



### From the Office of the Chief of Mission:

IOM Malaysia is very pleased to begin quarterly mission highlights to key partners. IOM welcomes dialogues, exchange of information and partnerships on migration topics. Please reach out to the mission to discuss ways of collaboration, and thank you to all our partners for the existing strong collaboration. Well managed migration takes a whole of society approach, and we are grateful for all the collaboration and strong work of stakeholders across Malaysia.

(Kendra Rinas, IOM Malaysia Chief of Mission)

### Direct Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic has reaffirmed how important the contributions of migrants are to communities and economies around the globe. The pandemic has also shown and exacerbated the challenges that migrants and other vulnerable populations face in their daily lives, particularly with regards to their access to services - including health and vaccination, and the uncertainty of the labour market. IOM partners with civil society organisations and community leaders to provide assistance to vulnerable migrants and refugees, including distribution of food, hygiene kits, and cash for rent. In the first quarter of 2022, over 900 people were assisted through funding provided by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).



An IOM Malaysia staff delivered COVID-19 health and hygiene kits to the Rohingya community in Klang, Selangor.  
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A representative of a CSO that IOM Malaysia collaborated with delivered food aid to the migrant community in Sandakan, Sabah.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Outreach

Starting in 2021, with the national vaccination programme quickly advancing, IOM engaged civil society organisations (CSOs) to conduct outreach activities with vulnerable communities to raise awareness of the vaccine and address hesitancy so that even the most vulnerable did not get left behind from equitable access to vaccines. Videos, posters, banners, field visits, and social media posts in several migrant workers languages reached over 450,000 people across peninsular Malaysia and Sabah.



An IOM Malaysia staff explained to CSO representatives on the effective ways to address vaccine hesitancy among vulnerable groups.

### Highlight on Research Publications

In the first quarter of 2022, IOM Malaysia published [The Implications of COVID-19 on Health and Protection Risks Among Rohingya Refugees and Other Migrant Communities in Malaysia](#), capturing the voices and experiences of over 400 refugees in Malaysia, mostly being Rohingya. The survey assessed community members' understanding and perceptions of COVID-19 including symptoms, prevention, treatment, access to information, safety concerns and challenges faced. The key recommendations derived from the research findings include focusing on the empowerment and capacity-building of community groups and leaders in addressing mental health issues. Stay tuned for more in the next quarter!



THE IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 ON HEALTH AND PROTECTION RISKS AMONG ROHINGYA REFUGEES AND OTHER MIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN MALAYSIA

### Addressing Xenophobia

More than half of the 400 refugees interviewed for the IOM survey [The Implications of COVID-19](#) reported feeling discriminated against, predominantly by being denied employment, being verbally abused, faced threats of eviction, and being avoided by others. Physical violence and denial of access to health services were also reported. With the COVID-19 outbreak, refugees and migrants experienced a greater level of xenophobia and discrimination, fueled by social media and misinformation. To combat stigma and promote solidarity, IOM Malaysia collaborated with youth organisations and universities to conduct media training workshops and also produced three videos, which can be accessed by clicking on the following:

1. [Stopping Xenophobia and Discrimination](#)
2. [Changing Perspectives](#)
3. [How Migrants Contribute to a Country](#)



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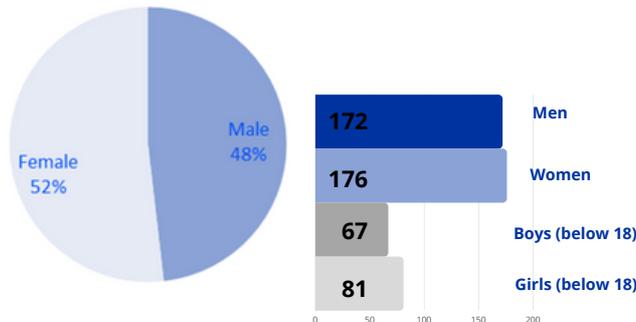
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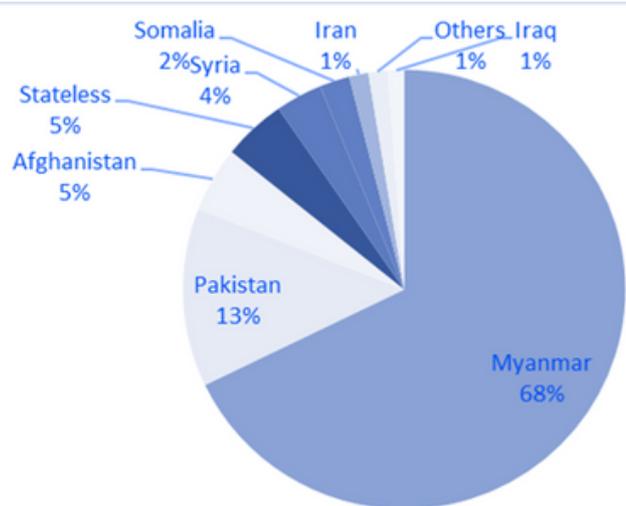
### Refugee and Migration Movement Management

IOM's support to facilitate voluntary, safe and orderly migration includes conducting health assessments and facilitating the movement of refugees resettling to seven countries, as well as support to voluntary movement of stranded migrants wanting to return home. IOM conducts health assessments for all refugees and migrants departing Malaysia; carries out TB testing and treatment; administers multiple vaccinations prior to IOM facilitating exit permission and flight booking, and conducts cultural orientation specific to the country refugees are resettling in.

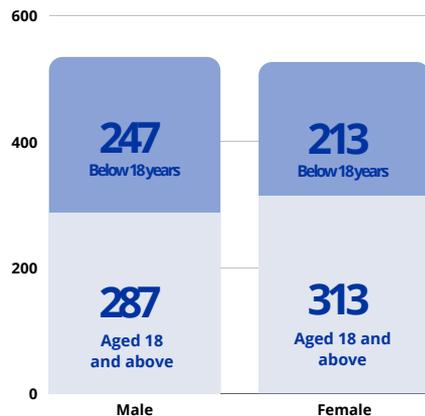
### Gender & Age Category of 496 Refugees Leaving Malaysia for Resettlement in Q1 2022



### Countries of Origin of 496 Refugees Leaving Malaysia for Resettlement in Q1 2022



### Gender and Age Category of 1,060 Beneficiaries that were Supported with Health Assessments at Migration Health Division (MHD) in Q1 2022



### Countries of Resettlement of 496 Refugees in Q1 2022

Country	Percentage (%)
USA	57.8
Canada	22.1
Australia	16.3
Japan	1.2
New Zealand	1
UK	0.8
Norway	0.6

### Overall Mission Figures at a Glance (Since 2005 Until March 2022)

<p><b>105,026</b></p> <p>refugees have been resettled out of Malaysia to third countries through IOM's facilitation.</p>	<p><b>959</b></p> <p>non-citizens were assisted for voluntary return, readmission and reintegration back to their home country.</p>
<p><b>606</b></p> <p>Malaysian citizens were assisted to return to Malaysia by IOM.</p>	<p><b>110,818</b></p> <p>refugees had their health assessments conducted by IOM.</p>

