



No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

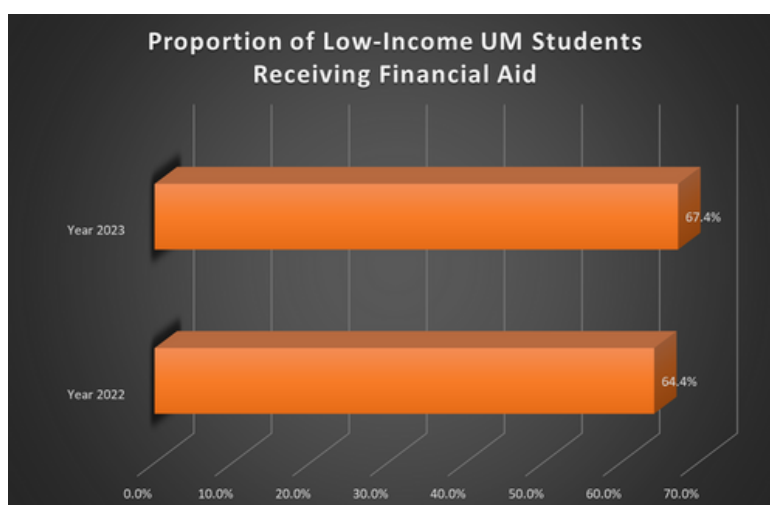


Universiti Malaya's Commitment to Ending Poverty

Universiti Malaya's (UM) initiatives align closely with global trends in poverty alleviation and sustainable development, contributing significantly to the achievement of SDG 1. The university's efforts to increase access to education, support low-income students, and empower local communities are directly contributing to national and global poverty eradication goals. Furthermore, UM's alignment with the UM Transformation Plan 2030 and UM Master Plan 2050 ensures that its poverty alleviation efforts are integrated into a broader strategy for sustainable development.

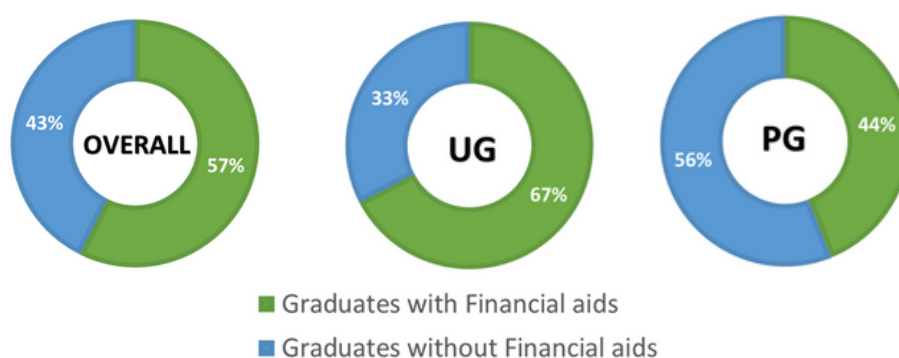
UM's commitment to ending poverty is also reflected in its participation in global networks and partnerships. The university actively collaborates with international organisations, government agencies, and non-governmental organisations to share best practices, develop new strategies, and work together on initiatives aimed at reducing poverty. Through these partnerships, UM contributes to the global effort to eradicate poverty by 2030, as outlined in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Number of Low-Income Students Receiving Significant Financial Aid Due to Economic Hardship



Above: Proportion of low-income UM students receiving financial aid
(Source: UM Student Affairs Department and Universiti Malaya Academic Portal)

Below: Distribution of Graduate Student in year 2023 with Financial aids.



Universiti Malaya (UM) is committed to supporting low-income students by providing financial aid that ensures they can meet their basic needs, including essentials like food, accommodation, healthcare, education, and internet access. The data shows an increase in the proportion of low-income students receiving aid, rising from 64.4% in 2022 to 67.4% in 2023. This commitment aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) — No Poverty — as UM aims to reduce financial barriers and promote equitable access to education, helping to alleviate poverty and foster a supportive environment for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

UM supports equitable access to higher education for students from low-income (B40) families by providing substantial financial aid, which addresses financial barriers to attending university. In the 2023/2024 academic year, 67.4% of undergraduate (UG) and 44.0% of postgraduate (PG) students from B40 families received financial assistance. Overall, 57.4% of low-income graduates benefited from this support, underscoring UM's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) — No Poverty. This initiative reflects UM's dedication to reducing poverty by enabling students from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue and complete their education without the burden of financial constraints.

Special Pathways: Special Admission for Indigenous Peoples, B40, Athletes, and PWDs

To combat poverty and promote inclusive access to education, Universiti Malaya (UM) supports the Ministry of Higher Education's initiative to implement special admission pathways through the UPU Online System, along with the mainstream route. This program is designed specifically for Orang Asli (indigenous people), the bottom 40% (B40) household income students, and individuals with disabilities, ensuring that these groups receive tailored opportunities for higher education, with the goal of admitting 10% of new intake students coming from this group. By bypassing the traditional merit-based admissions process, this initiative aims to provide equitable access to education, fostering self-sufficiency and enabling these individuals to contribute meaningfully to Malaysia's development.



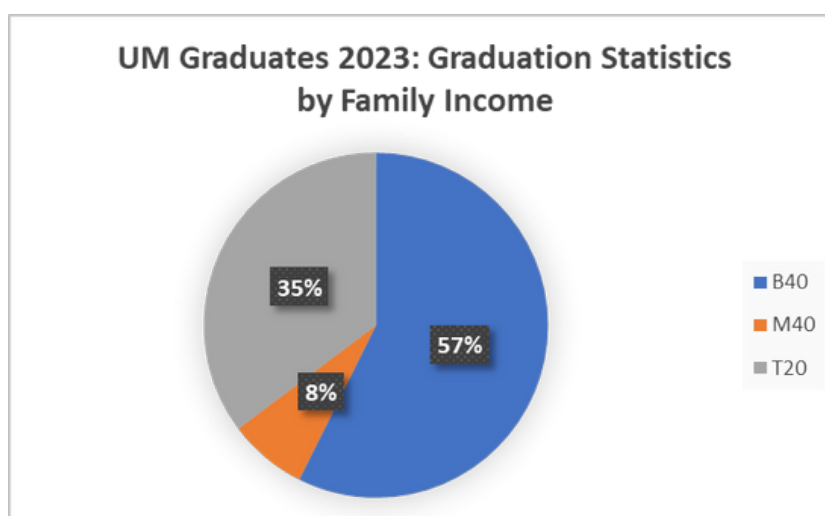
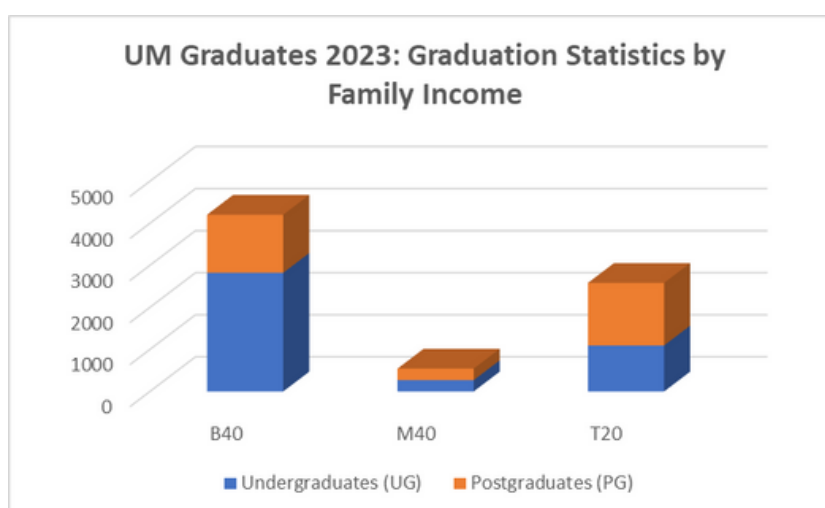
Above: Special pathways for four target groups
(Source: Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia)

Graduation Targets for Students from Low-Income Households

The UM Corporate Ranking Centre (CRC), under the Associate Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Strategy), conducts an annual Tracking and Monitoring Exercise focused on analysing graduation and completion targets for Universiti Malaya students from the bottom 40% of the household income group. This exercise aims to provide UM's top management with critical data insights, ensuring that decisions are grounded in an understanding of the challenges and progress of economically disadvantaged students. By continuously monitoring these targets, the CRC supports UM's commitment to equitable education and promotes informed strategies for improving academic outcomes for all students.

