

## **MERCY MALAYSIA HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT FOR FLOOD-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 19 December 2023** – MERCY Malaysia has dispatched its emergency response personnel and volunteers to offer essential assistance to communities affected by the Monsun Timur Laut (Northeast Monsoon) flood in Malaysia. The humanitarian support, concentrated on Emergency Health Support, will encompass Mobile Clinics and the distribution of Hygiene and Dignity Kits to individuals who have been displaced. In response to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, MERCY Malaysia is also proactively taking precautionary measures by providing masks and hygiene kits to temporary evacuation centers (Pusat Pemindahan Sementara - PPS) to reduce the risk of further COVID-19 transmission in these makeshift settings.

As of 19 December 2023, The National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) has indicated that 5488 individuals from 1677 families have sought refuge in 22 PPS throughout Malaysia. The exceptionally intense rainfall, occasionally surpassing over 40 mm/day in most states, has resulted in rivers overflowing, submerging numerous areas, causing damage to residences, disrupting major roads, and impacting the availability of vital services like water, food, and healthcare.

In recent weeks, MERCY Malaysia has directed its efforts toward risk assessments and disaster preparedness in Terengganu, Kelantan, Pahang, Sarawak, and Sabah. This involved engaging in meetings with the State Civil Defence offices (APM) to focus on efficient response planning and collaboration between APM and MERCY Malaysia in establishing a proactive plan for community support in anticipation of potential challenges.

MERCY Malaysia has distributed Disaster Preparedness Asset items to communities that have participated in MERCY Malaysia's Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) workshops that reside in flood-prone areas. The distributed items include essential safety gear such as life jackets, safety reflector vests, walkie-talkies, and life buoys.

A total of 1800 sets of Hygiene Kits have been designated for distribution across Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Sabah, and Sarawak. These Hygiene Kits have been carefully assembled in adherence to humanitarian standards outlined in the Sphere Handbook, ensuring that they meet the essential needs and requirements of the recipients in a manner consistent with international guidelines.

As the emergency response is now activated, MERCY Malaysia will proceed to establish mobile clinics to provide healthcare assistance to local communities. The range of services offered will include the care of Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) patients, ensuring the availability of medications for conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, bronchial asthma, and other chronic NCDs. This consideration is crucial, given that many of these patients had to evacuate their homes hastily, often

without their necessary medication supplies. Medical screenings will also be conducted on the ground to identify cases of upper respiratory tract infection (URTI), musculoskeletal pain, fungal infections, and skin diseases—common ailments during and after the flood. The medical teams will also address basic health needs for women and children.

MERCY Malaysia's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) also stand out as the sole non-governmental organisation offering Psychosocial First Aid at temporary evacuation centers during the flood season. MERCY Malaysia has opted to establish child-friendly spaces, prioritising inclusivity to promote the well-being of children.

"Amid the annual challenges posed by the MTL floods, MERCY Malaysia stands resilient in our commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). Climate change intensifies the severity of these events, making our preparedness crucial. Our dedication to holistic humanitarian aid enables us to swiftly respond, helping not only during crises but throughout the entire disaster management cycle—from readiness and response to relief, recovery, and prevention. Our enduring focus remains on supporting Malaysians in times of need." said MERCY Malaysia President, Professor Dato' Dr. Ahmad Faizal Mohd Perdaus.

MERCY Malaysia appeals to the public to contribute to the MERCY Malaysia Flood Relief Fund by donating through our website [www.mercy.org.my](http://www.mercy.org.my) or direct transfer to:

MERCY Malaysia  
MBB 5621 7950 4126  
Swift Code: MBBEMYKL

MERCY Malaysia CIMB  
8000-7929-08  
Swift Code: CIBBMYKL  
Reference Code: Banjir MY

For Islamic Social Financing (ISF) option, bank transfers can be made to:

MERCY Malaysia  
Maybank Islamic 5642 5858 7606  
Swift Code: MBBEMYKL

Reference Code: Banjir MY

All monetary donations are tax-exempted.



**For Immediate Release**

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**About MERCY Malaysia**

MERCY Malaysia is an international humanitarian organisation focused on providing medical relief, health-related development and risk reduction activities for vulnerable communities in both crisis and non-crisis situations.

Established in 1999 and having delivered humanitarian assistance in more than 30 countries, MERCY Malaysia embraces the Humanitarian-Development Nexus approach by building synergies between emergency, humanitarian and development health aid with the aim of facilitating effectiveness of multidisciplinary responses, building communities' resilience to shocks and future disasters, and achieving sustainable outcomes wherever we serve.