



Community & Health



The number of
organisations supported
(FY2021):

20

The number of
ongoing projects
(FY2021):

22

The amount committed
since 2009:

RM188.9 Mil

YSD supports community-based programmes and sustainable initiatives intended to improve the wellbeing of disadvantaged people and reduce socio-economic disparities. YSD assists initiatives that promote national policy changes to protect the basic rights and improve the quality of life of disadvantaged and marginalised communities. YSD also encourages research and advocacy efforts towards improving community health.

Relevant SDGs:



Community & Health Pillar

Fulfilling Flood Relief Missions: Through the Lens of MERCY Malaysia Volunteers

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It is our duty to provide flood victims suffering from physical and psychosocial impacts with not only emergency medical responses, but also rehabilitation and recovery, mitigation and prevention, as well as disaster preparedness knowledge.

Sockalingam A/L Thanimalay
MERCY Malaysia Volunteer

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I believe both working as a nurse and as a medical volunteer pose occupational hazards. At work, the patients would be screened before I attended to them, but as a MERCY Malaysia volunteer, I had to treat patients who would have pre-existing health conditions that I was not aware of. But it's all in a day's work, and there are no compromises when it comes to abiding by the standard operating procedures (SOPs).

Nordiyana Yusoff
MERCY Malaysia Volunteer

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In an interview with YSD, Sockalingam and Diyana share their journey working as MERCY Malaysia volunteers.

YSD allocates RM2 million annually for its Disaster Relief Fund, as part of its commitment to improve the lives of the disadvantaged and marginalised, as well as to reduce socio-economic disparities. YSD had more than tripled this allocation in the 2020/2021 financial year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and devastating floods. YSD's most recent flood relief missions in Johor and Pahang deployed 6,000 hygiene kits, two sets of cleaning kits, and three sets of primary healthcare kits, as well as medical and non-medical volunteers, with a cumulative sponsorship of RM753,500.

In early January 2021, YSD received an urgent call from MERCY Malaysia seeking support in deploying hygiene, cleaning, and primary healthcare kits and mobilising medical and non-medical volunteers for the flood relief missions in several Malaysian states. To help relief efforts, 300 volunteers from MERCY Malaysia State Chapters in Terengganu, Johor, Sabah, and Sarawak were mobilised. Two medical volunteers who participated in the flood relief mission in Johor shared with YSD about their experiences.



On 12th January 2021, 65 sets of hygiene kits were distributed by MERCY Malaysia to flood victims in Kuala Krai, Kelantan



On 16th January 2021, MERCY Malaysia distributed 246 hygiene kit sets to flood victims in Pekan Pahang

Key Highlights:

- In the 2020/21 financial year, YSD had approved a total of 9 initiatives to support MERCY Malaysia's operation with a total committed amount of RM912,722
- YSD's assistance benefitted more than 6,000 flood victims and 352 MERCY Malaysia staff and volunteers
- From July 2020 to June 2021, YSD sponsored up to 7 units of vehicles to mobilise a total of 352 staff and volunteers across Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah
- Meanwhile, in Johor, Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu, the flood victims received flood assistance such as hygiene kits, instant food packs, cleaning kits and primary healthcare kits

More on the Story:



Relevant SDGs:



Community & Health Pillar

Supporting Sabah's Battle Against COVID-19

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As a senior, I am taking charge of the clinical works, overseeing the juniors as well as all 38 Family Medicine Specialists in Sabah. My line of work gives me the advantage of seeing many patients and, of course, various spectrums of diseases. I get to meet communities on the ground, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds. Throughout the pandemic, these communities struggle with socio-economic challenges; while for some who are undocumented but have been living here their whole lives, accessing public healthcare which had already been stretched thin, becomes an even more daunting experience.

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Dr. Zaiton Yahaya

Family Medicine Specialist and founder of Sabah AIDS Awareness Group Association (SAGA)

In an interview with Dr Zaiton Yahaya, she shed some light on the noble work by healthcare frontliners for communities in Sandakan, Sabah, in the fight against COVID-19. Additionally, she discusses her work with Sabah AIDS Awareness Group Association (SAGA) and adapting to the new normal.