According to data gathered from the Universiti Malaya Academic Portal (MAYA), a total of 7,329 graduates—comprising both undergraduate and postgraduate students—successfully completed their studies in 2023. Of this total, 4,202 students (2,822 undergraduates and 1,382 postgraduates) come from the bottom 40% of household income. As illustrated in the pie chart below, 57% of graduates in 2023 are from this income bracket, reflecting the university's commitment to supporting the success of students from the lowest financial quintile.

For the full report, go to: [An Overview of Student Application, Admission, and Graduation Data Analysis for the Academic Year 2023/2024](#)



Above: The bar and pie charts illustrate the graduation statistics by family income categories (B40, M40, and T20) for UM graduates in 2023
(Source: Universiti Malaya Academic Portal)

Comprehensive Support for Students from Low-Income Families

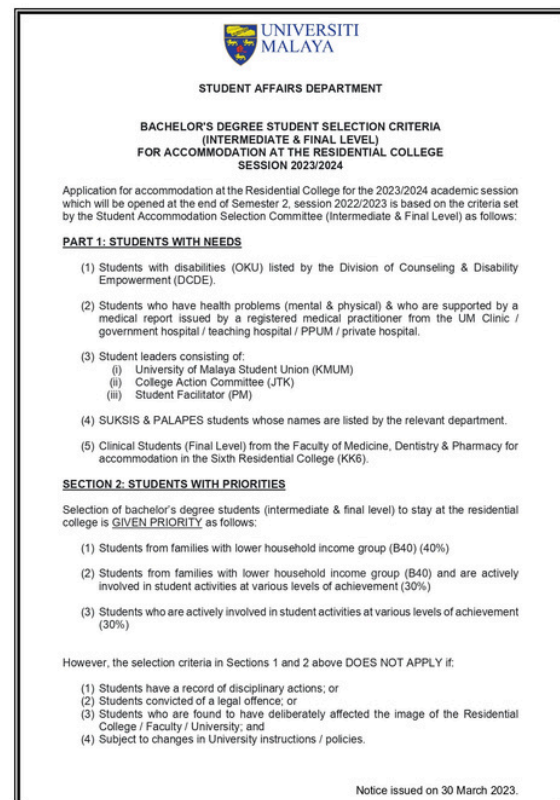
Universiti Malaya (UM) remains dedicated to support and assist students from low-income households through various initiatives and incentives under the stewardship of the Centre of Responsibilities in UM, including the Student Affairs Department (HEP), Universiti Malaya Students Union (UMSU), and others.

The University provides comprehensive support programs and assistance, which include financial aids, subsidised programs, and the free distribution of essential goods and items, all aimed at helping students overcome financial challenges and succeed in their studies.

Affordable On-Campus and Off-Campus Housing Solutions at Universiti Malaya: Prioritising Low-Income Students and Ensuring Secure Rentals

UM offers subsidised on-campus accommodation through its 13 residential colleges, with 11 located on campus and 2 situated outside the campus gate. These residential colleges provide affordable housing options for UM students. Due to the limited number of placements, priority is given to students from low-income families through a 'students with priorities' selection criterion. According to the notice below, at least 70% of placements for bachelor's degree students (intermediate and final levels) are reserved for those from low-income households (B40).

HEP also provides off-campus residential/housing options, including bungalow houses located on Universiti Malaya's properties outside the main campus. These accommodations are particularly suitable for students with their own vehicles. Additionally, HEP has compiled a list of rental houses in the vicinity of the UM campus to help students to find reliable rental options by connecting them with verified realtors, thereby reducing the risk of scams and ensuring a more secure housing search.



Above: Notice issued on March 2023: Bachelor's degree selection criteria for accommodation at the residential college, prioritising students from lower-income families (Source: UM's Student Affairs Department)

The University provides **subsidised on-campus and off-campus housing options** to ensure affordability for all students, particularly those from B40 households, helping to alleviate financial strain and support them in completing their studies. For instance, at the residential colleges, single rooms are available for as low as RM20.00 per day, while quadruple-sharing rooms cost just RM6.50 per day, offering accessible accommodation without compromising on affordability.

Accommodation Fee Charges

The following is the accommodation fee rate as a guide for all residential college residents (Bachelor students) for the 2023/2024 admission session and above:

Residential College	Room Capacity	Fee rate / Day
KK1 - KK12	Single Room	RM 20.00
	Twin Sharing	RM 7.50
	Triple Sharing	RM 7.00
	Quadruple sharing & above	RM 6.50

Above: *Accommodation Fee Charges*
(Source: UM's Student Affairs Department)

Subsidised and Free Travel Programs at Universiti Malaysia

Universiti Malaysia (UM) has adopted the government's **FLYsiswa** initiative, which the University provides subsidised flight tickets to students traveling between East Malaysia and West Malaysia. This program is designed to ease the financial burden on students who must cover long distances to attend university's main campus in Kuala Lumpur.

Since its inception on 15 August 2023, FLYsiswa has benefited 2,267 students with tickets subsidies worth of RM300.00 each and significantly reducing travel costs and making it more manageable for students to return home.



Above: *The FLYsiswa program launch at Universiti Malaysia*

In addition, the Federal Territories Islamic Religious Council (MAIWP), in collaboration with the UM Student Affairs Department (HEP), has launched the Bantuan Rahmah Ramadhan: Pulang Berhari Raya program. This initiative, known as “Jom Balik Raya”, selected 500 UM students to return to their hometowns for the Hari Raya celebrations. Coordinated by UM, MAIWP arranged for these students, prioritising those from lower-income households, to be taken home by bus for free, providing a comfortable and convenient means of transportation during the festive season. Providing transportation support for students from low-income families is crucial for their overall well-being and academic success.

Such support not only alleviates financial pressures but also addresses emotional needs by allowing students to reconnect with their families and participate in significant cultural and familial events. This emotional support is vital for maintaining mental health and motivation, enabling students to focus on their studies and complete their university education. Ensuring that students can return home during important occasions helps them maintain a strong sense of belonging and reduces the stress associated with being away from their loved ones while completing the university.



Above: The Bantuan Rahmah Ramadhan: Pulang Berhari Raya program launch with the Federal Territories Islamic Religious Council (MAIWP)

Insentif yang diterima:
Duit Raya RM100
Elaun kembali RM60

DITAJA OLEH:

BAS BALIK RAYA

15-18 APRIL 2023

Tempat Berkumpul: Dewan Tuanku Canselor (DTC)
Waktu: Malam (akan dimaklumkan kemudian)
Drop-off Point: Kota Bharu, Tanah Merah

Syarat:

- Muslim (yang berkeperluan)
- Tarik diri tidak dibenarkan
- Perlu mengisi selewatnya 30 Mac, 11:59 pm

DUA BUAH BAS AKAN DISEDIAKAN

TERHAD KEPADA 80 ORANG
BAGI SETIAP PERHENTIAN

SEBARANG PERTANYAAN, SILA HUBUNGI:
017 966 3134 (MUJIB)
017 476 0641 (KAMAL)

Pakot Caghe, Begheh Blake

@pmkunimelaya

Above: Poster for student registration to participate in the program to return to their hometowns for the Hari Raya celebrations (Source: Persatuan Mahasiswa Kelantan UM)
Right (top and bottom): Students returning home during the free travel program at UM



Menu Keluarga Siswa: Universiti Malaya's Initiative to Provide Affordable and Nutritious Meals for Low-Income Students

Universiti Malaya (UM) has adopted the Menu Keluarga Siswa initiative, a subsidised meal program designed to provide students with affordable and nutritious food on campus. This program addresses the basic nutritional needs and diverse dietary requirements of students. The Menu Keluarga Siswa initiative plays a crucial role in supporting low-income students by significantly reducing their daily food expenses. With the cost of each meal set being highly subsidised, students from financially constrained backgrounds can access nutritious and balanced meals without the added burden of high food costs. This support helps alleviate some of the financial pressures faced by low-income students, allowing them to focus more on their studies and academic performance in completing the university.

