia:</b> Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programme in East Malaysia	230,050 (disbursed in 2 tranches – 50% in 2024 and 50% to be disbursed in 2025)	1240 villagers in rural areas of Sabah and Sarawak (East Malaysia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>138</b> Indigenous residents engaged in planning and site assessments</li> <li>Technical reassessment conducted to address drought-related risks</li> <li>The rainwater harvesting systems in Sabah to be replaced with alternative surface and groundwater solutions (Sabah)</li> </ul>
<b>Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM):</b> Sharing First Steps: Early Childhood Education in Educating Orang Asli at Pos Lenjang, Pahang	101,420	110 <i>Orang Asli</i> (Indigenous) individuals comprising of children, parents, and teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>50</b> <i>Orang Asli</i> (Indigenous) children reached</li> <li><b>76%</b> children showed improvement in basic literacy and learning confidence</li> </ul>
<b>Pillar: Planet</b>			
<b>Persatuan Aktivis Sahabat Alam (KUASA):</b> Empowering Orang Asli Communities in Titiwangsa Forest Complex to Proactively Participate in Development Process Towards Sustainable Natural Resources Management & Cultural Livelihood Preservation	106,696	200 individuals from the <i>Orang Asli</i> (Indigenous) community in Titiwangsa Forest Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>10</b> pre-programme engagement sessions held</li> <li><b>3 SDG-focused training workshops</b> conducted in Selangor and Perak</li> <li><b>138 participants</b> reached from 16 villages</li> <li><b>67% female participation</b> recorded in Selangor session</li> </ul>

## Project highlights:

### Pillar: People and Prosperity

#### Improving Access to the Labour Market for Persons with Disabilities

Implemented by UNDP and ILO



**70** individuals from 5 disability groups participated in consultation sessions

**74** government officials engaged

Partnership established with Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF)

Since its launch in March 2024, the project has made progress in advancing inclusive employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in Malaysia. To date, **70 individuals from five (5) disability groups** have participated in structured consultations, providing critical insights into barriers they encounter in securing and maintaining decent employment. These consultations emphasized the need for targeted skills development, inclusive workplace practices, and improved employer and public awareness.

The project also engaged **74 officials from key government ministries and agencies**, including the Social Welfare Department (JKM), Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development (MWFC), and the Social Security Organization (SOCSO). These engagements have highlighted policy gaps and paved the way for stronger cross-agency collaboration.

A strategic partnership with the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) has opened dialogue with the business sector to address misconceptions, assess workplace readiness, and explore pilot job placements for persons with disabilities.

Funds disbursed have supported multi-stakeholder consultations, government and employer outreach, and the completion of an inception report outlining priority action areas.

This groundwork laid through this project has begun to shift perceptions, strengthen public-private cooperation, and lay the foundation for more inclusive employment strategies that aim to improve long-term outcomes for persons with disabilities across Malaysia.

*"Inclusion is everybody's business. When we create opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate fully in the workforce, we not only unlock individual potential—we strengthen our economy, our communities, and the fabric of our society."*

*Edward Vrkic  
Resident Representative ad interim, UNDP Malaysia*

## Enhancing Access to Key Health Services for Refugees Implemented by UNHCR and WHO



**845** individuals received healthcare services  
**135** vulnerable patients supported with urgent medical interventions  
**87%** of critical care patients achieved full recovery

This project has improved access to essential healthcare services for refugees and asylum-seekers in Malaysia, focusing on both primary care through mobile outreach and support for urgent hospital-based treatment. Since commencement in April 2024, the project has made significant progress in bridging critical health gaps for marginalized populations.

As of December 2024, a total of **845** individuals have received primary healthcare services, while efforts were also directed at supporting **135** highly vulnerable patients such as children of refugees and asylum seekers in need of urgent medical interventions. Of those assisted, **87%** made a full recovery – demonstrating the project's tangible impact on improving health outcomes among displaced communities.