In YSD's collaboration with SAGA, food and hygiene items were distributed to 379 people living with HIV and underprivileged families in Sandakan.

Separately, aid and assistance have been distributed throughout other parts of Sabah, including food assistance and provision of hygiene items, medical and non-medical equipment to healthcare facilities, transportation assistance to mobilise volunteers and distribute aid, as well as personal protective equipment for frontliners and volunteers among others.



Dr Zaiton Yahaya (fourth from the left) received the prestigious Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Award during the Malaysian AIDS Foundation-Berjaya Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Award Gala Dinner 2019



Dr Zaiton and SAGA volunteers in a group photo while distributing food items and hygiene kits to underprivileged families and people living with HIV households in Sandakan

Key Highlights:

- YSD had committed RM1.37 million between March 2020 and August 2021 in providing COVID-19 related assistance to medical frontliners and needy communities in Sabah
- YSD provided 13 vehicles to MERCY Malaysia to execute 520 missions to deploy 172 medical and non-medical equipment, logistics support for distribution of aid, and movement of volunteers
- To support the operational expenses of the Borneo Sun Bears Conservation Centre (BSBCC) in Sandakan, Sabah, YSD contributed RM600,000 to ensure the continuity of the centre during this challenging period due to the COVID-19 pandemic between January and December 2021. YSD had also previously supplied bear food for 43 Borneo Sun Bears at the Bornean Sun Bears Conservation Centre at the start of the pandemic



Klinik Kesihatan Sandakan receiving PPE items donated by YSD

More on the Story:



Relevant SDGs:



Community & Health Pillar

Eliminating Gender-Based Violence and Improving Gender Equality with the Women's Aid Organisation

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We must be agile and strategic in building networks, so we have the best chance at success. We have achieved several successes with our partners in recent years, like amending the Domestic Violence Act, introducing shared government SOPs to respond to domestic violence, creating a National Committee on Domestic Violence, and securing specific public funding for domestic violence centres among others.

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Yu Ren Chung
Deputy Executive Director &
Advocacy Director at WAO



WAO and government agencies at the Jawatankuasa Menangani Kekerasan Rumah Tangga Meeting, June 2020

In an interview with YSD, Yu Ren Chung, the Deputy Executive Director & Advocacy Director at the Women's Aid Organisation (WAO) shares how the WAO is working to eliminate gender-based violence and their consistent efforts in helping survivors during the tumultuous pandemic.

YSD has committed RM6.3 million between January 2010 and December 2022 to WAO. This strategic partnership aims to support WAO in their efforts to carry on advocacy work and disseminate the improved laws and policies that address gender equality, rights of women, and violence against women to communities throughout Malaysia.

Throughout the partnership of over 10 years, YSD has supplemented the operational costs of WAO's Refuge Centre for battered women and their children, the establishment of domestic violence shelters in Kelantan, Sarawak, Selangor, Kedah, and Perak, and supported personnel costs for WAO advocacy officers specialising in case management, public policy, law reforms and capacity development.

Key Highlights:

- WAO conducted and released the findings from the "Voices of Malaysian Women on Discrimination & Harassment in the Workplace" survey involving 1,010 Malaysian women, collaborating with research agency Vase.ai
 - The respective survey supported the passing of amendments to the Employment Act 1955, including introducing at least 7 days of paid paternity leave in the private sector
 - As a result of WAO's engagement with the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, the Government's Budget 2021 has included a RM21 million allocation for domestic violence centres
- Some of the key findings include:
- 56% have experienced at least one form of gender discrimination in the workplace
 - 55% said their child's father was given either less than one week of paternity leave or no paternity leave at all
 - 1 in every 5 women was questioned on their ability to perform specific tasks



A WAO Shelter Officer with women in a WAO Refuge Centre

More on the Story:

