



Annual Report

2020

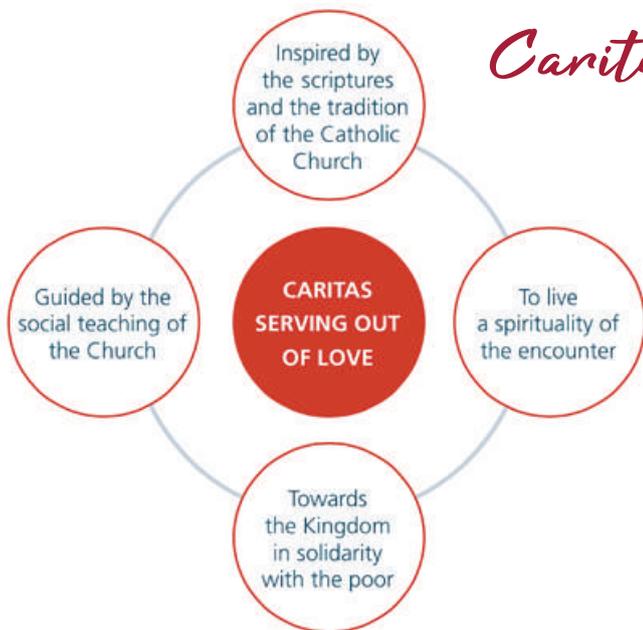


PATRON SAINT



Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Skopje, now part of Macedonia, on 26 August, 1910. Her family was of Albanian descent. At the age of eighteen she left her parental home in Skopje and joined the Sisters of Loreto, an Irish community of nuns with missions in India. After a few months' training in Dublin she was sent to India, where on 24 May, 1931, she took her initial vows as a nun and the perpetual ones in 1937. From 1931 to 1948 Mother Teresa taught at St. Mary's High School in Calcutta, but the suffering and poverty she glimpsed outside the convent walls made such a deep impression on her that in 1948 she received permission from her superiors to leave the convent school and devote herself to working among the poorest of the poor in the slums of Calcutta. Mother Teresa died on 5 September 1997. Two days later, John Paul II described her as follows: "Present in memory is her minute face, marked by an existence lived at the service of the poorest, but always full of an inexorable inner energy: energy of the Christ's love. Missionary of charity: that was Mother Teresa, by name and in facts".



Caritas Christi Unget Nos (2 Cor 5.14)

**Those who serve in Caritas mission must be first and foremost "true witnesses of Christ".
Pope Benedict**

Jesus identified himself with the hungry, the thirsty, the strangers, the naked, the sick, the prisoners. We are called to recognise the face of Jesus in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in particular the poor and the marginalised. Caritas' work has been rooted in and inspired by Church tradition and history, since its foundation.

CARITAS MALAYSIA

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Abbreviations:

ACMI	Archdiocesan Commission for Migrants and Itinerants
AHDC	Archdiocesan Human Development Commission
AMOS	Program AMOS – A=Allah, M=Menolong, O=Orang, S=Susah
AOHD	Archdiocesan Office for Human Development
APC	Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre
B40	Bottom 40% of the Malaysian household income
BEC	Basic Ecclesial Communities
CBCM	Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia
CBCMSB	Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei
CMHD	Commission for Mission and Human Development
CWS	Catholic Welfare Services
ECCJ	Episcopal Commission for Creation Justice
ECJP	Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace
ECMI	Episcopal Commission for Migrants and Itinerants
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FIA	Faith-in-Action
IHD	Integral Human Development
MCO	Movement Control Order
MEP	Paris Foreign Mission (Missions étrangères de Paris)
MJDOHD	Malacca Johore Diocese Office of Human Development
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NSO MAPO	National Strategic Office – Majlis Anti-Perdagangan Orang dan Penyeludupan Migran (Council for Anti-Trafficking In Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants)
OHD	Office for Human Development
PHDC	Parish Human Development Committees
RMCO	Recovery Movement Control Order
SHAPE	Strengthening Humanitarian Partnership & Exchanges in the Asia Region
SIGNIS	World Catholic Association for Communication
SMUP	Society Miri Urban Poor
SSVP	Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP or SVdP or SSVP)
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CARITAS MALAYSIA



Caritas was initiated at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei (CBCMSB) in January 2020. The nine archdiocesan and diocesan bishops opted for its introduction into the Malaysian Church, to spearhead the Church's **social mission agenda**. Tremendous work of charity is taking place, yet people still ask what the Church is doing, or why it isn't being seen as doing something. **The Caritas way of doing charity is a call to serve the poor and the emerging new poor, professionally, effectively and transparently.** I am remembering Micah 6:8 "act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly".

The dream of the Malaysian Catholic Church is to see the **bridging of the faith-charity gap**, where Catholics will begin to move from "sub-con" mentality, thinking that the concern for the poor is the work of SSVPs, CWS or parish OHDs or IHDs, to being a neighbour, a Samaritan with the attitude "if I don't do something for him, then, who will do it?" It is to move away from the attitude "someone else will do it". How wonderful it would be to see more "FIA or faith-in-action Catholics", bringing a little light of hope into the darkness.

The faith-charity gap is one of the many gaps. My biggest concern is the **head-heart gap** of the caritas leadership. Protectionism, defensiveness and intellectual pride appear to be the stumbling blocks, when the Spirit is moving us towards a Pan Malaysian Church. We are trying to do charity without a heart. Dying to self or to one's ego is to put God and His agenda first; next is to be charitable in thoughts and in words; and encouraging each other to excel. The apostles had their differences, but the gospel was not sacrificed.

Dorothee Solle, a German Liberation Theologian, spoke about seeing with **"God's senses"** because only God sees the poor and hears their cry. And this is what she said: *"To use God's senses does not mean simply turning inward but becoming free for a different way of living life: See what God sees! Hear what God hears! Laugh where God laughs! Cry where God cries!"* Without God's senses, our deeds may amount to mere job or glory-seeking or the poor becomes another case.

Let me end with these words of Jesus: *Mt.7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"*

May His agenda be our agenda.

Together Building His Kingdom.

Bishop Bernard

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL PRESIDENT OF CARITAS ASIA



Dear Friends,

Cordial Greetings from Caritas Asia!

I am delighted to convey our most profound congratulations to all of you in Caritas Malaysia, for this maiden Annual Report, which documents the significant strides and milestones you all have achieved for the year! This Annual Report certainly gives us a good glimpse of your activities over the past year, as well as your future directions.

We are all aware that the year has been filled with a lot of challenges, mostly because of the spread of COVID-19 in almost every corner of the world. We have all had to endure the loss of lives, the unprecedented lockdowns and restrictions, the many down times and despair, and the countless other struggles during this difficult time.

Yet, as Caritas Malaysia, you managed to reach out to your communities, parishes and dioceses, as well as to our regional and global Caritas confederation, even if many of your initiatives were done virtually. Amidst all the difficulties, you have remained committed to your mission of bringing and living out the gospel to our beloved brothers and sisters not just in Malaysia, but in Asia and the rest of the world, as well.

With all the work you have done, I am certain that Caritas Malaysia is on a journey of reflecting, learning, experiencing and acting together to respond to the needs of your communities and other prioritised stakeholders.

You must further your journey to nurture and enhance your initiatives and abilities to even greater heights, especially because you have very rich and diverse expertise and resources within Malaysia that you all can tap into, utilise and share.

I am confident that your constant dialogue and open communication with all Church actors will help you work together in a harmonious relationship to help build a more just society. Caritas Malaysia should always be committed towards enhancing unity amid diversity. When we all work together, we become instruments of God to save, to love, to give encouragement, and to give hope.

Once again, I convey our heartiest Congratulations to all of you for this Annual Report!

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario

OVERVIEW OF OUR JOURNEY

The inaugural **Caritas Malaysia Annual Report 2020** gives an overview of the ongoing social mission of the Catholic Church in Malaysia through images, narratives and finances of the dioceses. The heroes of Caritas Malaysia’s mission are truly the volunteers and ministry personnel on the ground, in all our parish communities and dioceses.

As part of future annual reports, the Caritas national office will continue compiling these efforts into a **family album** – and like any family album it will help us to get to know other family members, their respective situations, efforts and needs. And we pray that it will eventually become our family story – a chronicle of our shared heritage, which we can share widely with all, with joy – supporting one another amid our challenges, and working together to uplift others.

At the initial meeting of Caritas Malaysia among diocese directors/ heads, co-workers, and the national office at the APC, Kuala Lumpur on 25 February 2020, the President, Bishop Bernard had asked if we agreed to the establishment of Caritas Malaysia. The day-long group discussion had reached a consensus. **“I hear a yes to go ahead.”** These words of Bishop Bernard Paul summed up the sentiments. But the fears were also acknowledged, and a road map was laid out. A working board was established, including representatives from the regions.

The heroes of Caritas Malaysia’s mission are truly the volunteers and ministry personnel on the ground.

The first request by all present there, was for help to **consult local communities** on their needs so as to formulate a systematic approach to charity and development. A tool, using



Caritas Malaysia National Assembly Online Launch on 13 November 2020

the focus group discussion (FGD) method, was sent out to all. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, most dioceses found creative ways of administering the tool to gauge their respective needs. Their findings were presented at the national assembly.

The National Assembly and launch on 6 November 2020 remains a luminous milestone that marked a common start and a coming together for the future. **The priorities** needing our attention were spelt out: the COVID-19 pandemic and the new poor in our midst, the cry of the earth for restoration, the reality of refugees, migrants and victims of trafficking, the need for dialogue and peacebuilding, and internal capacity-building.

Archbishop Julian Leow, speaking as President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Malaysia (CBCM) at the launch of Caritas Malaysia, said:

This inter-diocesan collaboration, this coming together under one umbrella will give us a stronger visible presence of the church in action in the marketplace.

*Archbishop Julian Leow,
President of CBCM*

*"This inter-diocesan collaboration, this coming together under one umbrella will give us a **stronger visible presence** of the church in action in the marketplace. We are able to do this most effectively when we discover our identity together, in a common mission and vision rather than having identities that are exclusive or competitive. We will be able to leverage on the strength and talents of our diverse members from all the dioceses in Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia..."*

Further, he pointed out, "by being an active member of the international Caritas family and Caritas Asia, the Malaysian Church can benefit from capacity building, regional networking, professional expertise, as well as work in solidarity with other Caritas members to serve the marginalised and vulnerable communities within this region."

The *organigram & FAQ* approved by the bishops in June 2020 presents the interim working structures and the mutual roles and responsibilities of the national and diocese offices.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, writing in *Deus Caritas Est* tells us, "Individuals who care for those in need must first be professionally competent: they should be properly trained in what to do and how to do it, and committed to continuing care." At the same time, he says, "They need humanity. They need heartfelt concern. ... a **"formation of the heart"**. The programme of Jesus—is "a heart which sees". [n.31]. Caritas Malaysia hopes to strive for this professionalism with a heart.

From the needs raised at the National Assembly and in subsequent regional conversations, the national office launched into **capacity-building** for all diocese staff and volunteers. Three flagship programmes were proposed and discussed with the board and all diocese directors in January and February 2021, namely: the *Community Development* course in partnership with Caritas India and Caritas Philippines; the *Basic Communication* workshops in partnership with SIGNIS Malaysia; and *Conversations - Structures for Mission* with Caritas Internationalis and Caritas Asia.



Investing in institutional development that renews our structures and people while developing new programmes and services for the poor go together – like hands that both hold and mould.

Building the capacity of our people and structures helps in turn, to build basic human communities and basic Christian communities in our *kampungs* and *tamans*; and thus contribute to the renewal of our Malaysian church and society.

The leadership we are asked to provide today as Caritas Malaysia is thus one of communion and servanthood – where words like communication, consultation, coordination, collaboration – all have special weight.

We continue to face internal challenges. We know the Caritas diocese offices are at varying levels of establishment and already operating various activities and outreach – but a common thread runs through all, and one heartbeat animates us – **to serve, accompany and defend the poor**. You may find that the report has a wide range of writing styles and formats, and may not appear cohesive, but this reflects the diversity of contributions from the various dioceses. It is a step towards maintaining authenticity and wholeness.