The funding disbursed has enabled the deployment of mobile clinics, the provision of medical subsidies for critical care, health education outreach, and the launch of REMEDI refugee insurance scheme in partnership with Allianz General Insurance. The scheme now provides coverage for hospital admission at all Ministry of Health hospitals, offering critical financial protection for refugees' households.

The project has successfully laid the foundation for more inclusive, community-based health responses. By leveraging strong partnerships and coordinated service delivery, the project continues to contribute to more equitable, responsive, and sustainable healthcare outcomes for displaced communities in Malaysia.

## Enhancing Wastewater, Nutrient Management and Sanitation Provision for Marginalized Coastal Communities in Sabah, Malaysia

Implemented by UNEP and UN-Habitat



**10** modified Independent Sewerage Treatment Plant tanks developed  
**> 1,700** individuals reached

The project commenced in February 2024 with the objective of improving wastewater and sanitation services for the marginalized coastal community in Lok Urai, Sabah. During the reporting period, significant progress was made, including the development of **10** modified Independent Sewerage Treatment Plant (ISTP) tanks designed to meet national regulatory standards. Installation of these tanks began in late 2024 and will serve a local school and four (4) households, benefiting at least **334 students and teachers**.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, the project has launched **two (2)** community-based spin-off enterprises – a fish trading facility and a homestay initiative, to generate income for the upkeep of sanitation systems. Collaboration with the Sabah State Sewerage Service Department (JPP Sabah) has been strengthened, with active interest in supporting policy development and operational arrangements.

By December 2024, the project reached over **1,700** individuals through awareness and engagement activities, including public outreach events, conferences, and an awareness dialogue attended by 39 stakeholders. This outreach has significantly contributed to visibility and local buy-in, reinforcing the sustainability of the intervention.

With core infrastructure development underway and local partnerships solidified, the project remains on track to deliver long-term environmental and health benefits to coastal communities in Sabah.

## Pioneering Circular Economy via Sustainable Poultry Farming

Implemented by Global Peace Foundation Malaysia (GPFM)



**60** farmers trained

**2** training modules developed

The sustainable poultry farming programme for Orang Asli (Indigenous) communities that commenced in October 2024, had made promising progress in building long-term resilience and economic opportunities. **60** Orang Asli farmers have been engaged in training focused on skill development, regenerative farming, and income generation.

To date, **two (2)** training modules have been developed, with **four (4)** hands-on sessions conducted. All participating farmers have begun cultivating alternative chicken feed – moringa, napier, and azolla. These practices aim to reduce reliance on commercial feed and help realize the programme's target of **30%** cost savings.

The design of a local poultry packing facility is complete, which aims to boost poultry sales margins by **20%** through improved value chain efficiency. Due to village infrastructure constraints, processing will be conducted via an external certified partner, while the packing facility will be based at Global Peace Foundation's field office. This ensures hygiene compliance and enables structured training for Orang Asli women in food handling and quality control.

Moving forward, the project has plans to expand to 300 farmers. While measurable income impact will be assessed post-harvest in 2025, the initiative has laid a strong foundation for inclusive, sustainable development.

*"Through this project, we're empowering Orang Asli farmers with the tools, training, and support they need to build sustainable poultry farms—improving food security, generating income and creating a brighter future for their communities."*

*Teh Su Thye*  
CEO of Global Peace Foundation Malaysia



## Empowerment through Skills: Training Courses and Job Placements for Marginalized Communities

Implemented by Dignity for Children



**125** students enrolled

**116** completed training

**93%** training completion rate

In 2024, the "Empowerment through Skills" programme equipped marginalized youth in Malaysia – including refugees, stateless individuals, and members of the B40 and Orang Asli communities—with vocational competencies through **144 food and beverage classes**, **104 early childhood education sessions**, and **188 hairdressing modules**. A total of **125 students were enrolled**, with **116** completing their training. The programme emphasized hands-on learning to enhance career readiness and foster self-reliance.

Strategic partnerships with an external consultant and 42 industry partners strengthened curriculum delivery, trainer capacity, and student support. Career counselling and internship placements led to **31 students gaining practical work experience**. Inclusive learning strategies were also implemented in collaboration with Dignity College and mental health professionals.

