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# Table of Contents

Welcome - Note from the Director ........................................................................................................... 9
About the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance ........... 10
Disaster Management Reference Handbook Series Overview .......................................................... 11
Executive Summary ................................................................................................................................. 12

## Country Overview .............................................................................................................................. 14
- History ............................................................................................................................................ 14
- Culture ........................................................................................................................................... 14
- Demographics ................................................................................................................................. 15
  - Ethnic Makeup ............................................................................................................................. 15
  - Key Population Centers ............................................................................................................... 15
  - Language ..................................................................................................................................... 16
  - Religion ...................................................................................................................................... 16
  - Vulnerable Groups ....................................................................................................................... 16
- Economics ....................................................................................................................................... 17
- Government .................................................................................................................................... 17
- Environment .................................................................................................................................. 18
  - Geography ................................................................................................................................. 18
  - Borders ...................................................................................................................................... 18
  - Climate ...................................................................................................................................... 18
  - Climate Change ......................................................................................................................... 19

## Disaster Overview ............................................................................................................................ 22
- Hazards .......................................................................................................................................... 22
- Recent History of Natural Disasters ............................................................................................... 22
- Country Risks .................................................................................................................................. 24
  - Country Risk Profile ................................................................................................................ 24
Organizational Structure for Disaster Management

Lead Government Agencies in Disaster Response
National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA)
Key Disaster Management Partners
ASEAN
United Nations
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
U.S. Government Agencies in Malaysia
Participation in International Organizations
Foreign Disaster Relief and Emergency Response
Laws, Policies, and Plans on Disaster Management
Education and Training
Disaster Management Communications
  Early Warning Systems
  Responsible Agencies for Hazards and Warnings
  Responsible Agencies for Geological Hazards
  Armed Forces, Role in Disaster Response
Information Sharing

Infrastructure

Airports
Seaports
Land Routes
  Roads
  Railways
  Waterways
Schools
  Disaster Risk Reduction in the Education Sector
Communications
Utilities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Sanitation</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Overview</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare System Structure</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges in the Healthcare System</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Cooperation</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicable Diseases</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Communicable Diseases</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training for Health Professionals</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women, Peace, and Security</strong></td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion</strong></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appendices</strong></td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DoD DMHA Engagements in the Past Five Years (2013-2018)</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International/Foreign Relations</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Force Protection/Pre-Deployment Information</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passport/Visa</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Contact Information</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currency Information</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Health Information</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sendai Framework</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HFA Country Progress Report</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country Profile</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronyms and Abbreviations</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References (Endnotes)</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of Figures

Figure 1: Map of Malaysia ................................................................................................................ 16
Figure 2: Economic Achievements Improving Quality of Life in Rural Malaysian Households .................................................................................................................................................................................. 18
Figure 3: INFORM Country Risk Profile for Malaysia ........................................................................... 24
Figure 4: Organizational Structure Mechanisms .................................................................................. 27
Figure 5: ASEAN ERAT Member Countries ......................................................................................... 33
Figure 6: Portal Bencana Website ......................................................................................................... 37
Figure 7: CFE-DM Disaster Management Handbooks .......................................................................... 42
Figure 8: Major Ports in Malaysia 2017 ................................................................................................. 45
Figure 9: Map of Malaysia Railway Network ........................................................................................ 46
Figure 10: School Preparedness Program Involvement and Participation Statistics in Malaysian States ..................................................................................................................................................................... 48
Figure 11: Malaysia Sustainable Development Goals Index and Dashboards Report ......................... 50
Figure 12: Malaysia Wellbeing Index .................................................................................................... 51
Figure 13: Malaysia Healthcare Structure ............................................................................................. 52
Figure 14: Tuberculosis and Mortality Rates for Malaysia ...................................................................... 54
Figure 15: Malaria Cases in Malaysia 2007-2017 .................................................................................. 55
Figure 16: HIV Infection Rate in Malaysia, 1985-2015 .......................................................................... 55
Figure 17: Death and Disability Rates Combined in Malaysia, 2017 ..................................................... 56
Figure 18: UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 ........................................ 67
Figure 19: HFA Level of Progress Achieved ........................................................................................... 68

List of Tables

Table 1: Political Leadership in Malaysia ............................................................................................... 19
Table 2: Implementation of Climate Resilient Strategies in Malaysia .................................................... 20
Table 3: Focus Area A for Achieving Quality Healthcare ...................................................................... 51
Table 4: Malaysia World Health Organization Country Cooperation Strategy 2016-2020 .................. 53
Table 5: CDC, Travel Health Information for Malaysia ......................................................................... 65
List of Photos

Photo 1: Malaysian Handwoven Basket ................................................................. 15
Photo 2: Gawai Harvest Cultural Festival, Malaysia.............................................. 16
Photo 3: CPR Training from MRC Training Institute Staff................................. 30
Photo 4: Malaysia Airlines.................................................................................. 44
Photo 5: Kuala Lumpur Highway....................................................................... 45
Photo 6: Maliau Falls......................................................................................... 46
Photo 7: Students Received School Supplies at Back to School 2018 Program .... 47
Disclaimer

This report has been prepared in good faith based primarily on information gathered from open-source material available at the date of publication. Most of the information was from United States (U.S.) or other government sources and is thus considered to be in the public domain. Such sources include the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Factbook, U.S. Department of State (DoS), and foreign government’s web pages. Where possible, a link to the original electronic source is provided in the endnote (reference) section at the end of the document. Other sources include Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) homepages, Relief Web, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) or other United Nations (UN) agency web pages, World Bank, and Asian Development Bank (ADB). While making every attempt to ensure the information is relevant and accurate, Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy, reliability, completeness or currency of the information in this publication. Any necessary updates will be incorporated in a future version.
Welcome - Note from the Director

Although Malaysia is located outside the Ring of Fire and south of major typhoon paths, its population is exposed to natural disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides, haze, and tsunamis. In December 2014, Malaysia faced its worst monsoon flood which affected over half a million people across several states and caused extensive damage to infrastructure. Due to this event and the number of growing climate change concerns, the country has invested in adaptation and mitigation efforts in addition to improving its disaster risk management structure. Additionally, Malaysia’s membership in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other strategic partnerships have secured its place as a major regional asset.

This past April, I attended the first Malaysian Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response Civil-Military course where CFE-DM provided training alongside NADMA, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, U.N. World Food Programme, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, and ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management. The event took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 17-19 April 2019. There, approximately 50 civilian and military disaster response stakeholders were on hand to enhance their knowledge in disaster response and operationalize civil-military coordination at the national, regional and international levels. It was a positive opportunity to share information for a common goal of readiness and preparedness with our partners in the Indo-Pacific Region.

The partnership between Malaysia and the U.S. continues to grow as further evident by the continued collaboration with the Pacific Partnership event which Malaysia hosted this past April, and with the U.S. and Malaysia’s co-chairing the ASEAN Defense Minister’s Meeting-Plus Experts Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR). CFE-DM has participated and supported these events with Malaysia in direct support to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. Many of these events are highlighted in this Disaster Management Reference Handbook.

This Handbook focuses on Malaysia’s disaster management framework and partnerships, and highlights Malaysia’s Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies and plans. This Handbook also provides an overview of the country’s government, geography, demographics, social cultural practices, as well as details its history of natural disasters, and the current state of its disaster risk and response management. CFE-DM provides education, training and research about disaster risk management and humanitarian assistance, particularly in international settings, which require coordination with Department of Defense (DoD) and civilian agencies. This guide serves as an initial source of information for individuals preparing for DRR activities or immediate deployment with Malaysian partner responders in a crisis.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Martin, SES
Director
Information about the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance

Overview

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) is a United States (U.S.) Department of Defense (DoD) organization that was established by U.S. Congress in 1994. The Center is a direct reporting unit to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and is located on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

CFE-DM was founded as part of the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye's vision. The Senator had witnessed the effects of Hurricane Iniki that struck the Hawaiian Islands in 1992 and felt the civil-military coordination in the response could have been more effective. He set about to establish CFE-DM to help bridge understanding between civil and military responders, and to provide a DoD platform for building Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (DMHA) awareness and expertise in U.S. forces, and with partner nations in the Asia-Pacific. While maintaining a global mandate, the Asia-Pacific region is our priority of effort and collaboration is the cornerstone of our operational practice.

Mission

CFE-DM increases the readiness of U.S. forces, civilian and military counterparts, and international partners to respond globally to foreign humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations through Civil-Military coordination, training, information sharing, and regional planning.

Vision

CFE-DM exists to save lives and alleviate human suffering by connecting people, improving coordination, and building capacity.

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Disaster Management Reference Handbook Series Overview

The Disaster Management Reference Handbook Series is intended to provide decision makers, planners, responders and disaster management practitioners with an overview of the disaster management structure, policies, laws, and plans for each country covered in the series. Natural and man-made threats most likely to affect the country are discussed. The handbooks also provide basic country background information, including cultural, demographic, geographic, infrastructure, and other relevant data.

Conditions such as poverty, water and sanitation, vulnerable groups, and other humanitarian issues are included. A basic overview of the health situation in the country and disease surveillance is also covered. The handbooks include information on key national entities involved in disaster management, disaster response and preparation, and the military’s role in disaster relief. Information on United Nation agencies, international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), major local NGOs, and key U.S. agencies and programs in the country, are also provided.

The overall aim is to offer a guide that brings together important information about disaster management and response for each country in an effort to provide a basic understanding for the reader. Information in the handbooks are compiled and based primarily on trusted, reliable, publicly available sources. Much of the information used is from open source websites including but not limited to ReliefWeb, PreventionWeb, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Fact Book, the United Nations (UN), The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), government sources, NGO websites, various media sources, U.S. Department of State (DOS), and foreign governments’ web pages. Where possible, a link to the original electronic source is provided in the endnote (reference) section at the end of the document. Other resources are provided by subject matter experts (SMEs).

Each handbook is a working document and will be updated periodically as new, significant information becomes available. We hope that you find these handbooks informative, relevant, reliable, and useful in understanding disaster management and response for this country. We welcome and appreciate your feedback to improve this document and help fill any gaps to enhance its future utility. Feedback, comments, or questions can be emailed to cfe.dmha.fct@pacom.mil. You may also contact the Center at: (808) 472-0518. Please visit our website (https://www.cfe-dmha.org) to view the latest electronic versions available or to request a hard copy of a disaster management reference handbook.

This report has been prepared in good faith based primarily on information gathered from open-source material available at the date of publication. While making every attempt to ensure the information is relevant and accurate, CFE-DM does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy, reliability, completeness or currency of the information in this publication.
Executive Summary

Malaysia is located in Southeast Asia bordering Thailand, Brunei, and Indonesia and consists of 13 states and 3 federal territories. Geographically, it is in a stable region, outside the Ring of Fire and south of major typhoon paths. However, Malaysia is often affected by other natural disasters such as floods, landslides, haze, earthquake and other man-made disasters, as well as some rare cases of droughts and tsunami. Annually, floods account for the most frequent and significant damage and are responsible for a significant number of human lives lost, disease epidemics, property and crop damage, and other losses. Malaysia has experienced 51 natural disaster events in the last two decades (1998-August 2018). In that time period, 281 people died, over 3 million people were affected, and disasters caused nearly US$2 billion (MYR8 billion) in damages.

Malaysia has a population of over 31.8 million people contributing to rich traditions encompassing the varied cultures making up the country. The demographic context includes ethnicity, population, language, religion, and vulnerable groups. Malaysia also has a diversified economy, upper middle-income economic status and is expected to achieve a high-income economy by 2024. Malaysia, a founding member of ASEAN, participates in several ASEAN programs and initiatives including ASEAN ERAT, ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative, and to ASEAN’s Disaster Emergency Logistics System (DELSA), a repository of relief goods and supplies housed in Malaysia for countries affected by disaster in the region.

Malaysia has several vulnerable groups, including children, the poor, and displaced persons. The country also faces potential threats to population health and development due to climate change. These impacts can affect food production, water provision, ecosystem disruption, outbreaks of infectious diseases and vector-borne diseases. Therefore, Malaysia has incorporated several strategies and implemented a framework to mitigate these threats with planned economic and civil progress set out in the Eleventh Malaysia Plan 2016-2020. The plan also identifies disaster management resilience against climate change and natural disaster strategies.

Malaysia faces potential threats to population health and development due to climate change. For example, communities living in coastal regions are at risk of flooding due to sea-level rise. Increased temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns may cause an increase in malaria, cholera and dengue, and heat-stress. In addition, many climate hazards and extreme weather events, such as heat waves, heavy rainfall and droughts, and inland flooding, could become more frequent and more intense due to climate change. Flooding due to climate change could cause more drowning deaths and cause indirect effects. These impacts can affect food production, water provision, ecosystem disruption, infectious disease outbreak and vector-borne diseases.

Malaysia has an INFORM 2019 Natural Hazard and Exposure risk of 3.4/10. Additionally, Malaysia had the highest percentage of the population exposed to floods among ASEAN member states between July 2012 and January 2019.

The country has recently established a new disaster management structure. In 2015, the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA), in the Office of the Prime Minister, became the lead disaster management agency for regional and international disaster management efforts. The disaster management organization structure continues under three levels: federal, state, and district.

Malaysia has an early warning system for earthquake, flood, and tsunami including Short Message Service (SMS) capabilities, and other technologies to alert communities of impending disaster risks. Malaysia has achieved women’s improved health status, greater educational attainment, and increased participation in higher paying occupations. Additionally, Malaysia recently established the parliamentary select committee on gender and equality rights, holding its first meeting in spring 2019 with intentions to improve the WPS agenda.

With the ratification of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2012-2030), Malaysia continues to place green emphasis to reduce disaster risks in the Mid-Term Review of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016-2020). Therefore, disaster risk management, including risk reduction efforts, will be intensified by enhancing the integration of DRR initiatives, strengthening disaster preparedness and increasing capacity in disaster response.
MALAYSIA
Country Overview

Disaster Management Reference Handbook | June 2019
Country Overview

History

Malaysia has been occupied by several different rulers in its history. The region was first inhabited by aboriginal people, or Orang Asli, with 18 official Orang Asli tribes recognized today. In the 2nd century BCE, settlers arrived from south China. Indian traders began settling in Kedah and along the west coast of the peninsula near the beginning of the 1st century CE. During this time period, Hinduism and Buddhism were introduced, Buddhist states developed in the east, and the Indian kingdom of Kunan was founded.

From 1330–50 the Javanese people (both Malaysian and Indonesian) controlled the peninsula. In the 15th century, its rulers converted to Islam and traded with Muslim merchants, and Islam replaced Buddhism across present-day Malaysia. The Portuguese took control of Malacca (part of present day Malaysia) in 1511. Approximately a century later, the Portuguese were driven out by the Dutch in alliance with the Sultan of Johor, during which time the Malay kingdom was ruled by Johor.

In 1786, the Sultan of Kedah granted the island of Penang to the British East India Company for use as a trading post. Less than a decade later, the British took Malacca from the Dutch. The British introduced rubber farming towards the end of the 19th century. During this time, immigrants from southern China and southern India came to work in tin mines and on the plantations, facilitating the peninsula’s transition from a trading outpost to a commodity producer. Between 1873 and 1930, the British colonial administrators took control of the foreign affairs of the nine Malay Sultanates on the peninsula with a series of treaties. In 1896 the Federated Malay States (Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Perak and Pahang) were established.

In 1915, Indian sepoys rebelled against colonial rule and came close to taking control of Singapore. In 1931, the Malayan Communist Party (MCP), or Parti Komunis Malaya (PKM) was established. It drew most of its support from the Chinese community and had links with developing communism. Anti-colonial nationalism began among the Malay community soon after, with the formation of the Union of Young Malays. From 1941 to 1945 the Japanese occupied the country and resistance, mainly from the Chinese, was led by MCP guerrillas.

After the war, British rule was reintroduced, but the MCP were resistant. The United Malays’ National Organisation (UMNO, the principal Malay party) was formed in 1946 and Malay nationalists campaigned for independence. In 1948, the Federation of Malaya, comprised of 11 peninsular states, was established in 1948. The UK suppressed a communist-led insurrection; however, guerrilla warfare continued in the north of the Malay peninsula and Borneo. Malaysia’s first election was held in 1955. The Alliance Party (Parti Perikatan), a coalition of three communal based parties, UMNO representing the Malays; MCA representing the Chinese, and MIC representing the Indian community, won the parliamentary seats and became a dominant political force.

Early in 1956, the governments of the Federation of Malaya, the UK, and the Heads of the Malay States agreed that the Federation should achieve independence. In August 1957, the Federation of Malaya became an independent nation and joined the Commonwealth. Penang and Malacca became states of the Federation. The Malaysia Agreement, under which North Borneo, Sarawak and Singapore (but not Brunei) would become states in the new Federation of Malaysia, was signed in 1963. The Federation of Malaysia came into being in 1963 and Singapore left the Federation and became an independent state in 1965, by mutual agreement.

Culture

Malaysia has great cultural diversity with its varied ethnic makeup of Malays, Chinese, Indians, and indigenous tribes, as well as significant influences by Persian, British, and Arabic cultures. The different ethnic communities in the country have their unique rituals and customs. Malay weddings are associated with large banquets and involve eating rice prepared in oil, while Indian weddings are elaborate affairs that continue over several days. Marriage customs in Malaysia also vary. All religious communities have no restrictions on marriage with the exception of Muslims. Malaysian Muslims who marry non-Muslims risk government sanctions; however, if their non-Muslim partner converts to Islam, there is no risk of government sanctions.

Malaysia’s multi-ethnic makeup also influences the country’s cuisine. The cuisine
of the country varies regionally. Indian, Thai, Sumatran, Malay, Chinese, Javanese and other cuisines have all helped shape the Malaysian dishes. Rice, chili peppers and a shrimp paste called belacan are essential ingredients in every Malaysian kitchen. Coconut, soy sauce, tofu, and make lemongrass are also important ingredients in Malaysian cuisine. A variety of meats, including beef, poultry, and mutton, are consumed in the country. Malaysian Muslims abstain from consuming meats that are not slaughtered in accordance with Islamic guidance as well as any pork. However, a large section of the Chinese community living in Malaysia eat pork. Fish and seafood, as well as a variety of fruits and vegetables are prominent in the Malaysian diet. In addition to cuisine, Malaysia has a rich heritage of arts and craft. Long traditions include weaving, carving, and silversmithing. Common Malaysian artwork includes handwoven baskets, woven batik, songket (luxurious textiles), kris (a scalloped edged knife), wooden masks, and betel nut sets. Earthenware has developed in areas such as Perak. Photo 1 is an example of carry baskets from Sarawak, one of Malaysia’s states along the island’s northwest coast.

Malaysia has several celebrations and festivals annually. These include Thaipusam, Tadau Ka’amatan Harvest Festival, Wesak Day, Chinese New Year, Hari Raya Aidil Fitri (Eid), Sarawak Gawai Festival, among many others. Photo 2 is a picture from the Gawai Harvest Festival in Malaysia.

Demographics

The demographic context covered in this section includes ethnicity, population, language, religion, and vulnerable groups in Malaysia.

Ethnic Makeup

Malaysia has a multiethnic population consisting of three main ethnic groups being Malay, Chinese, and Indian. Ethnic groups in Malaysia include Bumiputera 62% (Malays and indigenous peoples, including Orang Asli, Dayak, Anak Negeri), Chinese (20.6%), Indian (5.7%), other (0.8%), and non-citizens (10.3%).

Key Population Centers

Malaysia has a population of over 31.8 million people across Peninsular Malaysia (Semenanjung Malaysia), and East Malaysia (Malaysia Timur) on the island of Borneo, as seen in Figure 1. The population growth rate of the country is 1.34%. The Greater Kuala Lumpur region has a population of 7.6 million. Urban areas Johor Bahru, located to the south of Kuala Lumpur, has 983,000 residents, and Ipoh, located north of Kuala Lumpur, has 786,000 residents.
Language
Malaysia’s official language is Bahasa Melayu. English, Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin, Hokkien, Hakka, Hainan, Foochow), Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Panjabi, and Thai are also spoken. Malaysia has 134 living languages, including 112 indigenous languages, and 22 non-indigenous languages. In East Malaysia, there are several indigenous languages with Iban and Kadazan being the most widely spoken.