We stand on the shoulders of heroes and Catholics who have gone before us – our **tribute** to the likes of Cardinal Soter, Brother Rogers, Paul Sinnappan, MEP priests, Mill Hill missionaries, and so many more in Sabah and Sarawak. Caritas Malaysia exists because of their vision and untiring efforts to live out the gospel in our land, Malaysia.

We are poised on the threshold of **a new phase** in our work for peace and development as a Malaysian church. The people are ready. Basic structures are there. The bishops have launched Caritas Malaysia. Like a flowing river meeting the ocean, will we let go of our own ways and territories, and merge with the flow of God’s ocean of vision and mercy?

We are poised on the threshold of a new phase in our work for peace and development as a Malaysian church... Like a flowing river meeting the ocean, will we let go of our own ways and territories, and merge with the flow of God’s ocean of vision and mercy?



Charles Bertille, Executive Secretary



*Mission
and Vision*



OUR MISSION

(DRAFT/PRELIMINARY)

Caritas Malaysia is inspired by the Gospels and the teachings of the Catholic Church. We respond to humanitarian crises, promote integral human development and advocate on the causes of poverty and violence. We animate Catholic communities and all people of good will in solidarity with their suffering brothers, sisters and creation. We work to ensure that our natural environment is managed responsibly and sustainably for all.

OUR VISION

(DRAFT/PRELIMINARY)

“Caritas is the heart of the Church” (Pope Benedict, 2013) and “Caritas is the caress of the Mother Church to those suffering” (Pope Francis, 2013), to enlighten society towards greater solidarity, fraternity and justice.

OUR VALUES

The work ethics and processes at Caritas Malaysia are driven by three guiding principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

1. **Subsidiarity:** Empowering all levels inside and outside Caritas to ensure that decision making happens at the most appropriate level and that those affected have a voice in the entire process.
2. **Common good:** Working in solidarity, for the good of all in society, by respecting the rights and dignity of every person regardless of their background.
3. **Co-responsibility:** Each level – local community, parish, diocese and national office collaborating with laity, religious and clergy as one body – to grow the social mission of the Catholic Church, to serve the poor and marginalised so as to promote charity and integral development for the attainment of peace and justice.

Who is Caritas Malaysia?

At its meeting in January 2020, CBCM decided unanimously to establish Caritas Malaysia. As a member of the Caritas family, the Bishops felt the Malaysian church would benefit from Caritas' capacity building, regional networking, and professional expertise. This would also enable it to work in solidarity with other Caritas offices for vulnerable communities in Malaysia. They felt the time had come to work as one Malaysian church and to bear witness to God's love in the public sphere.

Caritas Malaysia consists of the nine Caritas diocese offices and the Caritas national office, with affiliates from congregations and other Catholic organisations engaged in the field of charity and integral development at a national level. While a country or national Caritas organisation is autonomous under its respective bishops, they too are affiliated and work together with Caritas Asia and Caritas Internationalis confederation, which is a recognised body of the universal Church.

What will be the role of the local Caritas?

Local diocese Caritas offices are accountable to the local communities, the local Board and ultimately the local bishop. The diocese Caritas offices, after surveying the local needs, and in consultation with local community leaders and pastors, develop the necessary plans and programmes. It is the pedagogy of Caritas to begin with the community or grass-roots experiences and needs.

It is vital that people participate in defining and developing programmes and activities that will affect their lives and communities, if these are to be sustainable. At the diocese level, if non-existent, the diocese will have to name the right person as Caritas director, allocate funds for creating the office and staffing, and establish a board composed of competent persons.

How will the dioceses be affected by the setting up of Caritas Malaysia?

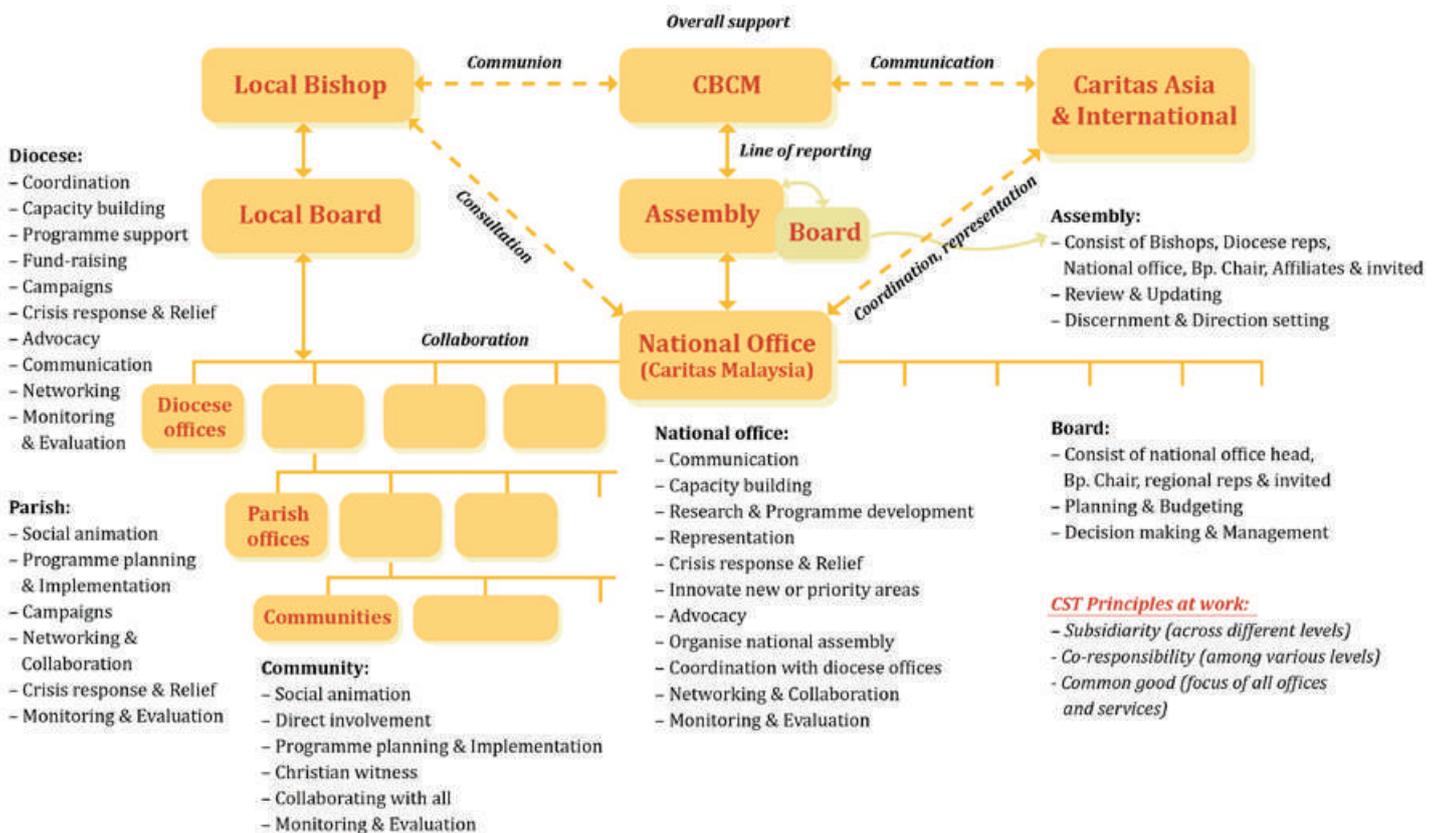
According to the CST (Catholic Social Teaching) principle of subsidiarity, the higher instance is to empower and enable the lower instance without taking over its role. Thus the diocesan-level Caritas and parish-level Caritas are the first implementers of concrete action and service to the neediest. The service of charity incarnates in socio-pastoral work, and it is precisely at the parish/community and diocesan levels that this becomes concrete

through activities that promote social justice, respect for human rights, and care for the neediest.

Diocese, parish, and local communities play a key role in animating, conscientising, and mobilising believers, as well as men and women of good will around them, to respond to the call of the Kingdom. Among various entities and levels of Caritas family, a spirit of co-responsibility must animate the conversations and activities – that all are trying to build together the one mission and one body of Jesus. The focus on the common good can lead everyone forward.

How do we go about setting up the structures of Caritas Malaysia?

Some dioceses already have existing structures such as the Office for Human Development (OHD) or Commission for Mission and Human Development (CMHD). These will continue their work. Other dioceses will need to strengthen their existing offices or establish their own Caritas offices where they do not exist. They can ask for assistance in this exercise; the national and established diocese offices will assist. The following organigram was approved by the bishops at their meeting on 23 June 2020.



The organigram was approved by the bishops at their meeting on 23 June 2020, ad-interim, until Caritas Malaysia finalises its statutes and mission-vision planning.

What is the relationship between the National and Diocesan Caritas?

The National Caritas seeks to add value to all. It only intervenes to assist or establish local or regional programmes when requested by the Diocese Caritas and bishop/s. Much of these will be discussed and decided at the national meeting of Caritas directors. As such, it is not a centralised office that undertakes all decision-making or programmes, nor will it 'take over' anyone or anything. Rather, it will foster cooperation and common good as the national office.

On the other hand, the current stand-alone approach of dioceses is no longer sufficient to respond to the increasing needs, or to develop the social mission of the Malaysian church. Real capacity and coordination are lacking. The survey and post-COVID relief reflection among diocese offices brought out the need for representation of the church as a single entity as well as greater internal coordination. The lack of it affects her visibility and mission on the ground.

Diocese offices are encouraged to communicate news on their programmes and activities that these can then be shared with the larger Caritas family and church. Applying the principle of common good and co-responsibility, all are encouraged to share initiatives, resources, and consult with the larger body so that a clearer picture and response may evolve, synergies may be found, and weaker parts find support from the larger body.

Through this the spirit of Catholicity is strengthened and the parts bear witness to the whole. Communicating news of programmes and activities within and outside of the Caritas family and church engenders inclusivity in the social mission of the church. Through this exchange of news, both laity and members of the public can become involved in the mission as volunteers.

What is the role of the bishop?

The bishops have the primary responsibility to organise charity at all levels of the church (*Motu Proprio Intima Ecclesiae Natura, Pope Benedict XVI*).

The bishop is called to cherish, to sustain, to promote, but also to care for, to provide for (*Cf. IEN 4,5,7*). In particular the bishop must take care that charitable activities keep alive the spirit of the gospel (*Cf. Art.6 of the Motu Proprio IEN*).



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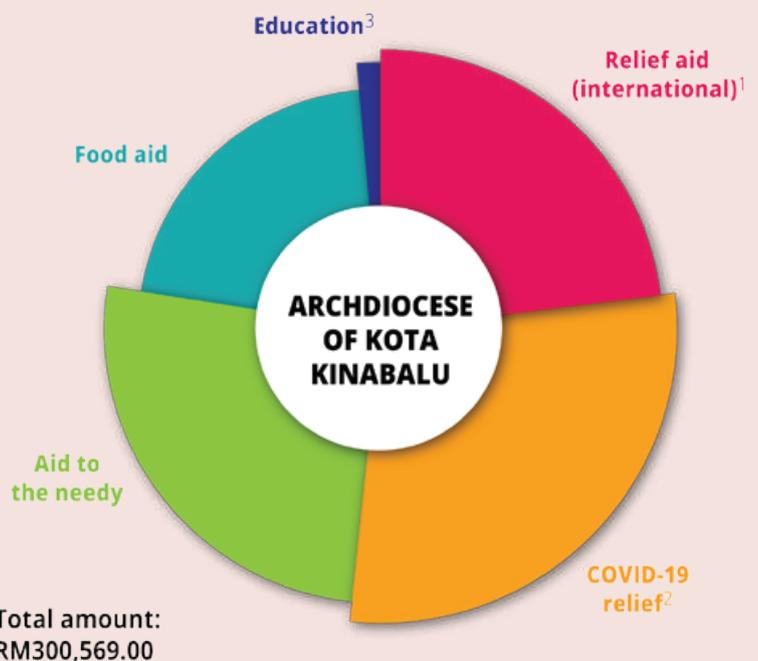
Orientation with committee members on 19 December 2020

Prior to the setting up of Caritas Kota Kinabalu, all programmes and activities concerning the church's social mission in the Archdiocese of Kota Kinabalu were undertaken by the Archdiocesan Human Development Commission (AHDC).

AHDC was dissolved in September 2020, and Caritas Kota Kinabalu replaced it as the Archdiocesan Relief Body and Fund.

As such, the Archdiocesan Commission for Migrants and Itinerants (ACMI), which addresses migrants' issues, became a part of Caritas Kota Kinabalu.

OVERVIEW OF OUTREACH AND ACTIVITIES 2020



¹ Lebanon, Vietnam and Philippines

² support for hospital eg. prayer items, personal hygiene products, food, food utensils

³ school supplies for children



Food distribution to the needy and migrant families



School accessories were donated to urban poor children



Various online webinars were organised

Activities

Besides its annual Parish Human Development Committee formation programme, the Archdiocese's outreach to needy migrant families was carried out in the initial stages of the first Movement Control Order (MCO) period, from late March to early May 2020. More than a thousand families received food aid totalling RM26,005 out of the RM27,157 collected in donations. The remainder of this was channelled towards aid for migrant families affected by floods.

Further discussions were held with priests in charge of migrants of the Dioceses of Ende, Larantuka, Tanjong Selor and Makassar, Indonesia, on how to support Indonesian migrants in Sabah who were not allowed to attend Mass when churches were reopened after the MCO was lifted. This led to online Masses being held by the Diocese of Larantuka for the benefit of the affected migrants.

In conjunction with the launch of Caritas Malaysia, the Caritas KK Ad Hoc Committee conducted a simple focus group discussion (FGD) on issues affecting Sabahans; 18 issues were identified.

Caritas Kota Kinabalu was officially established on 19th December 2020, with a committee of 20 members. It held its first meeting on 22nd December to propose programmes for 2021.



Most Rev. Datuk John Wong Soo Kau, DD
Archbishop of Kota Kinabalu



Sr. Anita James, FSIC
Head



Rev. Gilbert Marcus
Spiritual Adviser

Report contributed by Sr. Anita James, FSIC

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Involvement of youth from the Pain-apin zone in collecting day necessities from around the Pain-apin zone

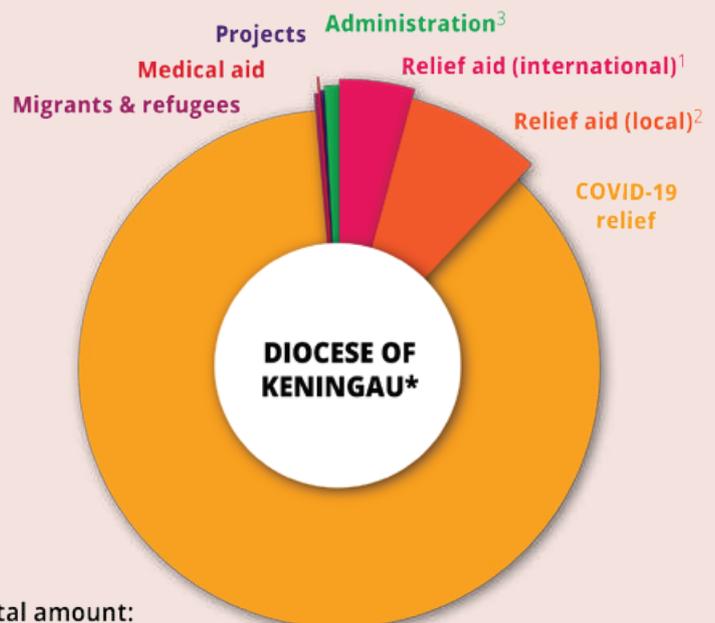
FOCUS OF CARITAS KENINGAU

Migrant Ministry and AMOS-5 Sponsorship

Caritas Keningau will coordinate all humanitarian aid applications from each of the diocese's parishes, and channel them to the intended targets. Each application for aid from other parishes or dioceses will be forwarded through Caritas Keningau so that accurate information may be obtained, and it becomes the primary channel for aid distribution which is reliable, and not abused in the future.

Caritas Keningau has requested Msgr Gilbert to ask Bishop Cornelius for more priests to join Caritas.

OVERVIEW OF OUTREACH AND ACTIVITIES



Total amount: RM476,359.19

* Source from govt., NGOs and parishioners
¹ Lebanon and Philippines
² flood and fire victims
³ includes salaries and operating cost



Receiving of daily necessities from generous donors



Every donation in any form is recorded and kept



Delivery of relief items to families in need

All parish representatives have asked for clear guidelines on Caritas activity, especially at parish level.

Humanitarian aid for parishes afflicted by flash floods

Many areas in the interior of Sabah were affected by heavy rain which caused flash floods. Several parishes under the Keningau Diocese were affected – St Anthony’s in Tenom; St Valentine’s in Beaufort; and the Kemabong Mission.

Parishioners of the Cathedral of St Francis Xavier Keningau, St Theresa’s Tambunan, Holy Cross Toboh and Holy Spirit, Sook, came together to collect aid in the form of money, clothes and groceries, among other things. This aid was divided between the needy of the parishes.



*Ms. Patricia Bai
Director*



*Mr. Claudius Kinsik
Assistant Director*



*Msgr. Gilbertus Engan
Spiritual Adviser*

Report contributed by Ms. Patricia Bai

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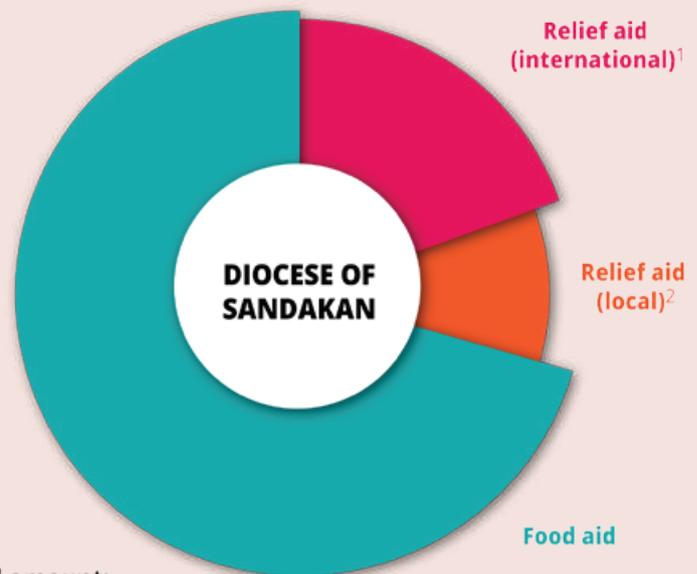
Relief items distributed to families in need

Caritas Malaysia was introduced to the Diocese of Sandakan by Bishop Julius Dusin Gitom in early 2020. Two representatives from the Diocese of Sandakan were sent to the first meeting in February 2020.

Since then, the process of incorporating Caritas into the diocese has been effected. However, the name Caritas has officially been used only in 2021, in our second meeting as Caritas Diocese of Sandakan.

Caritas Malaysia was introduced to the priests during the Priests' Meeting held in March 2020.

OVERVIEW OF OUTREACH AND ACTIVITIES



Total amount:
RM127,743.13

¹ Lebanon and Philippines
² flood victims



COVID-19 relief efforts at Lahad Datu



COVID-19 relief efforts at Tawau



Flood relief

Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Caritas Diocese of Sandakan organised an online FGD in October 2020, aimed at church leaders and those serving under the Human Development Ministry. The programme introduced Caritas Malaysia, its roles and relationship with the Diocese of Sandakan.

Launching of Caritas Malaysia

This was held on 6th and 13th November 2020, attended by the Bishop, Priests and participants from the FGD.

2021 programmes

The outcome of the FGD held in October 2020 led the committee to identify three priorities for Caritas Diocese of Sandakan, for 2021:

- Setting up a structure at diocese and parish levels (Jan-June)
- Raising awareness of Caritas among church leaders via e-Poster (Jan-June)
- Reconducting of the survey to derive feedback from the grassroots; the initial FGD did not reflect the reality on the ground as it was primarily participants' sharing based on their observations and experience (June-December)

Other activities are a community development programme from April to November, and the Caritas National Assembly in November. The diocese is also involved in helping out those affected by the MCO due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and collaborating with other NGOs in relation to this. We also collaborate with other denominations to provide humanitarian aid to those in need.



Ms. Anna Theresa Peter Amandus
*Administrator of the Pastoral Office
cum Migrant Desk*



Rev. Phillip Anthony Muji
Spiritual Director

*Report contributed
by Ms. Anna Theresa
Peter Amandus*

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Migrants' mass food aid distribution

Caritas Kuching was founded in the Archdiocese of Kuching in 2020. The existing Kuching Archdiocesan Commission for Mission and Human Development (CMHD) took on Caritas Kuching as its new operating framework. FGDs were planned for all relevant stakeholders including social ministries under the CMHD and representatives from each of the parishes in the archdiocese.

But with the implementation of the nation-wide MCO all plans were put on hold, and most of Caritas Kuching's activities have since been regular online meetings/training sessions with Caritas Malaysia, and responding to pandemic-related needs.

OVERVIEW OF OUTREACH AND ACTIVITIES



¹ Lebanon (Beirut), Philippines and CBCM special fund
² includes subsidies to parishes for sanitising
³ Divine Mercy for the poor and CWS welfare aid



The Virtual Christmas fund-raising Concert



A pilgrimage centre was built in the parish of St. Jude, Bunan



First online FGD on 22 November 2020

These include:

Migrants' mass food aid distribution – Basic food supplies and financial aid were distributed to 600 migrant workers and their families on five occasions in May, July and September 2020. The funds for this came from the archdiocesan Disaster Relief Fund and private donations. **Resilience Project for Rural Farmers** – We have embarked on the Building Resilience Initiative for parishioners of St. Jude, Bunan, in collaboration with St. Jude's to facilitate the farmers' exchange of ideas and experiences in farming, and enhance their skills and knowledge. This is still at dialogue stage with the villagers.

Flood Victims' food distribution – The southern region of Sarawak was badly hit by floods in December 2020. The Archdiocesan Commission for Mission and Human Development (CMHD) distributed 1,000 food baskets from the archdiocesan Disaster Relief Fund to those affected. **Virtual Christmas fund-raising Concert** – "Angels' Carols: A Virtual Christmas Concert" was organised in collaboration with EMPOWERED Ministry Kuching. The funds raised by the concert were channelled to the Home of Peace and Migrant Ministry of the archdiocese.

Aid initiatives of Divine Mercy Apostolate – The Divine Mercy Apostolate reached out to 499 urban poor in and around Kuching with assistance in cash and kind in 2020, with funds collected from private donors. Recipients were those affected by the pandemic, who had lost their source of income. Companionship and psychological support were also provided. **Assistance projects of Society of St. Vincent de Paul** – The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Kuching continues to provide relief for those in need through on a monthly basis.

Caritas Kuching 1st online FGD with ministry representatives: 22 November 2020 – The focus group discussion suggested the following to strengthen the social mission in the archdiocese: A One Stop Catholic Social Services Centre for learning, counselling, food bank, and prayer room; Better collaboration and sharing of information and resources; Empower and train younger members; and Provide technical training for members of various ministries.

Report contributed by Rev. Galvin Richard and Rev. Alvin Ng



Rev. Galvin Richard
Ngumbang
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Rev. Alvin Ng, SJ
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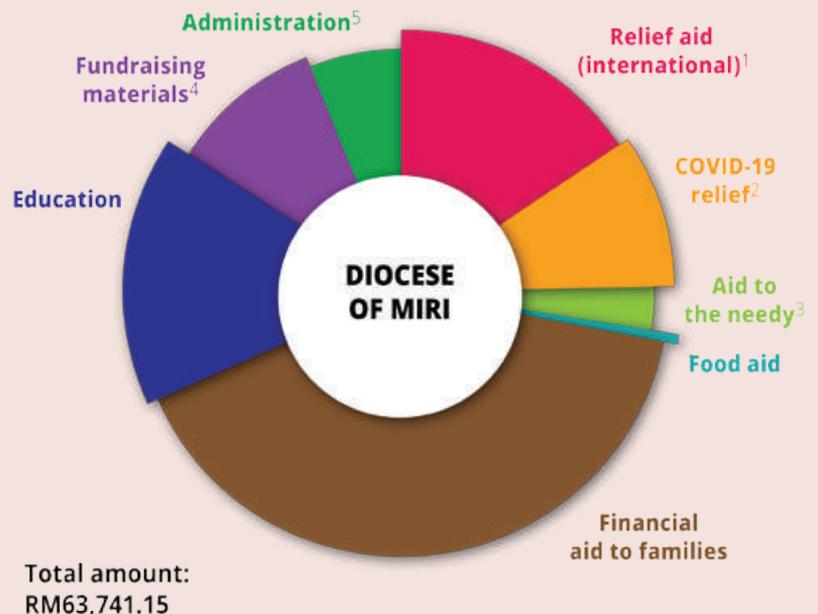


Aid for fire victims at Sebauh

Since 2016, the diocese's Commission for Integral Human Development has been headed by Fr. Sylvester. In January 2021, Fr. Sylvester was reappointed as the Head of the Commission, as well as Caritas Miri.