To strengthen community engagement, the programme held its first Parent-Teacher Meeting and delivered targeted teacher training on trauma-informed and inclusive education.

Looking ahead to 2025, the programme aims to scale up training to reach 250 individuals annually and secure 50 internship placements, while expanding outreach to underserved communities. The success of participants like Ee Ting Sang – a stateless youth who discovered a passion for culinary arts – highlights the transformative impact of skills-based education. Through an internship placement at PichaEats, a food and beverage enterprise, he gained real-world experience and hands-on training in managing a food business.

*"This project is important because it helps us build a future in which we're able to have education for all, gender equality, and build sustainable livelihoods."*

*Representative of Dignity for Children*

## Health Equity and Empowerment for All Populations (HEEAP) Project Implemented by Malaysian Red Crescent (MRC)



**5,127** individuals received healthcare services

**60** mobile clinic sessions held

**> 37** community-based organizations have been mobilized through partnerships.

Since its launch in January 2024, the HEEAP project has made meaningful progress in enhancing healthcare access and awareness among underserved populations in Peninsular Malaysia, with a strong focus on refugees, migrants, Orang Asli (Indigenous) communities, and the homeless. Led by the Malaysian Red Crescent (MRC) in partnership with Tenaganita, the project reduces healthcare barriers through mobile health services, community-based health worker training, and advocacy for systemic change.

By December 2024, **60 mobile clinic sessions** were conducted, reaching **5,127** individuals with services including general health screenings, dental and eye care, antenatal check-ups, and immunizations. An additional **219** individuals, primarily refugees and asylum seekers from Myanmar, received tailored case management and referrals for medical care, legal aid, and protection support.

To build local capacity, the project developed a Community Health Worker (CHW) training module and **trained 10 CHWs** representing communities from Myanmar, Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, and Pakistan. These trained CHWs have since led health awareness workshops and supported health promotion efforts within their communities.

To date, the project has **effectively mobilized partnerships with over 37 community-based organizations and NGOs**, significantly expanding its reach and impact. Continued cross-functional collaboration and stakeholder engagement remain central to the project's strategy, with activities progressing steadily toward its goal of delivering equitable, community-led healthcare solutions in Malaysia.

## Empowering Women to Empower their Communities

Implemented by Women of Will (WOW)



RM178,000 in business capital disbursed to **178** participants  
**80%** of the women participants showed improved knowledge across various key areas

The Women of Will's (WOW) project has made significant strides since its launch in February 2024. Designed to uplift women from low-income households across **six (6) low-income public housing** communities in Klang Valley, the initiative aims to equip **200** women entrepreneurs with the tools, training, and financial capital needed to build sustainable businesses and strengthen their roles as community leaders.

To date, **200** women have participated in the programme's entrepreneurship and business development training, with **80%** showing improved knowledge across key areas such as financial literacy, digital marketing, and business planning. As of December 2024, **a total of RM178,000** in business capital was disbursed to **178** participants, with each receiving RM1,000, to help scale their enterprises, with the remaining disbursements scheduled for early 2025.

In addition to economic empowerment, the programme emphasizes mental well-being and leadership development. Preparations are underway to launch mental health workshops and to identify and train **20** women community leaders in 2025. Regular quarterly meetups have also been introduced to foster peer support and community engagement among participants.

*"Since the project began, 200 women from six low-income communities have received business training, coaching, and financial support to grow their businesses and build sustainable futures."*

Alyssa Hanif  
Senior Manager, Development & Partnership,  
Women of Will

## Revitalizing Gelam Forests for Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity Conservation in the Setiu Wetlands, Terengganu

Implemented by World Wide Fund for Nature, (WWF) Malaysia



**15** community members engaged

**2** forest restoration sites identified

**> 80** stakeholders engaged

This project, building on a pilot programme, supports Gelam-dependent communities in Setiu Wetlands by enhancing livelihoods through essential oil production, forest restoration, and improved market access – while promoting biodiversity and climate resilience. Project implementation began in November 2024, following the disbursement of funds. Despite challenges posed by the east coast monsoon season, which caused flooding and damage to equipment and infrastructure at the project site during the inception stage of the project, preparatory work, including site assessments and stakeholder engagement, was successfully carried out.

