



## FIGURES AT A GLANCE



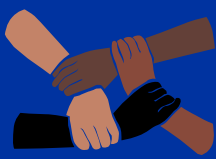
Resettled 117,020 refugees  
since 2005



Health Assessments for  
139,618 refugees



Pre-departure Cultural Orientation  
for 8,061 refugees



Counter Trafficking and Border  
Governance Capacity Building for  
over 4,000 officials



1,663 Assisted Return travel  
support provided to vulnerable  
migrants since 2007



 IOM Malaysia

## MIGRATION OVERVIEW

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is a Related Agency of the United Nations and the leading intergovernmental organisation 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.

IOM Malaysia 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 (GCM) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Malaysia is a major destination for migrants from Southeast Asia, South Asia, as well as some from the Middle East and African countries due to its strategic location, developed economy, and workforce needs. According to the Malaysian Department of Statistics, there were 3 million migrants living in Malaysia by the end of July 2023, which made up 8.9% of the country's population of 33.4 million. Migrants in Malaysia mostly originate from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, and other Asian countries in smaller numbers including India, Cambodia, and Lao PDR.

As of end of November 2023, there were also 185,000 refugees and asylum seekers registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Malaysia. 88% of the refugees and asylum seekers are from Myanmar, while the others are from other countries including Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria and Yemen, among others.

## THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

IOM Malaysia joined the UN Country Team (UNCT) in supporting the Government of Malaysia in its COVID-19 response through the Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP), which details the UN collective offer and commitment to rebuild better.

At the height of the pandemic, IOM assisted the Government in distributing hygiene and health kits to beneficiaries and engaged with media to address discrimination and xenophobia towards migrants and refugees. IOM is committed to the principle of safe, regular and dignified migration for the benefit of all, and continues to work with the Government of Malaysia to ensure no one is left behind.



IOM staff support the Government of Malaysia to provide assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic

# SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

## MIGRANT PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

IOM Malaysia provides direct assistance and support to migrants in need and advocates for strong national protection and referral mechanisms to ensure no one is left behind. IOM also works with partners to address stigma and xenophobia against migrants and refugees, which has risen since the COVID-19 pandemic. IOM is committed to strengthen advocacy and protection for vulnerable communities and increasing awareness on misinformation while promoting inclusion and tolerance.

<https://www.iom.int/migrant-protection-and-assistance>



IOM Malaysia provides health and hygiene items to vulnerable migrants and refugees

## IMMIGRATION AND BORDER GOVERNANCE (IBG)

The IOM Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) programmes aim at improving the policy, legislation, operational systems, human resources and administrative and technical structures required to respond more effectively to diverse migration and border governance challenges.

In Malaysia, IOM supports the Government through targeted capacity building initiatives in the areas of document security, fraud recognition, impostor detection, and investigative interviewing with the aim of supporting the fight against migrant smuggling, human trafficking, and organised crime.

<https://www.iom.int/integrated-border-management>



## LABOUR MOBILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

IOM's migration and development programmes in Malaysia aim at leveraging migration for sustainable development, most notably through national and regional partnerships with the private sector, migrants and Governments to promote ethical recruitment standards and combat forced labour. IOM helps businesses to uphold the human and labour rights of migrant workers in their operations and supply chains, builds the capacity of recruitment agencies to abide by international standards, and raises awareness on migrant workers' rights and grievance mechanisms.

IOM Malaysia promotes the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS), IOM's global flagship initiative to promote ethical international recruitment, enhance transparency, and address the risks of exploitation and modern slavery, particularly in the palm oil, electronics, furniture, and food manufacturing sectors.

<https://www.iom.int/labour-mobility-and-human-development>



Around 80 per cent of Malaysia palm oil workers are migrants, mainly from Indonesia, Nepal and Bangladesh



## ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN

The IOM Assisted Voluntary Return programme supports victims of trafficking and exploitation, stranded migrants and other vulnerable individuals who want to return home, but lack the means to do so.

IOM provides access to humanitarian and direct assistance including identification, screening, psychosocial first-aid, and coordination of travel documentation.

<https://www.iom.int/assisted-voluntary-return-and-reintegration>





## CULTURAL ORIENTATION

IOM and the Governments of Australia, Republic of Korea, Japan, Canada, and United Kingdom work in partnership to deliver pre-departure trainings for refugees accepted for resettlement and humanitarian visa entrants. The cultural orientation provides participants with practical information on the processes, departure formalities, travel requirements as well as life in the new country. While the training is traditionally delivered in person, during the COVID-19 pandemic the IOM Team adapted to delivering Cultural Orientation Sessions online.

<https://www.iom.int/migrant-training-and-integration>



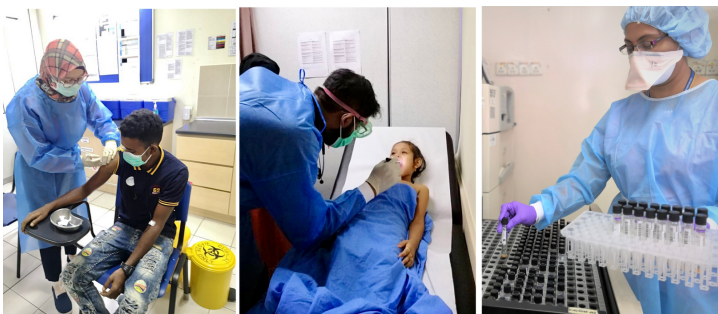
IOM cultural orientation training conducted physically and online



## MIGRATION HEALTH

IOM Malaysia conducts health assessments, including providing vaccinations for all refugees accepted for resettlement. IOM physicians perform medical examinations to assess the health status of the beneficiaries, identify medical conditions that may require treatment prior to their departure and follow-ups after resettlement. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the IOM medical team supported the government in the COVID-19 response.

<https://www.iom.int/migration-health>



IOM Malaysia medical staff administer vaccines and conduct health checkups



## COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

IOM Malaysia supports the Government of Malaysia's efforts in combatting trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. Supporting the Government of Malaysia to implement its National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), IOM has conducted capacity building training for government officials on victim identification; victim protection and investigation techniques; provided material support to shelters; facilitated psychosocial counseling; and conducted awareness raising sessions on victims' rights and judicial processes, communicable diseases, and mental health issues.

<https://www.iom.int/counter-trafficking>



## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

IOM Malaysia works with UNHCR and receiving countries to transfer refugees for third country resettlement. Resettlement, as a durable solution, is accessible to less than one per cent of the refugee population. IOM organises travels, interviews refugees, coordinates with partners and handles departure formalities for refugees travelling to resettlement countries including the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Denmark, Sweden, Japan, Republic of Korea and Europe.

<https://www.iom.int/resettlement-assistance>



IOM staff inform beneficiaries on COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