With the MCO in force and the need to adhere to pandemic SOPs, Caritas Miri concentrated on providing monthly financial support to the needy through the Society Miri Urban Poor (SMUP). Forty families continued to receive rations from SMUP every month. There are currently 40 families which receive rations from SMUP every month; 32 from the Tudan area, and eight from Pujut 7 and 8, near Miri town.

OVERVIEW OF OUTREACH AND ACTIVITIES



¹ Lebanon
² COVID-19 fund sent to SSSP KL
³ funeral expenses & contribution to SSSP
⁴ calendars for sale
⁵ includes salaries and operating cost



Monthly financial support for those in need



Financial education aid for needy students



Food aid for the homeless

Applicants for rations comprise those from the disabled or differently-abled category, single-parent households, or mothers who are unable to work outside the home because they have to care for very young children.

SMUP also arranged for the purchase of building supplies and undertook the reconstruction of dilapidated living arrangements for at least one of its families, at a cost of RM7,600. In doing so, the Society managed to provide some employment for one of its aid recipients as well, for nine days.

SMUP is also supporting two families with chronically ill children who require regular dialysis and treatment for asthma, respectively.



Rev. Sylvester
Ngau Juk
Head



Ms. Rosica Millah
Secretary

*Report contributed by
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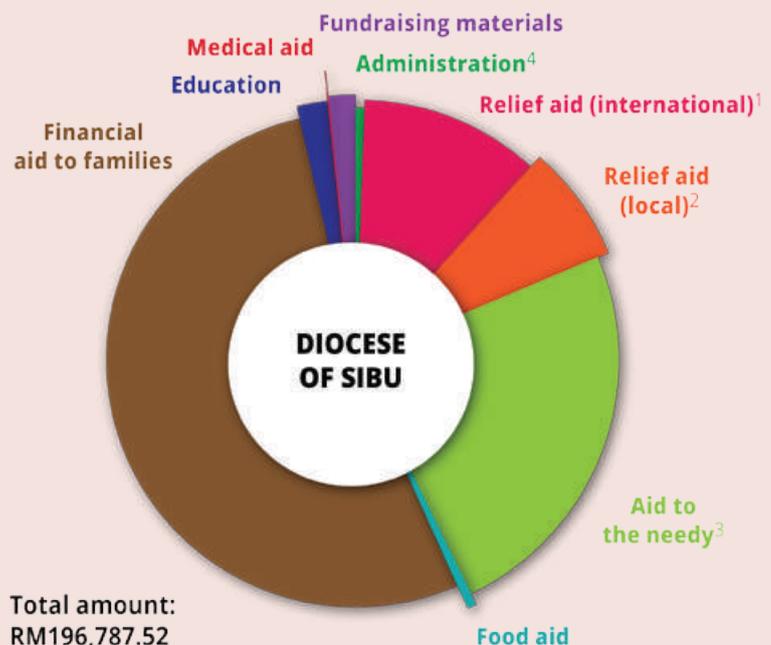
Donating food rations and used clothes for fire victims at Rh. Chandi

Caritas SibU is currently involved in the following areas:

Safe migration and anti-human trafficking

The setting up of a shelter home for the care and protection of trafficked survivors and victims (mostly women) in SibU Diocese, has been discussed in collaboration with governmental agencies from Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat (KPWKM) and NSO MAPO in Putrajaya. An application has been made for the Diocese Director of Caritas SibU to act as an NGO Protection Officer.

OVERVIEW OF OUTREACH AND ACTIVITIES



¹ Lebanon and Philippines
² fire victims
³ electricity installation and direct aid to families
⁴ includes salaries and operating cost



Preparing food and items to be distributed to the homeless



Visiting SSVF adoptees living at the longhouse



Providing school uniforms and school bags

RM1 Miracle Project

The focus of this project is on charitable and sustainable Catholic participation in the annual fundraising project at national and diocesan levels.

Strengthening Humanitarian Partnership and Exchange in Asia Region or SHAPE Project

An online e-learning platform in collaboration with Caritas Malaysia, Caritas Asia, Caritas Romania and Caritas Austria.

Online Volunteer Management Training

The focus here is on volunteering or servant discipleship, safeguarding management and human and Christian formation.

Grow Our Greens (GOG) and Pass It On (PIO) Projects

Caritas Sibul together with the Creation Justice Commission and others are looking to focus on food growth and security; Ecology as Eco-gifting and Zero Waste Culture; and Fraternity and Community-building.

Other activities - COVID-19 response

Caritas Sibul helped out in Food Distribution to B40 households, migrants and the Sibul Hospital, and also in the making of medical face shields and clothing by youth; as well as with online rosary and prayer intercessory sessions and other international online sessions.



Rev. Raphael Samosir, OFM, Cap
Ecclesial Assistant



Ms. Eta Ting Ming Na
Director

Report contributed by Ms. Eta Ting Ming Na

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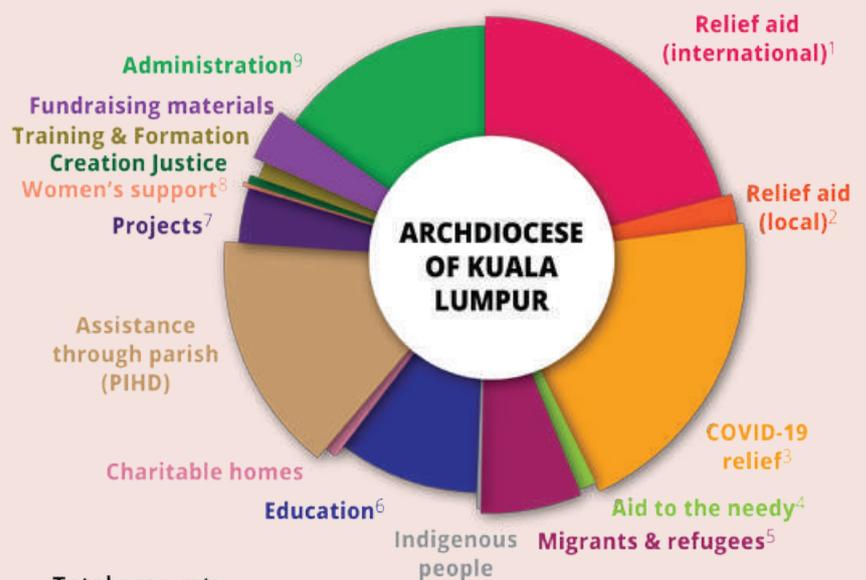
Food aid distribution in April 2020

The Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur comprises of eight districts and 36 parishes.

AOHD Kuala Lumpur's range of activities has increased tremendously over the past two decades as more needy categories are identified.

These include not only local indigenous from the neighbouring states of Perak and Pahang, but also from East Malaysia, as well as migrants and refugees from other countries who are either awaiting resettlement in third countries through UNHCR, or have found employment in Malaysia.

OVERVIEW OF OUTREACH AND ACTIVITIES



Total amount:
RM1,390,592.80

- 1 India, Lebanon, Philippines
- 2 Seremban flood
- 3 City Parade Pharmacy Sabah & COVID-19 KL relief
- 4 rural and urban poor
- 5 includes programme staff

- 6 Special Needs children
- 7 Montfort Carbon Footprint project
- 8 Women's desk
- 9 includes salaries and operating cost



PPE sewing efforts in May 2020



Kembara Kitchen disaster relief in April 2020



COVID-19 relief distribution

Under normal circumstances, AOHD KL already serves a wide range of clients with differing needs under tight budget constraints but the COVID-19 pandemic added to the challenges faced by the organisation in 2020. Efforts had to be redoubled as more and more people began to require aid, and the urban poor, already numerous, saw additions to their numbers as workers lost and slid into poverty. More than 10,000 people received aid between March and November 2020.

Parishes, drawing on their respective funds for resources, supported various humanitarian efforts. This included the coordination and delivery of food aid to vulnerable communities by parish groups and individuals, and organising the manufacture of personal protective equipment (PPE) for those providing direct support against the raging virus. This was undertaken primarily through the efforts of the respective Parish Integral Human Development (PIHD) bodies.



*Rev. Albet Arockiasamy
Ecclesial Assistant*



*Ms. Teo Kar Im
Director*



*Ms. Josephine Tey
Coordinator*

*Finance report
contributed by
Ms. Teo Kar Im*

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 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mjdioocese>

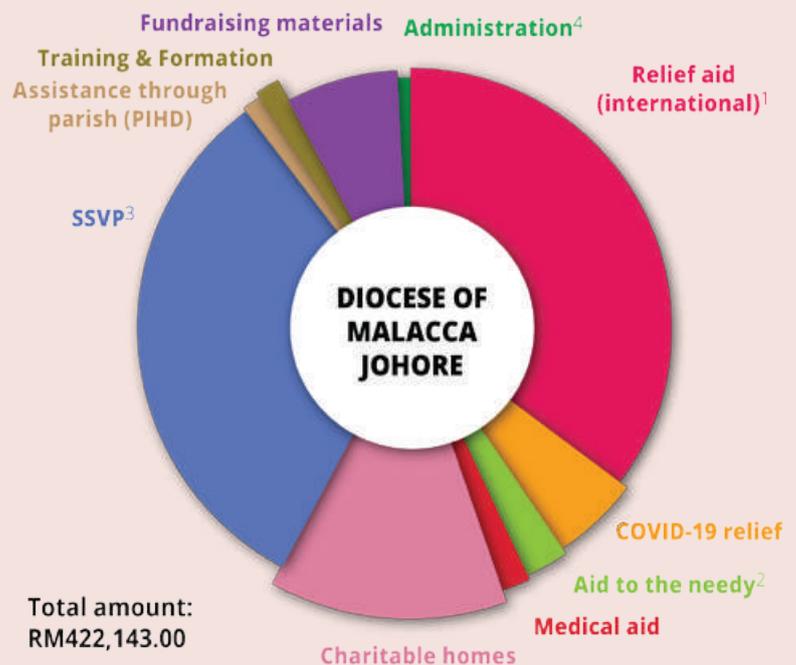


Adopt a family programme

Most of the activities of 2020 were in response to the urgent needs brought about by the pandemic. The diocese strengthened its cross ministry cooperation and collaboration to serve the needy. An Emergency Response Management Team was formed, supported by parish-based coordinators with the involvement of BECs.

Cooperation with NGOs was encouraged to ensure that travel restrictions did not hinder aid from reaching recipients. An example of ongoing collaboration is the Homeless Programme where the church collaborates with NGOs to serve the homeless in the city. Costs that come to more than RM1 million annually are shared to provide medical aid, housing and job opportunities to the homeless.

OVERVIEW OF OUTREACH AND ACTIVITIES



Total amount: RM422,143.00

- ¹ Lebanon and Philippines
- ² welfare aid
- ³ SSVP for 7 parishes
- ⁴ includes salaries and operating cost



Exposure programme volunteers with reusable green bags to distribute aid



Community Face Mask Project for the poor and homeless



Homeless Project volunteer briefing

A One-Stop Centre was established for the public to reach the church for charity services, with a website providing relevant information and an official helpline for direct aid appeals. Existing food banks were strengthened and temporary food banks were opened within the parishes. Senior citizens, migrant families and Orang Asli were provided with rations. Other efforts included a food voucher system with which the homeless could avail themselves of hot meals or other aid, and the Face Mask Project, a social community project for the sewing of cloth face masks for distribution to the poor/homeless. Employment assistance was offered via a Facebook page with information that could be used by those providing direct support when advising job seekers. Volunteer training was offered “hands-on” by those providing direct support to various marginalised communities, through involvement in charity activities, from “adopt a family” programmes to helping with the transport of groceries to the poor. Training and formation moved to online platforms. An online charity Christmas concert, jointly organised by Caritas MJDOHD and Catholic Go Live, benefitted three charities: Boystown Vocational in Malacca, the SSVF Homeless Project, and the Care Haven Children’s Home in Johore.