**15 community members** from the pilot project have remained active in the current phase, with efforts underway to recruit additional participants to triple this number. Engagement with key partners such as the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) was initiated to support technical aspects of restoration and community development, and an inception workshop is to be held in January 2025.

The project revised its approach to the essential oil production component. Instead of constructing a certified production centre, it opted to engage an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), providing a more cost-effective and timelier pathway to product certification. The originally planned facility has been repurposed as a training and outreach centre for local communities.

Restoration work is progressing in **two** identified areas: one within Setiu State Park and another on community land. Outreach efforts have begun with over **80** stakeholders engaged through an inception workshop and early communications activities.

By the end of 2024, key equipment such as tents, nursery materials, and outreach tools had been procured, positioning the project to transition smoothly into its next phase.

## Healthcare Services through Mobile Clinic for Marginalized Communities Implemented by Malaysian Relief Agency (MRA)



**289** individuals reached

**271** individuals received basic medical treatment

**164** individuals participated in health education sessions

The MRA Healthcare project provides access to essential healthcare for marginalized populations in Malaysia, including Indigenous communities in Perak and Pahang, and stateless individuals in Sabah. Launched in July 2024, the project has delivered impactful services to underserved areas through mobile clinics and health education activities.

By December 2024, the project had reached **289** individuals with basic medical services. Of these, **271** beneficiaries received basic medical treatment, while **164** individuals participated in health education sessions focused on hygiene practices, supported by hygiene and dental kit distribution. In Sabah, strategic partnerships with the Semporna and Tawau Health District Offices helped deliver mobile services to stateless communities. In Perak, the programme operated within the Royal Belum State Park with support from the State Park Corporation and Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA), enabling access to remote Indigenous communities. In Pahang, a partnership was formed with the Federation of Private Medical Practitioners' Associations Malaysia (FPMPAM).

Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) components remain in the preparatory phase due to the sensitivity of the topic and the need for community trust-building. Initial groundwork includes the development of a local health dictionary in the Jahai dialect and the engagement of community members as translators and cultural mediators.

The project has laid a strong foundation for reaching its intended targets, with key lessons learned in community engagement, volunteer mobilization, and the importance of culturally adapted health education in low-literacy contexts.



## Project IQ: Assisting Left-Behind B-40 Students in Fulfilling their Potential through Literacy

Implemented by Malaysian Relief Agency (MRA)



**217** students enrolled

**55** of students showed improvement in literacy and numeracy

Since the disbursement of funds in July 2024, Project IQ has delivered academic support to underserved students across **five (5) regions** in Malaysia – Klang Valley, Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Johor, and Sabah. This project addresses educational inequities by offering free tuition, digital tools, and values-based education to students affected by socio-economic challenges.

To date, the programme has enrolled **217 students**, following screening across **eight (8)** locations. Structured tuition sessions, ethics and digital literacy components, and mentorship were provided to enhance academic outcomes and build future-ready skills.

Early assessments indicate that **55%** of participants have demonstrated improvement in literacy and numeracy—highlighting both progress and the need for targeted remedial strategies.

Approximately **RM136,800** has been allocated to equip tuition centres with key assets, including 81 tablets, 81 keyboards, and other digital tools essential for blended learning. These investments have strengthened delivery capacity and enabled a more resilient and adaptive learning model.

Future plans of the Project IQ include implementing hybrid learning models, expanding volunteer incentives, and enhancing personalized instruction. The project has laid a strong foundation in bridging education gaps and empowering disadvantaged youth with the tools to succeed academically and beyond.

## Malaysian SDG Community Health Observatory Network (MASCHON)

Implemented by National Cancer Society Malaysia



The MASCHON project, aims to establish community-led health observatories across four (4) constituencies in Malaysia. These observatories focus on empowering low-income women and Orang Asli (Indigenous) communities to monitor and address local health challenges, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health, malnutrition, and non-communicable diseases.

