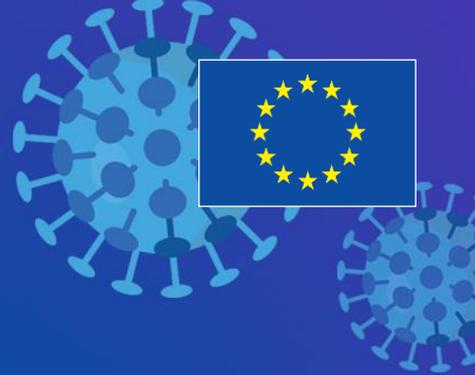


Team Europe's Response to the COVID-19 crisis in Malaysia

#strongertogether



May 2020 #Coronavirus #EUfightsCorona #TeamEurope

The coronavirus pandemic is a global crisis that requires a global solution. Globally the European Union (EU) is mobilising **EUR 20 billion** to end the spread of the virus and to avoid spill-over effects on economic and social stability and security in its partner countries. The EU contributed **EUR 114 million** to the WHO for the global pandemic response and is preparing a further action worth **EUR 20 million** for the region, as part of its **emergency support package for ASEAN countries**, including Malaysia.

EU responding to immediate needs

The EU is working with Civil Society Organisations and UN organisations in Malaysia to ensure that **local vulnerable communities** – stateless people, migrants, indigenous people, single parent households and children – have **access to food, water and medical equipment** during the COVID crisis.

Team Europe Response



Belgium has donated over 150 food packages, 200 litres of hand sanitizer and 200 face masks to the Rohingya refugee communities living in areas affected by a complete lockdown.



Italy has supported the Malaysia led ASEAN Emergency Operation Centres Network facilitating exchanges regarding the fight against the virus, there are ongoing exchanges of information including on clinical trials on drugs used to treat patients affected by COVID 19.

Relief aid to communities in Malaysia

Among its partners in Malaysia, the EU is working with **DHRRA** (Development of Human Resources for Rural Areas) who is leading the **COVIDCAREMY campaign** which aims to **support and give assistance to marginalized communities** throughout the country.



I am proud to say that the European Union has provided strong backing for our numerous partners in Malaysia. Through these partnerships, we have supported thousands of vulnerable people across Malaysia whose livelihoods have been threatened by the crisis. We will extend our efforts into the medium and long term, with economic and social recovery programmes that will aid people to adjust to the new normal.

Maria Castillo Fernandez, Ambassador of EU Delegation to Malaysia

6 358

families were provided assistance in Malaysia

125

villages in total were reached and helped through the EU support

What support is the EU providing to Malaysia in the longer term?

Together with its partners, the EU is strongly committed to a long-term response towards the devastating human and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on local populations and communities.



Support small businesses & secure jobs

The EU is supporting SME's to get back on track through a **business recovery program**. The EU is dedicated to:

- Increase **conservation-related employment** and **income generation opportunities** for community members in and around national parks;
- Participate in **local rural development** through an increase in support to the production and marketing of home-made products

Fight gender issues

- **Gender issues** in Malaysia have always been **at the forefront of EU engagement** and this continues to be the case throughout COVID-19 crisis, where women are severely impacted on several fronts
- Through the **Safe and Fair programme**, the EU is **supporting migrant women in Malaysia** who cannot return home due to border closures and, may face violence, job loss or need accurate information during the health crisis
- The EU and UN Women are **promoting gender-sensitive responses to Covid-19** for accelerated and inclusive economic recovery with UN Women



Promote inclusiveness

- The EU is working with local Civil Society Organisations to ensure that the roadmap back to the new normal is as **inclusive** as possible and to empower vulnerable communities across Malaysia by strengthening their **social and economic rights**
- The EU and UNDP are **helping businesses to address the human rights impacts** of their operations during and after the COVID-19 crisis

Freedom of information

- The EU is raising awareness of how the crisis is impacting many communities through short films and supports the **freedom film festival** which will screen movies portraying affected communities
- The EU is supporting **training for journalists** on how to report during a pandemic and how to stay safe while reporting
- The EU and ASEAN youth networks are **providing information and news** on www.engage.eu/covid19