In 2020, the aid provided by Caritas MJD generally consisted of the supply of provisions, financial and medical support, cooked food, advocacy and other services such as the provision of masks, or administrative help such as filling in forms to obtain assistance from government departments etc. Those who availed themselves of these services were primarily from poor or single-parent families, the Orang Asli community, migrants, disabled, senior citizens, the homeless or undocumented individuals.

Care for Creation

The diocese also worked closely with the Commission for Creation Justice and for 2020 supported the Lenten Campaign’s focus on Ecology, sharing the campaign material in small groups to create awareness.



Msgr. Michael
Ecclesiastical Director



Fr. Paul Wong
Asst. Eccl. Director



Mr. Hugh Dason
Operations Director

Report contributed by Mr. Hugh Dason

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Many parishes mobilised distribution of food provisions to those affected by the MCO and sent cooked food to the elderly

The Diocese of Penang has several ongoing activities that have continued under Caritas Penang. These include:

Lighthouse – The Penang Feeding & Community Service Centre continued throughout the MCO restrictions, providing packed food instead of offering dining in facilities. The number of clients has increased to an average of 100 per day. **LightWorks** – The LightWorks programme helps create livelihoods for the marginalised who are able to do outdoor contract work such as grave maintenance, house/ office cleaning or moving, and gardening. Their work was confined to church compounds during MCO but has since resumed gradually.

OVERVIEW OF OUTREACH AND ACTIVITIES



¹ Lebanon and Philippines

² welfare aid minus charitable homes

³ minus refugee and migrant ministry, Indigenous people, but include Tenaganita, Creation Justice, for parishes, etc.

⁴ includes salaries and operating cost



The LightWorks programme helps create livelihoods for the marginalised



The feeding centre continued with packed food instead of dining in



Raising awareness through the Lenten Campaign

Brightsparks – Brightsparks, a Creative Learning and Skills Training Tuition Programme, resumed after August 2020 with 15 differently-abled children. **St Joseph’s Home** currently houses 28 children. **Mercy Home** has six clients in-house, including two children, and is providing welfare assistance to 20 families. Other initiatives of the diocese are **The Lighthouse Café**, **The Lighthouse Thrift Shop** and **The Lighthouse Bakery**.

COVID-19 response – All ministries continued their services during the MCO. Relief efforts were initiated, animated and coordinated through the parishes. A small fund was provided by the Penang Office of Human Development for contributions in cash and kind, with a total of RM60,000 disbursed to 28 parishes and two NGOs.

Education aid was given in the form of education grants to individuals, and to the Fr Julien Agape Centre. **Human Development aid** was provided to the New Thessalonian Apostolate, a school for refugee children; Tenaganita (NGO); Orang Asli Mission Work; and the Human Development Committees of various parishes. **Medical aid** was given to individuals and the Mercy Home, Mount Miriam Cancer Hospital, and the St Anne Dialysis Centre. **Welfare aid** was provided for individuals, in addition to the Simee Home for Senior Citizens, St Joseph’s Home for Children, the Lighthouse Drop-in Centre, and the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged. **Disaster relief aid** was donated to other states like Sabah, Johor and East Coast states for flood relief, and to Laos, Cambodia, Philippines and Vietnam, which had experienced various natural disasters.

Area of Focus for Caritas Penang 2021 – The aim is to support Parish Human Development Offices and the communities involved in social mission. Every parish to have a group involved in social mission that focuses on Connecting, Collaborating, Strengthening and Reviving.



Rev. Joachim Robert
Chairperson



Ms. Juanita Chin
Administrator

Report contributed by Ms. Juanita Chin



*Milestones
and Highlights*

1952

CWS Malaya

Catholic Welfare Services (CWS) begins as the arm of the Church in Malaya for welfare and charity in Kg. Simee, Perak.

1960

CWS Sarawak

Catholic Welfare Services Council Sarawak starts in Sarawak.

1966

Sabah CWA

Sabah Catholic Welfare Association starts in Sabah.

1980

NOHD

National Office of Human Development (NOHD) starts in Semenanjung; its office is based in Kuala Lumpur.



2019

8 July

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia (CBCM) dialogues with Caritas officers from Vatican and Asia, and decides to renew its membership with the Caritas federation.

2015

CIHD

Commission for Integral Human Development starts in the Diocese of Miri.

2013

ECJP/ECCJ

The Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei is established by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. It is renamed the Episcopal Commission for Creation Justice of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei in 2016.

2011

AHDC/DMIHD

Archdiocesan Human Development Commission (AHDC) starts in the Archdiocese of Kota Kinabalu. Diocesan Ministry of Integral Human Development starts in the Diocese of Sibul.



2019

May & Nov

Two diocesan priests are sent on two occasions to attend Caritas Asia conferences in Bangkok and to give their feedback to the Bishops' Conference.



2020

7 January

The bishops unanimously decide to establish Caritas Malaysia and appoints its office bearers. They decide to have Creation Justice and Migrants (ECMI) Commissions affiliated with Caritas Malaysia.

2020

25 February

Inaugural meeting of diocese delegates with Bishop Chair and Executive Secretary affirms decision to establish Caritas Malaysia. An interim board is set up and a process agreed upon.

2020

15 March

A kit "Listening to Voices on the Ground" for consulting communities on their issues and needs is sent to all dioceses.

2020

April & May

Compilation of questions and draft responses with Arch/bishops.



1987

OHD

Office of Human Development starts in the Diocese of Malacca Johore.



1993

AOHD

Archdiocesan Office for Human Development (AOHD) starts in the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur.



1996

ECMI

The Episcopal Commission for Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerants of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei is established by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.



2001

POHD/CMHD/KOIHD

The Penang Office for Human Development (POHD) starts in the diocese of Penang. The Archdiocesan Commission for Mission and Human Development (CMHD) starts in the Archdiocese of Kuching. Komisi Office of Integral Human Development starts in the Diocese of Keningau.



2007

HDC

Human Development Commission starts in the Diocese of Sandakan.



Milestones

**article references on page 53*

2020

23 June

Malaysian bishops discuss and approve organigram and FAQs on Caritas Malaysia.



2020

August & October

Training on the use of the focus group discussion (FGD) tool in the local community consultation process.



2020

6 November

Online launch of Caritas Malaysia and its first National Assembly.



2020

November

Regional conversations with heads of Sabah, Sarawak and Semenanjung.



2021

January

Caritas Malaysia annual orientation and calendar of events established.



2021

March to July

A series of Basic Communication workshops on writing, photography and videography is conducted in collaboration with Public Media Agency and SIGNIS Malaysia.



2021

April to October

A six-month Community Development course is conducted in collaboration with Caritas Philippines and Caritas India.



2021

May to September

A series of Conversations on Structures for Mission among dioceses and national Caritas is facilitated by Caritas Internationalis and Caritas Asia.

Highlights

Below are some testimonies from online programmes organised by Caritas Malaysia for participants to better serve in their parishes and dioceses.

Basic Communication workshops - Writing, Photography and Videography



"The Basic Communication workshops that I attended online via Zoom was very good. I was very happy to learn new skills and get more knowledge.

It is possible to learn online because I am interested in the presented topics, and being involved in the Social Communication ministry in church is fun and joyful. I need to share what I have learnt with others." - *Edward Olaybal, Archdiocese of Kota Kinabalu*

"I am blessed for having had the opportunity to join the Basic Communication workshops organised by Caritas Malaysia, especially the writing workshop. I learned a few tips from the trainer on how to improve my writing skills to make my stories more interesting, captivating and insightful to the readers on social media.

If it's God's will for me to continue to write for His glory, I will do my best with the knowledge I have learnt and the guidance of the Holy Spirit!" - *Margaret Yoong, Diocese of Penang*



I was blessed to be able to attend the Basic Communication workshops. It was a marvellous effort by Caritas, Public Media Agency and SIGNIS Malaysia's professional facilitators. Most of the participants already work as volunteers in Social Communications & Mass Media in their respective dioceses so the valuable takeaways from these virtual workshops will help us immensely in our various capacities for the glory of God.

Thank you, Caritas Malaysia, for encouraging and constantly following up with us on assignment submissions! These are a really beneficial and effective way of helping us to be fully engaged in the learning process. Meeting others through this workshop was a big plus too. May we all work together in the future for the glory of God. - *James Lau, Diocese of Sibiu*

Conversations: Structures for Mission

"I joined the Conversation on Structure from the beginning and my favourite part was a talk on *Fratelli Tutti*. It reminds me that I need to treat others not only as neighbours but brothers and sisters too.

The narrative of the Good Samaritan sums up everything I need to be, and how to treat others. Definitely it is not an easy mission, but act in a way that people can relate to, through friendship and love." – Anna Teresa Peter Amandus, Sandakan



"Saya amat merasakan dan mengalami sesi conversation ini sungguh bermanfaat kerana ianya membicarakan tentang perkara practical yang boleh kita mulakan dalam memulakan pelayanan Caritas.

Sesi yang disampaikan telah membantu saya untuk semakin bersemangat dan berusaha untuk melakukan tindakan selanjutnya demi menyatukan, memulakan dan melaksanakan pelayanan Caritas dengan lebih teratur dan efektif meskipun dengan perlahan dan dipenuhi dengan pelbagai cabaran. Bermula dengan apa yang ada, dari sekecil langkah sekalipun namun percaya bahawa Tuhanlah penggerak dan akan melaksanakan kehendakNya seturut rencanaNya dan WaktuNya..." – Fr Sylvester Ngau Juk, Keuskupan Miri

"I find the fortnightly conversations very valuable and enriching. The input, reflections, and content shared are helpful. The professional standard of delivery and resource persons have answered many of the questions which are very helpful to the setting up of Caritas for our diocese. I look forward to the sessions and takeaways of many golden nuggets." – Juanita Chin, Diocese of Penang



"My biggest takeaway from the Caritas Sessions on Structures is the spirituality adopted in the way we serve, accompany and defend the poor, being in solidarity with an international community, belonging to one big family!" – Andrew Leo, Diocese of Malacca Johore

Community Development Course

"The speakers throughout our sessions were amazing and inspiring. They shared with us their own experiences in working with the people of God from diverse areas as well as their approaches and solutions to overcome challenges in areas that may be encountered in our call to be missionaries of Christ in Caritas Malaysia. I am more familiar with the urban approaches. However, this course has spurred me to look deeper into the Sabah and Sarawak approaches, and other parts of the Asian world and their mission work." – *Loursdmary, Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur*



"What I've learnt is that the poor are a part of the community. The doors of heaven are only open for those who give their hands to the less fortunate. We as the disciples of the church have to go out to the world and serve the community who are in need as Jesus himself did. In John 10:10, Jesus said, 'I have come that they may have life and have it in all fullness.'

Through this course, I gained ideas on how to approach the community. Dr Saju taught us the ten stages of community development which emphasise the right way to approach a community; it is by knowing the community first before moving on to the next stages. This really helped me to understand that we should strengthen our core or basics first before moving on to the next step. I will share these skills and knowledge with my fellow youths and discuss how and where we can apply them in the future." – *Milon Benjamin, Diocese of Penang*

"Terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengucapkan ribuan terima kepada Caritas Malaysia atas peluang yang diberikan menjadi salah satu peserta dalam *Community Development Course*. Dari sini, saya dapat mengetahui serba sedikit mengenai latar belakang etnik Tagbanua di kepulauan Palawan yang telah disampaikan oleh Fr. Roderick pada 8 May yang lalu. Mereka adalah etnik terawal yang menduduki kepulauan ini.

Melalui penjangkauan, pertemuan dan sesi dialog dengan penduduk etnik Tagbanua, gereja dapat mendengar, melihat, bertindak dan merespon kepada keluhan dan permasalahan yang mereka hadapi, Walaupun perlu melalui proses yang panjang, akhirnya mereka mendapat semula hak mereka seperti hak tanah, pendidikan, kesihatan, dan memperbaiki ekonomi keluarga.