Project implementation commenced in December 2024 following the successful establishment of necessary compliance measures within the organization. Initially scheduled for January, this preparatory phase allowed the project to establish a solid operational foundation. A notable achievement was mapping the *Orang Asli* and *Orang Asal* (Indigenous populations in Peninsular and East Malaysia respectively) communities across Malaysia, with data on state, district, parliamentary constituency, population size and date of last update.

Additionally, the project has begun the **scoping and formation of the MASCHON National Steering Committee**, which provides strategic oversight. While direct beneficiary engagement is set to begin in the next phase in 2025, the establishment of this governance structure marks an important step towards long-term effectiveness and sustainability.

The project is set to train **240** community monitoring agents, deliver health services to over **1,400** individuals, and establish **eight (8)** micro-community health observatories. These efforts are expected to strengthen local health monitoring, enhance community-led advocacy, and promote inclusive participation in the localization of the SDGs.

## Water Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Programme in East Malaysia

Implemented by MERCY Malaysia



**138** Indigenous residents engaged in planning and site assessments  
Alternative water sources (surface/groundwater) identified through resistivity tests

Following the disbursement of funds in August 2024, the programme began implementation with the objective of improving access to clean water and sanitation for underserved indigenous communities in Sabah and Sarawak. A technical re-assessment was conducted in September 2024, resulting in key adjustments to the project scope to ensure sustainability amid worsening drought conditions.

In Sabah, the prolonged dry season rendered the originally planned rainwater harvesting systems unviable for Kampung Pauh Bongkol and Kampung Maringgian in Pitas, Sabah. Alternative solutions, including surface and groundwater sources, are being explored following water resistivity tests. In Sarawak, Kampung Langkang Ilir, Sri Aman was identified as a replacement for Kampung Selanjan Enchiap in Sri Aman, which had received prior state support. Procurement has since commenced for a Gravity Feed System and communal sanitation facilities in Kampung Tenggong Punda, Serian.

By the end of 2024, **138** indigenous residents from the communities have participated in planning discussions and site assessments. Their input has been critical in refining system designs and identifying additional environmental and safety risks, such as longhouse structural issues in Sarawak and the impact of water-intensive plantations in Sabah.

Challenges encountered at the earlier stage of the project implementation include climate-related risks, and structural constraints in targeted villages. As of December 2024, foundational work has laid the groundwork for sustainable implementation that will begin in 2025.

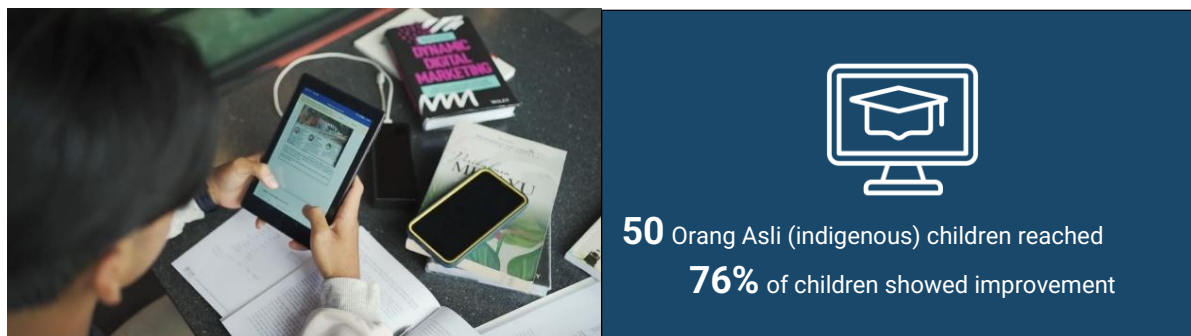
*"Our project is reaching over 1,500 indigenous individuals in Sabah and Sarawak, addressing water scarcity driven by climate change and unsustainable practices. By improving access to clean water and sanitation, we're building healthier, more resilient communities for the future."*

