



MIGRATION OVERVIEW

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is a Related Agency of the United Nations and the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. It is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

IOM Malaysia's areas of work include refugee resettlement; migration health; cultural orientation; assisted voluntary return of victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants; immigration and border management; labour migration and human development; and migration law, policy and public information.

The office works closely with the Government of Malaysia, United Nations Country Team, NGOs, the private sector and other partners to meet the objectives outlined in the Global Compact for Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs.)

Malaysia is a major destination for migrants from Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and African countries due to its strategic location and developed economy.

Between 2010 and 2017, the number of documented foreign workers in Malaysia increased from 1.7 million to 2.2 million. Most came from Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Myanmar. At the end of 2018 it also hosted an estimated 2-4 million undocumented migrant workers.

In December 2018 there were also 164,000 refugees and asylum seekers registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Malaysia. These included 142,000 from Myanmar and 22,000 are from other countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria and Yemen.

Malaysia's reputation as a country of economic opportunity and a safe haven for people fleeing violence and persecution at home has also led it to be seen as a destination and transit country for the trafficking and smuggling of migrants. Many of these migrants are subsequently left stranded and vulnerable to exploitation.

Key Figures

as of 01 January 2019



Resettled **98,000** refugees since 2005



Health Assessments for **120,000** departing refugees



Pre-departure Cultural Orientation for **3,000** migrants



Counter Trafficking and Border Management Capacity Building for **4,000** Government and NGO personnel



Global Compact
FOR Migration

Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

For the Benefit of All

Refugee Resettlement

IOM Malaysia works with UNHCR to process refugees for third country resettlement. IOM organizes travel, interviews refugees, coordinates with partners and handles departure formalities for refugee cases travelling to resettlement countries including the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Denmark, Sweden, Japan, Republic of Korea and elsewhere in the European Union. By December 2018, IOM Malaysia had facilitated 97,750 refugee departures from Malaysia.

Migration Health

IOM Malaysia conducts health assessments for all refugees accepted for resettlement to United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, and Republic of Korea. IOM physicians perform physical examinations to assess the health status of each refugee and to identify medical conditions that may require treatment prior to their departure and/or follow-ups and special care after their resettlement. Health assessments are done to ensure that all refugees are fit to travel, and any special needs are identified. By December 2018, IOM Malaysia had conducted 110,693 health assessments and treated over 800 refugees for tuberculosis.

Cultural Orientation

Since 2003, IOM and the governments of Australia, South Korea, and Japan have worked in partnership to deliver pre-departure training for refugees accepted for resettlement and humanitarian visa entrants. The orientation provides participants with practical information on the departure and settlement processes, and an opportunity to ask questions about travel and life in their new country. By December 2018, IOM Malaysia had trained over 3,000 people prior to their resettlement.

Counter – Trafficking

IOM Malaysia organizes activities that support the Government of Malaysia's efforts in combatting trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. IOM has conducted capacity building trainings for government officers on victim identification; victim protection and investigation techniques; providing material support to shelters, facilitating psychosocial counselling; and conducting awareness sessions on various topics such as victims' rights & judicial processes, communicable diseases, and mental health issues. By December 2018, IOM Malaysia had provided psychosocial support to over 200 victims of trafficking and conducted capacity building trainings for over 1,900 government officials and NGO staff.

Immigration & Border Management

IOM Malaysia partners with the Government of Malaysia on capacity building initiatives in areas of document security, fraud recognition, impostor detection, and investigative interviewing to counter trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and to curb transnational organized crime. As of December 2018, IOM Malaysia had trained more than 1,500 enforcement officials, mostly from the Immigration Department of Malaysia, the Royal Malaysia Police, the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency, the Labour Department and Royal Malaysian Customs.



Voluntary Return

IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return program assists victims of trafficking and exploitation, stranded migrants and other vulnerable groups who want to return home, but lack the means to do so. It provides access to humanitarian and direct assistance including identification, screening, psychosocial first-aid, and coordination of travel documentation. With the support of the Government of Malaysia, diplomatic missions and NGOs, IOM Malaysia provided direct assistance to 701 vulnerable migrants as of December 2018.

Private Sector Engagement

Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking (CREST) is a regional IOM partnership initiative that aims to realize the potential of businesses to uphold the human and labour rights of migrant workers in their operations and supply chains. IOM works with all actors in labour supply chains to enhance transparency and address risks of exploitation and modern slavery.