Dengan hidup berk komuniti serta perancangan yang rapi, mereka dapat mengutarakan suara mereka kepada dunia luar. Usaha seperti ini harus didukung oleh semua lapisan masyarakat dalam mencapai objektif." – *Mirasol Cordero, Diocese of Sandakan*



"I benefited immensely from this course. It makes me realise how limited I am in terms of skills and will to serve different communities. It is humbling to recognise the intelligence and knowledge of a community when it comes to solving their own problems." – Kletus Muyuk, Diocese of Sandakan



"Apa yang telah saya pelajari adalah untuk memahami apakah kepentingan sebenar Caritas di Diocese Miri dan apakah kepentingannya kepada umat, terutamanya di kawasan pedalaman dan yang amat memerlukannya.

Perkara yang menyentuh hati saya adalah apabila rakan kumpulan dalam kursus ini berkongsi tentang pengalaman mereka dan juga masalah umat yang berada di kawasan pedalaman yang amat memerlukan pertolongan dan perhatian. Kursus ini membuka setiap mata dan akar fikiran saya dan meningkatkan ilmu pengetahuan yang lebih luas tentang pelayanan di dalam Caritas. Saya akan terus menjadi Pelayan di dalam Komuniti Caritas." – Rosica Milah, Keuskupan Miri

Caritas Malaysia's COVID-19 response

June 17, 2021

<https://www.heraldmalaysia.com/news/caritas-malysias-covid-19-response/60049/5>

KUALA LUMPUR: Caritas Malaysia is the office for the promotion of the social mission of the Catholic Church of Malaysia.

It consists of the Caritas/ Human Development offices of all nine dioceses in Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia.

On Monday, June 7, Caritas Malaysia organised a Zoom meeting with the diocesan offices to:

- exchange information on activities and learn from each other;
- share information and contacts of collaborating organisations;
- assess help and training needs.



Need to coordinate and organise

The various Church ministries and groups serve different communities but are

uncoordinated, hence the need for better organisation. Many attendees have become more organised since MCOs were imposed.

The 10km radius regulation imposed by SOPs spurred diocesan offices and parishes to work with Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) to collect and deliver aid.

Strengthen parish structures

Not all efforts need to be initiated at diocesan level. Parishes have been given funds to help them in their outreach. All parishes must have structures for community outreach.

It is important for Caritas Diocesan Offices to establish and maintain communication channels for aid and support with the parishes. In Sabah, parishes are doing a survey to find out the impact of COVID on the people, to better respond to it.

Participation in SHAPE projects (for disaster relief work)

Caritas Malaysia shared that the SHAPE projects organised by Caritas Asia and Caritas Europe are open to staff and volunteers of Caritas Malaysia.

There are four training groups:

- 1) Regional Emergency Support Mechanism,
- 2) Online Platform,

- 3) Community Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning,
- 4) Community of Practice.

SHAPE Project Committee

This project will build capacity of staff and volunteers on disaster and relief response, enabling them to become resource persons for the dioceses.

Communication channels

Many acknowledge the poor information system in the Church. There is a need to have more resource material and personnel for those in other language groups, and more platforms for sharing. The Tuesday chat session with Caritas Malaysia National office may be utilised for this.

Staff and volunteers need knowledge on screening and referring those with mental health issues to healthcare professionals.

Mental health support and resources

Staff and volunteers need knowledge on screening and referring those with mental



health issues to healthcare professionals. They also need to know first aid in mental health to take care of themselves and those around them. They need training and mental health support.

They are urged to use the materials and resource persons of the various mental health ministries in their respective dioceses.

Official letters for travel

Interstate and inter-district travel now require official letters.

Below are other areas where dioceses are involved:

Collaboration with non-governmental organisations

PENANG DIOCESE

Here, Caritas Penang/Penang Office of Human Development (POHD) has been collaborating with non-governmental organisations and parishes in the distribution of food aid packages and help for those experiencing domestic violence and depression.

Parishes were allocated RM2,000 each to help those in need in their area.

They also helped homes and orphanages facing shortages of food and other necessities as donations have dropped. Many parish Zones and BECs are also engaging with the lonely, depressed, the poor, etc.

MALACCA JOHORE DIOCESE

Caritas Malacca Johore Diocese of Human Development (MJDOHD) set up a

This information was shared across social media platforms, with MJDOHD then disseminating it to the relevant parishes for follow up.

centralised COVID response system to help those affected financially by the multiple lockdowns during the first MCO.

With churches closed, many people do not know who to see or where to get help from, so MJDOHD created an online registration form for aid applications.

This information was shared across social media platforms, with MJDOHD then disseminating it to the relevant parishes for follow up.

In addition to funds coming from the public and the parish ministries, Caritas gives grants to 14 SSVP conferences in the diocese and six POHD ministries to help sustain the escalating needs of this project. BECs may also apply, and are encouraged to help under the "neighbour help neighbour" project. — *By Gwen Manickam*

Caritas Sibu plans to teach and train them to plant vegetables, be responsible eco-friendly stewards, share seeds and green plants and other items.

Growing your own food initiative for the B40 group

SIBU DIOCESE

Eta Ting, Director of Caritas Sibu, shared that the Diocese of Sibu is planning a sustainable "grow your own food" project among B40 called Grow Our Greens (GOG) Project: 2021, as food is a common denominator. The project will start in Sibu town near the cathedral.

"We have been doing food distribution since the first lockdown in March 2020. We should be working towards sustainable food subsistence for daily consumption," she said.

Growing their own greens is sustainable and extra vegetables can be sold.

Caritas Sibu plans to teach and train them to plant vegetables, be responsible eco-friendly stewards, share seeds and green plants and other items.

This will be a journey of eco-gifting in love, solidarity, sustainability, protection, interconnectedness, interdependence and co-existence of humanity with nature, living in fraternity and solidarity.

KUALA LUMPUR ARCHDIOCESE

Teo Kar Im, Director of the Archdiocesan Office for Human Development (AOHD) said that some parishes have set up food banks in their parishes.

“AOHD basically coordinates with parishes and helps to fill in wherever necessary. For example, there was a need for 100 bags of rice, we helped to supply them,” she further explained.



Communicate care and concern directly

MIRI DIOCESE

The Diocese of Miri communicated directly with several longhouse communities. Volunteers were initially afraid to engage with community members as they feared contracting the virus.

Miri Caritas Director, Fr Sylvester Ngau Juk explained how he was able to send food aid to affected longhouses during the recent floods, with the help of a middle man. By taking the necessary precautions,

volunteers are now more prepared to help the community.

There are many ministries of social concern/ services in the diocese. Fr Sylvester is hoping to unite all these under one umbrella, and is currently forming his diocesan team. First on the agenda, will be ensuring that every parish has a Caritas team.

It is heartwarming to see Malaysians united together in doing our part to reach out to those in need while the country is battling the pandemic.

Catholics and Muslims working together to help the underprivileged

KAMPUNG PANDAN: The Parish Ministry of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (PMEIA) of the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Jalan Peel, in collaboration with Persatuan Inspirasi Mualaf Malaysia in Kampung Pandan, held two joint projects for underprivileged families in Kampung Pandan, before the start of MCO 3.0.

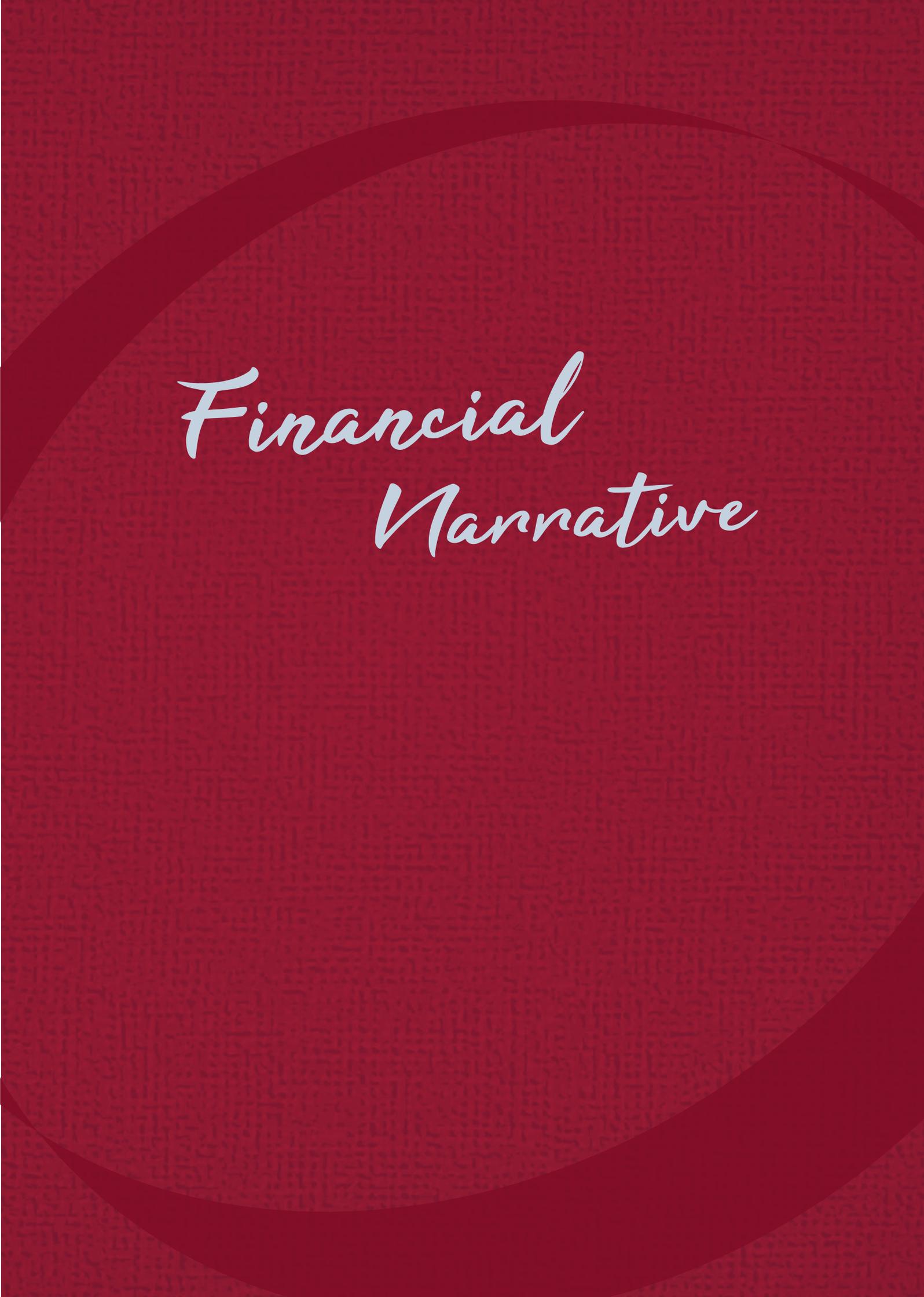
The first joint project with the Muslim group benefited thirty B40 Muslim families in Kampung Pandan area.

Both groups gave household rations comprising food items amounting to 600kg, with each family receiving 20kgs each.

The second joint project with the same Muslim group benefited 50 families; 50 bags of rice, totalling 500kg were distributed.

The PMEIA members were glad to have worked with Persatuan Inspirasi Mualaf Malaysia on these two projects. It is heartwarming to see Malaysians united in doing our part to reach out to those in need while the country is battling the pandemic.