*Representative of MERCY Malaysia*



## Shaping First Steps: Early Childhood Education in Educating Orang Asli at Pos Lenjang, Pahang

Implemented by Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)



The project began implementation in September 2024 with the objective of improving access to early childhood education in remote *Orang Asli* (Indigenous) communities. Initially planned for implementation in Pos Lenjang, Pahang, the project was strategically relocated to Pos Betau, Pahang, following close consultation with the Pahang State Education Department. The change was proposed to achieve better impact, as Pos Betau offers stronger community engagement, better infrastructure potential, and a higher concentration of preschool-aged children, ensuring more effective delivery and sustainability of the initiative.

In Pos Betau, the programme benefited **50** preschool children by equipping their classroom with learning tablets pre-installed with offline, interactive educational content. The digital tools supported a more engaging and effective lesson delivery despite the high student-to-teacher ratio. All 50 children were successfully profiled using baseline 3R (reading, writing, arithmetic) assessments, allowing for more tailored instruction.

By the end of 2024, all learning modules had been adapted at least once based on student progress data. The implementation of interactive, student-centred learning strategies—including games, and group activities—marked a shift from passive instruction to active learning. Preliminary assessments showed that **76%** of children demonstrated measurable improvements in at least two learning domains, particularly in basic literacy and learning confidence. To date, the programme has laid a strong foundation for improved early childhood learning outcomes and offers a promising model for expanding access to quality education in remote and underserved areas.

## Pillar: Planet

### Empowering Orang Asli Communities for a Better Future

Implemented by Persatuan Aktivis Sahabat Alam (KUASA)



**10** pre-programme engagement sessions held

**3** SDG-focused training workshops conducted

**138** participants reached from 16 villages

**67%** female participation in Selangor

The project commenced in August 2024, following the institutionalization of the required HACT and PSEA compliance measures. Significant progress was achieved in the fourth quarter of 2024 towards empowering *Orang Asli* (Indigenous) communities within the Titiwangsa Forest Complex through rights education and environmental advocacy.

From August to December 2024, **10** pre-programme community engagement sessions were held, building trust, and identifying key local issues such as land encroachment, water pollution, and exclusion from development planning. These efforts laid the groundwork for culturally relevant training and strong community ownership.

**Three (3)** SDG-focused training workshops were conducted across Selangor and Perak, reaching **138** participants from **16** villages. The workshops emphasized Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), indigenous rights, and environmental stewardship. Notably, **67%** of participants in the Selangor session were women, reflecting strong female engagement.

Post-training, participants initiated local advocacy efforts including environmental monitoring, formal complaint submissions, and consultations with government bodies. One community group successfully met with hospital leadership to address health risks tied to development, while others conducted drone-assisted documentation of river pollution and engaged developers on land use conflicts.

The project to date has supported the delivery of training sessions, production of educational materials, acquisition of GPS and mapping tools, and facilitation of community-led mapping of water catchment areas for future gazettement. The programme is on track to meet its objectives, with communities already applying their skills to influence policies and protect their territories.

## Conclusion

The Malaysia-UN SDG Trust Fund is a novel funding mechanism that serves as a blueprint for other upper-middle-income countries facing similar challenges in closing SDG gaps and addressing disparities faced by hard-to-reach groups and communities. By including a new funding model and fostering collaboration among key SDG stakeholders, the Fund helps deliver tangible results to the often excluded and marginalized communities.

Although in its early stages, the Fund has managed to deliver measurable impact through the implementation of 14 projects under CFP-2023 and will continue to reach those most left behind and further extending its support to those most at risk of being left behind via funding of 18 additional projects under CFP-2024/25.

As a multi-donor, multi-beneficiary platform, the Fund harnesses catalytic power by bringing together diverse expertise, innovative solutions and strategic partnerships to test new ideas, demonstrate scalable models, and unlock larger investments for sustainable developments and solutions that leave no one behind, with a particular emphasis on supporting underserved communities and regions that are often unreached by conventional development programmes.