Religion
Islam is the official religion of Malaysia with 61.3% of the population practicing it. Other religions practiced by the population include Buddhism (19.8%), Christianity (9.2%), Hinduism (6.3%), and others.

Vulnerable Groups
According to the World Health Organization (WHO), vulnerability is “the degree to which a population, individual or organization is unable to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impacts of disasters.” Malaysia’s vulnerable groups include children, the poor, internally displaced persons, refugees, and asylum-seekers.

The Poor
Income inequality in Malaysia remains high relative to other East Asian countries. However, the government has removed broad-based subsidies, and has gradually moved toward more targeted measures to support the poor and vulnerable, including in the form of cash transfers to low-income households. Malaysia has achieved positive human development outcomes over time. Since the implementation of Malaysia's New Economic Policy (NEP), poverty has dramatically declined. Incidence of poverty in Malaysia remains at 0.4% since 2016. Although Malaysia has come close to ending extreme poverty, some challenges remain. There are socioeconomic inequalities among the three major ethnic groups in Malaysia. There are pockets of extreme rural poverty, especially among the indigenous communities of Sabah and Sarawak. Malaysia is working to improve these numbers with the aid of their developmental plans.

Children
While Malaysia has improved the standard of living of its citizens, there are emerging areas of concern that require urgent attention regarding the malnutrition of children. Some children are suffering from undernourishment, while their peers are obese or overweight. Unfortunately, stunting is also rising in Malaysia, even when it is on the decline globally. In addition, obesity in children in Malaysia is among the highest in the region. There are also 43,710 children who are refugees or asylum-seekers registered with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Malaysia. More information on refugees and asylum-seekers is discussed below.
**Displaced Persons, Refugees, Asylum-Seekers**

As of the end of April 2019, there are 170,460 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in Malaysia. Some 147,590 are from Myanmar, comprising 90,200 Rohingyas, 24,720 Chins, 9,750 Myanmar Muslims, 4,000 Rakhines & Arakanese, and other ethnicities from Myanmar. Since 1990, Rohingya refugees migrated to Malaysia in order to seek protection. Life for refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia can be difficult. Refugees are unable to work legally in Malaysia and their children are not allowed to study. It can also be difficult to seek medical treatment in a government hospital or expensive private clinic. The Rohingya Society in Malaysia (RSM) has opened a school for Rohingya children, and UNHCR works closely with partner organizations who implement health programs as a result.

There are approximately 22,870 refugees and asylum-seekers from other countries, including some 6,150 Pakistanis, 3,350 Yemenis, 3,090 Somalis, 3,065 Syrians, 1,970 Afghans, 1,720 Sri Lankans, 1,450 Iraqis, 780 Palestinians, and others. Many have been forced to flee their countries due to war and human rights abuses.

According to the U.S. Department of State’s 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report, foreign workers constitute more than 20% of the Malaysian workforce and typically migrate voluntarily and often illegally to Malaysia from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, and other Southeast Asian countries.

**Economics**

Malaysia has a diversified economy and has an upper middle-income economy status defined as GNI per capita between $3,956 and $12,235 in 2018. Since the country’s independence in 1957, Malaysia has transitioned from a predominantly agriculture and commodity-based economy, to a manufacturing and services one. Malaysia has become a leading exporter of electrical appliances and parts. Malaysia is open to trade with many countries; it has a trade to GDP ratio averaging over 130% since 2010, and 40% of jobs in Malaysia are linked to export activities. After the Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998, Malaysia’s economy has increased significantly. It has also averaged growth of 5.4% since 2010. Malaysia is expected to achieve high-income economy status by 2024.

While significant, Malaysia’s productivity growth over the last two decades has been below several global and regional comparators, according to the World Bank. Ongoing reform efforts are vital to support and sustain Malaysia’s development path. Reform effort categories include further advances in education, health and nutrition, and social protection outcomes.

Both per capita income and the average household income have improved as a result of the numerous reforms that were put in place by the government to improve quality of life of the people. Key reforms include the Government Transformation Programme and the Economic Transformation Programme. These are both underpinned by the Tenth Malaysia Plan. Currently, Malaysia is in its Eleventh Malaysia Plan, 2016-2020. The development of the Eleventh Plan was guided by the Malaysian National Development Strategy (MyNDS). In addition, Social Safety Net (SSN) initiatives were implemented to address vulnerability issues and protect the bottom 40% of income households from economic shocks. During the Tenth Malaysia Plan, 2011-2015, many achievements were made to elevate the quality of rural households, as seen in Figure 2.

**Government**

Malaysia is a federal constitutional monarchy comprised of 13 states and the federal territories of Kuala Lumpur, Labuan, and Putrajaya. All 13 states have their own constitutions and legislative and executive bodies. Malaysia adopted its constitution in 1957. Nine states have hereditary rulers or sultans. There are appointed governors in Melaka, Penang, Sabah, and Sarawak. The federal government retains power over major issues, and each state legislature has the power to make laws regarding any matters not covered centrally.

Malaysia’s head of state is elected by the nine hereditary rulers of the Malay states from among their number for a term of five years. This position also holds the position of commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The executive power is retained by the prime minister and the cabinet. The prime minister is appointed by the King and must be a member of the lower house of the parliament. The prime minister presides over the cabinet of ministers, which is chosen from among members of both houses of parliament. The federal government has authority over external affairs, defense, internal security, justice (except civil law cases dealt with under sharia
Islamic law), federal citizenship, finance, commerce, industry, communications, and transportation. Table 1 represents the Political Leadership in Malaysia to include the Head of State, Prime Minister, and others.

Environment

Geography
Malaysia is comprised of Peninsular Malaysia (Semenanjung Malaysia), and East Malaysia (Malaysia Timur). Malaysia has a coastal terrain with plains, hills, and mountains. Peninsular Malaysia extends to the south and southwest from Myanmar and Thailand. It is about 500 miles (800 km) long and about 200 miles (320 km) wide. Approximately half of Peninsular Malaysia is covered by granite and other igneous rocks. One-third is covered by stratified rocks older than the granite, and the remainder is covered by alluvium. It also has mountain ranges with the most prominent being the Main Range.

East Malaysia is an elongated strip of land approximately 700 miles (1,125 km) long and approximately 170 miles (275 km) wide on the island of Borneo. The coastline is approximately 1,400 miles (2,250 km). East Malaysia has three topographic features which include a flat coastal plain, hill-and valley region, and mountainous region.

Malaysia Maritime Zone (MMZ) covers an area of 516,851 sq km. Within the MMZ there are 561 islands, 60% of Malaysia population lives along the coast. Malaysia Maritime Search and Rescue Region (MSRR) covers an area of 894,766 sq km (Peninsular Malaysia, 380,329 sq km, Sabah and Sarawak, 894,766 sq km).

Borders
Thailand borders north of Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore to the south, and Indonesia borders West and East Malaysia. There are security concerns with Malaysia's maritime borders. This is mainly due to sovereignty rights in the South China Sea, the protection of assets within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and transnational crimes. Malaysia's two coasts create differing maritime priorities and threats.

Climate
Various regions of Malaysia experience different climate characteristics that are influenced by the summer and winter monsoons, also called southwest and northeast monsoons. These monsoon seasons and their transition periods, the inter-monsoon seasons, account for the various dry and rainy seasons. There is a flood season, flash flood season, and dry and hazy season.

The annual and monthly rainfall varies greatly in Malaysia and at times can be very extreme with times of little to no rainfall to heavy torrential rainfall depending on the season. This varied weather poses a great challenge to sustainable water storage and supply management, because water supply relies on direct rainwater and rainwater stored in dams.
Climate Change

Malaysia faces potential threats to population health and development due to climate change. For example, communities living in coastal regions are at risk of flooding due to sea-level rise. Increased temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns may cause an increase in malaria, cholera and dengue, and heat-stress. In addition, many climate hazards and extreme weather events, such as heat waves, heavy rainfall and droughts, and inland flooding, could become more frequent and more intense due to climate change. Flooding due to climate change could cause more drowning deaths and cause indirect effects. These impacts can affect food production, water provision, ecosystem disruption, infectious disease outbreak and vector-borne diseases.61

Table 2 outlines the status of development and implementation of climate resilient measures, plans, or strategies for health adaptation and mitigation of climate change in Malaysia. A checkmark represents that the country has implemented measures, while the X shows that there are no implemented measures.62 Malaysia has adopted a National Policy on Climate Change and has a number of policies and plans which are responsive to climate change, such as flood mitigation plans and fire suppression plans.63 Malaysia commits to reduce GHG emission intensity by 45% by 2030 relative to the 2005 level with the ratification of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.64

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Appointed Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supreme Head of State (Yang di-Pertuan Agong); Sultan of Pahang</td>
<td>Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah</td>
<td>31 Jan 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Head of State; Sultan of Perak</td>
<td>Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah</td>
<td>14 Oct 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Minister</td>
<td>Mahathir bin Mohamad</td>
<td>10 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Prime Minister; Minister of Women, Family and Community Development</td>
<td>Wan Azizah binti Wan Ismail</td>
<td>21 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Finance</td>
<td>Lim Guan binti Wan Eng</td>
<td>21 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>Saifuddin Abdullah</td>
<td>2 Jul 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Defence</td>
<td>Mohamad bin Sabu</td>
<td>21 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Economic Affairs</td>
<td>Mohamed Azmin bin Ali</td>
<td>21 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, responsible for Law</td>
<td>Liew Vui Keong</td>
<td>2 Jul 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Home Affairs</td>
<td>Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohamad Yassin</td>
<td>21 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Communications and Multimedia</td>
<td>Gobind Singh Deo</td>
<td>21 May 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minister of Transportation</td>
<td>Anthony Loke Siew Fook</td>
<td>21 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources</td>
<td>Xavier Jayakumar son of Arulanandamy</td>
<td>2 Jul 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Energy, Technology, Science, Climate Change and Environment</td>
<td>Yeo Bee Yin</td>
<td>2 Jul 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Health</td>
<td>Dzulkefly bin Ahmad</td>
<td>21 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of International Trade and Industry</td>
<td>Ignatius Dorell Leiking</td>
<td>2 Jul 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Education</td>
<td>Maszlee Malik</td>
<td>21 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism</td>
<td>Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail</td>
<td>2 Jul 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry</td>
<td>Salahuddin bin Haji Ayub</td>
<td>21 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Primary Industries</td>
<td>Teresa Kok Suh Sim</td>
<td>2 Jul 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister for Entrepreneurship Development</td>
<td>Redzuan bin Mohamad Yusof</td>
<td>2 Jul 2018</td>
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Table 1: Political Leadership in Malaysia
<table>
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<th>COUNTRY OVERVIEW</th>
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### GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

- Country has identified a national focal point for climate change in the Ministry of Health
- Country has a national health adaptation strategy approved by relevant government body
- The National Communication submitted to UNFCCC includes health implications of climate change mitigation policies

### HEALTH ADAPTATION IMPLEMENTATION

- Country is currently implementing projects or programmes on health adaptation to climate change
- Country has implemented actions to build institutional and technical capacities to work on climate change and health
- Country has conducted a national assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation for health
- Country has climate information included in Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDS) system, including development of early warning and response systems for climate-sensitive health risks
- Country has implemented activities to increase climate resilience of health infrastructure

### FINANCING AND COSTING MECHANISMS

- Estimated costs to implement health resilience to climate change included in planned allocations from domestic funds in the last financial biennium
- Estimated costs to implement health resilience to climate change included in planned allocations from international funds in the last financial biennium

### HEALTH BENEFITS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

- The national strategy for climate change mitigation includes consideration of the health implications (health risks or co-benefits) of climate change mitigation actions
- Country has conducted valuation of co-benefits of health implications of climate mitigation policies

Table 2: Implementation of Climate Resilient Strategies in Malaysia
Disaster Overview

Malaysia has experienced 51 natural disaster events in the last two decades (1998-August 2018). In that time period 281 people died, over 3 million people were affected, and disasters caused nearly US$2 billion (MYR8 billion) in damages. Malaysia is susceptible to hazards including flooding, landslides, drought, and forest fire.

Hazards

Flooding
Some of the worst floods in the past 30 years have occurred since 2003. Those that were particularly bad for Malaysia were in 2006, 2007, 2010, 2014, and 2017. The majority of the natural disasters occurring in the last twenty years (from 1998-August 2018) were floods (38 of the 51). Malaysia had the highest percentage (67%) of the population exposed to floods among ASEAN Member States (between July 2012 and January 2019) as reported by ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management in March 2019. In 2017, flash floods and landslides affected more than 6,000 people and left several roads and infrastructure in Kundang badly damaged.

Landslides
Landslides in Malaysia frequently occur. From 1993-2011, approximately 28 major landslides were reported in the country with a total loss of more than 100 lives. The main factors that cause landslides or slope failure in Malaysia are rainfall, storm water activities, poor slope management, and improper site management during earth moving phases of construction. Additionally, highways affected by major landslides, even if non-fatal, can result in serious disruptions to the transportation network and adversely affect the public. As the population density of cities increases, the development of highland or hilly terrain also increased. This exposes urban communities to an elevated risk of landslide occurrence.

Drought
While flooding is the most predominant disaster, Malaysia has suffered ongoing years of drought events. The three most damaging and recent are that of 1992, 1998, and 2014. These drought events gained particular attention because they affected the entire country. There are other smaller scale drought episodes that occur in smaller regions of the country. The drought in March 2014 affected over 2 million people.

Forest Fire
In Malaysia, there has been many bush and forest fire incidents due to the hot and dry spells, and especially during drought periods. During the 2014 drought, more than 7,000 cases of bush and forest fire incidences were reported between early February 2014 to mid-March 2014 with an average of about 300 calls daily.

Earthquakes
West Malaysia experiences some mild tremors from earthquakes in neighboring countries across the Straits of Malacca, while inland earthquake sources can be found in Sabah and Sarawak in East Malaysia. The 2015 Sabah earthquake struck Ranau, Sabah, Malaysia with a moment magnitude of 6.0 Richter on 5 June 2015 which lasted for 30 seconds. The earthquake was the strongest to affect Malaysia since the 1976 Sabah earthquake, and it took the lives of 18 climbers of Mount Kinabalu.

Tsunamis
Malaysia was affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami on 26 December 2004. Due to its far proximity from the epicenter of the earthquake, Malaysia escaped major damages that struck countries hundreds of miles further away. The tsunami to Malaysia had caused the death 67 beach-goers and destroyed fishing villages and some properties along coastal areas of northwestern of Peninsular Malaysia. Sinkholes which were reported in Kampar and Ipoh after the event could be earthquake related.

Recent History of Natural Disasters
Malaysia has experienced several disasters in the last five years, including flooding, drought, earthquake, and landslide.

Floods-February 2018
From 3-6 February 2018, heavy rain caused flooding in parts of eastern areas of Malaysia (Sarawak State). Schools, hospitals, and as many as 4,859 people were evacuated from their homes and 25 evacuation centers were opened. Sarawak...
Disaster Management Committee reported 501 displaced families in Samarahan, 372 in Serian, 172 in Sibu, 39 in Mukah, 4 in Sarakei, 258 in Bintulu, and 117 in Limbang. The air unit of the state Fire and Rescue Department (Bomba) delivered 14 tons of food items to 3,861 flood victims in Nanga Tau, Tatau, and Bintulu.  

Floods-January 2018

The annual monsoon season brought heavy rains which caused serious flooding to six states in Malaysia in January 2018. Almost 5,000 people in Pahang were evacuated. Kuantan was the worst affected district with 3,931 flood victims being housed in 22 temporary relief centers.  

Floods-November 2017

Hours of torrential rain caused flash flooding in the northern state of Penang in November 2017. Flooding killed at least seven people and Malaysian military forces were deployed to assist in the rescue of thousands displaced in Penang. Nearly 80% of Penang was hit by typhoon-like winds and heavy rains. More than 3,500 were evacuated from Penang, and in neighboring Kedah, more than 2,000 were forced to leave their homes.  

Landslide – October 2017

On 21 October 2017, a landslide occurred in Tanjung Bungah, Penang, Malaysia resulting in 11 deaths, 3 injured persons and 4 missing persons.  

Floods-January 2017

Seasonal heavy rains beginning on 23 January 2017 caused flooding in six Malaysian states (Johor, Kelantan, Pahang, Perak, Selangor and Sabah). Malaysia’s National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA), the army, the police and other local government agencies conducted evacuations, established emergency shelters and evacuation centers, and provided disaster relief. The authorities deployed the Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue (SMART) Team in the affected areas to carry out Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. The Malaysian Red Crescent (MRC) emergency response capacity for water search and rescue, welfare services, and health and disaster relief were all activated at the national and state levels.  

Floods-December 2016

Heavy continuous rains caused flooding in the East Coast of Malaysia (Kelantan and Terengganu) in December 2016. In Kelantan, three main rivers, Sungai Golok, Sungai Galas and Sungai Kelantan, flooded Bachok, Gua Musang, Jeli, Kota Bahru, Machang, Pasir Mas, Pasir Puteh, Tanah Merah, Tumpat and Kuala Krai. Authorities evacuated communities from Terengganu, Sungai Besut, Sungai Terengganu and Sungai Setiu. The floods temporarily displaced approximately 25,000 people and caused some villages to become inaccessible due to damaged bridges and blocked roads. Health centers and schools were also inundated. Schools that were not flooded were converted into evacuation centers.  

Earthquake-June 2015

An earthquake struck the Ranau district (Sabah Province) on 5 June 2015. It damaged roads and buildings, including schools and a hospital. Several climbers on Malaysia’s highest peak were hiking at the time of the earthquake, causing the death of 16 individuals.  

Drought 2014

Approximately 2.2 million people in Malaysia were affected by the drought in 2014. Malaysia experienced a drought event which lasted approximately 2 months from mid-January 2014 to mid-March 2014. MetMalaysia issued drought early warnings. Drought disasters in Malaysia were managed according to the standard operating procedure (SOP) formulated by all the relevant agencies and led by the National Security Council of the Prime Minister’s Department. The Malaysian Government through the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro Based Industries provided cash assistance to paddy farmers; RM $1,400 was given to farmers for every hectare of crop damage due to drought. Fish fries, fish food, and equipment to repair the cages were also provided to the aquaculture farmers.  

Floods and Landslides-December 2014

From mid-December 2014 to mid-January 2015, heavy seasonal rain and strong winds affected most parts of Malaysia. The rain caused severe flooding in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia, affecting Terengganu, Pahang, and Kelantan. The rain also coincided with higher than normal tides, which prevented flood waters from draining to the sea. At the peak of the flooding, more than 230,000 people were evacuated and at least 17 people were confirmed dead. Approximately 500,000 to 1 million people were affected, directly or indirectly, by the flooding.  

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Country Risks

Haze
Air quality has at times reached unhealthy levels in Malaysia, as a result of the haze. The haze is a result of fires caused by the slash-and-burn method of clearing vegetation for palm oil, pulp and paper plantations by corporations and small-scale farmers. Dry weather and drought conditions fuel the fire. Indonesia also has haze issues that can also spread across Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines.85 Malaysia’s Minister of Energy, Technology, Science, Climate Change and Environment, Yeo Bee Yin has asked the Department of Environment (DOE) to improve enforcement to put an end to open burning in the country. Additional resources have been redirected to combat this problem.86

Environmental Degradation
Malaysia’s environmental landscape has been significantly degraded as a result of logging, largely due to timber or palm oil production. Malaysia’s rainforests are under great threat of deforestation, which also contributes to the haze problem previously mentioned. A large percentage of greenhouse gas emissions are from deforestation.87

Food Security
The most vulnerable sector of economy during drought events and other disasters are farmers.88 The food staple of Malaysia is rice and nearly 70% is grown locally; therefore, a natural disaster can greatly affect the production of food.89 During drought conditions, farmers or the farmers’ association are provided with small water pumps to save crops and prevent losses. If the extent of losses is great and covers a sizeable number of farmers or area, then cash assistance may be provided to the farmers.90

Country Risk Profile
Figure 3 shows INFORM’s risk profile for Malaysia.91 INFORM is a global, open-source assessment focusing on risk for humanitarian crisis and disasters and assisting with prevention, disaster preparedness and response. The INFORM model is based on risk concepts published in scientific literature and has three dimensions of risk: hazards & exposure, vulnerability, and lack of coping capacity. INFORM gives each country a risk score of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 the highest) for each of the dimensions, categories, and components of risk, as well as an overall risk score. The higher the score the more vulnerable a country is. The purpose of INFORM is to provide an open, transparent, consensus-based methodology for analyzing crisis risk at the global, regional or national level.92

Malaysia has a 2019 Natural Hazard and Exposure risk of 3.4/10; a Vulnerability score of 3.0/10; and a Lack of Coping Capacity score of 3.2/10. Physical exposures to tsunamis (7.1) and flood (6.6) are the highest.93

Figure 3: INFORM Country Risk Profile for Malaysia
Organizational Structure for Disaster Management

In 1972, the Malaysian Government established the Natural Disaster Management and Relief Committee (NDMRC) as a response to severe flooding and the need for a national integrated disaster management system. The NDMRC was responsible for coordinating flood relief operations for national, state, and district levels and instituting initiatives to reduce damage caused by flood and prevent loss of human life.

Disaster management in Malaysia is currently run by the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA). NADMA was officially established 1 October 2015 under the Prime Minister's Department replacing the National Security Council (NSC) as the focal point for disaster management and consolidating the Disaster Management Division of the National Security Council (NSC), the Post Flood Recovery Unity of the Prime Minister's Department, and the Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Agency (SMART).

Malaysia Civil Defence Forces (MCDF) has been appointed as the Secretary for Disaster Management Committee at the state and district level and is responsible to enhance community resilience and preparedness towards disaster through the Cabinet Meeting chaired by Malaysia Prime Minister on September 8th 2015. MCDF set up a Disaster Management Secretariat Branch in order to regulate and coordinate the secretariat Disaster Management Committee activity at the state and district level.

The roles and responsibilities of the NADMA include:
- Role of Secretariat of National Disaster Management Committee
- Head of Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief delegation
- Formation of National Disaster Management Policy
- Regulation of Implementation policies
- Coordination of Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives
- Implementation of Public Awareness Programme
- Managing Disaster Relief Trust Funds
- Deployment of SMART Team

NADMA strategic partners under Disaster Management and Relief Committee include:
- Malaysia Civil Defence Force (MCDF)
- Royal Malaysian Police
- Fire and Rescue Department
- Social Welfare Department
- Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD)
- Malaysian Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID)
- Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Civil Aviation Authority Malaysia (CAAM)
- Malaysian Meteorological Department – Ministry of Energy Science, Technology, Environment & Climate Change (MET)
- Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB)
- Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency
- Department of Mineral and Geosciences Malaysia
- Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA)
- Malaysian Armed Forces

The disaster management organization structure continues under three levels: federal, state, and district. Management of disaster risk is regulated by Directive No. 20, established in May 1997 by the Prime Minister's office. Directive No. 20 issues guidance on policy and mechanisms related to national disaster management and relief activities. It guides the integration of the various agencies on disaster management responsibilities and functions, and it regulates management of disaster risks. Additionally, Directive No. 20 breaks down the disaster management cycle into four stages consisting of: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. In March 2012, a second edition of Directive No. 20 was released to include comprehensive response and incorporation of international best practices.

The Disaster Management and Relief Committee (DMRC) was formed to carry out the responsibilities of Directive No. 20 in the formation of various aspects of the 4 stages of the disaster management cycle as official national policies and strategies.

The main function of the DMRC are as follows:
- Formulate national policies and strategies regarding the alertness and preparation of various agencies with regard to handling
disasters. The DMRC’s State and District levels implement these polices.

- Ensure sound coordination of agencies involved in handling disasters and identifying tools of principle.  

NDMRC recently reviewed Malaysia’s disaster preparedness and response system and passed an amendment to the Malaysia Civil Defence Force Act 1951 (Revised 2016) complementing the existing law to adapt a multi-hazard approach to disaster risk management, adding public involvement as part of the Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) as a key responsibility to the disaster risk reduction effort. Malaysia’s legal framework on disaster management is characterized as a Type C system by the IFRC Disaster Law Programme. Type C systems have a specific law regulating disasters, which focused on emergency preparedness and response to natural hazards (rather than disaster risk reduction), some technological hazards, and have elements of early warning and recovery. Type C systems tend to be found in countries with relatively low hazard exposure such as Malaysia.

Malaysia’s disaster risk management funds are budgeted annually through the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and also at the state and district level. The amount allocated differs based on size of the affected state and the number of the affected victims. There is also a disaster risk management fund specifically for NADMA. NADMA is collaborating with stakeholders toward drafting a new disaster risk management law. 

Lead Government Agencies in Disaster Response

National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA)

Disaster management in Malaysia operates as a top-down government mechanism with the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) as the lead government agency responsible for all types of disaster management. NADMA also functions as the Secretariat at the federal level for disaster management, coordinating the mobilization of responding agencies via the Committee System.

Committee System Disaster Management

The Federal Disaster Management and Relief Committee (FDMRC) is the federal government lead in managing and handling national level disasters. In the event of disaster, the FDMRC convenes in the National Disaster Operations Control Centre (NDOCC) to manage the

Figure 4: Organizational Structure Mechanisms
development of the event and make decisions on disaster mitigation strategies, search and rescue operation, and emergency relief operations are decided. This group handles Level 3 disasters which include complex events covering a wide area of two or more states. The Central Disaster Management Committee sets up Disaster Management policy and strategy, mobilizes assets, financial assistance and human resources.

The State Disaster Management and Relief Committee (SDMRC) manages state level disasters at the State Disaster Operation Control Centre (SDOCC). The State Disaster Management Committee is chaired by the State Secretary and handles Level 2 incidents without potential to spread beyond two or more districts but with potential to cause significant damage to life and property. The state level Disaster Management team coordinates assistance at the state levels to the affected districts especially in regard to assets, financial assistance and human resources for disaster management.

The District Disaster Management and Relief Committee (DDMRC) functions out of the District Disaster Operation Control Center (DDOCC) and handles district and village level disasters. The village level disasters are managed by the DDMRC with inputs from the village committee as they do not have official disaster management at the village level. The District Disaster Management Committee is chaired by the District Officer to ensure coordinated actions, sufficient assets, human resources, and manage the media. The District office is the key implementing agency in Level 1 disasters, controlled and containable incidents on the ground to ensure responses are coordinated, assets and human resources are sufficient and communication is established with the media. Additionally Level 1 disasters are not complex and would only cause minimal damage to life and property. The District Level Authority has the capacity to control Level 1 incidents without or with limited outside assistance.

SMART Malaysia

The Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (SMART) was established in 1995 as a result of the Highland Towers tragedy. A mudslide brought on by heavy rains triggered the Highland Towers condominium collapse in Selangor, Malaysia killing 48 people in December 1993. Following the disaster, Malaysia approved the establishment of the SMART disaster rescue team, including members from the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP), the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF), and the Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia. The SMART team’s headquarters is in Pulau Meranti, Puchong, Selangor state. They are International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) certified signifying their compliance with UN standards and the operational capability for technical search and rescue operation that are difficult and complex.

The SMART team is an operational arm of the Malaysian Government responding to regional as well as international level disasters. The SMART team has assisted with search and rescue missions for tsunami victims in Aceh (2004), earthquake victims in Muzafarabad, Pakistan (2005), at the Leyte landslide (2006), and with the Mount Kinabalu efforts following the Sabah earthquake (2015).

Malaysia Civil Defence Force (MCDF)

Malaysia Civil Defence Force was established on 24 March 1952 or popularly known as APM or MCDF (formerly JPAM and JPA3) for carrying out the civil defence activities in Malaysia. MCDF has two major roles during disasters which is to become Secretariat for Disaster Management and Relief Committee (DMRC) at state and district levels and to carry out their work as responders.

Secretariat for Disaster Management and Relief Committee (DMRC)

On 27 August 2015, the National Disaster Management Committee Meeting chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister has proposed to appoint Malaysia Civil Defence Force (MCDF) as the Secretary of the Disaster Management Committee (DMRC) at the state, district and community level to replace the role of the National Security Council. Subsequently, the Cabinet Committee Meeting chaired by the Prime Minister on 8th September 2015, has decided that MCDF was officially appointed as the Secretary of Disaster Management Committee at the state, district and community levels. This decision later had been agreed to in the 1st Executive Meeting on Disaster Management and Relief in 2015 on 5th November 2015 chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister (Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee). MCDF roles as secretary for the state and district follows accordingly to the guidelines set out in the National Security Council Directive No. 20.
In the same time, MCDF also coordinate the distribution of aid from the Fund of National Disaster Relief Trust (FNDRT) to the victims of the disaster based on guidelines set by FNDRT committee.

**Key Disaster Management Partners**

Malaysia has multilateral partnerships with regard to disaster management and all are coordinated through their NADMA. Depending on the size and location of the disaster and whether Malaysia is an Assisting State, there may be several levels of coordination.

Malaysia’s associations with key disaster management partners are discussed in the following paragraphs detailing its membership and participation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), United Nations (UN) agencies, and with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

**ASEAN**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was originally formed in 1967 to reduce regional hostilities and prevent communism across Southeast Asia by Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia. Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Cambodia later joined ASEAN rounding out membership to its current 10 Member States. The aim of ASEAN is now to ensure the safety and prosperity of its citizens including a significant focus on preparing for and mitigating the effects of natural disasters since the region is vulnerable to several natural disasters, including typhoon, flood, drought, earthquakes and volcanic eruption. The ASEAN region has experienced three catastrophic disasters in the past 15 years, including the Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004), Cyclone Nargis (2008), and Typhoon Haiyan (2013).

Natural disasters have affected the ASEAN region in large numbers of fatalities and economic losses. There are many resources and efforts in process to further enhance ASEAN’s humanitarian assistance and disaster response capabilities. Malaysia was a founding member of ASEAN and Malaysia and Singapore are the only ASEAN countries with Urban Search and Rescue teams that have been officially certified by INSARAG through training and operational experience.

Malaysia chaired ASEAN in 2015 during which time the ASEAN leaders signed the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community as well as the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together. Malaysia’s National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) is the lead with ASEAN’s Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre).

The ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat (AMNS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs exists to coordinate and streamline national efforts to enhance regional cooperation within the ASEAN framework at the national level and also to protect, promote and advance Malaysia’s and ASEAN Member States’ interests in the region and beyond.

In February 2019, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr. Wan Azizah extended an offer to share the country’s expertise and experience in disaster management with Brunei Darussalam, also a member of ASEAN. In particular, Dr. Azizah mentioned INSARAG certification as an expertise Malaysia could provide in exchange for infrastructure and training facilities from Brunei. While in Brunei, Dr. Azizah met with the Brunei Darussalam Home Affairs Minister Pehin Datuk Seri Awang Abu Bakar Apong to discuss practical ways to strengthen bilateral relations and foster cooperation, and enhance understanding between the two ASEAN countries.

**United Nations**

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Malaysia closely collaborates with the Government in Malaysia to support the country’s national development priorities and the coordination of national and international action to protect the rights and wellbeing of invisible and excluded communities including refugees and migrants. Additionally, UNCT Malaysia is guided by the principles and values of the UN Charter, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and other fundamental UN treaties such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The UNCT in Malaysia is chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and comprised of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP) and the UNU-International Institute for...
Global Health, among other UN organizations which run regional Malaysia based projects in collaboration with the Malaysian Government.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is an independent humanitarian organization that provides assistance and promotes humanitarian activities by its National Societies worldwide, with a focus on preventing and alleviating human suffering. It was founded in 1919 and includes 190 Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies. The IFRC carries out relief operations to assist victims of disasters and combines this with development work to strengthen the capacities of its member National Societies.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS)

The Malaysian Red Cross (MRC) was established as a branch of the British Red Cross Society in April 1948 and in 1957, state branches of the MRC were organized as the Federation of Malay Red Cross Society. MRC was accepted as an affiliate member of the International Federation of Red Cross and IFRC on 24 August 1963. In 1975 the Malaysian Parliament changed the name of MRC to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) and passed the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (Change of Name) Act 1975.

The MRCS has played a part in disaster management for over 60 years. MRCS has provided assistance to communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Additionally, MRCS provides mass meal cooking for disaster victims, and supports basic livelihood reconstruction at the national, state, and district levels. The MRCS depends on public donations to finance various services including care for disaster victims, 24-hour emergency ambulance service, primary health care in rural areas and first aid training.

A primary mission of MRCS is to produce trained volunteers among members of the public from various sectors, students, families, and others to assist vulnerable people during emergencies. The MRCS Training Institute was established in April 2005 to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate training activities and courses to help victims during emergencies and use skills and knowledge to increase the survival rate of victims. Participants can receive a First Aid Certification valid for three years. Photo 3 shows an MRCS Training course.

The MRCS began providing Emergency Ambulance Services in May 1969 and as well as management of the “999” emergency assistance hotline from the Kuala Lumpur General Hospital. Currently, MRCS provides free, 24 hour ambulance service for public emergencies, accidents and injuries. The MRCS National Headquarters has a fleet of 12 ambulances and, since 2010, has assisted more than 35,000 people requiring medical aid during
meet humanitarian needs and complement government relief efforts. USAID/OFDA has responded to three disasters in Malaysia since 2005. In December 2014, USAID/OFDA supported partners to procure and distribute emergency relief supplies and implement water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions following floods in northern and eastern Peninsular Malaysia. Flooding resulted in 17 deaths and displacement of more than 230,000 people. Additionally, floodwaters and subsequent landslides blocked major roads, limiting access to evaluation centers and delaying the delivery of food, safe drinking water and other emergency supplies. The Government of Malaysia coordinated relief efforts by the Malaysian Armed forces, Royal Malaysian Police, Malaysian Red Crescent Society and NGOs to provide relief assistance to flood affected populations.

Contact information for the USAID office for the Asia Regional Mission is located below.

USAID Asia Regional Mission Contacts
Peter A. Malnak, Mission Director
Athenee Tower, 25th Floor
63 Wireless Road, Lumpini, Patumwan
Bangkok 10330 Asia
+66-2-257-3000
+66-2-257-3099
info-rdma@usaid.gov

Contact information for the U.S. Embassy in Malaysia is located below.

U.S. Embassy Kuala Lumpur
376 Jalan Tun Razak
50400 Kuala Lumpur
Phone: +60-3-2168-5000
Fax: +60-3-2142-2207

Participation in International Organizations

Malaysia participates in the following international organizations:
- Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Bank for International Settlements (BIS), Community of Democrats (CD), Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA -observer), D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), East Asia Summit (EAS),
Foreign Disaster Relief and Emergency Response

Civil Defence (Amendment) Act 2016

The Civil Defence (Amendment) Act 2016 dictates that members of the Civil Defence Force may be required to serve outside Malaysia and may also be attached to a civil defence force or organization outside Malaysia (Article 4E and 4F). The Amendment was passed by the Malaysian Senate on 21 June 2016 and empowers the civil defence agencies to provide humanitarian aid under a more systematic management of assignments. The bill also provides protection for the rights of the Malaysia Civil Defence Force (MCDF) staff and volunteers.

MERCY Malaysia

MERCY Malaysia, or Malaysian Medical Relief Society, is one of the few non-Western NGOs active in the international humanitarian community. Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, a Malaysian obstetrician-gynecologist who wanted to volunteer her services, established it in 1999 and led the initial mission to Kosovo. The NGO started focused on medical relief and has evolved into a wider emergency relief effort with over 500 members and approximately 5,000 registered volunteers. In 2005, the NGO began utilizing a Total Disaster Risk Management approach in key domestic and international programs. MERCY Malaysia’s services include: mobile clinics offering free basic medical checkups and dental treatment to vulnerable and underprivileged communities, free reconstructive surgery to treat cleft lip and palate defects via its Cleft Lip and Palate Project (CLIPP), health care to pregnant women and their newborns, cataract treatment, psychosocial intervention, and emergency response medical care.

In 2017 alone, MERCY Malaysia assisted citizens in 10 countries, including Malaysia, to build resilience from disasters and spent MYR $15 million (US$3.7 million) on aid. MERCY Malaysia has implemented current and past programs in 33 countries or territories, ranging from the majority of ASEAN countries to Afghanistan, Bosnia, Chile, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, North Korea, Palestine, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Yemen, and others.
ASEAN ERAT

ASEAN’s Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) is a regional rapid response team supporting the national disaster management organizations of Affected States in response to disaster assistance requests. ERAT team members are trained and operationally ready to deploy within 24 hours to respond to emergency situations and deploy to support relief efforts in the initial phases of a disaster emergency. Their core functions include:

- Conducting rapid assessments of disasters
- Coordinating with the AHA Centre for mobilization, response and deployment of regional disaster management assets, and
- Facilitating incoming relief assistance from ASEAN Member States

Malaysia has 24 trained ERAT members. Over 85 ERAT members have deployed on 21 missions in the Asia Pacific since 2008 covering events in the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar. Figure 5 depicts the countries and number of people making up ASEAN ERAT members.

Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA)

Malaysia is home to ASEAN’s Disaster Emergency Logistics System (DELSA). DELSA was launched on 7 December 2012 to develop a regional relief stockpile of items needed for emergency and disaster support as well as to support logistics capacity and operations for the AHA Centre and ASEAN Member States. DELSA focuses on three main elements including: regional emergency stockpiles, institutional capacity building, and communication and awareness. The Government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), funds and supports DELSA’s establishment and operations. The AHA Centre works with the WFP on logistics and technical aspects as well as with national disaster management organizations (NDMOs) of the ASEAN Member States to distribute relief supplies to countries affected by disaster as needed to support disaster management and response.

The WFP managed United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) stockpiles supplies in a warehouse in Subang, Selangor, Malaysia. ASEAN Member States can access the DELSA relief goods immediately in response to a disaster. In the event of an emergency, the AHA Centre coordinates with NDMOs of the affected Member States to distribute relief goods to countries affected by disaster and support the emergency response efforts as needed. DELSA also contributes to building the capacity of the AHA Centre and Member States through the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Program.

The ACE Program is a 6 month training of disaster management officers across the region to improve the knowledge base and disaster management skills, as well as familiarize them with DELSA protocol and procedures of relief distribution and overall preparedness and response training. The DELSA Catalogue was launched in March 2016 to catalog the available stockpiles of relief goods housed in the warehouse. The commodities and equipment

Figure 5: ASEAN ERAT Member Countries
housed in the facility were compiled based on recommendations from previous AHA Centre emergency responses and prioritized by items suited to the first phase of emergency responses, addressing the needs of the communities as well as providing support to the affected NDMOs. Additionally, the AHA Centre identified different relief items for various types of emergencies and hazard events, highlighting the most common needs for particular types of disasters. DELSA resources can also be resourced and mobilized prior to a response phase. However, DELSA response and allocations must follow the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP) procedures to coordinate deployment to disaster affected Member States and must go through the proper channels of delivery.128

Laws, Policies, and Plans on Disaster Management

Malaysia’s national guidelines on disaster management is based on Directive No. 20: National Policy and Mechanism on Disaster Management Relief, which acts as a framework for disaster relief management for the country. This directive was issue in 1997 by the National Security Council (NSC) of the Prime Minister’s Department. It is made up of 29 titles and 13 appendixes. The objective of Directive No. 20 is to provide a policy guideline on disaster management and rescue in accordance with the level of the disaster. It also provides a mechanism for managing roles and responsibilities of agencies that are involved in combating disaster. Events of disaster that fall under this directive include:129

- Natural disaster, such as flood, storm, drought, coastal erosion, landslide or disaster arising from storm and heavy rain.
- Industrial disaster, such explosion, fire, pollution and leaking of hazardous materials from factories, plants and industrial centre that process produce and store such materials.
- Accident involving transportation, drainage, or transfer of dangerous materials.
- Collapse of high rise buildings and special structures.
- Air disaster involving places with building and people.
- Train collision or derailment.
- Fire involving a big area or fire in a high rise building or special structure where there are many people.
- Collapse of hydro dam or water reservoir.
- Nuclear accident and radiology.
- Emanation of toxic gasses at public places.
- Haze that causes environmental emergency and threatens public health and order.