— By Bernard Anthony



*Financial
Narrative*

FINANCIAL NARRATIVE



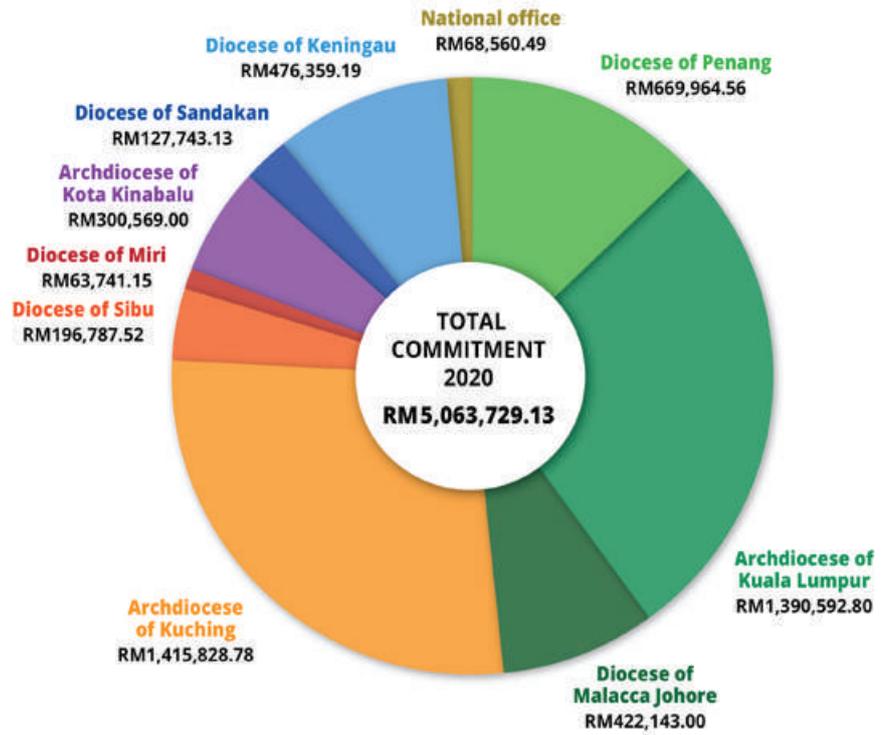
Narrative report on the consolidated financial commitments of social ministries, as submitted by the dioceses for 2020

The exercise of compiling and consolidating the contributions of the various dioceses for the social ministries was initially discussed at the Bishops' Conference meeting in January 2021, and subsequently at the Caritas Exco & directors meeting in January-February 2021. Personalised letters were then sent to the Arch/Bishop of every diocese and the respective Caritas directors on 18 June 2021, with an explanation of the exercise, visual layout sample, and request for information. Each diocese was free to disclose what they wish about their commitment to social ministries. The findings and recommendations here are not exhaustive nor conclusive. They are intended to stimulate reflection and learning for the next steps forward.

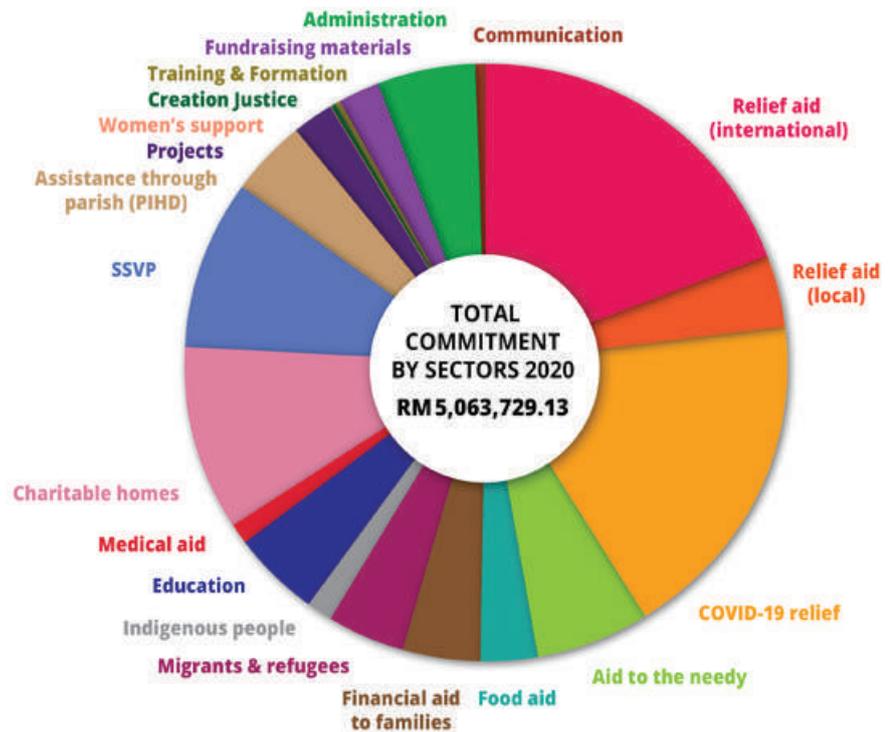
The purpose of this exercise is intended to assist the Bishops and their offices to:

1. **Provide an overview** – of the respective and collective diocese commitments in social ministries.
2. **Awareness of the landscape** – the above will lead to an understanding of the landscape where, how, and how much we are committed as a Malaysian Catholic Church, and our contributions to the people and nation building.
3. **Assist in discerning** – assist the Bishops and Caritas offices to reflect if the current commitments to social ministries reflect the priorities of the diocese and its ministries vis-à-vis needs on the ground; and if resources are being optimally utilised?
4. **Inform pastoral planning** – Do we continue our current course of action, or change course? Do we increase our commitments? Which sectors need greater attention and support? Why?

OVERVIEW OF TOTAL COMMITMENT FOR SOCIAL MINISTRIES
- DIOCESES & CARITAS NATIONAL OFFICE 2020



OVERVIEW OF TOTAL COMMITMENT FOR SOCIAL MINISTRIES BY SECTORS



5. **Encourage resource mapping** – What are the available resources – people, funds, in-kind, etc.? Where do these originate, and how to sustain, nurture and replenish them for the missions within the dioceses?
6. **Establish a track record** – This exercise seeks to provide a track record of the areas of commitment, which can subsequently be used by the dioceses or offices to request for grants or advocate for support.
7. **Build trust and confidence** – Compiling and sharing efforts will continue to help build trust and confidence among the various stakeholders (actors, donors, volunteers, beneficiaries, authorities) in church and outside.
8. **Return on investments** – When ministries, organisations and dioceses communicate and witness how resources entrusted to them have been utilised, it generates greater trust and giving, spurring good will, growth and maturity of the Christian community – thereby nurturing the spirit of synodality even in finances.



Findings of the 2020 Exercise

- a. All dioceses do have their respective offices and systems of accounting. Because this was a first exercise for all, disclosures from diocese offices and persons were **uneven** and not standardised.
- b. About 20 line items were generated, indicating that the Malaysian Catholic Church does support a **wide range** of programmes and activities.
- c. The line items can be grouped into four broad **categories**: **Relief** (local & international), COVID-19 response, and various traditional Welfare activities. This is followed by **Thematic** areas: Migrants, Indigenous peoples, Women, Creation Justice, Education. There is medical aid, and **general aid** given to various charitable homes (children, elderly, disabled); and lastly, **Organisation Development**.
- d. **General aid** can also be grouped with aid given through parishes, and the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP), and could overlap with Relief and Welfare. So they can be condensed into two major categories – Relief and Thematic.

- e. **Organisation Development** needs are internal to the diocese offices such as training & formation, fund raising expenses, administrative (including salaries), and communications – mainly from national office.
- f. The **total commitment** from all dioceses and national office for social ministries or causes amounted to RM5.1 million nationwide, largely from generous contributions of Malaysian Catholics.

The awareness of understanding the landscape will lead us to the where, how, and how much we are committed as a Malaysian Catholic Church; and of our contributions to the people and nation building.

- g. This figure is a **conservative estimate** as each diocese had the freedom to decline or disclose their respective commitments to social ministries.
- h. Furthermore, some direct contributions and support from **parishes** are not recorded or presented at the dioceses' level.
- i. This exercise did not request information on commitments made by **congregations** for the poor. (This exercise does not require major institutional commitments such as schools or hospitals or centres.)
- j. **Actual commitments** on the ground by Malaysian Catholics and various social ministries is much higher.
- k. The **single biggest line item** was Relief Assistance to neighbouring countries and Relief Aid for COVID-19 amounting to about RM985,900 and RM933,480 respectively.
- l. **COVID-19 contributions** make up a large part of other line items such as food aid, aid to the needy, and financial aid to families, thus surpassing RM1million.
- m. The **single biggest grouping** of commitment was in Welfare, reflecting the traditional areas of church commitment.
- n. The **smallest sectors** of commitment are Women's support and Creation Justice: RM4,000 and RM9,000 respectively.
- o. However, Women's programmes could have been supported under Welfare or General Aid; and environment-related activities are also carried out under **other commissions** like Creation Justice, and annual Lenten exercises.
- p. Nevertheless, all diocese social ministries should consider their **priority areas**, if the resource allocation reflects it, or it needs stepping up.
- q. **Greater investments** can be made in the training of staff and volunteers, and in communications.
- r. **Classifications** of what constitutes social ministry expenses and line items may not be common to all. Some offices subsumed ministry workers' salaries into admin costs while others did not.
- s. In some instances, there is **no clear understanding** of line items and expenses. Aid is not differentiated or no details are noted, it is only treated as welfare.
- t. A number of offices and staff were also **hesitant to cooperate** or share information during the exercise.

Recommendations

1. **Establish a shared policy** at diocese and national level on sharing of information for exchange, cooperation and planning purposes for social ministries.
2. **Develop a Chart of Accounts** or at least a shared understanding of line items and postings for social ministries to better classify, monitor and report on expenses, avoid overlaps, and clarify areas of commitment.
3. **Tracking details** of aid for individual, family or community allocations – where it is not done – such as food rations, school fees, scholarships, medical aid, etc. will assist in pastoral planning.



4. **Templates** for the above, either existing or to be developed by any diocese, can be shared with all.
5. **Identify needs patterns** by geographical areas, beneficiary groups or sectors, to be used for pastoral care and resource planning. Having a template and recording the details will be helpful for this purpose.
6. **Discussions among diocese finance offices**, picking up on any of the above points, to brief and train each other would help the ministries and promote understanding.
7. **Encourage community knowledge and discernment** on pastoral priorities and the use of resources to generate further trust and increase commitment.
8. **Discerning the way forward as Malaysian church.** In any crises, such as the pandemic we are traversing, the church will always respond to assist the people and the needy. However, to prepare the future, we need to discern at what levels do we intervene, what sectors need our intervention, and how best to go about it?

Prepared by Charles Bertille

New Forms of Poverty

POVERTY

As of July 2020, over 608,000 households (or nearly 2.5 million people) in Malaysia are living in poverty. The majority reside in Sabah, Kelantan and Sarawak (See Figures 1 and 2). In the Klang Valley, the poor are mainly in Kuala Langat, Klang and Hulu Langat, but they can be found across the Klang Valley. Poverty is more prevalent (55%) among disabled-headed (DHH) and female-headed (FHH) households; 1 in 2 and 6 in 10 of these live in poverty, respectively.

“We (old people) went out looking for jobs... Anything that we can do to gain some income... But it's impossible... God, it's really hard, we are severely affected.”

– Ms R, 46, Online seller (Source: Families on the Edge, UNICEF & UNFPA Malaysia)

Incidence of Poverty in Peninsular Malaysia (by State)

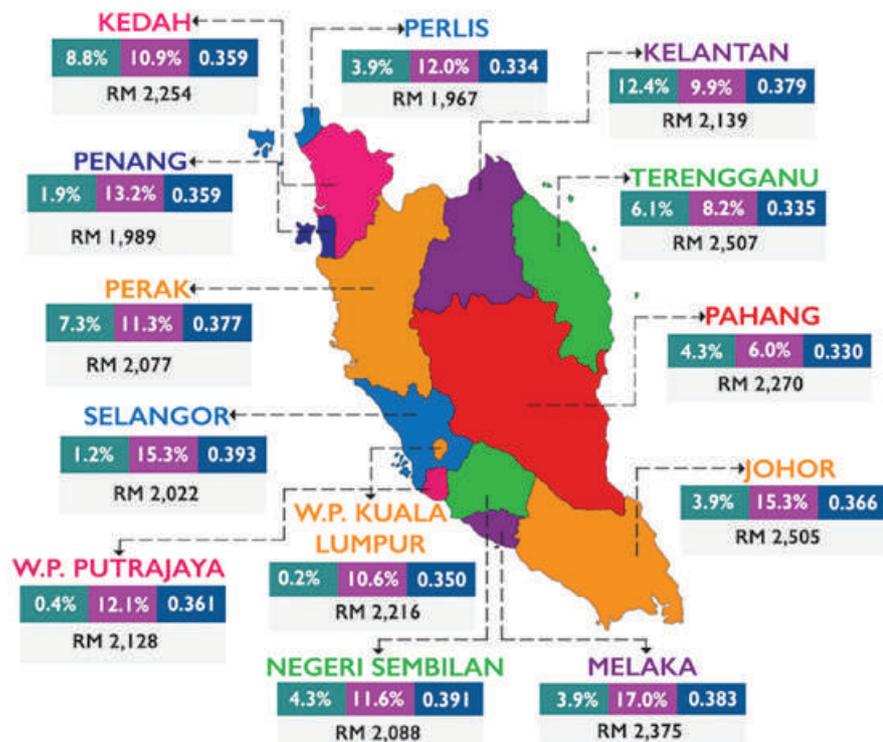


Figure 1: Incidence of poverty in Semenanjung [by state in Malaysia]
(Source: IDEAS – Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs)

"I do not have a regular pension, and I do not have children. My joints hurt, but most of all, I am weak. I eat noodles when I can... but I have not eaten any protein, fruit or vegetables in a long time. I wait for someone to call me as I do not have credit on my phone to call anyone. I wait to see if someone will knock on my door with food."

