

Malaysian Red Crescent Working towards School Safety



The Malaysian Red Crescent (MRC) was established in 1948 and is an auxiliary to the Malaysian government in the field of humanitarian work. MRC is present in 16 States (formerly known as branches) and 150 Districts throughout the country, with 300,000 members and an estimated 20,000 active volunteers. The activities of the Malaysian Red Crescent are carried out by volunteers organized under its subsidiary units, namely Red Crescent Links in primary schools, the Junior Red Crescent in secondary schools and Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs) or Health and Social Services Groups (HSS) for members above 18 years old.



health and environmental promotion activities, including organizing events and trainings with and for teachers.

Following the floods in 2014-2015 in the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia, the Malaysian Red Crescent launched its Integrated School Flood Preparedness Programme which has reached 9 schools – (7 Primary and Secondary schools, 2 special needs schools) and around 4,000 students so far. The programme included the tailor-made approach to encourage youth to take leadership and contextualized key messages about health, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion as well as disaster risk reduction, with a specific focus on floods. After successful implementation, the Malaysian Red Crescent is looking for ways to roll-out such activities nation-wide, as well as working for its sustainability through the action of the youth units.



The auxiliary role of the Malaysian Red Crescent to the public authorities is emphasized by its inclusion in the National Disaster Management Plan through the National Security Council Directives 18, 20 and 21. Further collaboration is carried out with specific government agencies including the Social Welfare Department, Ministry of Youth and Sports, and Ministry of Education.

Ongoing activities implemented in schools through the youth units contribute to the pillar 2 and 3 of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework. In general, this consists of first aid trainings as well as



Outreach



School

15

Number of schools reached



Children

3,878

Primary:
1,693 in total
Secondary:
2,185 in total



Red Cross Youth

2,068

Units were established



Promoting handwashing and hygiene

As part of the Integrated School Flood Preparedness Programme, the youth volunteers teach primary school children about proper hand-washing techniques.



2

School Disaster Management

First Aid training

3

Risk Reduction and Resilience Education

Awareness sessions for student
Organization of Campaigns



Community clean up

Youth Volunteers promote cleaning activities in schools and raise awareness on health.



First Aid training

Red Cross Youth first aid demonstration in school.



Environmental promotion

Youth volunteers inform students on sorting materials into the appropriate recycling bins at the environmental sanitation station.

“I feel very happy to engage in School Safety activities because I’ve been given the opportunity to learn and gain experience. I feel so excited to join my peers and teach them sign language. This training started as a full challenge but in the end turned out to be one of the best examples of promoting social inclusion for Pahang Branch, truly inspiring its First Aid trainers. The Branch realized that its First Aid implementation is primarily offered to the general public, but has never been given to people with disabilities. This experience gave me a good lesson and I hope to join more courses in the future.”

Lai Wai Keat, Volunteer of Pahang Branch, Malaysian Red Crescent (MRC)



Challenges

- 🔍 Limited commitment from Red Cross youth volunteers during weekdays.
- 🔍 Lack of well-trained volunteers, so some activities have to be combined. This lessens the impact of activities for students.
- 🔍 Limited in school activities because of limited advocacy to the educational sectors.



Ways forward

- ➔ Expand volunteer categories to include adults and teachers as volunteers, etc. so activities are not limited to only youth volunteers.
- ➔ Long-term planning for activities and training volunteers such as building interest among school students to join the Red Crescent and to maintain the spirit of humanitarianism and volunteerism.
- ➔ Establish good rapport with various authorities.

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