Additionally, the food vendors participating in the Menu Keluarga Siswa program at UM have benefited from a six-month rent exemption for their premises, which helps keep meal prices low and supports the program's sustainability. This moratorium applies to food operators that provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner, further ensuring that the program remains affordable and effective across multiple institutions. At least 17 vendors across various faculties and residential colleges are involved in this initiative. The menu options in each set must consist of sufficient amount of carbohydrate, protein, fibre and fat. The RM3.50 meal set comes with some white rice, an omelette and vegetables meanwhile the RM5.00 set comes with some white rice, chicken or fish, and vegetables.



Above: Poster of vendors participating in the Menu Keluarga Siswa subsidised meal program at Universiti Malaya



Above: Students purchasing meals, and a poster displaying prices from the Menu Siswa Rahmah at Supa Bowl Vege (located at the 4th Residential College)

Enhancing Student Well-being: Key Food Support Programs at Universiti Malaya

In addition to institutional efforts, various ad-hoc student initiatives have been established to provide food support, with backing from the UM Student Affairs Department (HEP), faculties, and external organisations, depending on donations from external parties or the existing fund of the university. Here are some notable examples of these initiatives:

- Weekly Food Distribution for B40 Students:** Every Friday, 150 free food packages are distributed to B40 students residing in the residential colleges of Universiti Malaya. This initiative is organised by the MAIWP Food Truck Entrepreneur Program, aimed at providing consistent support to students from low-income backgrounds.
- “Love in a Meal” Initiative:** Off Campus Student Committee (JPLK) of Universiti Malaya launched the “Love in a Meal” program, which provides targeted food assistance to off-campus students, especially those from the bottom 40% (B40) household income group. This initiative aims to alleviate the cost of living and ease the financial burden on students living outside the campus.

Food Packages for PASUM Students: To ensure the well-being of students, 1,500 food packages were distributed to students of the Centre for Foundation in Science (PASUM) for the 2023/2024 intake. This initiative helps maintain student welfare and supports their academic success by addressing basic needs.

- Foodbank Distribution During Exams:** During the examination weeks of 2023, HEP organised a food bank distribution in the exam halls, providing 700 food packages to students. This support was instrumental in helping students focus on their exams without the distraction of having to travel for food.
- “From Siswa to Siswa” Program:** The Universiti Malaya Students’ Union (UMSU) from the Academy of Malay Studies has partnered with the Malaysian Relief Agency (MRA) to launch the “From Siswa to Siswa” program. This initiative aims to support students in need by distributing dry food donations and focuses on alleviating financial strain on students by providing essential food supplies, ensuring they have access to necessary sustenance during challenging times in completing the university.
- MYDIN Vouchers for PASUM Students:** Additionally, PASUM students for the 2023/2024 academic session also received vouchers for purchasing food and other essentials from MYDIN, one of Malaysia’s renowned supermarkets. This support further assists students in managing their daily expenses and accessing necessary supplies.

These diverse efforts highlight the university’s commitment to supporting students through various means, ensuring that all members of the UM community have access to necessary resources and can focus on their academic and personal growth in completing the university without undue financial stress.





Above: Various food and drink distributions, along with food voucher distributions around the Universiti Malaya campus, organised by the UM Student Affairs Department (HEP), UM Students' Union (UMSU), and the Centre for Foundation in Science (PASUM), are among the key examples of food support programs at the university

Ramadan and Syawal Support: Free Meals to Students and Community

In addition to providing daily food, the university management and the UM Students' Union supplied free food and drinks during special occasions, including the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. This included meals for sahoor (before fasting), iftar (breaking fast), and moreh (after prayer supper) at selected residential colleges. Notably, Universiti Malaya (UM) distributed 5,555 packets of free porridge during the Bubur Lambuk Perdana and Iftar Perdana Universiti Malaya 2023 events to staff, students, and the public.

These efforts are particularly impactful for students from low-income household that was greatly benefited from the provision of free meals during these significant times. Over 100 volunteers contributed their time and effort to support this initiative, underscoring the community spirit and commitment to student welfare.



Above: Posters promoting free meals distribution for students before and after fasting
(Source: Universiti Malaya Students' Union)

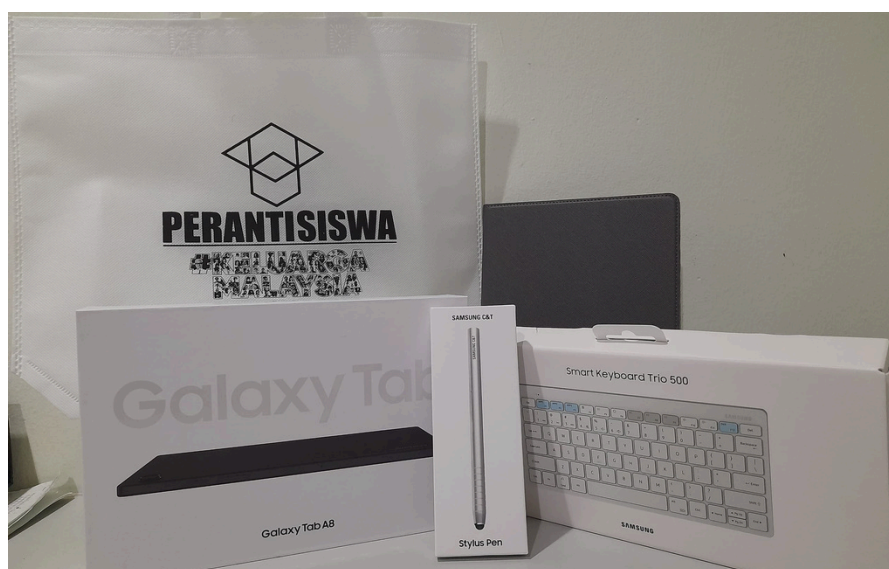


Top: UM staff and students received free meals after fasting during the month of Ramadan
Bottom: UM volunteers during the preparation for the Bubur Lambuk Perdana event, as well as in the distribution of free porridge to the campus community and the public. Watch the video [HERE](#).

UM's Efforts to Provide Free Essential Devices to Low Household Income Students

One of the highlights of 2023 was the distribution of PerantiSiswa devices. Launched by the Ministry of Higher Education and adopted by Universiti Malaya (UM), this program aims to provide students from low-income families with free devices to support their university studies. To date, 3,364 UM students, primarily from low-income backgrounds, have received these devices through the Student Affairs Department (HEP). The PerantiSiswa distribution will assist students in navigating the ever-changing landscape of higher education, ensuring they possess the necessary tools to succeed.

As universities adapt to technological trends, it is increasingly important for students to have access to devices that meet the demands of their study programs. Further supporting students, the Universiti Malaya Students' Union (UMSU) has initiated a program that offers laptops to those in need for the duration of one semester at no charge. This initiative ensures that students facing financial challenges can access the essential technology required for their studies, allowing them to focus on their academic performance without the added stress of securing expensive devices.



Above: UM students from low-income backgrounds received PerantiSiswa devices

Below: UMSU's initiative to lend laptops to students during the semester



UM Emergency Aid and Special Assistance Programs

In addition to the structured support programs offered by the university and its community, there are also ad-hoc initiatives designed to address urgent and specific needs. These include assistance for natural disasters and fires that result in property loss, support for severe injuries resulting from accidents, and aid for low-income students experiencing the death of close family members—parents, guardians, or children. This targeted support is primarily coordinated through the Student Affairs Department (HEP).

Moreover, the student-led organisation, Universiti Malaya's Student Union (UMSU), frequently develops and implements its own support programs to address these needs. These initiatives play a vital role in providing timely and effective aid to low-income students facing various challenges, ensuring they receive the help they need during difficult times.

For example, UMSU has conducted fundraising drives and provided cash donations to students adversely affected by natural disasters, such as floods. These initiatives were carried out in the Academy of Malay Studies and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to help students recover from the financial impact of these unfortunate events. Additionally, HEP has reached out to students impacted by fires in their hometowns, providing them with essential resources like laptop computers. This assistance aims to alleviate the burden on their families and support their academic endeavors at Universiti Malaya.



Above: HEP offering support to students impacted by fires in their hometowns

Below: UMSU providing aid to students affected by floods



Supporting Low-Income Students through Financial Aid

Universiti Malaya (UM) has long recognised the pivotal role education plays in breaking the cycle of poverty. To support students from low-income households, particularly those from the bottom 40% (B40) income group, the university has implemented numerous initiatives to increase access to higher education. These efforts ensure that financial barriers do not hinder talented students from low-income backgrounds in achieving their academic goals and completing their studies.

In 2023, UM significantly expanded its financial aid programs, offering a variety of scholarships, bursaries, and other forms of assistance tailored to students from low-income backgrounds.



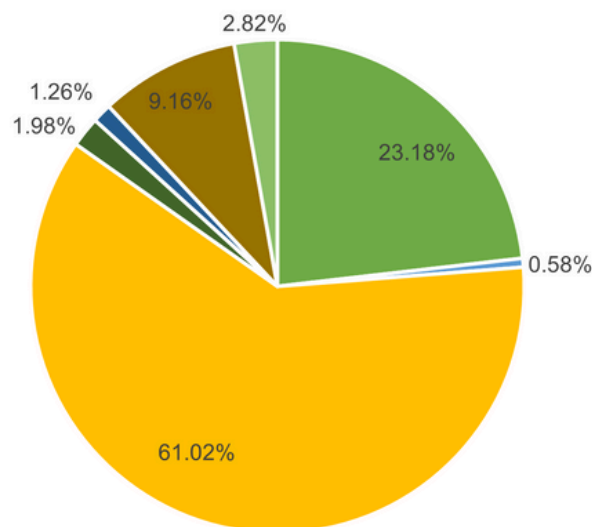
UM Allocates RM2.48 Million in Zakat Funds to Support Low-Income Students and Staff

In 2023, Universiti Malaya (UM) allocated RM2,476,965.00 in zakat funds to support low-income students and staff in need, benefiting a total of 2,504 individuals. Zakat, an obligatory form of almsgiving in Islam, serves as a means to redistribute wealth and assist those in financial distress. It is a vital aspect of the Islamic faith, aimed at promoting social justice and ensuring that everyone has access to basic needs.

Of the total zakat allocation, RM1,530,650.00 was specifically directed toward tuition assistance for students, with no repayment required.

This initiative provided essential financial support to 1,510 low-income students, ensuring their educational progress was not hindered by financial difficulties. Aid is available to Muslim students with a household income of less than RM4,000.00 and three or more siblings currently in school. The Zakat fund is sourced from salary deductions of UM staff designated for Zakat and from donations made by community members through Waqf contributions. By investing in these students' futures, UM demonstrates its commitment to fostering an inclusive educational environment where everyone has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their economic background.

Types of financial aid from zakat in 2023



- Daily living expenses (students & staff) - RM581,354
- Community, education, or community development programs (students & staff) - RM14,600
- Tuition fees (students) - RM1,530,650
- Tuition fees (staff) - RM49,739
- Emergency – health/accident issues (staff) - RM31,539
- Welfare for Responsibility Centers (students & staff) - RM229,852
- Disaster victims (staff) - RM70,770

Pie Chart: Zakat funds dedicated to supporting low-income students and staff in need at Universiti Malaya
(Source: UM Bursary and UM Giving Centre)



Above (left): Launch of monthly zakat deduction campaign from UM staff salaries (Jom Potong - Skim Potongan Zakat Bulanan) to pay zakat to PPZ-MAIWP via Universiti Malaysia



Above (right): The “Sahabat Zakat” course aims to enhance knowledge and assist the university in strengthening zakat participation at UM. Sahabat Zakat UM serves as a reference for information on zakat for both UM staff and students.

First-Generation Student Development Program

In December 2023, YBhg. Professor Dato’ Seri Ir. Dr. Noor Azuan Abu Osman, the Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia (UM), presented offer letters to 122 eligible first-generation students during the First-Generation Student Development Program, which was adopted by the Ministry of Higher Education. This program provides crucial opportunities to students from the bottom 40% (B40) of household income, particularly those without family members who have pursued higher education, allowing them to further their studies at UM with full financial support.

The initiative, known as Program Sulung 2.0 (First Generation 2.0), covers the full tuition fees, including both recurring semester fees and one-time charges incurred throughout the semester, excluding accommodation fees. The recipients of this program expressed deep gratitude for the University’s efforts to support students in need, easing their financial burdens and helping them successfully pursue their studies at UM.



Above: First-generation students from the bottom 40% of household income receive offer letters from the Vice-Chancellor to enter Universiti Malaysia, covering full tuition fees at no cost

UNIVERSITI MALAYA

PROGRAM PEMBANGUNAN SISWA SULUNG 2.0

- (1) Inisiatif program SULUNG 2.0 bertujuan untuk menaja anak pertama dalam keluarga B40 yang belum ada ahli keluarga melanjutkan pengajian di peringkat Ijazah Sarjana Muda.
- (2) Penajaan yuran pengajian sepenuhnya yang meliputi yuran berulang pada setiap semester dan yuran one-off yang dikenakan sekali sahaja sepanjang semester (kecuali yuran penginapan).
- (3) Penawaran Program Pembangunan Siswa SULUNG 2.0 (SULUNG 2.0) bermula pada Sesi Akademik 2023/2024.

SYARAT DAN KRITERIA PERMOHONAN

- (i) Terbuka kepada pelajar sedia ada yang SEDANG mengikuti pengajian di peringkat Ijazah Sarjana Muda;
- (ii) Anak pertama dalam keluarga B40 yang belum ada ahli keluarga melanjutkan pengajian ke peringkat Ijazah Sarjana Muda;
- (iii) Memperoleh PNGK 3.0 ke atas;
- (iv) Bukan merupakan penerima biasiswa penuh pengajian daripada mana-mana pihak;
- (v) Pemohon dari kalangan keluarga B40 yang berdaftar dengan eKasih (ekasih.icu.gov.my) diberikan keutamaan.

TEMPOH PERMOHONAN

Mulai 23 Ogos – 28 Ogos 2023

SILA IMBAS UNTUK MENDAFTAR

<https://rb.gy/j1pb6>

Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan Hal Ehwal Pelajar
Tel: 03-7967 3497/3472 Emel: hep@um.edu.my

*Above: Poster for Program Sulung 2.0 (First Generation 2.0)
(Source: UM Student Affairs Department)*

UM's Targeted Aid Programs for Low-Income Undergraduate and Postgraduates Students

Beyond the zakat and national initiatives, Universiti Malaya (UM) also organises its own aid programs specifically for students from low-income families:


- **Assistance for Outstanding Tuition Fees:**

This assistance is specifically designed to support eligible UM students (Malaysian citizens, currently undergo undergraduate programs, monthly household income RM5,249.00) who have outstanding tuition fees for the current semester. The assistance given was in the form of financial support, in which the amount received is decided by the university by case.

- **The Alumni Association of Universiti Malaya (PAUM) Scholarship Fund:** This fund is fully administered by UM. Applications were opened to Malaysian students in their first year of undergraduate studies in UM and came from the bottom 40% (B40) of household income groups.
- **The Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Computer Science & Information Technology's Welfare Fund** aimed to offer financial assistance to students who were experiencing financial difficulties, in ensuring them to complete university without undue hardship, offering timely resources and assistance whenever necessary to alleviate financial pressures.



Above (left): Poster for assistance with outstanding fees (Source: UM Student Affairs Department)
Above (right): Scholarship for education for UM students from low-income households (Source: Yayasan PAUM)



SYARAT KELAYAKAN
 Status : Aktif
 Program : Ijazah Dasar / Ijazah Tinggi

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
 Status : Active
 Program : Undergraduate / Postgraduate

HUBUNGI KAMI:
 Timbalan Dekan (Hal Ehwal Pelajar)
 Fakulti Sains Komputer & Teknologi Maklumat
 +603 7967 6428
 tdhep_fsktm@um.edu.my

CONTACT US:
 Deputy Dean (Student Affairs)
 Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology,
 +603 7967 6428
 tdhep_fsktm@um.edu.my

<https://fsktm.um.edu.my/>

BANTUAN KEBAJIKAN PELAJAR
STUDENT WELFARE FUNDS

BANTUAN B40 FSKTM
FCSIT'S B40 FINANCIAL AID

BANTUAN B40 FSKTM (TEMPATAN SAHAJA)
 • Pelajar Ijazah Dasar
 • Pelajar Ijazah Tinggi
FCSIT'S B40 FINANCIAL AID (LOCAL ONLY)
 • Undergraduate Student
 • Postgraduate Student

BANTUAN KES KHAS
SPECIAL CASE FUND

BANTUAN KES KHAS (TEMPATAN SAHAJA)
 • Pelajar Ijazah Dasar yang memerlukan bantuan khas
SPECIAL CASE FUND (LOCAL ONLY)
 • Undergraduate Student who requires special assistance

BANTUAN MUSIBAH PELAJAR
DISASTER RELIEF FUND

BANTUAN MUSIBAH PELAJAR (TEMPATAN DAN ANTARABANGSA)
 • Pelajar Ijazah Dasar
 • Pelajar Ijazah Tinggi

1. Kematian Pelajar
2. Kematian Keluarga (Ibu / Bapa / Penjaga / Anak)
3. Kemalangan (yang melibatkan kecederaan serius)
4. Bencana Alam / Kebakaran (Melibatkan kehilangan harta benda)

DISASTER RELIEF FUND (LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL)
 • Undergraduate Student
 • Postgraduate Student

1. Student's Death
2. Close Family Member's Death (Parent / Guardian / Child)
3. Accident (Involves severe injuries)
4. Natural Disaster / Fire (Involve loss of property)

*Tertakluk kepada kelulusan JK Tabung
 *Pelajar M40 yang memerlukan bantuan sila berhubung terus dengan Pejabat Timbalan Dekan Hal Ehwal Pelajar
 *Subject to Fund Committee approval
 *Students in M40 Category that needed financial assistance, please contact directly to Deputy Dean of Student Affairs Office

https://instagram.com/hep_fsktm



FAKULTI PERUBATAN
 Faculty of Medicine



FACULTY OF MEDICINE
WELFARE FUND
 (STUDENTS' WELFARE PROJECT)

Application for Students' Welfare Project is open throughout the year. Applicant's criteria:

- 1) Students who are currently enrolled in any Postgraduate or Undergraduate programmes.
- 2) B40 students or identified students with financial difficulties.

Kindly email to ddsa_fom@um.edu.my / 03-7949 2107 for more details and request for the application form.

STUDENT AFFAIRS UNIT
 FACULTY OF MEDICINE
 UNIVERSITI MALAYA

Above (left and right): Posters for the welfare fund for UM undergraduate and postgraduate programs, which includes financial aid (Source: UM Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Computer Science & Information Technology)

UM Scholarship Scheme: Financial Support for Graduate Research Assistants

The Universiti Malaya Scholarship Scheme (UMSS) offers financial support to postgraduate students (Master's or PhD) appointed as Graduate Research Assistants (GRA), covering both stipend payments and tuition fee waivers. The scheme is open to all postgraduate students (Malaysian and international) enrolled in coursework, mixed-mode, or full research programs at Universiti Malaya, provided they have either Ready for Enrolment (RE) or Active (AK) status.

The scholarship extends to local low-income students and those from low-income economies globally, ensuring financial support regardless of their country of origin.

For more information, visit:
[UMSS Information](#)

Guiding Students to Financial Aid

The UM Division of Student Services (Financial Aid), Marketing and Academic Services Department (MASD), and the UM Student Affairs Department (HEP) work together to actively guide students toward a wide range of financial aid options. Universiti Malaya is deeply concerned with student welfare, ensuring that financial challenges do not prevent students from continuing their education. Scholarships, financial assistance, and loans are regularly advertised through mailing lists and the university website, inviting full-time undergraduate students to apply for opportunities offered by government bodies, private organisations, and statutory agencies.

More information can be found at: [UM Financial Aid for Undergraduate Students](#)



For instance, the Al-Musta'an Foundation Special Aid for Muslim Orphans and Asnaf (a term referring to eligible zakat recipients) is specifically designed to support Universiti Malaya's Muslim asnaf undergraduate students.

Through the efforts of MASD and HEP, students are directed to the resources needed for basic living expenses, including food, housing, transportation, and more. This integrated support system helps alleviate financial burdens, allowing students to focus on their academic pursuits.

Kad Prihatin Siswa: Enhancing Financial Aid Efficiency for Lower-Income Students

To streamline financial aid for lower-income students, Universiti Malaya (UM) has implemented the Kad Prihatin Siswa, which facilitates the direct and efficient transfer of financial allocations to students' accounts. The Kad Prihatin Siswa is an initiative from the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), in collaboration with public universities in Malaysia and RHB Bank. Its objectives

include enhancing financial efficiency, supporting a cashless campus, fostering a smart campus environment, and creating a more effective financial ecosystem for students. Additionally, this initiative benefits university management, the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN), and MOHE by optimising financial processes and student identity management.



Above: UM students receiving their Kad Prihatin Siswa

UM Supports Palestinian Students with Free Tuition Amid Crisis

In response to the ongoing crisis in Palestine, the Government of Malaysia, through the Ministry of Higher Education, has announced that Palestinian students pursuing tertiary education at public universities in Malaysia will receive a waiver of tuition fees. Universiti Malaya (UM) recognises the significant challenges faced by Palestinian students, including disruptions to their education and potential loss of financial support from their families or sponsors. As a public university under the Ministry of Higher Education, UM has fully embraced this initiative since 2020. This initiative aims to alleviate the financial burden on these students amid the ongoing uncertainty in their home country.

In the 2021/2022 academic session, a partial fee waiver was granted to Palestinian students, offering a 75% reduction for undergraduates and a 45% reduction for postgraduates.

Building on that initiative, the Ministry of Higher Education has directed that a 100% fee exemption be provided to Palestinian students for the 2023/2024 academic session. In 2023, four Palestinian students in UM benefited from this 100% fee waiver for one academic year, receiving essential financial support during these challenging times.

This measure not only underscores UM's commitment to supporting students in need, regardless of their nationality, but also highlights the university's broader mission of promoting social equity. By providing free tuition, UM helps ensure that students from low-income countries, particularly those from crisis-affected regions, could continue their education.

	Previous years	Year 2023
Undergraduates	8	2
Postgraduates	35	2
Total financial support (RM)	444,648.20	23,107.5
Total financial aid overall (RM)	467,755.70	

Table: Financial aid data for UM Palestinian students
(Source: UM Bursary Department)

UNIVERSITI MALAYA

Financial Aid for Palestinian Students

Academic Session 2023/2024
Deadline: 26 January 2024

Eligibility

1. Palestinian citizens
2. Students with active status for Semester 1 2023/2024

Documents required

1. Application form with Embassy of Palestine's Approval
2. Copy of passport
3. Offer letter from university
4. Copy of bank statement

Kindly submit your application form at
Student Finance Counter,
Examination Building, UM

FORM A



Left: Poster promoting financial aid for Palestinian students at UM
(Source: Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic & International)
Above: UM community showing solidarity with Palestine.

Empowering Local Communities through Entrepreneurship

Universiti Malaya's (UM) efforts to address poverty extend beyond its student body to include local and international community empowerment initiatives. In 2023, UM continued to offer a wide range of training and mentorship programs aimed at supporting the development of financially and socially sustainable businesses.

UM Deep Tech Accelerator 3.0

A major highlight of 2023 was the launch of the UM Deep Tech 3.0 Startup Accelerator (UMDT), designed to support start-ups focused on advanced technologies. The program plays a key role in reducing start-up failures and fostering a dynamic innovation ecosystem by turning research into successful commercial ventures. Its main goal is to bridge the funding gap from lab proof-of-concept (PoC) research to market, helping deep tech start-ups move from early-stage research to market-ready prototypes with validated assumptions.

UMDT offers 24 weeks of mentorship, training, and hands-on market validation from expert coaches to guide start-ups from establishment to operation.

These programs, which are part of the university's broader community engagement strategy, provide local entrepreneurs with access to UM's facilities, resources, relevant education and expertise in helping them to develop the skills needed to succeed in the competitive business environment.

With the involvement of multiple stakeholders, including Yayasan Bank Rakyat, Origgin Ventures, and MRANTI, participants gain access to a vast network of resources and expertise, contributing to sustainable economic growth in Malaysia.

To join the program, teams must include at least one UM researcher or academic as a founder, with co-founders potentially being students, entrepreneurs, or businesspeople. This approach empowers not only UM researchers but also local communities. The technologies covered by this program include green technology, agriculture, aquaculture, food technology, and others, all supporting sustainable businesses.



Above: The UM Deep Tech 3.0 Startup Accelerator Program was launched in July 2023, alongside a forum session titled "Powering Future Economic Growth with University Deep Tech Startups"

Various Start-up Support

The UM Centre for Innovation and Enterprise (UMCIE) regularly organises training, workshops and mentorship programs to support local start-ups. For example:

- Forum Session: Inspiring Women for Entrepreneurship (January 2023):** This event, held during the UM Research Carnival, features a panel of women leaders and entrepreneurs sharing their experiences. The program aims to inspire and empower women in entrepreneurship, highlighting their creativity and innovation in providing solutions that can drive economic growth.



Above: The “Inspiring Women for Entrepreneurship” forum, featured women panelists including the CEOs of Cell Biopeutics, Dropee, and Scentses + Co (Source: UM Centre for Innovation and Enterprise)

Various UM organisations have also conducted training and mentorship for start-ups:

- UMPreneur Expo and Fair (May 2023):** Organised by Universiti Malaysia Entrepreneurship Secretariat (UMES) and UM Holdings, this event connects local start-ups, including students and external vendors, with activities such as start-up sharing sessions, business pitching, and product promotions.
- Start-up Program: A Journey from Zero to Hero (December 2023):** Hosted by the Economic and Entrepreneurship Committee of the Academy of Islamic Studies’ Student Association (PMAPIUM), this program motivates students to develop their business skills and entrepreneurial talents.



Above: Start-up Sharing Session: “Understanding the Start-up Journey” was held during the UMPreneur Expo and Fair



Above (left): Start-up Program: A Journey from Zero to Hero forum (Source: Economic and Entrepreneurship Committee of the Academy of Islamic Studies' Student Association (PMAPIUM))

Above (right): The Future of Student Entrepreneurship forum (Source: UMES)

- The Future of Student Entrepreneurship (November 2023):** As part of the IdeaLab initiative by UMES, this entrepreneurship forum aims to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit among students, showcasing various student entrepreneurs and their ventures.
- University Roadshow: MyStart-up Internship (December 2023):** This initiative connects start-up companies with individuals seeking internships across various academic disciplines. Organised by the Centre for Integral Learning (CITra) in partnership with Youth Ventures Asia and supported by CRADLE, it offers an immersive experience with hands-on training in a dynamic start-up environment. The roadshow also includes an industrial skills enhancement segment, featuring an introduction to innovative start-up companies and their practices.



Above: University Roadshow: MyStart-up Internship (Source: CITra)

Boosting Southeast Asian Start-ups: CityU and Universiti Malaya Forge Strategic Partnership

City University of Hong Kong (CityU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Universiti Malaya on 8 May 2023. The signing ceremony was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development) and witnessed by the Director of UM Centre of Innovation and Enterprise (UMCIE). HK Tech 300 is a major innovation and entrepreneurship programme organised by CityU, designed to support aspiring entrepreneurs among students, alumni, and research staff in launching start-ups and igniting their entrepreneurial journeys. The programme aims to create 300 start-ups within three years.

Through this partnership, CityU has welcomed UM as a key participant from Southeast Asia to collaborate on and organise the “HK Tech 300 Southeast Asia Start-up Competition 2023”. The goal of this initiative is to provide aspiring entrepreneurs and Malaysian talents with opportunities to advance their careers in Hong Kong, connect with leading companies, and gain valuable insights into recent developments. It is hoped that this event will foster deeper collaboration between talent and technology industry players in Malaysia and Hong Kong throughout their entrepreneurial journey.



Above: Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Universiti Malaya and City University of Hong Kong

Supporting Local Startups: Financial Aid for Sustainable Businesses

Various pitching competitions have played a key role in providing essential financial assistance to local start-ups, helping to foster the growth of financially viable and socially sustainable businesses within the community. These competitions offered seed funding to promising ventures, helping them to overcome initial financial hurdles and accelerate their development.

For instance, the “Mastering the Art of Entrepreneurship” program held in December 2023 exemplifies this support mechanism. During this event, a competitive pitching showdown allowed entrepreneurs to present their business ideas to a panel of judges. Three standout start-ups were selected as winners, with each received RM5,000.00 in seed funding. This financial boost is intended to assist these businesses in covering the start-up costs, refining their products or services, and scaling their operations.



Above (left): “Mastering the Art of Entrepreneurship” program
Above (right): “Ignite the BIG Ideas” program (Source: UMCIE)

The UM Centre of Innovation and Enterprise (UMCIE) organised the “Ignite the BIG Ideas” university startups pitching event in January 2023, in conjunction with the UM Research Carnival (UMRC 2022). Sixteen startups showcased their innovative ideas at the event, which also offered valuable networking opportunities with fellow startups, venture capitalists, angel investors, funders, government agencies, and entrepreneurs. Highlights of the pitches included topics on technology spanning energy, healthcare and wellness, Industry 4.0, and green technology. The top three groups were awarded financial prizes: 1st prize of RM1,500.00, 2nd prize of RM1,000.00, and 3rd prize of RM500.00.

Bio-Mist	3	Essentinutrien Sdn Bhd	11
Aawaste	4	Supercapattery	12
Hello+@UM	5	Biosight Sdn Bhd	13
EZGIG	6	UniLah.	14
Van Coating Sdn Bhd	7	RIMBA	15
H3S	8	Xcess Pressure Sdn Bhd	16
PCR-Kit	9	SolWav	17
Scoutrans	10	Diautomate Solution	18

Top: The “Ignite the BIG Ideas” university pitching event features sixteen startups showcasing their innovative ideas across various fields. Further details about each startup and their concepts can be found in the full document [here](#).

Bottom: Winners of the The “Ignite the BIG Ideas” university pitching during the UM Research Carnival



At the UMPreneur Expo & Fair, organised by the Universiti Malaya Entrepreneurship Secretariat, cash prizes were awarded to the most promising startups in the business pitching competition. The competition was inclusive, inviting UM students as well as those from other public universities, polytechnics, and community colleges. By bringing together a diverse group of aspiring entrepreneurs, the competition not only showcased a range of groundbreaking ideas but also fostered a collaborative environment, enabling students from different educational backgrounds to connect and inspire one another.

These initiatives deliver essential financial resources while also giving emerging businesses valuable exposure and credibility. By empowering local entrepreneurs through these competitions, it fosters innovation, generates job opportunities, and promotes economic growth within the community.

Expanding Access: Initiatives to Improve Basic Services for All

Universiti Malaya's (UM) international outreach efforts are prominently reflected in the humanitarian missions organised by student-led bodies such as Sekretariat Kesukarelawan Universiti Malaya (SEKRUM) and PALAPES LAUT UM. These missions were held in Cambodia and Indonesia, focused on enhancing health, education, infrastructure, and facilities for underserved communities. Through these global initiatives, UM is addressing poverty and inequality while also nurturing a culture of volunteerism and social responsibility among its students.

Domestically, the Universiti Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) leads the Health Outreach and Education Program (HOPE), delivering essential health services to communities in various states. This program provides free healthcare, including home visits, focusing on key areas like nutrition, child mortality, and chronic disease management.

Meanwhile, the UM Power Energy Dedicated Advanced Centre (UMPEDAC) addresses energy challenges in rural areas of Sabah and Sarawak by providing reliable sources of light and electricity. Universiti Malaya Community Engagement Centre (UMCares) also spearheads community engagement efforts, expanding access to healthcare and other vital services. Additionally, UM researchers are tackling clean water and sanitation issues in Kelantan through comprehensive studies and interventions. Collectively, these programs underscore Universiti Malaya's dedication to improving health, energy access, and sanitation across the nation.

Through these combined efforts, UM is making a substantial impact both locally and globally, promoting sustainable development, reducing poverty, and improving the overall quality of life for communities in need.



Humanitarian Mission to Cambodia: Enhancing Health, Education, and Basic Services

On 20 July 2023, a group of Universiti Malaya (UM) students embarked on a humanitarian mission to Cambodia. This mission, the sixth edition of the annual project organised by the Volunteer Secretariat Universiti Malaya (SEKRUM), marked the return of the initiative after a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions. The mission took the team to Madrasah Darul Ulum in Kampung Tuol Tuotung, Sihanoukville, for a 10-day community engagement program. During the mission, the volunteers undertook various projects focusing on health and well-being, education, and the enhancement of basic services.

Health and Well-being: The program included daily exercise sessions led by the committee, featuring activities such as Zumba and other recreational games. These sessions not only introduced the madrasah students to regular physical activities but also strengthened the bonds between the volunteers and the students. The volunteers distributed self-care kits containing toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash, shampoo, and sanitary pads, and conducted hygiene workshops to teach proper usage and emphasise the importance of self-care.

Improvement of Basic Services: The renovation of the madrasah building was a key project. Volunteers, assisted by the local community, repaired the roof, reinforced and repainted the walls, and replaced the flooring. Solar lights were installed along the paths leading to the madrasah to enhance safety and navigation. Additionally, vegetable seeds were provided and planted to support food sustainability and potentially generate income for the madrasah.

Education: The program's educational component covered subjects like STEM, language, and the arts. Volunteers led engaging science experiments, math classes focused on fundamental arithmetic, and speaking sessions built communication skills. Arts workshops fostered creativity through painting and handcrafts. The goal was to inspire students to pursue higher education and develop a lifelong passion for learning.

This mission aimed to improve the comfort and well-being of the madrasah students, enhance their educational opportunities, and upgrade the facilities and resources available to them.



Above (left): Arrival of Universiti Malaya student volunteers in Cambodia
Above (right): Packing essential self-care kits for the local community



Clockwise (left to right): UM student volunteers repairing the roof, installing solar lights to improve safety, and repainting the walls of the madrasah



Above: Art classes were held for local villagers to promote creative expression and foster a love for learning

Borderless Aid Volunteer (BRAVO) Project: Enhancing Health, Education, and Infrastructure in Indonesia

Another significant international outreach initiative by PALAPES LAUT UM was the Borderless Aid Volunteer (BRAVO) Project. Held from 5 to 9 September 2023 at Pesantren Al-Kautsar in Cianjur, West Java, Indonesia - an area recently impacted by an earthquake - this project aimed to enhance community livelihoods through collaborative efforts with key stakeholders, including UM Clinic, Pusat Kesehatan Masyarakat (Indonesia), and ASAR Humanity. Over the course of the five-day program, volunteers worked tirelessly to address critical needs in health, education, infrastructure, and facilities.

Infrastructure and Facilities: The team made significant progress in infrastructure development by constructing a well and a water pumping station, complete with a water tank. This new system will greatly improve access to clean water, addressing the community's ongoing challenges in securing safe drinking water for daily use. Additionally, the team provided 8,000 liters of clean water to the affected areas, supporting their immediate needs. Furthermore, they organised a community cleanup effort to address the aftermath of the earthquake, which included removing debris and rearranging furniture.



Clockwise (left to right): Volunteers from PALAPES LAUT UM participating in constructing a well and water pumping station, distributing clean water using a water tank, and organising a community clean-up effort

Health and Daily Essentials: The program featured general health check-ups organised by UM Clinic, Pusat Kesehatan Masyarakat, and ASAR Humanity, focusing on early disease screening and necessary medical interventions. A total of 181 community members received treatment during this phase. Volunteers also led awareness sessions on self-care practices, including proper handwashing and hair care techniques, and demonstrated essential first aid skills. Additionally, volunteers were actively involved in distributing food aid packages and daily necessities to local residents.



Above: UM volunteers distributing food aid packages and daily necessities to the local community



Clockwise (left to right): Volunteers from PALAPES LAUT UM and UM Clinic conducted free health checks for the local community, addressing basic health concerns and promoting wellness. In addition, local children received instruction in essential first aid skills, equipping them with practical knowledge to handle minor injuries and emergencies.

Education: Volunteers actively engaged with local students and children through interactive sessions at their school. They organised a variety of activities, including teaching the basics of building water filters, origami, colouring, and dancing. These activities were designed to promote school attendance and inspire and motivate the children.

Right: UM volunteers taught local children how to build water filters, enhancing their practical science knowledge and raising awareness of clean water solutions in their community



HOPE: Health Outreach and Education Program by Universiti Malaya Medical Centre

Alongside its proactive efforts in promoting healthy practices and lifestyles, Universiti Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) is dedicated to improving community access to health services through its HOPE (Health Outreach Program and Education) initiative. This comprehensive program is dedicated to delivering direct health education and outreach activities, aimed at improving health outcomes in underserved and vulnerable communities.

The HOPE initiative involves a multifaceted approach to addressing health needs. UMMC health professionals and dedicated volunteers regularly organise and execute a range of services, including:

- **Health Screenings:** Conducting routine health check-ups to detect and manage potential health issues early.
- **Nutritional Counseling:** Providing expert advice on nutrition to combat malnutrition, particularly among children, and promoting healthy eating habits.
- **Basic CPR Training:** Offering practical training in basic life support to equip community members with essential emergency skills.
- **Community Home Visits:** Engaging in direct interactions with families to assess and address individual health needs in their own environments.

- **Provision of Mobility Aids and Medications:** Distributing essential items such as wheelchairs, walking frames, and basic medications to those in need.
- **Pharmaceutical Advice:** Delivering guidance on medication use and managing chronic conditions through expert pharmaceutical consultations.

In 2023, the HOPE initiative is concentrating its efforts on low-income and rural areas, as well as schools, specifically targeting regions such as Lembah Pantai, Seremban, Dungun, Paka, Langkawi and many others. This targeted outreach aimed to address significant health disparities, enhance access to essential health services, and provide support to those who may otherwise have limited access to such resources.

Through these efforts, UMMC's HOPE initiative strives to create a lasting impact by improving overall community health, fostering a culture of wellness, and ensuring that essential health services are accessible to all, regardless of their socio-economic status.



Above: Free health checks were provided by medical officers from Universiti Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) to promote health and well-being in the community

Below: Home visits were conducted to provide free health checks to local residents, ensuring they had access to essential medical services within the community. In addition to health assessments, medical aid and medications were distributed to address immediate health needs.



Above: As part of the HOPE initiative, nutritional counseling and CPR training were provided, particularly in programs conducted at local schools. These sessions aimed to educate students on the importance of balanced diets and healthy eating habits while also equipping them with lifesaving skills.

UMCares: Enhancing Community Engagement and Essential Services Around Universiti Malaya

Universiti Malaya Community Engagement Centre (UMCares), as the central body overseeing and directing community engagement initiatives at Universiti Malaya (UM), has played a pivotal role in enhancing access to basic services for local communities. Through its flagship programs - Uni4Society, the UM Well-Being Program, and UM Pulse of Lembah Pantai - UMCares has launched various projects that address key areas such as well-being, education, and basic services, significantly benefited the surrounding communities. Here are a few examples:

- The “Health is Wealth” program held at Rumah Ku, Universiti Malaya, has achieved remarkable success in enhancing the well-being of elderly individuals, particularly within the Section 12 community of Petaling Jaya. With 60 participants, the program provided more than just briefings and information on physical, mental, and psychosocial health; it also fostered a deeper understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The introduced physical modules, including “Serenity in Motion” and “Age with Grace”, not only improved participants’ mobility but also offered a positive perspective on the aging

process. “Health is Wealth” is not merely a health program but a holistic effort aimed at elevating the quality of life for the elderly.

- Understanding the vital importance of a healthy diet, effective weight management, and lifestyle choices in improving overall survival for breast cancer survivors, researchers from the Faculty of Medicine are developing a specialised infographic nutritional education tool. This resource is designed specifically for breast cancer survivors, addressing their unique needs both during and after treatment, including long-term survival care. The initiative is divided into two phases to cater to the evolving needs of survivors throughout their journey. The researchers’ commitment extends beyond digital platforms; they actively engage in real-world events, including public health talks and outreach activities associated with Universiti Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC). At these events, nutrition education is provided directly to survivors and their caregivers, ensuring that crucial information is both accessible and actionable.



Above (left): Researchers from the Faculty of Medicine conducted a program for breast cancer survivors

Above (right): The “Health is Wealth” program aimed to enhance the well-being of the elderly

Bringing Light to Remote Areas: UMPEDAC's Solar PV System Enhances Life in Sarawak and Sabah

Researchers at the UM Power Energy Dedicated Advanced Centre (UMPEDAC) developed an innovative stand-alone Micro Solar PV Inverter System, which was donated to rural communities in Kampung Sungai Merah, Sarawak, and Long Pasia, Sabah. This cutting-edge technology not only provided a reliable source of light to longhouse residents but also significantly enhanced their overall quality of life.

The Micro Solar PV Inverter System was designed to be highly efficient and easy to install, making it well-suited for remote areas with limited access to the electrical grid. By harnessing solar energy, this system offered a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional power sources.

In Kampung Sungai Merah and Long Pasia, where access to electricity had historically been limited or non-existent, the introduction of this solar technology represented a major advancement. The system ensured that residents had consistent lighting, which extended productive hours, enhanced safety, and supported educational activities for children.

Beyond providing illumination, the solar PV inverter system contributed to the community's well-being by reducing reliance on kerosene lamps and other less efficient lighting methods. This shift not only lowered energy costs but also minimised health hazards associated with indoor air pollution from traditional lighting sources.



Above: UMPEDAC researchers installed a stand-alone micro solar PV inverter system donated to rural communities in Kampung Sungai Merah, Sarawak, and Long Pasia, Sabah

Enhancing Basic Services: UM Researchers' Survey on Water and Sanitation Needs in Bachok, Kelantan

UM researchers, led by Dr. Adilah Abdul Gapor from the Faculty of Business and Economics, conducted a survey to assess the socio-economic impact of water and sanitation needs among impoverished households in Bachok, Kelantan.

Their efforts aimed to improve access to basic services for all by identifying key areas of need and engaging with the community to emphasise the importance of clean water.



Above: Field survey on water and sanitation in Bachok, Kelantan

Engaging in Policy Making for Poverty Alleviation

As a leading higher education institution in Malaysia, Universiti Malaya (UM) plays a pivotal role in shaping national plans and policies by contributing expertise and insights into policy development. In particular, the University's experts are frequently consulted on issues related to poverty and social well-being. Notably, Prof. Datuk Norma Mansor, Director of the Social Wellbeing Research Centre (SWRC), has been actively engaged with various governmental bodies, providing valuable input for national policy formulation. Her contributions include:

1. Institute for Health System Research, National Institute of Health (NIH), Ministry of Health

2. Fiscal & Economic Division (FED), Ministry of Finance
 3. Economics Action Council (EAC), Ministry of Economy
 4. National Unity Advisory Council (MPPN), Ministry of National Unity
 5. High-Tech Nation Council, Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation
 6. Special Focus Group for Economics Curriculum Development, Ministry of Education
 7. National Wages Consultative Council (MPGN), Ministry of Human Resources
 8. Focus Group on Budget 2023 concerning Poverty and Cost of Living, National Action Council on Cost of Living (NACCOL)



Additionally, Mdm. Nik Noor Ainoon Nik Osman from SWRC participated in a workshop titled “Makmal Kos Sara Hidup di Bawah Agenda Advokasi Kepenggunaan bagi Menangani Kos Sara Hidup Tahun 2023”, organised by NACCOL. Beyond these specific contributions, SWRC researchers regularly present their findings at forums, workshops, and seminars hosted by government agencies, supporting the development of national policies related to social well-being and development.

Another key player in addressing social well-being and development is the Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC). Led by Professor Datin Sri Dr. Suhaiza Hanim Dato Mohamad Zailani, this Centre focuses on education and economic development, with particular emphasis on rural development and poverty alleviation. The Centre has facilitated discussions with various stakeholders to build a productive

network of experts. Notable stakeholders engaged in 2023 include Dato’ Sri Mustapa Mohamed, former Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Economic Affairs), the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, Yayasan Petronas, Yayasan Infaq Angkasa, and Arba Foundation. These engagements aim to foster strategic collaborations for community betterment.

A significant highlight for the Ungku Aziz Centre in 2023 was its involvement in the Hardcore Poverty Eradication Program (Basmi Miskin Tegar, BMT) initiated by the Government of Malaysia. The Centre provided expert insights and research to support the eradication of hardcore poverty, underscoring its commitment to impactful, evidence-based policy development.



Above (left): The Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC) is involved in the Hardcore Poverty Eradication Program

Above (right): The Director of UAC, Datin Sri Prof. Dr. Suhaiza Hanim Dato Mohamad Zailani, presented a paper related to the socioeconomics of communities in the Central Terengganu Development Region (KETENGAH) during the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development Research Symposium

A notable achievement in 2023 was the recognition of Mr. Kuhan Karttikeyn a/l Ravichandran from Universiti Malaya, who was awarded first place in the English-speaking category at the Speakers’ Corner competition during the Cost-of-Living Symposium (SCOL).



Advancing SDG 1: Social Protection as a Pillar of Poverty Reduction – Insights from the International Social Wellbeing Conference (ISWC) 2023

The International Social Wellbeing Conference 2023 (ISWC), themed “Putting Social Protection at the Forefront”, was held on July 6, 2023, with the involvement of the Social Wellbeing Research Centre at Putrajaya. This Conference is jointly organised by the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU JPM) of the Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry of Finance and the Employees Provident Fund in Malaysia, as well as the International Social Security Association (ISSA). This 10th conference highlighted the critical role of social protection in achieving SDG 1: No Poverty. Experts, policymakers, and researchers gathered to discuss strategies to strengthen social protection systems, which are essential for alleviating poverty, reducing inequality, and promoting economic resilience.

The event underscored the importance of inclusive policies that protect vulnerable communities, especially in the face of global economic uncertainties, and fostered collaborations to create effective poverty-reduction solutions in alignment with Malaysia’s commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Panel members include:

1. Ernesto Brodersohn, Senior officer in Social Security, ISSA
2. William Price, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank
3. Dr Helmi Haja Mydin, CEO, Social and Economics Research Initiative (SERI)

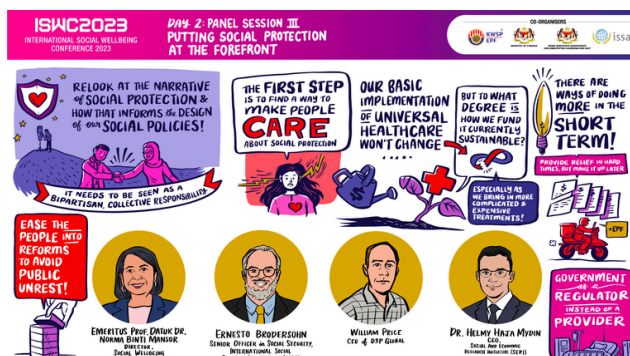
One of the session of this conference was moderated by Datuk Professor Dr. Norma Mansor (Director, SWRC).



Above (left): ISWC 2023: *Building the World We Want* by jointly organised by the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU JPM) of the Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry of Finance and the Employees Provident Fund in Malaysia, as well as the International Social Security Association (ISSA)

Above (right): The Director of SWRC, Datuk Professor Dr. Norma Mansor moderated a forum session at the ISWC 2023

ISWC concluded as a platform bringing together over 2,000 delegates both in-person and virtually, including policymakers, government ministries, agencies, and national stakeholders. Featuring a lineup of local and international speakers, along with experts in social protection, the event successfully gathered a wide range of ideas and proposals aimed at strengthening social wellbeing for the people of Malaysia.



Alignment with the UM Transformation Plan 2030 and UM Master Plan 2050

The UM Transformation Plan 2030 and UM Master Plan 2050 provide a strategic framework that guides the university's efforts to address poverty and promote social equity. These plans emphasise the importance of inclusive education, community engagement, and sustainable development, aligning UM's initiatives with the broader goals of the SDGs. By integrating poverty alleviation into its strategic planning, UM ensures that its efforts are sustainable, scalable, and impactful.

The UM Master Plan 2050 outlines a long-term vision for the university that includes the development of a socially inclusive campus where all students, regardless of their socioeconomic background, have access to the resources they need to succeed. This vision is supported by the UM Transformation Plan 2030, which emphasises the importance of creating an equitable and inclusive environment that empowers students and the broader community to achieve their full potential.

By aligning its poverty alleviation efforts with these strategic plans, UM is ensuring that its initiatives have a lasting impact and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

Universiti Malaya's achievements in 2023 demonstrate a strong and ongoing commitment to SDG 1, reinforced by the strategic frameworks of the UM Transformation Plan 2030 and UM Master Plan 2050. Through comprehensive financial aid programs, support services for low-income students, community empowerment initiatives, and contributions to national and international policy development, UM is making significant progress towards ending poverty and promoting social equity. The university's efforts not only contribute to the global movement towards poverty eradication but also set a benchmark for other institutions to follow. As UM continues to advance its poverty alleviation initiatives, it remains committed to leading by example and making a positive impact on both the local and global community.