– Ms CH, 74, Malaysian (Source: Malaysiakini)

More than half of the population (21 million people) received financial assistance in 2020. However, many of the poor including indigenous communities such as Orang Asli and Orang Asal do not, due to the lack of documentation or access issues. An estimated 92% of 198,000 Orang Asli in Semenanjung are still living in poverty in the remote and rural areas of Perak, Pahang, Terengganu, Kelantan, Johor and Negeri Sembilan.

"Our income is badly affected. It is mentally stressful, we are angry and frustrated. Frustrated with the MCO, worried about financials. No income, nothing."

– Ms H., 43, full-time housewife who has to take care of her bed-ridden husband (Source: Families on the Edge, UNICEF & UNFPA Malaysia)

Incidence of Poverty in East Malaysia (by State)

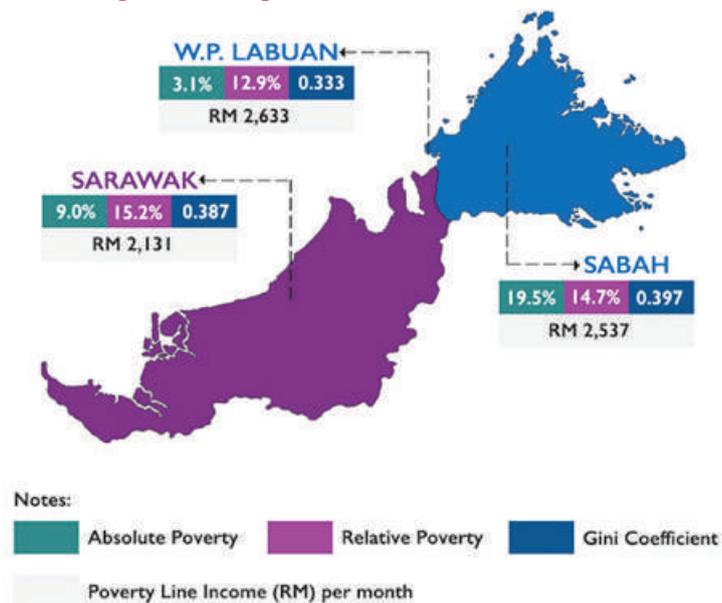


Figure 2: Incidence of poverty in Sabah and Sarawak [by state in Malaysia] (Source: IDEAS – Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs)

EMPLOYMENT

After the first MCO implementation, the unemployment rate rose to 5% in April 2020; a record figure, the highest in 30 years. More than half of the employed from low-income households (LIH) do not have labour market protection. This figure is higher among FHH (see Figure 3).

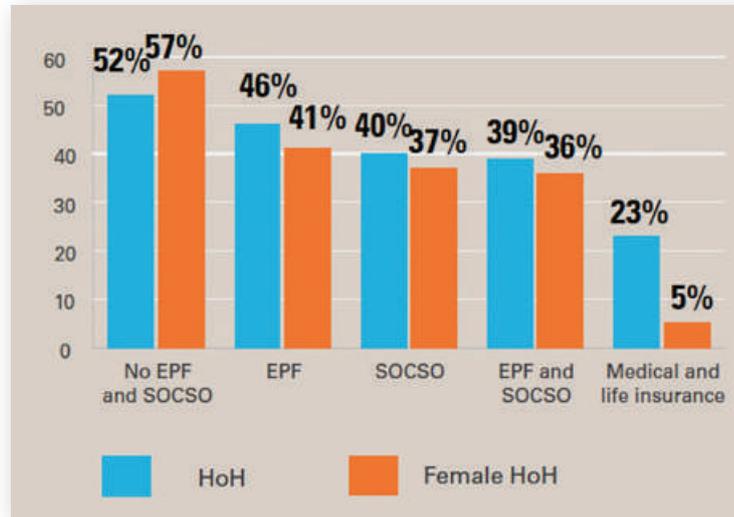


Figure 3: Labour market protection among heads of household in 2019
(EPF: Employee Provident Fund, HoH: heads of household, SOCSO: Social Security Organisation)

Malaysian employees' median monthly salaries declined across all educational levels, especially for those with primary and secondary school qualifications. Median monthly salaries and wages decreased from RM2,442 to RM2,062. Since 2010, the median monthly salaries for males have been consistently higher than for females. Income inequality increased in 2019 for all three major ethnic groups – Bumiputera, Chinese, Indians.

MIGRANTS, REFUGEES & STATELESS PERSONS

Malaysia had an estimated 3.85 to 8 million migrant workers, including undocumented illegal workers, from South East and South Asia before the pandemic. A smaller but still significant number of refugees is also present in Malaysia. The majority of the 179,570 persons registered with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as of May 2021 are from Myanmar, such as the Rohingyas (57.3%), various ethnic groups (16.4%) and Chins (12.5%). Others fleeing war or persecution are from over 50 countries including Pakistanis, Yemenis, Syrians, Somalis, Afghans, Sri Lankans, Iraqis, and Palestinians. This migrant and refugee population is mainly concentrated in the Klang Valley but it can be found in most of the states in Semenanjung.

There is also a large population of stateless persons in Malaysia ranging from 510,000 to 1.9 million with the majority living in Sabah. These different groups of people are excluded from poverty assessments and lack access to government services and assistance.

MENTAL HEALTH, VIOLENCE & ABUSE

Job loss and lockdown stress during the pandemic have increased fear and anxiety about security, health and the future. A study conducted in early April 2020 showed that almost half of the respondents self-reported experiencing varying levels of anxiety, depression (45%), and stress (34%). Two in three heads of households in low-income families reported being emotionally distressed, especially among FHH (see Figure 4).

Suicides also increased during MCO from 609 in 2019, to 631 in 2020; and 468 suicides were reported in just the first five months of 2021. Teenagers aged 15 to 18, followed by adults aged 19 to 40, in Selangor were most commonly involved. Suicides were due mainly to family problems, emotional pressure and finances.

Reported cases of abuse and violence at home also increased. Family stress related to the loss of income, reduced access to schooling and changes to children's behaviour during MCO contributed to increased physical and emotional abuse of children. Sixty-nine per cent of children surveyed said that their parents used physical punishment and/or psychological aggression. Women's Aid Organization and the government's Talian Kasih hotline for women's support noted an increase of 44% and 57% respectively in cases after the government announced the first MCO.

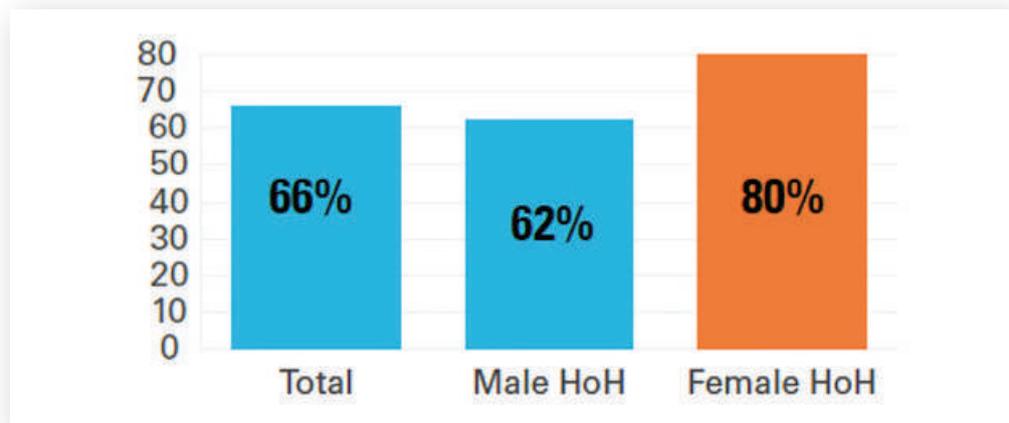


Figure 4: Emotionally distressed due to MCO by gender

CORRUPTION

In 2019, Malaysia ranked 51st in the Corruption Perception Index globally but slumped to 57th position, in 2020. According to Transparency International, Malaysia's efforts to combat corruption regressed due to delayed institutional reforms such as not tabling the proposed Political Funding Bill in Parliament; the revision to an ineffective Independent Police Conduct Commission (IPCC) Bill; and non-separation of powers between the Attorney General and Public Prosecutor.

Limited access to information on public-interest matters, like the compensation in the cancellation of the high speed rail project, compensation breakdown from Goldman Sachs in the 1Malaysia Development Berhad

(1MDB) scandal, the Wang Kelian human trafficking issue, the Sabah Water Scandal and the non-delivery of the Littoral Combat Ship, caused further decline of Malaysia's position on the global index.

ETHNIC RELATIONS & VIOLENT EXTREMISM

There has been further breakdown of social integration and increased racial discrimination and polarisation among various ethnic groups. Simmering ethno-religious tension has, over decades, escalated into several incidences of violent conflict, recently. The threat of violent extremism in the community is increasing. Since 2013, authorities have arrested more than 400 suspected local and foreign extremists and thwarted several terror attacks. The current local climate is relatively tolerant of violent extremism, fake news and hate speech on social media – all incendiary ingredients to spark a bonfire that may destabilise Malaysia and the region.

by Dr Melanie YL Siaw

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Tribute

We stand on the shoulders of heroes and Catholics who have gone before us. We remember and we honour them.

Cardinal Anthony Soter Fernandez

Date of Birth: 22 April 1932 | Ordained Priest: 10 December 1966
Passing: 28 October 2020

His Eminence, the late Anthony Soter Cardinal Fernandez, the first Cardinal of Malaysia will always be remembered for his unwavering faith, deep humility and cheerful warm personality.

Cardinal Soter lived in obedience to GOD and His Church. True to his motto, **Justice & Peace (Keadilan dan Keamanan)**, he advocated human rights, social justice, interreligious dialogue and championed justice and peace issues. He served all in humility, kindness, fairness; radiating the joy and peace of Christ till the end.



Cardinal Cornelius Sim

Date of Birth: 16 September 1951 | Ordained Priest: 26 November 1989
Passing: 29 May 2021

Passion: Photography, videography, cooking, teaching and learning about the faith, bringing the faith of the local church to the world by taking people on pilgrimages.

Favorite phrase: *What shall I return to the LORD for all the goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. Ps 116:12-13*

Six years ago, when we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Vicariate, he said "his life is likened to a pencil. The pencil is dumb instrument. It is the hand that wields the pencil that can do wonders. God can do a lot of things without us but yet He chooses to involve us."

Motto: *Duc in Altum*
"Put out into the deep"

Dr. Paul Sinnappan

Date of Birth: 24 April 1950 | Church Wedding: 8 June 1974
Passing: 24 May 2021

"Empowering women and the marginalised is the way to a just and equitable society."

Sinnappan was a simple grassroots man to many local communities in the Malay *kampungs*, Orang Asli villages, the Tamil labourers in the plantations, the urban poor and women's groups. His work spread and he was invited to many countries, including by the United Nations. As a devout Catholic, he lived out his faith in service.

Despite the many achievements, he remained simple, humble and caring. His life-time work was recognised with a honorary doctorate from India, and the many enduring friendships.



SOCIAL MEDIA ALERT !

Please be attentive to an unauthorized Facebook account posing as Caritas Malaysia. The Catholic Bishops' Conference has not approved the operation of this Facebook account or any of its related social media.

Visit the Caritas Malaysia Official Facebook Page at:

facebook.com/CaritasMalaysia1



Actual Caritas Malaysia Facebook Page

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CARITAS MALAYSIA