Malaysia’s disaster management guidelines are: ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), ASEAN Standard Operating Procedures for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (ASEAN-SASOP Chapter VI); Oslo Guidelines for the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA) in Disaster Relief; Use of Armed Escort for Humanitarian Convoys. Malaysia has instituted several preventive measures and mitigation laws, policies and plans to minimize the impact of disasters on life, properties and the environment. The following laws are enforced for preventive measures:130

- The Land Conservation Act 1960
- Environmental Quality Act 1974
- Local Government Act 1976
- Road, Drainage and Building Act 1974
- Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994
- Uniform Building Bylaws 1984

The following are Malaysia’s Disaster Risk Management Laws, Decrees, and Regulations at the National Level:

- 1951 Civil Defence Act (Revised 1979)
- 1964 Emergency (Essential Powers) Act
- 1979 Emergency (Essential Powers) Act
- 1997 Policy and Mechanism of National Disaster Management and Relief NSC Directive
- 1998 Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act
- 1998 Fire Services Act 341
- 2016 Civil Defence (Amendment)
- 2016 National Security Council Act131

Additional Government guidance and directives that expand the disaster management plans of Malaysia include:
**National Security Council Act of 2016**

The National Security Council Act of 2016 was instituted 1 August 2016, providing authority to the Prime Minister to declare a national security area based on advice of the National Security Council. Additionally, the Council has the power to do all things necessary or expedient for or in connection with its functions, notwithstanding any other written law, including controlling and coordinating government entities with respect to national security operations and issuing directives to such entities on matters concerning national security. The membership of the National Security Council consisted of the Chairman (who is the Prime Minister), the Deputy Chairman (who is the Deputy Prime Minister), the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Home Affairs, the Minister of Communication and Multimedia, the Chief Secretary to the Government, the Chief of Defence Forces, and the Inspector General of Police.

Additionally, the Director of Operations is able to exclude or evacuate any person from the declared area, impose a curfew, and direct the security forces to control movement of any person, vehicle, vessel, aircraft in and out of the secured area.132

**Eleventh Malaysia Plan 2016-2020**

The eleventh economic development plan for the years 2016-2020 was released 21 May 2015 by the Malaysian government with targets and objectives to implement the framework to make Malaysia a high-income economy by 2020. The Plan identifies six ‘Strategic Thrusts’ to change the trajectory of the country’s economic growth and advance the national income per capita above USD $15,000.133

The Plan details its disaster management strategy in Chapter 6, Focus Area D: Strengthening Resilience Against Climate Change and Natural Disasters. As Malaysia develops socioeconomically, the country is focused on resilient growth to ensure its development gains are not reversed by natural disasters. Therefore, planning and preparing for natural disasters, identifying which areas and communities are at risk, and providing the right tools in case such situations occur are important strategies highlighted in the Plan with regard to preparing a comprehensive disaster risk management (DM) framework and protecting the resiliency of the country and its future.

The following strategies are outlined in the Plan to reach these objectives:

- Strategy D1: Strengthening disaster risk management by establishing DRM policy and institutional framework, improving disaster detection and response capacity, incorporating DRM into development plans and creating community awareness;
- Strategy D2: Improving flood mitigation by generating new investments from flood mitigation projects, enhancing long-term planning and strengthening flood forecasting and warning systems; and
- Strategy D3: Enhancing climate change adaptation by developing a national adaptation plan, and strengthening resilience of infrastructure, natural buffers including water and agriculture sector as well as creating awareness on health impact.134

**Education and Training**

The National Disaster Management Strategy (NDMS) of Malaysia is the backbone strategy to promote effective coordination and an integrated approach to cultivating a culture of prevention, protection, and public safety in the community. Its vision is to create a safe environment for the community through disaster management and sustainable development in the 21st century. Disaster preparedness is an initiative known to increase readiness and knowledge among the various stakeholders regarding the risks, related agencies, preventive measures and other disaster related information. Specific regional training and education improves overall preparedness towards a disaster likely to happen at a particular locality. However, lack of funding for community disaster preparedness and readiness training can be a challenge.135

Therefore, Malaysian mosques are recognized as a viable partner for the coordination of communal activities and a complement to the government’s rescue and aid efforts during community disasters. As the center of communities, mosques have the potential of providing critical data, information, knowledge and experience on the community. Hence, this information and experience can be made available to the visiting emergency workers and volunteers, who would have received basic training. The introduction of a community-based management system requires buy-in from the stakeholders as its adoption will have an effect on the overall way of doing things.136
Mercy Malaysia also provides training and education. They recently hosted approximately 200 villages for a full day Disaster Risk Reduction program on 21 April 2019 in the local community of Kundang, Selangor. The workshop provided in conjunction with the Selangor Disaster Management Unit and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia’s Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Center (UTM-DPCC), centered on strategies and activities for civilians that protect communities from potential hazards and minimize their vulnerability to disaster risks.

Disaster Management Communications

In Malaysia the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) is responsible for the management of the national disaster management system which provides effective machinery for recovery post flood disaster events. Additional resources for Disaster Management Communications include the following capabilities.

Early Warning Systems

In the event of disaster, Malaysia can initiate short message service (SMS) notifications to alert relevant officers in charge of government agencies such as the Police, Army, the Malaysia Meteorological Department, and the National Security Division in the Prime Minister’s Department.

Additionally, real time information of rainfall and river water levels are available via the Infobanjir website. The website is maintained by the Hydrology and Water Resources Division of the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID). The Infobanjir system enables effective dissemination of early warning for floods to the public. The hydrologic data is updated at regular intervals (hourly to daily) from over 300 remote telemetry units (RTUs) across Malaysia. These RTUs provide flood forecasting and warning system infrastructure, including 233 telemetric rainfall stations, 190 telemetric water level stations, 256 manual stick gauges, 84 flood warning boards, 217 flood sirens, and real time flood forecasting and warning systems in nine river basins. These RTUs transmit data from each state DID office to the Hydrology and Water Division to the Centralized Flood Monitoring System.

Additional Early Warning System activities are managed by:

- Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD)
  - Tsunami Early Warning System
  - Weather Forecasting
  - Fixed-Line Alert System (FLAS)
- Malaysian Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID)
  - Telemetry System – Flood Forecasting Models and Infobanjir
- Malaysian Centre for Remote Sensing (MACRES)
  - Disaster Management Applications System
- Department of Environment (DOE)
  - Air Pollutant Index (API) – Haze Alerts

Malaysian Tsunami Early Warning System

The Malaysian Tsunami Early Warning System was instituted by the Malaysian Meteorological Department in response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004. The alert consists of sirens, fixed-line alert system (FLAS), and short messaging system (SMS) to response agencies, mass media, telephone and website.

Flood Forecasting and Warning System

The Flood Forecasting and Warning System was developed by the Malaysian Drainage and Irrigation Department to disseminate alerts via warning siren, SMS, telephone and website to notify communities of imminent flood danger. Flood forecasting models have been applied at the Pahang and Kelantan Rivers. The flood relief agencies use the information from the flood forecasting systems to plan mobilization efforts, organize staff and equipment, and mitigate potential problems in advance of flooding.

The Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency (MRSA), part of the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment & Climate Change (MESTECC) is developing applications of remote sensing and related technologies for more effective management of agriculture production, natural resources, environment, disasters, security and land development of the country for use in operational agencies.

Responsible Agencies for Flood and Storm Warning

Nine percent of land area in Malaysia is flood prone and 4.8 million people live in areas at risk to flood. Monsoon and flash floods are the primary climate related natural disasters in the country. Annually, significant loss including
casualties, disease epidemics, and property and crop damage have been attributed to flood disasters in Malaysia. Malaysia’s flood prone area covers approximately 29 km and affects more than 4.82 million people. Additionally, annual damage caused by floods has cost an annual US $4.82 million.

Flood disaster management is based on Directive No. 20 and Fixed Operating Regulations which outline directives and responsibilities for how various agencies should coordinate disaster management. The National Crisis and Disaster Management Mechanism (NCDMM) also doubles as the National Flood Disaster Relief Machinery (NFDRM) as the responsible party for major floods at the national, state, district, mukim (or sub-district) and village level. In the event of a flood, the relief machinery and emergency flood management and post-disaster funding and aid delivery networks assist victims in the aftermath of disaster events. The Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) Malaysia is the lead agency for providing flood forecasting and warning services to the public.

The National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) hosts an informative Flood Portal posting information on regional flooding. That site was upgraded in 2013 to cover all disaster information for the entire country. The Natural Disaster Portal, also known as Portal Bencana shown in Figure 6, is available at, [http://portalbencana.nadma.gov.my/portal](http://portalbencana.nadma.gov.my/portal). The English language version is also available.

### Responsible Agencies for Geological Hazards

Geological Survey Act 1974 mandated the Department of Mineral and Geosciences Malaysia (JMG) as the responsible agency for survey and investigation relating to geological and geophysical processes, to regulate and control the geoscience services expertise and systematic investigations, covering the areas of surface and subsurface geological mapping, underground water resources, engineering geology, geological hazards and disasters, environmental geology, marine geology, geophysics, mineralogy, petrology and other areas of geosciences. JMG monitors, assesses, conducts research and provides geoscience information on geological hazards such as landslides, sinkholes, earthquakes, debris flows and coastal geohazards. JMG also provides policy advisory to other agencies and local authorities with regard to geological hazards and development planning in order to reduce economic and social losses as well as provide multidisciplinary approaches to combat climate change and reduce disaster risk holistically.

On earthquakes and tsunami hazards, JMG and Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD) have shared responsibilities on seismology hazards with the assistance of the Public Works Department Malaysia on the prevention and mitigation on landslides.
There are many resources, stakeholders, and components to consider with IS before, during, and after a natural disaster. This section will discuss government, country specific, humanitarian, and regional sources.

Country-specific information sources

Malaysia National Disaster Management Agency
Phone: +603-8870-4800
Fax: +603-8870-4848
Email: admin@nadma.gov.my
Website: www.nadma.gov.my

Malaysian Meteorological Department (MET Malaysia)
Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment & Climate Change
Jalan Sultan 46667, Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Phone: +603 7967 8000/8200
Fax: +603-79550964
Hotline: +1-300-22-1638
http://www.met.gov.my/
English version: http://www.met.gov.my/?lang=en

Portal Bencana, a monitoring site hosted by the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA). Provides current disaster information for the region including Flood, Haze, Storm, Landslide and other specific information relevant to major Malaysia cities. http://portalbencana.nadma.gov.my/Portal/

Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC)
http://ptwc.weather.gov/

Humanitarian Information Sources

UNOCHA mail list (request to be added)

ReliefWeb is a service of UNOCHA that consolidates information and analysis from organizations, countries and disasters for the humanitarian community.
Website: https://reliefweb.int/

PreventionWeb is provided by UNISDR to consolidate disaster risk reduction information into an online, easy to understand platform.
Website: http://www.preventionweb.net/english/
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is an independent, neutral organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of war and armed violence. It takes action in response to emergencies and at the same time promotes respect for international humanitarian law and its implementation in national law. Website: http://www.ifrc.org/
Website: https://www.redcross.org

Humanitarian Response is a platform providing the humanitarian community a means to aid in coordination of operational information and related activities. Website: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/

Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)/Virtual OSOCC is a cooperation framework between the United Nations, the European Commission and disaster managers worldwide to improve alerts, information exchange and coordination in the first phase after major sudden-onset disasters. Website: https://vosocc.unocha.org/
The latest alerts can be found here: http://www.gdacs.org/Alerts/default.aspx
To subscribe: http://www.gdacs.org/About/contactus.aspx

Consider other sites such as:

Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) is an open platform for sharing data across crises and organizations launched in 2014 with the goal of centralizing humanitarian data for easy access and analysis. HDX is managed by the Center for Humanitarian Data in The Hague and is part of OCHA the United Nations Secretariat. Website: https://data.humdata.org/faq

Regional Information Sources

Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC) was launched in September 2014 to support the military of a disaster affected state in coordinating assistance with assisting foreign militaries. It aims to provide open, inclusive and flexible platforms that allow both regional and extra-regional militaries to work together effectively in a multinational disaster response. RHCC manages the OPERA CIS web portal to broadcast the updated situation status of multinational military responses to disasters to minimize duplication and gaps in the provision of foreign military assistance. Website: https://www.changirhcc.org/

To subscribe to RHCC Weekly and Spot Reports, email: Changi_RHCC@defence.gov.sg

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNOCHA ROAP) seeks to optimize the speed, volume and quality of humanitarian assistance and coordinates emergency preparedness and response in the world’s most disaster-prone region in support of national governments. ROAP covers 41 countries partnering with them for coordinated and effective international responses to emergency situations. Website: https://www.unocha.org/roap

For UNOCHA situation reports, click on “Subscribe” button on bottom of page.

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) on disaster management has developed a Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS). The DMRS is a disaster monitoring tool designed in partnership with the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), a U.S. Government supported applied science and information center based in Hawaii. The system allows the Jakarta based AHA center to visually monitor, geographically detect and synthesize multiple streams of data on hazardous events or disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, cyclones, floods, and other natural disasters. The PDC feeds information to the DMRS which receives constant inputs on hazards in the region as they happen as well as hydrometeorological data such as wind speed and direction, clouds, sea temperature, etc. The maps can provide additional information with overlays based on population density data, location of airports and seaports, and major roads and infrastructure to provide context to threats and enable specific analysis for response and mitigation planning. Website: https://ahacentre.org/

ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADINET), is a publicly sourced open repository of information concerning regional hazards and disasters. The platform is run by the AHA Center who receives information and reports submitted
from the public regarding hazards and disasters in the area. Once a report has been submitted, AHA will vet the information for relevance and accuracy and then add the new information to the platform. Individuals and agencies can sign up to receive real time alerts to their email address on various categories such as tsunami, volcano, earthquake, floods, oil spills, landslides, etc. The ADINET has been recording disaster information in the region since the AHA Centre was operational in 2012.151 Website: http://adinet.ahacentre.org

The ASEAN Science-Based Disaster Management Platform is a one-stop interactive research portal which houses thousands of resources on disasters including documents and publications, reports and research, legislation on disaster risk reduction and disaster management as well as a discussion forum where individuals can pose questions, participate in surveys and create conversation about issues surrounding disaster management and mitigation.152 Website: http://asdmp.ahacentre.org

The Annual ASEAN Monitor Report (ARMOR) aims to promote collaboration and information sharing among the disaster management community by consolidating disaster risk monitoring knowledge and contribute to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Priority Programmes 1, 5, 6 and 7 with the following objectives:153

- Sharing latest Disaster and Climate Risk Monitoring research initiatives, and collaborations;
- Sharing of lessons learnt from past deployments, latest operational initiatives, training activities and best practices;
- Bridging the gap between research and operations through translational and application research initiatives for the benefit of ASEAN communities; and
- Building awareness and increasing potential collaborative efforts between ASEAN Member States and interested stakeholders.

In addition to hosting the aforementioned forums and platforms, the AHA Centre also disseminates information on a regular basis to the public to raise awareness on disaster risk reduction and preparedness. During emergency times, the AHA Centre releases immediate Flash Updates and Situation Updates. Whereas in non-emergency times, the AHA Centre publishes a weekly disaster update called Diasfore, and a monthly newsletter: The Column. All of these publications are available on www.ahacentre.org as well as the AHA Centre’s social media accounts.

AHA has hosted an official Twitter account @AHACentre since July 2011. They currently have 2,606 followers and have shared over 4500 tweets. https://twitter.com/AHACentre

AHA also has a Facebook page with over 14,000 followers. https://www.facebook.com/ahacentre. They use these forums to provide disaster management information and provide updates and tools to an international audience. The Weekly Disaster Update is also shared on these sites along with photos and videos of disaster management trainings and exercises.

Subscribe at https://ahacentre.org/subscribe-to-flash-update/, or email info@ahacentre.org

U.S. Government (USG) Sources

Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)
The U.S. Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance is responsible for leading and coordinating the U.S. Government response to disasters overseas. OFDA responds to an average of 65 disasters in more than 50 countries every year. OFDA fulfils its mandate of saving lives, alleviating human suffering and the reduction of the social and economic impact to disasters worldwide in partnership with USAID functional and regional bureaus and other U.S. government agencies. The DOD supports OFDA in approximately 10% of foreign disasters the U.S. responds to. OFDA assists countries to prepare for, respond to, and recover from humanitarian crises.154

Products from OFDA and its parent organization USAID include sitreps and maps, which are available via email mailing lists.

For OFDA updates on a disaster response, ask the OFDA representative for the respective COM to add you to the email list:
- OFDAnindopacom@ofda.gov
- OFDAsouthcom@ofda.gov
- OFDAafricom@ofda.gov
- OFDAnorthcom@ofda.gov
- OFDAeufcom@ofda.gov
- OFDAsocom@ofda.gov
**U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**
USAID is committed to responding to crises around the world to help people and places most in need. They aim to:
- Promote Global Health
- Support Global Stability
- Provide Humanitarian Assistance
- Catalyze Innovation and Partnership
- Empower Women and Girls

USAID produces a monthly newsletter called USAID Newsletter which is available digitally at, https://www.usaid.gov/news-info/newsletter

More information and updates from USAID is available via their blog, IMPACT at, https://blog.usaid.gov/ and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.
Website: https://www.usaid.gov/

**APCSS** is a U.S. Department of Defense institute that addresses regional and global security issues, inviting military and civilian representatives of the U.S. and Asia-Pacific nations to its comprehensive program of executive education and workshops.
Website: http://www.apcss.org/

**Pacific Disaster Center**
The Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) has trademarked an early warning and decision support system called DisasterAWARE®. DisasterAWARE® is primarily for disaster management practitioners and senior decision makers and supports disaster risk reduction and best practices throughout all phases of disaster management provides multi-hazard monitoring, and boasts the largest collection of scientifically verified, geospatial data and modeling tools to assess hazard risks and impacts.

The PDC also hosts a public application, Disaster Alert which is a free, early warning app to receive customizable map based visual alerts of active hazards. The app offers the fastest, most comprehensive global notification system covering every type of natural and man-made hazard to the public. It is available on both iPhone and Android. There is also a link to Disaster Alert without the app to view the world map documenting 18 hazard types.
Website: https://www.pdc.org/
https://disasteralert.pdc.org/disasteralert/
DisasterAWARE® / Emergency Operations (EMOPS) system:
(Request account): https://emops.pdc.org/emops/

To subscribe to PDC reports email: response@pdc.org

**Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC)**
http://ptwc.weather.gov/

**Joint Typhoon Warning Center** provides advanced warning for U.S. Government agencies and organizations in relevant areas.
Website: http://www.usno.navy.mil/JTWC/

**All Partners Access Network (APAN)**
APAN is the Unclassified Information Sharing Service (UISS) for the U.S. Department of Defense. APAN provides the DoD and mission partners community space and collaboration tools to leverage information to effectively plan, train and respond to meet their business requirements and mission objectives.

APAN’s technology team has been supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) operations for over 15 years. APAN has played an integral role in the success of disaster responses in the 2015 California Wildfire Response and the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan Response among others, in which they provided organizations and militaries a centralized location to share information, increase situational awareness and decrease response time and duplicated efforts for best practices in HADR services.

Website: https://www.apan.org/

**CFE-DM**
The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) is a U.S. Department of Defense organization that was established by U.S. Congress in 1994 and is a direct reporting unit to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. It is located on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. CFE-DM was founded in response to the aftermath of the Hawaiian Hurricane Iniki striking Hawaii in 1992. CFE-DM is the result of late Senator Inouye’s vision to bridge the partnership of civil and military responders and
provide a DoD platform for building DMHA awareness and expertise in U.S. forces and with partner nations in the Asia-Pacific. CFE-DM provides training and education to help U.S. and foreign military personnel navigate complex issues in DMHA.

There are several informational products available for download from CFE-DM. They produce Disaster Information Reports (CDIRs), Humanitarian Information Reports (CHIP), Best Practices Pamphlets, Case Studies, Fact Sheets, Reports, Disaster Management Reference Handbooks, among others. CFE-DM’s Disaster Management (DM) Reference Handbooks provide a baseline of information regarding countries most prone to disasters. The handbooks offer readers an operational understanding of a nation’s disaster management capability and vulnerability, with detailed information on demographics, hazards, infrastructure, DM laws and plans, regional and international assistance, and other areas vital to a comprehensive disaster management knowledge base.

CFE-DM also works to improve cross-coordination, reduce duplication of efforts, and promote U.S. involvement in civ-mil consultations and dialogues with relevant HADR parties such as the AHA Centre, UNOCHA, and the RHCC and IFRC.

CFE-DM provides DMHA resources and updates at its website, as well as via Facebook and Twitter accounts. Website: https://www.cfe-dmha.org/

CFE-DM Disaster Management Reference Handbooks are available for 23 countries. Figure 7 shows a selection of titles. They are also available at: https://www.cfe-dmha.org/DMHA-Resources/Disaster-Management-Reference-Handbooks.

CFE-DM Disaster Information Reports: https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Publications/Reports
Infrastructure

Airports

Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) is Malaysia’s busiest airport transporting over 58.6 million passengers annually. It is located in the Sepang District, Selangor just south of the Kuala Lumpur capital. KLIA serves as the main hub for AirAsia, flyGlobal, UPS Airlines, and AsiaCargo Express. It has the longest runway in Malaysia and is the only airport capable of accommodating an A380 Airbus and Antonov AN-225.

The second busiest airport in Malaysia is the Kota Kinabalu International Airport serving the greater Kota Kinabalu region. Providing travel for 8 million passengers annually, the airport has connections to most parts of the Asia-Pacific and can accommodate a Boeing 747 aircraft.

Other airports in Malaysia include the Penang International Airport, servicing approximately 7.2 million passengers and making it the third busiest airport in Malaysia; followed by the Kuching International Airport (KIA) located in Sarawak and serving the southwestern region of the country. KIA is the fourth busiest capable of handling 5.1 million passengers, followed by Senai International Airport, in the states of Johor and serving southern Peninsular Malaysia providing service to 3.1 million passengers a year. There are 114 total airports in Malaysia; 39 of them have paved runways. Photo 4 shows a Malaysia Airlines aircraft.

Seaports

An estimated 95% of Malaysia’s international trade is transported via international seaports. The largest and busiest seaport in Malaysia is the Port Klang. It is also the 12th largest container port in the world. Additional major federal ports in Malaysia include Penang Port, Bintulu Port, Kuantan Port, Kemaman Port, Johore Port, and the Tanjung Pelepas Port. There are also approximately 80 minor ports or jetties regulated by the Marine Department. Figure 8 depicts the major ports in Malaysia.

Land Routes

Roads

Malaysia’s road network covers 144,403 km of which 116,169 km are paved and 1,821 km are expressways. The Malaysian Peninsula’s road network is made up of high speed express highways and various hard surfaced secondary roads. There are fewer paved roads in Sarawak and Sabah.

The longest highway in the country is the North-South Expressway and extends between the Thai and Singapore borders.

The Malaysian Federal Roads System is the main national road network in Malaysia.
and extends 49,935 km. The Malaysian State Roads System is comprised of secondary roads and is funded by the Malaysian Public Works Department of each state. The Malaysian Expressway System is a network of national controlled-access, four-lane expressways that connect East Malaysia and West Malaysia and the North-South Expressway that connects all major cities. The Pan Borneo Highway connects the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak with Brunei.

All usage of expressways, construction, standards and management are subject to the Federal Roads Act of 1984. Photo 5 is a view of a roadway in Kuala Lumpur.

### Railways

Rail transportation in Malaysia consists of airport rail link and funicular railway lines, monorail, light rapid transit (LRT), and heavy rail (including commuter rail). The rail network covers the majority of Peninsular Malaysia and connects to the Thai railway network in the north. There are two main rail lines: The KTM West Coast Line which runs along the West Coast of Malaysia between Singapore and
Schools

The Malaysian education system encompasses learning beginning with preschool and continuing through university. The Government provides free education for children between the ages of 6 and 18, although only primary education ending at age 12 is compulsory. The primary language of instruction is Bahasa Malaysian although Chinese and Tamil are also used in primary education. English is taught as a second language and in 2003, legislation required that all math and science courses would be taught in English. Islamic studies are required in Malaysian schools and in 2004 the government announced a requirement to study the Koran in Arabic. At the completion of secondary education, students must take the public common exam, Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM). Students interested in pursuing higher education after the secondary level must be able to fund their education as well as have the required academic grades to qualify for university. Malaysia is home to dozens of tertiary institutions including universities, teacher training programs, and other public and private institutions where students can specialize in an assortment of trades.
and indicators of safe schools and allow key stakeholders an opportunity to contribute to the process. Education is often one of the first activities suspended following a disaster due to damaged school buildings or limited access to roads leading to schools. The safe school Program in Malaysia represents a comprehensive approach to school safety by promoting active involvement between communities, teachers, parents and students concerning safety planning and management and represents an important step toward providing safer teaching and learning environments to improve the safety of schools in Malaysia.

Additionally, Mercy Malaysia partners with the Ministry of Education to implement the School Preparedness Programme (SPP) in Malaysia. The SPP is designed to raise awareness among students of the hazards they may face and assist schools in minimizing the risks posed by natural disasters. Seasonal floods are a primary focus. The SPP utilizes a training workshop called the School Watching Workshop which introduces a Community Based Hazard Mapping tool that allows schools and communities to identify hazards and risks in and around the school and mitigate solutions to make schools safer. Figure 10 illustrates the impact of the SPP Program participation in Malaysia from 2007 – 2016.

Disaster Risk Reduction in the Education Sector

Mercy Malaysia, a non-profit organization focused on providing medical relief, sustainable health related development and risk reduction in vulnerable communities, was established in 1999. Mercy Malaysia is one of the ASEAN Safe School Initiative (ASSI) consortium partners who continue to work toward addressing emerging risks around school safety, changing climate, urban risks, and provide a space for recognizing the ASEAN School Safety Champion.

Mercy Malaysia is also the lead for the ASEAN Safe School Initiative (ASSI) Project. ASSI began in 2013 to recognize the importance of disaster risk reduction in the education sector. The project aims to improve and accelerate the implementation of safe schools in all ASEAN countries by developing regional guidelines and indicators of safe schools and allow key stakeholders an opportunity to contribute to the process. Education is often one of the first activities suspended following a disaster due to damaged school buildings or limited access to roads leading to schools. The safe school Program in Malaysia represents a comprehensive approach to school safety by promoting active involvement between communities, teachers, parents and students concerning safety planning and management and represents an important step toward providing safer teaching and learning environments to improve the safety of schools in Malaysia.

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Communications

Due to private investments, Malaysia has one of the most advanced telecoms and internet sectors in the entire Asia-Pacific region. The Malaysian Ministry of Communication and Multimedia and Telekom Malaysia Berhad have a public–private partnership agreement providing high-speed broadband throughout Malaysia. Malaysia has a modern system of communication and good inter-city services. In addition, they have an adequate intercity microwave radio relay network between Sabah
Utilities

Power

Malaysia has an abundant electricity supply created by different sources. The most common fuel source in Malaysia is gas, and this contributes to over half of the national energy demand. Malaysia’s energy supply can produce enough power to meet the demands of the growing population. Tenaga Nasional Berhad, a private company, provides electricity in Peninsular Malaysia, and Sabah Electricity provides the electricity in East Malaysia.

Oil production in Malaysia is dominated by the state-owned Petronas, one of the largest companies in Malaysia. They lead the way in the industry through working partnerships with other international players, particularly in the exploration sector. British Petroleum and Shell also operate in the country. The Malaysian Oil and Gas Services Council is the leading trade association in the sector.

Water and Sanitation

Malaysia enjoys a dependable, abundant, and safe water supply. As of 2010, the Malaysian population uses an improved drinking water source and 96% of the population having adequate sanitation facilities. This is mostly due to several public–private partnership projects that were implemented in the 1990s. These partnerships advanced the water supply and sanitation sector by funding projects such as the three build–operate–transfer-style water supply projects between 1987–89, and one build–operate–transfer-style sewerage project in 1992.

The individual state water authority is responsible for the management of water utilities in Malaysia. They fall under the Central Federal Public Works Department in Kuala Lumpur, which oversees their operations, while the National Water Services Commission is the national regulatory body for water supply in the country.

The Water Resources Master Plan oversees the development of water resources for the country through 2050. The Plan consists of approximately 60 major water projects, including building new dams, raising existing dams, constructing new treatment plants, inter-state water transfer, and identifying catchment areas for development.
Health

Health Overview

Malaysia has a health system and health status on par with its rank as an upper middle-income country (defined as having a GNI per capita between $3,956 and $12,235). Malaysia is a medical tourism destination, with Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council data showing the number of medical travelers to Malaysia has increased since 2011, reaching a high of 1.05 million travelers last year. The Eleventh Malaysia Plan 2016–2020 articulates the development goals of Malaysia over the five-year period, which is the final five-year plan laying out a roadmap for Malaysia “to become an advanced nation that is inclusive and sustainable.” Health is a key component of one of the plan’s six major thrusts – Improving well-being for all. This major strategic thrust of the Eleventh Plan is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, “good health and wellbeing.” Thus, a good overview of the current state of Malaysia’s health system and efforts is provided by the most recent SDG Index and Dashboards Report, with Figure 11 showing indicators for Malaysia.

Following a voluntary national review in 2017 of Malaysia’s progress in achieving SDGs, main messages regarding progress on health included:

- Child and maternal mortality rates were almost at the level of developed countries;
- Endemic small pox and polio had been eradicated;
- The spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria was reversed; there were drastic reductions in water-borne diseases;
- Deaths from treatable childhood diseases were greatly reduced; and
- 95% of public health service was subsidized.

SDG3 – Good Health and Well-Being

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence of tuberculosis (per 1,000 population)</td>
<td>92.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV prevalence (per 1,000)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age-standardised death rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disease in populations age 30–70 years (per 100,000 population)</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age-standardised death rate attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)</td>
<td>33.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic deaths rate (per 100,000 population)</td>
<td>22.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Life Expectancy at birth (years)</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)</td>
<td>99.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surviving infants who received 2 WHO-recommended vaccines (%)</td>
<td>96.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal Health Coverage Tracer Index (0-100)</td>
<td>65.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 11: Malaysia Sustainable Development Goals Index and Dashboards Report
Under the Eleventh Plan’s strategic thrust of “Improving well-being for all” a holistic vision for Malaysian health and well-being is comprised of six focus areas:

1. Achieving universal access to quality healthcare
2. Providing adequate and quality affordable housing to poor, low- and middle-income households
3. Creating safer living environments for thriving communities
4. Improving road safety and emergency services to reduce fatalities
5. Enculturating the spirit of 1Malaysia to foster social cohesion and national unity
6. Promoting sports for healthy living and unity

Figure 12 depicts selected measures of performance across the six focus areas, with the exception of focus area B, for which the provided affordable housing metrics are aspirational instead of reflecting the current situation. The focus area most directly related to healthcare is focus area A, “Achieving universal access to quality health care,” for which Table 3 depicts four strategies and accompanying initiatives.

**Healthcare System Structure**

The Ministry of Health has an overall responsibility for the health sector including: formulating policies, legislation, strategic planning, resource mobilization and allocation, monitoring, evaluation, research, training, and coordination of external aid. Malaysia’s healthcare structure includes a government-sponsored universal-coverage healthcare system. The Malaysian health sector is served by both public and private providers who deliver a range of services. The public system provides universal healthcare coverage to the population and is funded through the general tax. It delivers most of the highly subsidized hospital services, primary healthcare services, health promotion and disease prevention services. The public sector delivers a range of primary care services through health and community clinics, including outreach services through mobile clinics to remote villages. The private sector is concentrated in the urban areas of Malaysia and provides various services. It is funded through a fee-for-service

| Strategy A1: Enhancing targeted support, particularly for underserved communities. | Specific initiatives include the expansion of mobile healthcare, the improvement of primary healthcare teams, and domiciliary healthcare programs. |
| Strategy A2: Improving system delivery for better health outcomes. | Measures include the introduction of lean management practices in public hospitals to release latent capacity, and better enforcement of health regulations to improve transparency and health outcomes. |
| Strategy A3: Expanding capacity to increase accessibility. | Initiatives include developing new facilities, upgrading existing facilities, as well as enhancing healthcare personnel capacity and capabilities. |
| Strategy A4: Intensifying collaboration with private sector and NGOs to increase health awareness | Such collaboration will span a broad range of initiatives, from community health and prevention programs, to research and development efforts between industries, universities and research institutions. |

Table 3: Focus Area A for Achieving Universal Access to Quality Healthcare – Strategies and Initiatives
mechanism mainly by individuals, private health insurance or corporations. The private sector also delivers health services through medical and dental clinics and hospitals.\(^{188}\)

Figure 13 depicts the healthcare system structure in Malaysia with the Ministry of Health at the top.\(^{189}\)

**Challenges in the Healthcare System**

Malaysia’s health care system is relatively strong, partially due to the resources committed to social sectors and the country’s rising status as an upper middle-income country.\(^{190}\) However, there are challenges, as reviewed in the following sections, particularly with the rise of non-communicable diseases, a global challenge. Recognizing that primary health care is foundational to resolving many health challenges in the country, the Ministry of Health has called for greater investment in primary health care. This is considered a key step toward universal health care, and strong primary health care systems would need to focus on diabetes, heart disease, and cancer in Malaysia.\(^{191}\)

**Health Cooperation**

The UN World Health Organization (WHO) is Malaysia’s primary partner in tackling health challenges and building capacity in the health care system. Other UN agencies also contribute health-related support, including UNAIDS, UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations University (UNU) International Institute for Global Health. As WHO is the predominant partner in health cooperation, Table 4 depicts the four strategic priorities and corresponding focus areas of the current Malaysia-WHO country cooperation strategy.\(^{192}\)

The government of Malaysia commits considerable resources toward public health and the country does not usually receive significant bilateral aid for health. One exception is a HIV/AIDS grant received primarily by the Malaysian AIDS Council from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.\(^{193}\)

Malaysia has been increasing bilateral health
Strategic Priorities | Focus Areas
--- | ---
**Strategic Priority 1:** Facilitate multisectoral collaboration and support coordination for health. | 1. Enhancing disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery including through coordination of and information sharing on humanitarian action with partners as part of the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team.  
2. Strengthening the engagement and collaboration of communities, state and non-state actors beyond the health sector, to achieve national priorities, such as NCDs, and work towards achievement of the SDGs.  
3. "One Health" approaches to emerging disease surveillance and response, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), urban health, injuries, water safety, disabilities, environmental health and health promotion. 
**Strategic Priority 2:** Strengthen policies and capacities to build a more resilient, sustainable and responsive health system that moves even further towards universal health coverage. | 1. Governance, organizational arrangements and financing to sustainably and equitably meet future health needs, including for an ageing population.  
2. Integrated, responsive and equitable delivery of quality health services, including human resource planning and management, and the effective regulation and oversight of health technologies and service delivery.  
3. The availability, quality, management, analysis and use of disaggregated data to support performance monitoring and improved service delivery, monitoring of equity, health risk management, and reporting on national priorities and the SDGs or other regional/global commitments. 
**Strategic Priority 3:** Strengthen policies and capacities for assessing, preventing, managing, mitigating and monitoring health risks and chronic conditions. | 1. The prevention and management of NCDs and conditions and their risk factors, including mental health, injuries and disabilities, and enable individual and community empowerment and mobilization for health.  
2. Environmental health, including strengthening the use of health impact assessments and similar tools to be able to assess, advise, manage and respond to an increasingly diverse range of environmental health issues and concerns.  
3. Risk management, including strengthening the role and engagement of the health sector with national and state systems and organizations responsible for disaster risk management, ensuring sufficient ongoing IHR (2005) capacities and effective systems, monitoring and managing risks related to food safety and AMR, and increasing the effectiveness of risk communication. 
**Strategic Priority 4:** Facilitate the use of Malaysian expertise and sharing of experiences in regional or global settings and events and to provide expert advice to other countries. | 1. Supporting Malaysia’s increasing role in sharing expertise and experience for the benefit of other countries as well as to support the development of global and regional public health policies, strategies and action plans, the sharing of experiences, and capacity-building.  
2. Complementing Malaysia’s role in mechanisms such as ASEAN and the OIC.  
3. Facilitating participation of Malaysia’s WHO collaborating centers in continuing to provide significant contributions to the regional and global work of WHO. 

Table 4: Malaysia World Health Organization Country Cooperation Strategy 2016-2020

cooporations with other nations. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad announced on 7 March 2019 that the governments of Malaysia and the Philippines are ready to finalize and sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the field of health. Malaysia and Qatar have plans to sign an MOU regarding health cooperation, which the Deputy Prime Minister Wan Azizah announced on 28 November 2018. The Malaysian and Indonesian Health Ministries signed a health cooperation agreement in 2011.

Academia and the private sector have also been active participants in increasing Malaysia’s health cooperation activities, particularly regarding digital health care and training. The University Of Malaya Faculty Of Medicine and the St. John Ambulance Malaysia NGO signed a MOU on 17 April 2019 with the Taiwan-based Chang Gung Medical Foundation aimed at increasing specialist training and research in Malaysia. The University of Malaysia Sabah signed an MOU with BookDoc on 22 March 2019 on teaching, research and the development of digital health care. On 4 October 2018, the Ministry of Health signed an MOU with Collaborative Research in Engineering, Science and Technology (CREST), a research institute headquartered in Penang, focusing on digital innovation in health care delivery and solutions.

Malaysia, as an ASEAN member, continues to engage in a leading role in the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda in the four priority cluster areas: 1) promoting healthy lifestyles; 2) responding to hazards and emerging threats;
Health and state authorities. Engagement of local communities and the private sector is a continuing challenge in controlling dengue epidemics. Malaysia reported more than 38,000 cases of dengue as of 7 April 2019, out of which 59 fatalities were reported. Almost 60% of cases were reported from Selangor state, followed by Kuala Lumpur and Johor state. In 2018, there were 80,615 dengue cases, including 147 deaths, reported.

Malaysia is experiencing great success against human malaria, while also seeing new challenges with a rare zoonotic malaria. Malaysia is currently predicted to eliminate indigenous human malaria by 2020, ten years ahead of schedule. In 2009, Malaysia became one of the founding members of the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network, helping to significantly reduce malaria rates in Southeast Asia. In 2018, Malaysia had zero recorded cases of indigenous human malaria. Although a small risk remains of imported human malaria, the most dangerous of the four main human malaria strains, Plasmodium falciparum, accounts for up to 80% of malaria cases in rural areas of Sabah. The risk of multidrug resistant P. falciparum malaria is also present.

Whereas the four main strains of human malaria (p. falciparum, p. vivax, p. malariae, and p. ovale) transmit from human to mosquito to human, the zoonotic P. knowlesi malaria transmits from monkey to mosquito to human. In Sarawak, P. knowlesi accounts for 28% of malaria cases. Transmission is limited to Sarawak and Sabah, both in Malaysian Borneo, but Malaysia saw a sharp increase between 2016 and 2017 from 1,600 cases to over 3,600 cases of P. knowlesi. The number of cases of P. knowlesi were ten times as high in 2017 as in 2008, as depicted in Figure 15. The rise of zoonotic malaria across Southeast Asia is linked to increased deforestation, with people near cut forests found more likely to be infected with P. knowlesi than people away from forests. Deforestation tends to be accompanied by humans and monkeys moving into closer proximity, within the range of the Anopheles mosquito, the transmission vector.

Since the peak in 2002, Malaysia has made considerable progress in reducing rates of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. A major milestone was achieved when Malaysia met the Millennium Development Goal, set in 2000, to “halve new HIV infection by 2015,” as illustrated in Figure 16.
vaccinations recommended for everyone in the United States. Precautions should be taken to prevent mosquito bites, which can transmit dengue, malaria, chikungunya, and other mosquito-borne diseases. For more detailed vaccination recommendations, see the section on Force Protection/Pre-Deployment Information, Health Traveler Information. Travelers should always consult with a doctor for comprehensive vaccines and medicines recommended, depending on travel dates, length of stay, and specific destinations in country.\textsuperscript{213}

Non-Communicable Diseases

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the biggest cause of deaths in Malaysia, as they are worldwide. NCDs are estimated to account for 74\% of all deaths in Malaysia,\textsuperscript{214} with some of the biggest categories being cardiovascular diseases and cancers. Approximately two-thirds of the population has diabetes, high blood pressure (hypertension), or high cholesterol levels (hypercholesterolaemia).\textsuperscript{215} With 64\% of males and 65\% of females either obese or overweight, Malaysia has the highest rate of obese and overweight persons among Asian countries. A demonstration project, “Enhanced Primary Health Care,” has been implemented in Johor and Selangor in 20 health clinics since July 2017. With the purpose of increasing detection of chronic diseases – such as diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol – preliminary results indicate positive outcomes, though more conclusive results are expected in September 2019.\textsuperscript{216}

The WHO certified Malaysia in 2018 as having eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis. Malaysia is the second country in Asia to achieve this accomplishment, following Thailand. In 2000, 16\% of babies born to HIV positive women became infected, but Malaysia committed to providing access to free testing and treatment and establishing monitoring and surveillance systems. In 2016, the mother-to-child transmission rate for HIV was below 2\%, and there were less than 50 congenital syphilis cases for every 100,000 live births, which, according to WHO criteria, is considered as elimination of that public health problem.\textsuperscript{212}

Travelers to Malaysia should, at a minimum, be vaccinated against the food-borne illnesses hepatitis A and typhoid, in addition to routine vaccinations recommended for everyone in the United States. Precautions should be taken to prevent mosquito bites, which can transmit dengue, malaria, chikungunya, and other mosquito-borne diseases. For more detailed vaccination recommendations, see the section on Force Protection/Pre-Deployment Information, Health Traveler Information. Travelers should always consult with a doctor for comprehensive vaccines and medicines recommended, depending on travel dates, length of stay, and specific destinations in country.\textsuperscript{213}

Non-Communicable Diseases

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the biggest cause of deaths in Malaysia, as they are worldwide. NCDs are estimated to account for 74\% of all deaths in Malaysia,\textsuperscript{214} with some of the biggest categories being cardiovascular diseases and cancers. Approximately two-thirds of the population has diabetes, high blood pressure (hypertension), or high cholesterol levels (hypercholesterolaemia).\textsuperscript{215} With 64\% of males and 65\% of females either obese or overweight, Malaysia has the highest rate of obese and overweight persons among Asian countries. A demonstration project, “Enhanced Primary Health Care,” has been implemented in Johor and Selangor in 20 health clinics since July 2017. With the purpose of increasing detection of chronic diseases – such as diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol – preliminary results indicate positive outcomes, though more conclusive results are expected in September 2019.\textsuperscript{216}

In Malaysia’s medium-term national strategic plan for NCD, the main focus is on three types of NCD: 1) cardiovascular diseases, 2) diabetes, and 3) cancer. The strategic plan also targets four shared NCD risk factors: 1) tobacco use, 2) unhealthy diet, 3) physical inactivity, and 4) harmful use of alcohol.\textsuperscript{217}

NCDs accounted for 7 out of the 10 top causes of death and disability combined in 2017, as measured in disability-adjusted life years, and illustrated by Figure 17.\textsuperscript{218}
What causes the most death and disability combined?

- Communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases
- Non-communicable diseases
- Injuries

Figure 17: Death and Disability Rates Combined in Malaysia, 2017

Training for Health Professionals

There are 32 medical schools in Malaysia as of 2017, 11 public and 21 private, dating back to the 1963 establishment of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Malaya. There were 18,789 students in Malaysian medical schools and approximately 15,000 Malaysians studying in medical schools internationally by the end of 2014. One incentive for training a high number of doctors is the WHO recommendation of 1 doctor to 400 persons for a developed nation. However, issues of quality versus quantity have entered medical discussions, marked by a 2014 statistic that 20% of medical students entering foreign universities since 2009 lacked minimum entry qualifications.219 To address this, the government imposed a moratorium on new medical schools from 2011-2016.220

Malaysia has received training assistance among the technical expertise provided from the WHO, which since 2009 has included: training on data mapping, data mining and measuring clinical effectiveness using electronic patient records and registry; training of trainers on the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation system; health level-seven training; training in advance molecular diagnosis of malaria (which has contributed to almost eliminating indigenous human malaria); training on cognitive behavior therapy for chronic diseases at the primary health-care level; and training modules and training of trainers on rapid assessment of avoidable vision impairment.221

As part of the Government of Malaysia increasing efforts against non-communicable diseases, a flagship program, Komuniti Sihat Perkasa Negara (also known as KOSPEN), focuses on training health volunteers at the community level. The program provides community health volunteers with training to promote healthy behaviors, advocate for healthy policies, and facilitate community-level change to support healthier lifestyle practices.222
Women, Peace, and Security

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is an initiative that aims to promote gender equality in peace and security decision-making processes at national, local and international levels. Malaysia has done much to promote and protect the rights of women as part of a larger regional body (ASEAN Member State) and as an individual country. Landmark commitments include the Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region in 1988, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN Region in 2004. Regional meetings include the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women. Malaysia ratified the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) on September 2017. The country, along with other ASEAN member states, adopted the Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN on 13 November 2017. This was the first statement by ASEAN that acknowledged the gendered effect of armed conflict and promoted women's participation in peacebuilding.

Malaysia acceded in 1995 to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), with the declaration it was “subject to the understanding that the provisions of the Convention do not conflict with the provisions of the Islamic Sharia’ law and the Federal Constitution of Malaysia.” The first accession to CEDAW was made with some reservations because there were some articles that contradicted the laws in Malaysia, specifically Islamic Sharia law and the Federal Constitution of Malaysia.

Malaysia supported UN Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325 in 2000, voting for it as a non-permanent member of the Security Council that year. SCR 1325 was the first resolution in which the UN Security Council addressed the disproportionate effect of conflict on women and girls, and emphasized the importance of women's participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding for more peaceful and secure societies. The country has a separate ministry with the mandate of policymaking and implementation on gender issues, however it does not have a National Action Plan on the WPS agenda. In addition, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society as an auxiliary to the Malaysian government raises awareness to prevent sexual and gender-based violence in times of disasters, emergencies and armed conflicts.

Malaysia ranks 101 out of 149 countries in the 2018 Global Gender Gap Report. This report seeks to measure the relative gaps between women and men across four key areas: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, political empowerment, and health and survival, with 1 measured as the best to perform, and 149 measured as the worst to perform.

Although the ideas about the role of women have changed in Malaysia and have become more liberal among the educated or modern communities, there are still many traditional socio-cultural stereotypes and attitudes about the role of women. Various attitudes may restrict a woman’s role in society and can form barriers to the advancement of women's career and upward mobility in Malaysia. There are few women in leadership positions in key institutions such as political parties, top ministries, and executive and legislative bodies. This leaves women out of the decision-making processes and with very little influence in shaping government agendas. In Malaysia, often the man is the head of the household while the wife is expected to attend to her husband’s needs as well as take care of the children and elderly relatives in an extended family. Endemic poverty and human trafficking has also disproportionately affected women in the country. However, despite these obstacles, Malaysia has achieved women's improved health status, greater educational attainment, and increased participation in higher paying occupations. Following legislative activity, including a proposed anti-stalking law, sexual harassment act, and initiatives toward ending child marriage, the European Union ambassador to Malaysia stated in March 2019 the government was making good progress toward a safer and more equitable environment for women and girls. In addition, Malaysia recently established the parliamentary select committee on gender and equality rights, which held its first meeting in spring 2019 with intentions to improve the WPS agenda.
Conclusion

Malaysia has experienced 51 natural disaster events in the last two decades in which 281 people died, over 3 million people were affected, and nearly US$2 billion (RM8 billion) in damages resulted. The most challenging and frequent natural disaster facing Malaysia is floods. Malaysia had the highest percentage of population exposed to floods among ASEAN Member States between July 2012 and January 2019, and faces other potential threats to population health and development due to climate change. Nine percent of land area in Malaysia is flood prone and 4.8 million people live in areas at risk to flood. Annually, significant losses including casualties, disease epidemics, and property and crop damage, have been attributed to flood disasters in Malaysia.

Malaysia's National Disaster Management Agency, NADMA oversees regional disaster risk response as well as involvement in international support. Malaysia continues to build on their disaster risk response plans, mitigation efforts and climate change adaptation to protect its citizens and its economic progress. The SMART Team is an operational arm of the Malaysian Government responding to international level disasters within the region and beyond. The SMART Team has assisted with search and rescue missions for tsunami victims in Aceh (2004), earthquake victims in Muzafarabad, Pakistan (2005), people affected by the Leyte landslide (2006), and with the efforts around Mount Kinabalu following the Sabah earthquake (2015).

As Malaysia develops socioeconomically, the country is focused on the resilience of growth to ensure its development gains are not reversed by natural disasters. Therefore, planning and preparing for natural disasters, identifying which areas and communities are at risk and providing the right tools in case such situations occur are important strategies. These priorities are highlighted in the Eleventh Malaysia Plan with regard to preparing a comprehensive disaster risk management DM framework and protecting the resiliency of the country and its future. Malaysia has also achieved women's improved health status, greater educational attainment, and increased participation in higher paying occupations.

Logistics capacity and operations (2016-2020) was released by the Malaysian government with targets and objectives to implement the framework to make Malaysia a high-income economy by 2020. It further identifies six ‘Strategic Thrusts’ to change the trajectory of the country’s economic growth and advance the national income per capita above USD $15,000. Under the sixth strategic thrust of pursuing green growth for sustainability and resilience, the Eleventh Plan details a disaster risk management strategy in the focus area on strengthening resilience against climate change and natural disasters is the final five-year plan laying out a roadmap for Malaysia to become an advanced nation that is inclusive and sustainable.

Malaysia's health system and health status are on par with its rank as an upper middle-income country (defined as having a GNI per capita between $3,956 and $12,235). Additionally, Mercy Malaysia partners with the Ministry of Education to implement community-based disaster risk reduction plans including the School Preparedness Programme (SPP), which raises awareness among students and schools to minimize their risks posed by natural disasters.

Malaysia was a founding ASEAN member and continues to engage in a leading role in the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda in the four priority cluster areas: 1) promoting healthy lifestyles; 2) responding to hazards and emerging threats; 3) strengthening health systems and access to care; and 4) ensuring food safety. Malaysia is actively engaged in the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), which is comprised of almost 50 nations and organizations collaborating to achieve measurable targets against biological threats and build core public health capacities. Through the GHSA, Malaysia is taking the lead with Turkey to strengthen emergency operations centers. Malaysian experts helped WHO in responding to Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 in the Philippines and with the global response to Ebola virus.

Malaysia has active ASEAN ERAT members and is home to ASEAN’s Disaster Emergency Logistics System (DELSA). DELSA was launched on 7 December 2012 to develop a regional relief stockpile of items needed for emergency and disaster support as well as to support logistics capacity and operations for the AHA Centre and ASEAN Member States. Malaysia continues to advance toward ambitious goals and blaze trails in the region, securing its people and bolstering a secure and sustainable country, environment, and future.
Appendices

DoD DMHA Engagements in the Past Five Years (FY 2013-2018)

Malaysian Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) Civil-Military Course – April 2019

The first Malaysian Civil-Military Coordination on Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Course was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 18, 2019. The course is designed to enhance the knowledge of disaster response stakeholders in Malaysia and operationalize civil-military coordination at the national, regional and international levels. The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) supported Malaysia’s National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) and the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) in administering the course. Lessons learned from real world scenarios such as the 2014 Malaysia floods, the 2018 Sulawesi earthquake, and the 2014 State Route 530 landslide in the U.S. state of Washington were discussed. The Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) facilitated the table top exercise where participants applied the variety of concepts learned during the course.

Pacific Partnership – April 2019

The 14th iteration of Pacific Partnership was held in April 2019. Pacific Partnership 2019 (PP19) is an annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness exercise conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year participants work collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase security and stability in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific. This year, the Malaysian Armed Forces and local medical staff joined PP19 personnel deployed with the Military Sealift Command expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Fall River. They provided medical services to Kuching residents during a community health engagement at SK Tanah Puteh.

Exercise Bersama Warrior-March 2019

Bersama Warrior is an annual joint bilateral exercise between the U.S. and Malaysia designed to develop and improve their collective capacity to plan and conduct joint and combined operations. The 2019 exercise took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in March 2019. The exercise aims to strengthen the relationship between the U.S. and the Malaysian Armed Forces while identifying effective solutions to common challenges such as humanitarian assistance, maritime security, and counterterrorism, and to increase capacity to quickly and effectively respond to the crisis. The Washington National Guard was selected to be heavily involved in the exercise. Malaysia and the Washington National Guard formed a partnership in August 2017 under the National Guard Bureau sponsored State Partnership Program.

ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise - JULY 2018

The U.S. and Malaysia are co-chairs of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Plus Expert Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (ADMM Plus EWG HADR) and worked together to facilitate a table top exercise (TTX) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 25-26 July, 2018. The multinational exercise included representatives from all 18 ADMM Plus EWG HADR countries, ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Centre, UN OCHA, IFRC, APCSS, and CFE-DM. The aim of the exercise was to evaluate coordination mechanisms and standard operating procedures through the pre-deployment and deployment phases of a hypothetical magnitude 7.2 earthquake centering around Manila, Philippines. The exercise highlighted the need for consistent communication and information sharing between ASEAN and non-ASEAN member states and findings from the exercise would inform the preparation for a subsequent event in scheduled for the following year.

Maritime Training Activity – September 2018

The Training Activity (MTA) Malaysia was executed by the U.S. and Royal Malaysian Navy. About 300 U.S. and Malaysian Sailors aboard multiple ships participated in the exercise. The exercise involves both an ashore and at-sea phase, demonstrating both navies’ commitment to applying learned techniques and tactics while operating together out at sea. Sailors from both navies engaged in visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) trainings, division tactics (DIVTACS) to
In 1957, Malaysia joined the United Nations, in which it plays an active and troopcontributing role in peacekeeping operations, particularly in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. When last it was a non-permanent member of the Security Council from 20152016, following the downing of Malaysia Airline Flight 17 in Ukraine, Malaysia introduced a draft resolution to establish an international criminal tribunal, which was vetoed by Russia.

Malaysia has overlapping claims to the South China Sea, along with the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Taiwan, and China, which claims by far the largest portion. Malaysia has economic ties to China, though has had increasing diplomatic responses to Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea. Economic ties to China came into question following the surprising election victory in May 2018 of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. After his election, PM Mahathir Mohamad reviewed Chinese investment projects in Malaysia that were part of China's ambitious global development strategy, the Belt and Road Initiative. The Malaysian prime minister cited the financial challenges his predecessor left the country, leading him to renegotiate the Chinese construction projects, which risked a high debt burden.

Japan has also been an important investor in Malaysia, and one it has been increasingly reaching out to in an attempt to balance China's economic influence. On his first overseas trip PM Mahathir visited Japan. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe described Japan as Malaysia's biggest investor country. Abe also committed to helping PM Mahathir revitalize his "Look East Policy," which was proposed when Mahathir first took office in the 1980s and included the idea of Malaysia learning from the work ethic of Japan.

Piracy is an issue in the Strait of Malacca, which is surrounded by Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and the southern tip of Thailand. In addition to maritime security, the high volume of maritime traffic has led to accidents, making safety a concern as well. To address safety and security in the strait, Malaysia has coordinated sea patrols, air patrols, and intelligence exchange with Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand.

**International/Foreign Relations**

Malaysia was one of the five original members (along with Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand) to establish ASEAN on 8 August 1967. ASEAN now also includes Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam, and operates on consensus. Malaysia has been a member of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation since 1969, when it was founded.

Malaysia is also a participant in the Five Power Defence Arrangements, in which the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore agreed in 1971 to consult each other immediately if an armed attack is threatened or occurs to decide what measures to take. The arrangement was established after the UK ended defense guarantees for Malaysia and Singapore, due to its 1967 decision to withdraw forces east of the Suez. The UK has staff in the Integrated Area Defence System Headquarters (HQ IADS) at RMAF Butterworth in Penang, Malaysia.

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**Civil-Military Interaction Workshop - April 2015**

Civil-Military Interaction Workshop- April 2015 Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) attended the civil-military interaction workshop to increase shared understanding among those involved in HADR and to build awareness of what these organizations bring to assist affected countries. The Workshop was a co-sponsored event between Australian Civil Military Center and the Malaysian Armed Forces, held at the UN Peace Keeping Center and Port Dickson, Malaysia.

**Pacific Partnership - April 2017**

Pacific Partnership 2017 started with the arrival of the Military Sealift Command expeditionary fast transport USNS Fall River (T-EPF 4) in Malaysia. The arrival marked Malaysia’s 12th year participating in Pacific Partnership, as well as its second year as a host nation. Activities in Malaysia included humanitarian aid and disaster response preparedness exercises, medical exchanges, civil engineering projects, and community engagement events.

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**Force Protection/Pre-Deployment Information**

The following information is provided for pre-deployment planning and preparations. Visit www.travel.state.gov prior to deployments for further up-to-date information.
Passport/Visa
Before entering Malaysia, you must ensure that your passport has at least six months validity remaining. U.S. citizens entering Malaysia do not require a visa is staying for less than 90 days. Travelers are also required to have at least one blank passport page before entering. For additional information in regard to entry or exit requirements, travelers may consult:

**Embassy of Malaysia:**
3516 International Court N.W.
Washington DC 20008
Telephone: General Line (office hours): +1.202.572.9700
Duty Officer (after office hours): +1.202.375.4396
Fax: +1.202.572.9882
Email: mwwashington@kln.gov.my

Emergency Contact Information

Victims of Crime:
Report crimes to both the local police and the U.S. Embassy. The local equivalent to the “911” emergency line in Malaysia is 999 from a landline and 112 from a mobile telephone. Alternatively, call the Royal Malaysia Police Operations Center in Kuala Lumpur, 03-2115-9999 or 03-2266-2222. You may also contact the U.S. Embassy at +(60) (3) 2168-5000.

A police report is necessary for the embassy to help victims follow-up on incidents of crime. In some tourist areas, the police have established small “Tourist Police” stations manned by personnel familiar with helping visitors to Malaysia. Remember that local authorities are responsible for investigating and prosecuting the crime.

Currency Information
The currency in Malaysia is the Malaysian Ringgit. Malaysia imposes entry and exit currency restrictions. Entry currency restrictions state travelers may not enter or exit Malaysia with more than US$10,000.

Travel Health Information

Vaccination and Prescriptions
The CDC provides the following recommendations for travel to Malaysia. The information in Table 5 is taken directly from the CDC website. 271

Medical Care

Eat and Drink Safely
Unclean food and water can cause travelers’ diarrhea and other diseases. Reduce your risk by sticking to safe food and water habits.

**Eat**
- Food that is cooked and served hot
- Hard-cooked eggs
- Fruits and vegetables you have washed in clean water or peeled yourself
- Pasteurized dairy products

**Don’t Eat**
- Food served at room temperature
- Food from street vendors
- Raw or soft-cooked (runny) eggs
- Raw or undercooked (rare) meat or fish
- Unwashed or unpeeled raw fruits and vegetables
- Unpasteurized dairy products
- “Bushmeat” (monkeys, bats, or other wild game)

**Drink**
- Bottled water that is sealed
- Water that has been disinfected
- Ice made with bottled or disinfected water
- Carbonated drinks
- Hot coffee or tea
- Pasteurized milk

**Don’t Drink**
- Tap or well water
- Ice made with tap or well water
- Drinks made with tap or well water (such as reconstituted juice)
- Unpasteurized milk

Take Medicine
Talk with your doctor about taking prescription or over-the-counter drugs with you on your trip in case you get sick.

Prevent Bug Bites
Bugs (like mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas) can spread a number of diseases in Malaysia. Many of these diseases cannot be prevented with a vaccine or medicine. You can reduce your risk by taking steps to prevent bug bites.

To prevent bug bites:
- Cover exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats.
- Use an appropriate insect repellent (see below).
### If you are bitten by bugs:
- Avoid scratching bug bites, and apply hydrocortisone cream or calamine lotion to reduce the itching.
- Check your entire body for ticks after outdoor activity. Be sure to remove ticks properly.
- Note: The Zika Virus is a risk in Malaysia.

### Safety and Security

As a first step in planning any trip abroad, check the Travel Advisories for your intended destination. You can see the world at a glance on our color-coded map.

Note that conditions can change rapidly in a country at any time. To receive updated Travel Advisories and Alerts for the countries you choose, sign up at step.state.gov.

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### Table 5: CDC, Travel Health Information for Malaysia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Routine vaccines (for all travelers)</th>
<th>Make sure you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. These vaccines include Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A (for some travelers)</td>
<td>The CDC recommends this vaccine because you can get hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in Malaysia, regardless of where you are eating or staying.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typhoid (for most travelers)</td>
<td>You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in Malaysia. The CDC recommends this vaccine for most travelers, especially if you are staying with friends or relatives, visiting smaller cities or rural areas, or if you are an adventurous eater. If you were not completely vaccinated as a child or do not know your vaccination status, talk to your doctor about getting vaccinated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B (for some travelers)</td>
<td>You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products, so the CDC recommends this vaccine if you might have sex with a new partner, get a tattoo or piercing, or have any medical procedures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Encephalitis (for some travelers)</td>
<td>You may need this vaccine if your trip will last more than a month, depending on where you are going in Malaysia and what time of year you are traveling. You should also consider this vaccine if you plan to visit rural areas in Malaysia or will be spending a lot of time outdoors, even for trips shorter than a month. Your doctor can help you decide if this vaccine is right for you based on your travel plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaria (some travelers)</td>
<td>When traveling in Malaysia, you should avoid mosquito bites to prevent malaria. You may need to take prescription medicine before, during, and after your trip to prevent malaria, depending on your travel plans, such as where you are going, when you are traveling, and if you are spending a lot of time outdoors or sleeping outside. Talk to your doctor about how you can prevent malaria while traveling.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Rabies (for some travelers)           | Although rabies can be found in dogs, bats, and other mammals in Malaysia, it is not a major risk to most travelers. The CDC recommends this vaccine for the following groups:  
  - Travelers involved in outdoor and other activities that put them at risk for animal bites.  
  - People who will be working with or around animals.  
  - People who are taking long trips or moving to Malaysia.  
  - Children, because they tend to play with animals, might not report bites, and are more likely to have animal bites on their head and neck. |
| Yellow Fever                         | There is no risk of yellow fever in Malaysia. The Government of Malaysia requires proof of yellow fever vaccination only if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever. This does not include the U.S. If you are traveling from a country other than the U.S, check this list to see if you may be required to get the yellow fever vaccine. |

### For protection against ticks and mosquitoes:
- Use permethrin-treated clothing and gear (such as boots, pants, socks, and tents). Do not use permethrin directly on skin.
- Stay and sleep in air-conditioned or screened rooms.
- Use a bed net if the area where you are sleeping is exposed to the outdoors.

For protection against ticks and mosquitoes:
- Use a repellent that contains 20 percent or more DEET for protection that lasts up to several hours.

For protection against mosquitoes only:
- Products with one of the following active ingredients can also help prevent mosquito bites. Higher percentages of active ingredient provide longer protection.
  - DEET
  - Picaridin (also known as KBR 3023, Bayrepel, and Icaridin)
  - Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or PMD
  - IR3535
Sendai Framework

The Sendai Framework is the global blueprint and fifteen-year plan to build the world’s resilience to natural disasters. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks:

The Seven Global Targets include:
- Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality rates in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
- Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
- Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
- Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.
- Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
- Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this Framework by 2030.
- Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

The Four Priorities of Action include:
- Understanding disaster risk;
- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
- Investing in disaster reduction for resilience; and
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The Sendai Framework aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years. It was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in 2015. The Sendai Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. Figure 18 shows the Sendai DRR Framework.
**Chart of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**

**Scope and purpose**

The present framework will apply to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters, caused by natural or manmade hazards as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.

**Expected outcome**

The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

**Goal**

Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience.

**Targets**

- Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015.
- Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015.
- Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
- Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.
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- Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.

Figure 18: UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
Hyogo Framework for Action Country Progress Report

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was adopted as a guideline to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards. The HFA assists participating countries to become more resilient and to better manage the hazards that threaten their development. The levels of progress of the 2013-2015 results of the HFA for Malaysia are represented in Figure 19 and Table 6. Table 7 provides an overview of the overall challenges and the future outlook statement from the HFA report. The 2013-2015 is the most recent HFA report available for Malaysia.

### Priority for Action #1: Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Indicator*</th>
<th>Indicator Description</th>
<th>Level of Progress Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralized responsibilities and capacities at all levels.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Community Participation and decentralization is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Priority #2: Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Indicator*</th>
<th>Indicator Description</th>
<th>Level of Progress Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans-boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6: National Progress Report on the Implementation of the HFA for Malaysia
### Priority #3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Indicator*</th>
<th>Indicator Description</th>
<th>Level of Progress Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems, etc.).</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>School curricula, education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Priority #4: Reduce the underlying risk factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Indicator*</th>
<th>Indicator Description</th>
<th>Level of Progress Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Priority #5: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Indicator*</th>
<th>Indicator Description</th>
<th>Level of Progress Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programs.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table Notes:
*Level of Progress:
1 – Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy
2 – Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment
3 – Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial
4 – Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities
5 – Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Table 6: National Progress Report on the Implementation of the HFA for Malaysia (cont.)
**Future Outlook Area 1:** The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges:</th>
<th>DRR is yet the main priority within national, state and local concerns as well as the existing disaster mechanism approach, which emphasizes more on response and post-disaster relief and recovery. There are other issues that compete for human and financial resources necessary for the DRR initiatives.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Future Outlook Priorities:</td>
<td>A national policy for disaster management, once developed will enable greater integration of disaster risk consideration in relevant plans, policies and programs at all levels. The formulation process itself will be an opportunity for awareness-raising and capacity building for involved stakeholder. Currently, the National Policy on Climate Change will provide the opportunity to mainstream and integrate DRR through climate change adaptation responses as envisaged in the Policy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Future Outlook Area 2:** The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges:</th>
<th>The awareness and capacity of key agencies and other stakeholders needs to be strengthened to encompass the whole spectrum of disaster management.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Future Outlook Priorities:</td>
<td>A national platform on disaster management will be established during the Tenth Malaysia Plan to improve effectiveness in multi-stakeholder mobilization and drive more proactive and comprehensive multi-hazard approach in identifying, preventing, mitigating and preparing for the disaster risks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Future Outlook Area 3:** The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs in the reconstruction of affected communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges:</th>
<th>Scarcity of resources among local authorities for DRR programs needs to be addressed.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Future Outlook Priorities:</td>
<td>The National Security Council is in the process of reviewing the NSC Directive No.20: &quot;National Policy and Mechanism on Disaster Management and Relief&quot; to include DRR considerations and functions at the national, state and local levels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7: HFA Country Progress Report Future Outlook Areas, Malaysia
Country Profile

The information in the Country Profile section is sourced directly from the CIA World Factbook. Additional numbers on country comparison to the world can be found by going directly to the CIA website. Additional sources in this section cited in Endnotes.

Background:
This entry usually highlights major historic events and current issues and may include a statement about one or two key future trends. During the late 18th and 19th centuries, Great Britain established colonies and protectorates in the area of current Malaysia; these were occupied by Japan from 1942 to 1945. In 1948, the British-ruled territories on the Malay Peninsula except Singapore formed the Federation of Malaya, which became independent in 1957. Malaysia was formed in 1963 when the former British colonies of Singapore, as well as Sabah and Sarawak on the northern coast of Borneo, joined the Federation. The first several years of the country's independence were marred by a communist insurgency, Indonesian confrontation with Malaysia, Philippine claims to Sabah, and Singapore's withdrawal in 1965. During the 22-year term of Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad (1981-2003), Malaysia was successful in diversifying its economy from dependence on exports of raw materials to the development of manufacturing, services, and tourism. Prime Minister MAHATHIR and a newly-formed coalition of opposition parties defeated Prime Minister Mohamed Najib bin Abdul Razak in May 2018, ending over 60 years of uninterrupted rule by Najib's party.

Location:
Southeastern Asia, peninsula bordering Thailand and northern one-third of the island of Borneo, bordering Indonesia, Brunei, and the South China Sea, south of Vietnam

Geographic Coordinates:
2 30 N, 112 30 E

Map References:
Southeast Asia

Area:
Total: 329,847 sq km
Land: 328,657 sq km
Water: 1,190 sq km
Country comparison to the world: 68

Area - comparative:
Slightly larger than New Mexico

Land boundaries:
Total: 2,742 km
Border countries (3): Brunei 266 km, Indonesia 1881 km, Thailand 595 km

Coastline:
4,675 km (Peninsular Malaysia 2,068 km, East Malaysia 2,607 km)

Maritime claims:
Territorial sea: 12 nm
Exclusive economic zone: 200 nm
Continental shelf: 200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation; specified boundary in the South China Sea

Climate:
Tropical; annual southwest (April to October) and northeast (October to February) monsoons

Terrain:
Coastal plains rising to hills and mountains

Elevation:
Mean elevation: 419 m
Lowest point: Indian Ocean 0 m
Highest point: Gunung Kinabalu 4,095 m

Natural resources:
Tin, petroleum, timber, copper, iron ore, natural gas, bauxite
Land use:
Agricultural land: 23.2% (2011 est.)
Arable land: 2.9% (2011 est.) / permanent crops: 19.4% (2011 est.) / permanent pasture: 0.9% (2011 est.)
Forest: 62% (2011 est.)
Other: 14.8% (2011 est.)
Irrigated land: 3,800 sq km (2012)

Population distribution:
A highly uneven distribution with over 80% of the population residing on the Malay Peninsula

Natural hazards:
Flooding; landslides; forest fires

Environment - current issues:
air pollution from industrial and vehicular emissions; water pollution from raw sewage; deforestation; smoke/haze from Indonesian forest fires; endangered species; coastal reclamation damaging mangroves and turtle nesting sites

Environment - international agreements:
Signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Geography:
Geography - note:
Strategic location along Strait of Malacca and southern South China Sea

People and Society:
Population:
31,809,660 (July 2018 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 42

Nationality:
Noun: Malaysian(s)
Adjective: Malaysian

Ethnic groups:
Bumiputera 62% (Malays and indigenous peoples, including Orang Asli, Dayak, Anak Negeri), Chinese 20.6%, Indian 5.7%, other 0.8%, non-citizens 10.3% (2017 est.)

Languages:
Bahasa Malaysia (official), English, Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin, Hokkien, Hakka, Hainan, Foochow), Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Panjabi, Thai
Note: Malaysia has 134 living languages - 112 indigenous languages and 22 non-indigenous languages; in East Malaysia, there are several indigenous languages; the most widely spoken are Iban and Kadazan

Religions:
Muslim (official) 61.3%, Buddhist 19.8%, Christian 9.2%, Hindu 6.3%, Confucianism, Taoism, other traditional Chinese religions 1.3%, other 0.4%, none 0.8%, unspecified 1% (2010 est.)

Age structure:
0-14 years: 27.48% (male 4,498,796 /female 4,243,418)
15-24 years: 16.74% (male 2,704,318 /female 2,621,444)
25-54 years: 40.97% (male 6,587,529 /female 6,444,430)
55-64 years: 8.46% (male 1,364,858 /female 1,325,595)
65 years and over: 6.35% (male 957,841 /female 1,061,431) (2018 est.)
Dependency ratios:
Total dependency ratio: 44.6 (2015 est.)
Youth dependency ratio: 36.1 (2015 est.)
Elderly dependency ratio: 8.5 (2015 est.)
Potential support ratio: 11.8 (2015 est.)
Median age:
Total: 28.7 years
Male: 28.4 years
Female: 29 years (2018 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 130
Population growth rate:
1.34% (2018 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 82
Birth rate:
18.8 births/1,000 population (2018 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 87
Death rate:
5.2 deaths/1,000 population (2018 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 190
Net migration rate:
-0.3 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2018 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 117
Population distribution:
A highly uneven distribution with over 80% of the population residing on the Malay Peninsula
Urbanization:
Urban population: 76% of total population (2018)
Rate of urbanization: 2.13% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)
Major urban areas - population:
7.564 million Kuala Lumpur (capital), 983,000 Johor Bahru, 786,000 Ipoh (2018)
Sex ratio:
At birth: 1.07 male(s)/female
0-14 years: 1.06 male(s)/female
15-24 years: 1.03 male(s)/female
25-54 years: 1.02 male(s)/female
55-64 years: 1.03 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.9 male(s)/female
Total population: 1.03 male(s)/female (2018 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
40 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 105
Infant mortality rate:
Total: 12.1 deaths/1,000 live births
Male: 14 deaths/1,000 live births
Female: 10.1 deaths/1,000 live births (2018 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 112
Life expectancy at birth:
Total population: 75.4 years
Male: 72.6 years
Female: 78.4 years (2018 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 107
Total fertility rate:
2.48 children born/woman (2018 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 78
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
52.2% (2014)
**Health expenditures:**
4.2% of GDP (2014)
Country comparison to the world: 163

**Physicians density:**
1.53 physicians/1,000 population (2015)

**Hospital bed density:**
1.9 beds/1,000 population (2015)

**Drinking water source:**
Improved: urban: 100% of population
Rural: 93% of population
Total: 98.2% of population
Unimproved: urban: 0% of population
Rural: 7% of population
Total: 1.8% of population (2015 est.)

**Sanitation facility access:**
Improved: urban: 96.1% of population (2015 est.)
Rural: 95.9% of population (2015 est.)
Total: 96% of population (2015 est.)
Unimproved: urban: 3.9% of population (2015 est.)
Rural: 4.1% of population (2015 est.)
Total: 4% of population (2015 est.)

**HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:**
0.4% (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 75

**HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:**
87,000 (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 47

**HIV/AIDS - deaths:**
4,400 (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 33

**Major infectious diseases:**
Degree of risk: intermediate (2016)
Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea (2016)
Vectorborne diseases: dengue fever (2016)
Water contact diseases: leptospirosis (2016)

**Obesity - adult prevalence rate:**
15.6% (2016)
Country comparison to the world: 125

**Children under the age of 5 years underweight:**
13.7% (2016)
Country comparison to the world: 47

**Education expenditures:**
4.7% of GDP (2017)
Country comparison to the world: 80

**Literacy:**
Definition: age 15 and over can read and write (2015 est.)
Total population: 94.6%
Male: 96.2%
Female: 93.2% (2015 est.)

**School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):**
Total: 13 years
Male: 13 years
Female: 14 years (2017)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
Total: 10.5%
Male: 9.8%
Female: 11.4% (2016 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 123
Government:
Country name:
Conventional long form: none
Conventional short form: Malaysia
Local long form: none
Local short form: Malaysia
Former: Federation of Malaya
Etymology: the name means “Land of the Malays”
Government type:
Federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy
note: all Peninsular Malaysian states have hereditary rulers (commonly referred to as sultans) except Melaka (Malacca) and Pulau Pinang (Penang); those two states along with Sabah and Sarawak in East Malaysia have governors appointed by government; powers of state governments are limited by the federal constitution; under terms of federation, Sabah and Sarawak retain certain constitutional prerogatives (e.g., right to maintain their own immigration controls)
Capital:
Name: Kuala Lumpur; note - nearby Putrajaya is referred to as a federal government administrative center but not the capital; Parliament meets in Kuala Lumpur
Geographic coordinates:
3 10 N, 101 42 E
Time difference: UTC+8 (13 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)
Administrative divisions:
13 states (negeri-negeri, singular - negeri); Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Pulau Pinang, Sabah, Sarawak, Selangor, Terengganu; and 1 federal territory (Wilayah Persekutuan) with 3 components, Kuala Lumpur, Labuan, and Putrajaya
Independence:
31 August 1957 (from the UK)
National holiday:
Independence Day (or Merdeka Day), 31 August (1957) (independence of Malaya); Malaysia Day, 16 September (1963) (formation of Malaysia)
Constitution:
History: previous 1948; latest drafted 21 February 1957, effective 27 August 1957 amendments; proposed as a “bill” by Parliament; passage requires at least two-thirds majority vote by the Parliament membership in the bill’s second and third readings; a number of constitutional sections are excluded from amendment or repeal; amended many times, last in 2010 (2017)
Legal system:
Mixed legal system of English common law, Islamic law, and customary law; judicial review of legislative acts in the Federal Court at request of supreme head of the federation
International law organization participation:
Has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCt
Citizenship:
Citizenship by birth: no
Citizenship by descent only: at least one parent must be a citizen of Malaysia
Dual citizenship recognized: no
Residency requirement for naturalization: 10 out 12 years preceding application
Suffrage:
Executive branch:
Chief of state: King Sultan ABDULLAH Sultan Ahmad Shah (since 24 January 2019); note - King MUHAMMAD V (formerly known as Tuanku Muhammad Faris Petra) (selected on 14 October 2016; installed on 13 December 2016) resigned
on 6 January 2019; the position of the king is primarily ceremonial, but he is the final arbiter on the appointment of the prime minister

**Head of government:** Prime Minister MAHATHIR bin Mohamad (since 10 May 2018); Deputy Prime Minister WAN AZIZAH Wan Ismail (since 21 May 2018) The Deputy Prime Minister is also responsible for the country’s disaster management. 278

**Cabinet:** Cabinet appointed by the prime minister from among members of Parliament with the consent of the king Elections/appointments: king elected by and from the hereditary rulers of 9 states for a 5-year term; election is on a rotational basis among rulers of the 9 states; election last held on 24 January 2019 (next to be held in 2024); prime minister designated from among members of the House of Representatives; following legislative elections, the leader who commands support of the majority of members in the House becomes prime minister

**Legislative branch:**

**Description:** bicameral Parliament or Parlimen consists of:
Senate or Dewan Negara (70 seats; 44 members appointed by the king and 26 indirectly elected by 13 state legislatures; members serve 3-year terms)

House of Representatives or Dewan Rakyat (222 seats; members directly elected in single-seat constituencies by simple majority vote to serve 5-year terms)

**Elections:**

Senate - appointed
House of Representatives - last held on 9 May 2018 (next to be held no later than May 2023)

**Election results:**

Senate - appointed; composition - men 54, women 14, percent of women 20.6%

House of Representatives - percent of vote by party/coalition - PH 45.6%, BN 33.8%, PAS 16.9%, WARISAN 2.3%, other 1.4%; seats by party/coalition - PH 113, BN 79, PAS 18, WARISAN 8, STAR 1, independent 3; composition - men 199, women 23, percent of women 10.4%; note - total Parliament percent of women 12.8%

**Judicial branch:**

Highest courts: Federal Court (consists of the chief justice, president of the Court of Appeal, chief justice of the High Court of Malaya, chief judge of the High Court of Sabah and Sarawak, 8 judges, and 1 “additional” judge); note - Malaysia has a dual judicial hierarchy of civil and religious (sharia) courts

Judge selection and term of office: Federal Court justices appointed by the monarch on advice of the prime minister; judges serve until mandatory retirement at age 66 with the possibility of 6-month extensions

Subordinate courts: Court of Appeal; High Court; Sessions Court; Magistrates’ Court

**Political parties and leaders:**

National Front (Barisan Nasional) or BN: Malaysian Chinese Association (Persatuan China Malaysia) or MCA [Liow Tiong Lai]
Malaysian Indian Congress (Kongres India Malaysia) or MIC [S. Subramaniam]
United Malays National Organization or UMNO [Mohamad Hasan, acting]

Coalition of Hope (Pakatan Harapan) or PH (formerly the People’s Alliance):
Democratic Action Party (Parti Tindakan Demokratik) or DAP [Tan Kok Wai]
Malaysian United Indigenous Party (Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia) or PPBM [Mahathir bin Mohamad]
National Trust Party (Parti Amanah Negara) or AMANAH [Mohamad Sabu]
People’s Justice Party (Parti Keadilan Rakyat) or PKR [Anwar Ibrahim]

Other:
Homeland Solidarity Party or STAR [Jeffrey Katingan]
Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (Parti Islam se Malaysia) or PAS [Abdul Hadi Awang]
Progressive Democratic Party or PDP [Tiong King Sing]
Sabah Heritage Party (Parti Warisan Sabah) or WARISAN [Shafie Apdal]
Sarawak Parties Alliance (Gabungan Parti Sarawak) or GPS [Abang Johari Openg] (includes PBB, SUPP, PRS, PDP)
Sarawak People’s Party (Parti Rakyat Sarawak) or PRS [James Masing]
Sarawak United People’s Party (Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sarawak) or SUPP [Dr. Sim Kui Hian]
Islam; blue symbolizes the unity of the Malay people and yellow is the royal color of Malay rulers.

Note: the design is based on the flag of the US

National symbol(s):
Tiger, hibiscus; national colors: gold, black

National anthem:
Name: “Negaraku” (My Country)
Lyrics/music: collective, led by Tunku Abdul Rahman/Pierre Jean De Beranger
Note: adopted 1957; full version only performed in the presence of the king; the tune, which was adopted from a popular French melody titled “La Rosalie,” was originally the anthem of Perak, one of Malaysia’s 13 states.

Economy - overview:
Malaysia, an upper middle-income country, has transformed itself since the 1970s from a producer of raw materials into a multi-sector economy. Under previous Prime Minister NAJIB, Malaysia is attempting to achieve high-income status by 2020 and to move further up the value-added production chain by attracting investments in high technology, knowledge-based industries and services. The Economic Transformation Program is a series of projects and policy measures intended to accelerate the country’s economic growth. The government has also taken steps to liberalize some services sub-sectors. Malaysia is vulnerable to a fall in world commodity prices or a general slowdown in global economic activity.

The Government is continuing efforts to boost domestic demand and reduce the economy’s dependence on exports. Domestic demand continues to anchor economic growth, supported mainly by private consumption, which accounts for 57% of GDP in 2018. Nevertheless, exports - particularly of electronics, oil and gas, and palm oil - remain a significant driver of the economy. In 2015, gross exports of goods and services were equivalent to 73% of GDP. The oil and gas sector supplied about 22% of government revenue in 2015, down significantly from prior years amid a decline in commodity prices and diversification of government revenues. Malaysia has embarked on a fiscal reform program aimed at achieving a balanced budget by 2020, including rationalization of subsidies and the 2015 introduction of a 6% value added tax. Sustained...
low commodity prices throughout the period not only strained government finances, but also shrunk Malaysia’s current account surplus and weighed heavily on the Malaysian ringgit, which was among the region’s worst performing currencies during 2013-17. The ringgit hit new lows following the US presidential election amid a broader selloff of emerging market assets. Bank Negara Malaysia (the central bank) maintains adequate foreign exchange reserves; a well-developed regulatory regime has limited Malaysia’s exposure to riskier financial instruments, although it remains vulnerable to volatile global capital flows. In order to increase Malaysia’s competitiveness, Prime Minister NAJIB raised possible revisions to the special economic and social preferences accorded to ethnic Malays under the New Economic Policy of 1970, but retreated in 2013 after he encountered significant opposition from Malay nationalists and other vested interests. In September 2013 NAJIB launched the new Bumiputra Economic Empowerment Program, policies that favor and advance the economic condition of ethnic Malays.

Malaysia signed the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement in February 2016, although the future of the TPP remains unclear following the US withdrawal from the agreement. Along with nine other ASEAN members, Malaysia established the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, which aims to advance regional economic integration.

GDP (purchasing power parity): 280
$999.4 billion (2018)
$933.3 billion (2017)
$864.9 billion (2016)
Country comparison to the world: 26

GDP (official exchange rate): 281
$358.6 billion (2018 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:
4.3-4.8% (2019 est.)
4.7% (2018)
5.7% (2017 est.)
4.4% (2016 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 37

GDP - per capita (PPP): 282
$31,698 (2018)
$30,004 (2017)
$28,186 (2016)
Country comparison to the world: 71

Gross national saving: 283
25.1% of GDP (2019 est.)
25.7% of GDP (2018)
28.4% of GDP (2017)
28.4% of GDP (2016)
Country comparison to the world: 38

GDP - composition, by end use: 284
Household consumption: 56.5% (2019 est.)
Government consumption: 12.4% (2019 est.)
Investment in fixed capital: 23.8% (2019 est.)
Investment in inventories: 0.7% (2019 est.)
Exports of goods and services: 67.4% (2019 est.)
Imports of goods and services: 59.4% (2019 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin: 285
Agriculture: 7.6% (2019 est.)
Manufacturing 23.1% (2019 est.)
Services: 56.1% (2019 est.)
Agriculture - products:
Peninsular Malaysia - palm oil, rubber, cocoa, rice; Sabah - palm oil, subsistence crops; rubber, timber; Sarawak - palm oil, rubber, timber; pepper

Industries:
Peninsular Malaysia - rubber and oil palm processing and manufacturing, petroleum and natural gas, light manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, medical technology, electronics and semiconductors, timber processing; Sabah - logging, petroleum and natural gas production; Sarawak - agriculture processing, petroleum and natural gas production, logging

Industrial production growth rate:
5% (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 55

Labor force:
14.94 million (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 39

Labor force - by occupation:
Agriculture: 11%
Industry: 36%
Services: 53% (2012 est.)

Unemployment rate:
3.4% (2017 est.)
3.5% (2016 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 41

Population below poverty line:
3.8% (2009 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:
Lowest 10%: 1.8%
Highest 10%: 34.7% (2009 est.)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:
46.2 (2009)
49.2 (1997)
Country comparison to the world: 32

Budget:
Revenues: 51.25 billion (2017 est.)
Expenditures: 60.63 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:
16.4% (of GDP) (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 180

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-3% (of GDP) (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 133

Public debt:
50.1% of GDP (2017)
51.9% of GDP (2016)

note: this figure is based on the amount of federal government debt, MYR501.6 billion ($167.2 billion) in 2012; this includes Malaysian Treasury bills and other government securities, as well as loans raised externally and bonds and notes issued overseas; this figure excludes debt issued by non-financial public enterprises and guaranteed by the federal government, which was an additional $47.7 billion in 2012

Country comparison to the world: 86

Fiscal year:
Calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):
1.0% (2018)
3.7% (2017)
2.1% (2016)

Note: approximately 30% of goods are price-controlled
Country comparison to the world: 151
**Central bank discount rate:**
3% (31 December 2011)
2.83% (31 December 2010)
Country comparison to the world: 111

**Commercial bank prime lending rate:**
4.61% (31 December 2017 est.)
4.52% (31 December 2016 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 155

**Stock of narrow money:**
$107.5 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$84.9 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 37

**Stock of broad money:**
$107.5 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$84.9 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 37

**Stock of domestic credit:**
$482.7 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$398.3 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 26

**Market value of publicly traded shares:**
$383 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$459 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$500.4 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 27

**Current account balance:**
$6.811 billion (2019 est.)
$7.580 billion (2018)
Country comparison to the world: 24

**Exports:**
$251.1 billion (2019 est.)
$247.4 billion (2018)
Country comparison to the world: 28

**Exports - partners:**
Singapore 13.9%, China 13.9%, U.S. 9.1%, Hong Kong 7.5%, Japan 6.9%, Thailand 5.7% (2019)

**Exports - commodities:**
Electrical and electronic products, petroleum products, chemicals and chemical products, palm oil and palm oil based agriculture products, LNG, manufactures of metal, machinery, equipment and parts, optical and scientific equipment, and crude petroleum.

**Imports:**
$223.1 billion (2019 est)
$217.5 billion (2018)
Country comparison to the world: 27

**Imports - commodities:**
Electrical and electric products, chemicals and chemical products, petroleum products, machinery, equipment and arts, transport equipment, manufactures of metal, iron and steel products, other agriculture, crude petroleum, and optical and scientific equipment.

**Imports - partners:**
China 20.4%, Singapore 10.3%, US 8.0%, Japan 7.2%, Taiwan 6.9%, Thailand 5.5%, Indonesia 4.5% (2018)

**Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:**
$102.7 billion (28 June 2019)
$101.4 billion (31 Dec 2018)
$102.4 billion (31 Dec 2017)
Country comparison to the world: 25

**Debt - external:**
$217.2 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$195.3 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 33
Electricity - exports:
3 million kWh (2015 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 93

Electricity - imports:
33 million kWh (2016 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 109

Electricity - installed generating capacity:
33 million kW (2016 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 31

Electricity - from fossil fuels:
78% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 90

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:
0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 136

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:
18% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 95

Electricity - from other renewable sources:
4% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 113

Crude oil - production:
647,900 bbl/day (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 26

Crude oil - exports:
271,414 bbl/day (Jan-May 2019)
343,733 bbl/day (2018)
Country comparison to the world: 24
Natural gas - imports: n/a
Country comparison to the world: 45

Natural gas - proved reserves:
1.183 trillion cu m (1 January 2018 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 23

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:
226.8 million Mt (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 31

Communications:

Telephones - fixed lines:
Total subscriptions: 6,578,200 (2017 est.)
Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 21 (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 25

Telephones - mobile cellular:
Total subscriptions: 42,338,500 (2017 est.)
Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 135 (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 34

Telephone system:

General assessment: modern system featuring good intercity services mainly by microwave radio relay and an adequate intercity microwave radio relay network between Sabah and Sarawak via Brunei; international service excellent; one of the most advanced telecom networks; roll-out of a national broadband network

Domestic: fixed-line 21 per 100 and mobile-cellular teledensity exceeds 135 per 100 persons; domestic satellite system with 2 earth stations

International:
Country code - 60; landing point for several major international submarine cable networks that provide connectivity to Asia, Middle East, and Europe; satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (1 Indian Ocean, 1 Pacific Ocean)
**Broadcast media:**
State-owned TV broadcaster operates 2 TV networks with relays throughout the country, and the leading private commercial media group operates 4 TV stations with numerous relays throughout the country; satellite TV subscription service is available; state-owned radio broadcaster operates multiple national networks, as well as regional and local stations; many private commercial radio broadcasters and some subscription satellite radio services are available; about 55 radio stations overall (2012)

**Internet country code:**
.my

**Internet users:**
Total: 24,384,952 (July 2016 est.)
Percent of population: 78.8% (July 2016 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 29

**Broadband - fixed subscriptions:**
Total: 2,687,800 (2017 est.)
Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 9 (2017 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 42

**Transportation:**

**National air transport system:**
Number of registered air carriers: 12 (2015)
Inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers: 263 (2015)

Annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers: 50,347,149 (2015)
Annual freight traffic on registered air carriers: 2,005,979,379 mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix: 9M (2016)

**Airports:**
114 (2013)
Country comparison to the world: 51

**Airports - with paved runways:**
Total: 39 (2017)
Over 3,047 m: 8 (2017)
2,438 to 3,047 m: 8 (2017)
1,524 to 2,437 m: 7 (2017)
914 to 1,523 m: 8 (2017)
Under 914 m: 8 (2017)

**Airports - with unpaved runways:**
Total: 75 (2013)
914 to 1,523 m: 6 (2013)
Under 914 m: 69 (2013)

**Heliports:**
4 (2013)

**Pipelines:**
354 km condensate, 6439 km gas, 155 km liquid petroleum gas, 1937 km oil, 43 km oil/gas/water, 114 km refined products, 26 km water (2013)

**Railways:**
Total: 1,851 km (2014)
Standard gauge: 59 km 1.435-m gauge (59 km electrified) (2014)
Narrow gauge: 1,792 km 1.000-m gauge (339 km electrified) (2014)
Country comparison to the world: 77

**Roadways:**
Total: 144,403 km (excludes local roads) (2010)
Paved: 116,169 km (includes 1,821 km of expressways) (2010)
Unpaved: 28,234 km (2010)
Country comparison to the world: 30

**Waterways:**
7,200 km (Peninsular Malaysia 3,200 km; Sabah
Maritime threats:
The International Maritime Bureau reports that the territorial and offshore waters in the Strait of Malacca and South China Sea remain high risk for piracy and armed robbery against ships; in the past, commercial vessels have been attacked and hijacked both at anchor and while underway; hijacked vessels are often disguised and cargo diverted to ports in East Asia; crews have been murdered or cast adrift; seven attacks were reported in 2017 including four ships boarded, two hijacked, and 32 crew taken hostage.

Terrorism:

Terrorist groups - foreign based:

Jemaah Islamiyah (JI):
Aim(s): enhance networks in Malaysia and, ultimately, overthrow the secular Malaysian Government and establish a pan-Islamic state across Southeast Asia.

Area(s) of operation: maintains a recruitment and operational presence, primarily in major cities (April 2018).

Transnational Issues:

Disputes - international:
While the 2002 “Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea” has eased tensions over the Spratly Islands, it is not the legally binding “code of conduct” sought by some parties; Malaysia was not party to the March 2005 joint accord among the national oil companies of China, the Philippines, and Vietnam on conducting marine seismic activities in the Spratly Islands; disputes continue over deliveries of fresh water to Singapore, Singapore’s land reclamation, bridge construction, and maritime boundaries in the Johor and Singapore Straits; in 2008, ICJ awarded sovereignty of Pedra Branca (Pulau Batu Puteh/Horsburgh Island) to Singapore, and Middle Rocks to Malaysia, but did not rule on maritime regimes, boundaries, or disposition of South Ledge; land and maritime negotiations with Indonesia are ongoing, and disputed areas include the controversial Tanjung Datu and Camar Wulan border area in Borneo and the maritime boundary in the Ambalat oil block in the Celebes Sea; separatist violence.
in Thailand’s predominantly Muslim southern provinces prompts measures to close and monitor border with Malaysia to stem terrorist activities; Philippines retains a dormant claim to Malaysia’s Sabah State in northern Borneo; per Letters of Exchange signed in 2009, Malaysia in 2010 ceded two hydrocarbon concession blocks to Brunei in exchange for Brunei’s sultan dropping claims to the Limbang corridor, which divides Brunei; piracy remains a problem in the Malacca Strait

**Refugees and internally displaced persons:**
Refugees (country of origin): 98,041 (Burma) (2017)

**Stateless persons:**
10,068 (2017); note - Malaysia’s stateless population consists of Rohingya refugees from Burma, ethnic Indians, and the children of Filipino and Indonesian illegal migrants; Burma stripped the Rohingya of their nationality in 1982; Filipino and Indonesian children who have not been registered for birth certificates by their parents or who received birth certificates stamped “foreigner” are vulnerable to statelessness should they not be able to apply to their parents’ country of origin for passports

**Illicit drugs:**
Drug trafficking prosecuted vigorously, including enforcement of the death penalty; heroin still primary drug of abuse, but synthetic drug demand remains strong; continued ecstasy and methamphetamine producer for domestic users and, to a lesser extent, the regional drug market.
### Acronyms and Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AADMER</td>
<td>ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACTIP</td>
<td>ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHA Centre</td>
<td>ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
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<td>ASSI</td>
<td>ASEAN Safe School Initiative</td>
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<td>CAAM</td>
<td>Civil Aviation Authority Malaysia</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFE-DM</td>
<td>The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management &amp; Humanitarian Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIA</td>
<td>Central Intelligence Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRED</td>
<td>The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters</td>
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<tr>
<td>CREST</td>
<td>Collaborative Research in Engineering, Science and Technology (Malaysian research institute)</td>
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<td>DMRC</td>
<td>Disaster Management Relief Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>DDOCC</td>
<td>District Disaster Operation Control Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>DID</td>
<td>Department of Irrigation and Drainage</td>
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<tr>
<td>DM</td>
<td>Disaster Management</td>
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<td>DMHA</td>
<td>Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance</td>
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<td>DoD</td>
<td>Department of Defense</td>
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<td>DOE</td>
<td>Department of Environment</td>
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<td>DOS</td>
<td>U.S. Department of State</td>
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<td>EEZ</td>
<td>Exclusive Economic Zone</td>
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<td>FNDRT</td>
<td>Fund of National Disaster Relief Trust</td>
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<td>FDMRC</td>
<td>Federal Disaster Management and Relief Committee</td>
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<td>GHSA</td>
<td>Global Health Security Agenda</td>
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<td>IFRC</td>
<td>International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society</td>
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<td>INSARAG</td>
<td>International Search and Rescue Advisory Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCDF</td>
<td>Malaysia Civil Defence Force</td>
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<td>MCP</td>
<td>Malayan Communist Party</td>
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<td>MMEA</td>
<td>Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency</td>
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<td>MMZ</td>
<td>Malaysia Maritime Zone</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>MRC</td>
<td>Malaysian Red Crescent</td>
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<td>MSRR</td>
<td>Malaysia Maritime Search and Rescue Region</td>
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<td>MyNDS</td>
<td>Malaysian National Development Strategy</td>
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<td>NADMA</td>
<td>Malaysia’s National Disaster Management Agency</td>
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<td>NAP</td>
<td>National Action Plan (to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325)</td>
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<td>NCD</td>
<td>Non-communicable disease</td>
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<td>NDMRMC</td>
<td>Natural Disaster Management and Relief Committee</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organizations</td>
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<td>Acronym</td>
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<td>NSC</td>
<td>National Security Council</td>
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<td>RTU</td>
<td>Remote Telemetry Unit</td>
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<td>SAR</td>
<td>Search and Rescue</td>
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<tr>
<td>SASOP</td>
<td>ASEAN Standard Operating Procedures for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCR</td>
<td>Security Council Resolution, United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDOCC</td>
<td>State Disaster Operation Control Center</td>
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<td>SMART</td>
<td>Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team</td>
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<td>SME</td>
<td>Subject Matter Experts</td>
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<td>SOP</td>
<td>Standard Operating Procedure</td>
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<td>SSN</td>
<td>Social safety net</td>
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<td>TB</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
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<td>U.S.</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<td>UMNO</td>
<td>United Malays’ National Organisation</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNCT</td>
<td>United Nations Country Team</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<td>UNHRD</td>
<td>United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>UNU</td>
<td>United Nations University</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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