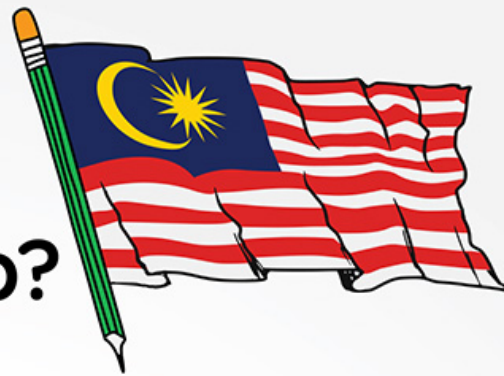


Education in Malaysia: what's the big picture and how can donors help?



HUGE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PAST 70 YEARS



In 1950, **60%** of the population had no schooling whatsoever and only **6%** had secondary level education



By 2010, over **90%** had at least primary level education, with **60%** at secondary and **15%** at tertiary level

BUT STILL MANY ISSUES

Two big opportunities for private donors to make a real difference are:

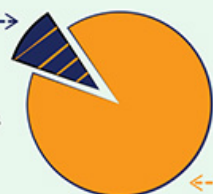


Increasing access to education for marginalised groups

Up to **125,000** Malaysian primary-age children (citizens) are out of school (2010 figures)

>40,000 school-age children in Malaysia have never attended school (2009 figures), of which:

Around **10%** are Malaysian citizens, mainly from indigenous groups such as Orang Asli



Around **90%** are non-citizens such as the children of foreign workers, undocumented sea gypsies, refugees and illegal immigrants



>70% of school-age refugee children are not in school (refugees are not eligible for state education)



HOW CAN WE HELP?

Charities and organisations supporting these children include UNHCR, IDEAS Academy, Malaysian Social Research Institute (MSRI) and Yayasan Chow Kit



Helping more children to stay in education and training at secondary level

15,000-25,000

children each year drop out of school between primary and secondary levels

Around **100,000**

children per year drop out of school age 15.



WHO ARE THE DROP-OUTS?



Anecdotal evidence suggests that many drop-outs may be children with disabilities.



More boys drop out than girls.

Drop-outs are also most likely to be from poor families:



75% of upper secondary school age children not in school come from households in the bottom **40%** of income distribution.



"Some boys struggle with the mainstream academic curriculum and would probably benefit from greater access to vocational training or more applied coursework. However, the limited number of places in vocational and technical schools prevents this from occurring."

- Ministry of Education, 2012, Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025



HOW CAN WE HELP?

Providing more engaging vocational or alternative education. E.g. MySkills Foundation

Improving the school experience overall - e.g. teacher quality (see *Teach for Malaysia*), facilities (e.g. *PINTAR* programme); teaching and learning resources (*EduNation*)



SOURCES

1. Ministry of Education, 2012, "Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025"
2. Educational Policy Planning and Research Division, Kuala Lumpur, 2009, "Study on Children without Official Identification Documents in Malaysia"
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4. UNHCR website: <https://www.unhcr.org.my/Education-@-Education.aspx>
5. Extrapolated from UN Country team Malaysia, 2011, *Ibid*.
6. T. Patel, 2014 "Dropping out of school in Malaysia: What we know and what needs to be done", IDEAS
7. Ministry of Education, 2012, "Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025"