SDG 1

NO POVERTY



SDG 1 Content Overview

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01 Low-income Student Support

Universiti Malaya, through the Student Affairs Department (JHEP) provides a range of targeted support to help students from low-income and economically disadvantaged families meet essential needs and overcome financial barriers to their education. Support is delivered through financial assistance, food provision, welfare programmes, and other forms of student support that help address students' day-to-day needs and enable them to continue their studies.

Support provided includes:

Food (free):
- **Food Bank and Meal Distribution for Low-Income Students** (Page 3-4)

Housing (subsidised):
- **Priority Access to Affordable Campus Accommodation at Residential College for Lower-Income Students** (Page 5)
- **Rumah Kediaman Siswa (RKS)** (Page 5)

Transportation (free):
- **Free Campus Shuttle Bus Services and Sponsored Transportation for Students Returning Home** (Page 6)
- **Facilitation of Government Travel Subsidy for Students (FLYsiswa)** (Page 7)

Legal Services (free):
- **Legal Support Through Klinik Bantuan Guaman Universiti Malaya (KBGUM)** (Page 8)

Others (free):
- **Provision of Learning Devices for Students in Need** (Page 7)

Food Bank and Meal Distribution for Low-Income Students

UM provides free food assistance as part of its student welfare efforts to support students from low-income households and those experiencing financial difficulties. Food banks have been established at residential colleges and faculties, providing access to essential food items for students who may face difficulties meeting their daily food needs. These facilities are supported through coordinated efforts involving the Student Affairs Department, UM Student Unions, colleges, faculties, and other relevant centres, helping to ensure that students' basic nutritional needs are addressed throughout their studies.

In addition, the Happy Iftar Ramadan initiative provided direct meal assistance to students during Ramadan. During the 2024/2025 session, 600 meal packs were distributed each day at the Musolla, Academy of Islamic Studies. The initiative, led by Dr Ahmad Faisal bin Abdul Hamid together with the PMAPIUM Welfare and Unity Committee, was made possible through contributions from local mosques, alumni, and members of the community. By providing daily meals to students, the initiative helped reduce food insecurity and the financial burden associated with food expenses, while supporting students' wellbeing and their ability to continue and complete their university education.











The Kesatuan Mahasiswa Universiti Malaya also distributed free food kits, including biscuits, eggs and rice, as well as rice meals, to students at selected locations in the Academy of Malay Studies, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Education and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. These initiatives provided direct support for student welfare and demonstrated continued concern for students' daily needs.









Priority Access to Affordable Campus Accommodation at Residential College for Lower-Income Students

UM ensures that all first-year undergraduates, including low-income students, are guaranteed accommodation in one of its thirteen residential colleges. For continuing students, placement is based on established selection criteria under two main categories. Part 1 prioritises students with specific needs, including differently-abled students, those with health conditions, student leaders, members of SUKSIS and PALAPES, as well as clinical students. Part 2 prioritises students from lower-income households (B40) and those actively involved in student activities across various levels of achievement.

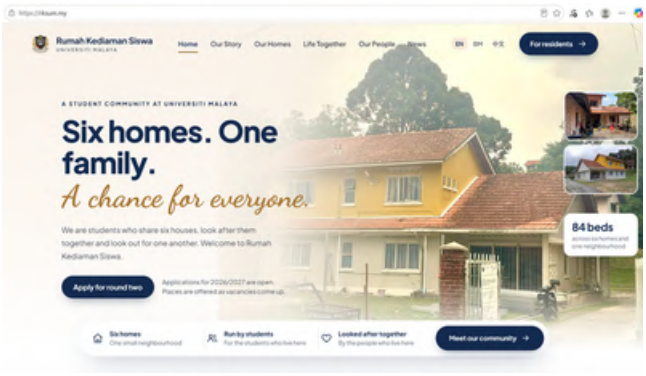




Rumah Kediaman Siswa (RKS)

Additionally, the UM Student Union (UMSU) facilitates the application process for Rumah Kediaman Siswa (RKS), providing students with a structured channel to apply for subsidised on-campus accommodation and access affordable housing during their studies. This support helps ease housing-related challenges and contributes to a more stable living environment, particularly for students facing financial constraints.





Free Campus Shuttle Bus Services and Sponsored Transportation for Students Returning Home

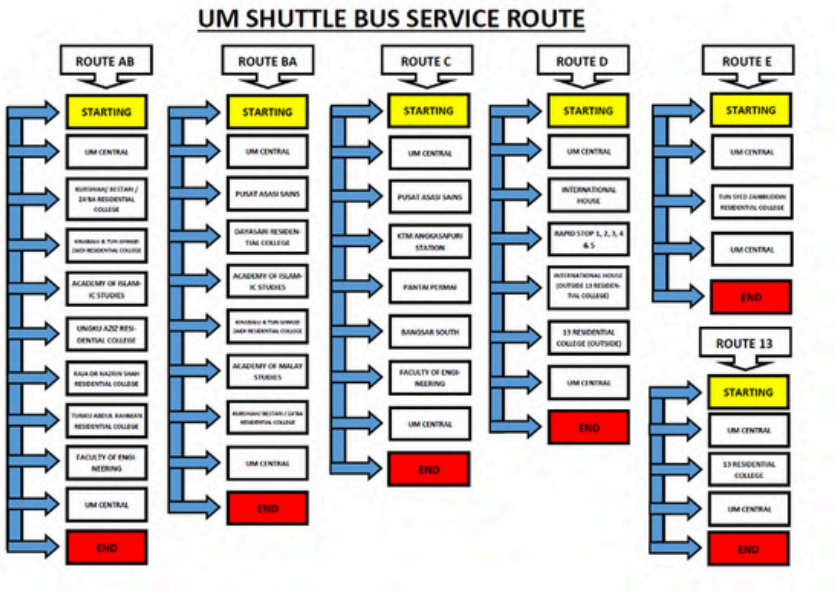






UM, through the Estates Department provides free campus bus services throughout the day, ensuring safe, reliable, and accessible transportation for all students. The service supports students in travelling between academic, residential, and recreational facilities across campus, while particularly benefiting those from low-income backgrounds by reducing transportation costs and facilitating full participation in university life.

UM, through the Student Affairs Department with support from UM Giving, also sponsored bus transportation for students returning to their hometowns. Conducted in March 2025 and June 2025, this initiative eased travel costs and enabled students to celebrate festive occasions with their families. This effort reflects UM's continued commitment to student welfare by ensuring that students, especially those facing financial constraints, are supported in staying connected with their families during important cultural moments, with the Aidilfitri programme sponsored by the Johor State Government and MAINJ, while the Aidiladha initiative was supported by UM Giving.



Facilitation of Government Travel Subsidy for Students (FLYsiswa)



UM facilitates the implementation of the FLYsiswa initiative, a government subsidy programme administered by the Government of Malaysia to reduce the financial burden of air travel for students in public universities. The programme supports students who need to travel for academic and personal reasons, with the subsidy increased from RM300 to RM400 effective 1 January 2025, further easing transportation-related costs for eligible students.

Provision of Learning Devices for Students in Need



As part of efforts to support student welfare and learning needs, the Minister of Communications, Dato' Ahmad Fahmi bin Datuk Mohamed Fadzil, contributed 10 free laptop computers to students at Universiti Malaya who required access to learning devices. In addition, the Student Affairs Department opened applications for the Laptop Assistance Scheme for Semester 1 of the 2025/2026 academic session to identify students with learning device needs and provide laptops to eligible students who met the established criteria. These initiatives helped support students' academic activities and reduce barriers to participation in teaching and learning, particularly for students facing financial constraints.



Legal Support Through Klinik Bantuan Guaman Universiti Malaya (KBGUM)

Klinik Bantuan Guaman Universiti Malaya (KBGUM), based at the Faculty of Law, provides free legal advice to members of the public while serving as a clinical legal education platform for UM law students. The clinic is operated by third and final-year law students under the supervision of academic staff and practising lawyers.

Through this model, students gain practical experience in legal research, advocacy and client engagement, while members of the community can access basic legal advice without legal fees. KBGUM therefore provides a channel for legal support and access to justice, particularly for individuals or community members who may face financial barriers to obtaining legal advice.



02 Financial Support for Students from Malaysia's Lowest-Income Households

In Malaysia, low-income households are commonly identified through the national Bottom 40% (B40) household income classification. As B40 covers the lowest 40% of households, it includes the bottom 20% of the national household income distribution. Such programmes support students from low-income households in overcoming financial barriers and continuing their studies.

Financial support provided by UM for students from Malaysia's lowest-income households includes:

- **Zakat Distribution for Student Support** (Page 10)
- **Student Welfare Division: Centralised Student Support Through Financial Assistance, Living Support, Fee Assistance and Home Visits** (Page 11 - 12)
- **Support for Financial Aid from Various External Organisations** (Page 13)
- **Comprehensive Financial Aid Information and Support by Academic Services Department** (Page 14)

Zakat Distribution for Student Support

In 2025, Universiti Malaya (UM), through UM Giving, provided targeted financial assistance to students from low-income and financially vulnerable households, including eligible students within the B40 (bottom 40%) household income group, through zakat contributions collected via the Universiti Malaya Zakat Counter.

The assistance was provided to students experiencing financial hardship to help address financial barriers to continuing their studies and successfully completing their education. Support covered essential educational expenses, living costs, programme-related expenses, scholarships, and other special financial needs. The assistance was administered in accordance with principles of transparency, accountability, and good governance.

The total zakat assistance allocated for student support in 2025 was as follows:

- Educational assistance: RM3,189,652
- Cost of living assistance: RM125,200
- Programme assistance: RM265,925
- Scholarships: RM33,000
- Special cases: RM20,724





Student Welfare Division: Centralised Student Support Through Financial Assistance, Living Support, Fee Assistance and Home Visits



The Student Welfare Division, Student Affairs Department (HEP), Universiti Malaya (UM), provides financial and welfare assistance to students from low-income and economically disadvantaged families, helping to address financial barriers to accessing and continuing university education. Through direct outreach, including home visits, the division engages with students and their families to understand their circumstances and identify appropriate forms of assistance based on individual needs.

Examples of support include assistance to students whose families experience significant financial hardship, such as households affected by the loss of a parent or a parent's inability to work due to illness. Support is also extended through targeted financial assistance, including Bantuan Khas Sara Diri Ramadan to help students meet essential living expenses and Bantuan Tunggakan Yuran to assist students facing difficulties in settling outstanding university fees. In some cases, UM and its partners have provided assistance directly to students and their families in their hometowns through home visits, helping to address immediate financial needs and reduce barriers to continuing their studies.

These interventions demonstrate UM's commitment to providing equitable access to university education for students from low-income backgrounds. By alleviating financial pressures through direct welfare assistance, living-expense support, fee assistance and family outreach, UM helps students remain in higher education, continue their studies and progress towards successful completion, regardless of their socioeconomic background or gender.



Universiti Malaya (UM) allocated RM500,000 in Ramadan Living Assistance to benefit 1,000 students, helping to ease their financial burden and cover daily living expenses during the holy month of Ramadan. The initiative forms part of UM's ongoing commitment to student welfare, ensuring that financial challenges do not become a barrier to students' wellbeing and academic progress.

The assistance was presented during the Program Tarawih & Moreh at Musollah Al Jamiah, Academy of Islamic Studies, and witnessed by the Minister of Higher Education, YB Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir. The programme was also part of the Minister's Kembara Kampus Ramadan series, with UM serving as the first campus visited.

Through this initiative, UM seeks to provide meaningful financial support to students in need, particularly in managing their essential expenses during Ramadan. By addressing students' immediate financial needs, the university aims to promote their wellbeing and enable them to concentrate on their studies with greater peace of mind.





Support for Financial Aid from Various External Organisations

In July 2025, UM witnessed the launch of the Rahmath Musthafa Endowment Fund, a philanthropic endowment established through charitable contributions to strengthen educational funding and provide sustainable support for students' academic pursuits, research opportunities, and learning needs. Through the fund, RM500,000 was contributed to Universiti Malaya to provide financial support for students from low-income and financially disadvantaged families. The fund aims to expand access to higher education for students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly those from the bottom national income bracket, and support them throughout their studies.



In October 2025, UM formalised a Deed of Donation with Bodhi Meditation Charity Foundation (BMCF), reaffirming its commitment to supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds. As part of the 2025 contribution, BMCF donated RM300,000 to fund the UM Jinbodhi Bursary programme, which provides tuition and accommodation support for high-achieving non-Muslim students from B40 families. The initiative helps ensure that deserving students can remain focused on their academic progress and successfully complete their studies at UM.

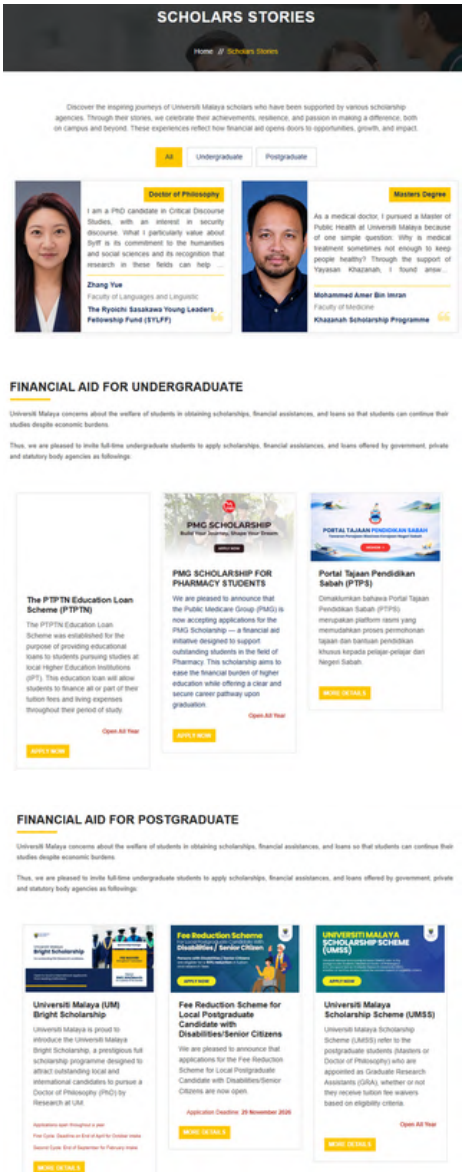


UM also facilitated the distribution of the Skim Dana Ehsan Pendidikan (SDEP) YPM, sponsored by Ekuiti Nasional Berhad, to support students from lower-income backgrounds. For the 2025/2026 session, 14 students received financial assistance of RM2,500 each, enabling them to meet essential study-related expenses and continue their academic journey with greater financial stability.



Comprehensive Financial Aid Information and Support by Academic Services Department

Universiti Malaya, through Academic Services Department (ASD) provides students with information on a broad range of scholarships, financial assistance, and education loans available from government agencies, statutory bodies, foundations, and private organisations. Through its financial aid information portal, UM consolidates and promotes available funding opportunities so that students are aware of different forms of financial support for which they may be eligible and can apply directly to the relevant providers.



For undergraduate students, the opportunities publicised include the PTPTN Education Loan Scheme, scholarships offered by foundations and private organisations, state-level education assistance, and other sponsorship and scholarship programmes. These include support such as the Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng Foundation Scholarship for students from underprivileged backgrounds, Yayasan DayaDiri scholarships, Yayasan Tenaga Nasional scholarships, EcoWorld Foundation scholarships, and other external funding opportunities. UM also shares information on targeted assistance, such as the Portal Tajaan Pendidikan Sabah and Penang's iBITA registration assistance, enabling students from different backgrounds to identify relevant sources of financial support.

For postgraduate students, UM similarly provides information on scholarships, financial assistance, fee reductions, and education financing. The Universiti Malaya Scholarship Scheme (UMSS) supports eligible Master's and Doctor of Philosophy students appointed as Graduate Research Assistants (GRA), while the Universiti Malaya Bright Scholarship provides full scholarship opportunities for eligible PhD by research candidates. Targeted support is also available through fee reduction schemes for eligible local postgraduate candidates with disabilities and senior citizens, helping to address financial barriers faced by these groups.

By making information on both internal and external financial support readily available, while also providing targeted scholarship, fee reduction, and research assistantship opportunities, UM helps students identify suitable funding and assistance. These mechanisms contribute to reducing financial barriers to higher education and supporting students in continuing and successfully completing their studies.

03 Low or Lower-middle Income Countries Student Support

Universiti Malaya supports students from low and lower-middle income countries by providing financial assistance that reduces the cost of higher education and enables them to pursue and continue their studies. Support includes substantial tuition fee reductions for eligible international students, as well as participation in scholarship schemes that provide financial assistance for postgraduate studies. These measures reduce financial barriers to accessing UM's academic programmes and contribute to more inclusive access to higher education for students from developing countries. UM also facilitates access to academic and research opportunities for international scholars through its wider academic support mechanisms, further strengthening educational opportunities for students and scholars from economically disadvantaged countries.

Examples of such support includes:

- **Tuition Fee Reductions and Financial Support for Palestinian Students and Scholars** **(Page 16)**
- **Support for Postgraduate Students from Developing Countries through MTCP** **(Page 17)**

Tuition Fee Reductions and Financial Support for Palestinian Students and Scholars

For the 2024/2025 academic session, UM continues to implement the tuition fee reduction to local rates for Palestinian students (undergraduate and postgraduate levels students) and children of international staff. The reduction is set at seventy-five percent (75%) for undergraduate programmes and forty-five percent (45%) for postgraduate programmes. This policy will be applied for three academic sessions, from 2024/2025 to 2026/2027 (a period of three years).





In the 2024/2025 academic session alone, a total of 65 Palestinian students (both undergraduate and postgraduate) benefitted from this fee reduction, amounting to RM 607,783.35 in total.

In addition, the Hashim Sani Centre for Palestine Studies — dedicated to advancing academic work in the field of Palestine studies through research, teaching, and intellectual collaboration within and beyond Universiti Malaya — also provides financial support for visiting fellows and research fellows through the Al-Fitrah Foundation.



Support for Postgraduate Students from Developing Countries through MTCP

In 2025, ten international postgraduate students were selected as recipients of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) Scholarship and enrolled at UM. This builds on support provided between 2021 and 2024, during which nine postgraduate students at UM were awarded the scholarship. Funded by the Government of Malaysia, the MTCP Scholarship is designed to support students from developing countries in pursuing postgraduate studies.



The MTCP Scholarship supports access to postgraduate education by covering key study-related costs, thereby reducing financial barriers faced by students from lower- and lower-middle-income countries. While the scholarship is funded by the Malaysian government, UM participates as a host institution by facilitating enrolment, academic supervision, and access to its postgraduate programmes.



The 2025 MTCP recipients at UM represent a diverse range of countries, including Yemen, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Peru, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, and Maldives. These scholars are enrolled across multiple faculties, including the Academy of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Business and Economics, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, Faculty of Medicine, and the International Institute of Public Policy and Management. Collectively, this reflects UM's role in supporting inclusive access to higher education for students from developing countries through participation in nationally administered scholarship schemes.

04 Local Start-up Assistance

Universiti Malaya provides free local start-up assistance through relevant education, skills development, training and practical resources that support community members in establishing financially and socially sustainable businesses. These initiatives strengthen participants' entrepreneurial capabilities, practical knowledge and capacity to develop sustainable income-generating activities.

Examples of support includes:

- **Advancing Urban Poverty Eradication through Program Pembasmian Kemiskinan Tegar (BMT) Implementation (2022–2025)** (Page 19)
- **Market Access Opportunities through Kudap Kukis for Hardcore-Poor Households** (Page 20)
- **Projek Dapur Sambal OKU: Empowering OKU Entrepreneurs** (Page 21)
- **Digital Empowerment for Women Entrepreneurs** (Page 22)

Advancing Urban Poverty Eradication through Program Pembasmian Kemiskinan Tegar (BMT) Implementation (2022–2025)

Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC) continued its role as a strategic partner for the Program Pembasmian Kemiskinan Tegar (BMT), reaffirming its commitment to Malaysia's national target of eradicating hardcore poverty. As the lead implementing university for the Central Zone, UM oversaw programme implementation across four key urban localities—PPR Kerinchi, PA Desa Rejang, PPR Kg. Muhibbah, and PPR Taman Mulia—communities primarily comprising low-income households within the Federal Territory.

Throughout the final phase of implementation (2022–2025), UM remained responsible for freely providing supervising, monitoring, and strengthening delivery mechanisms to ensure measurable income improvements and long-term economic resilience among participating households. This oversight role was further reinforced through active participation in governance platforms, including the Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Teknikal Inisiatif Basmi Miskin Tegar (IBMT) Fasa 1 & 2 Wilayah Persekutuan (January–April 2025), held on 13 May 2025 at the Jabatan Wilayah Persekutuan. The meeting provided a coordination mechanism to review progress, address operational challenges, and align implementation strategies with federal-level poverty eradication objectives.

The 2025 phase placed greater emphasis on business sustainability, post-training mentoring, and strengthening community support ecosystems to ensure continued income generation beyond the programme cycle.







Market Access Opportunities through Kudap Kukis for Hardcore-Poor Households

This collaboration with the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) in conjunction with the International Social Wellbeing Conference (ISWC) 2025 created free market access opportunities for selected participants of the Program Pembasmian Kemiskinan Tegar (BMT). Through UM's Ungku Aziz Centre (UAC)'s facilitation, participants with high-potential products were connected to a corporate platform where their products, marketed under the Kudap Kukis name, were procured as official conference souvenirs. The product range included healthy mixed nuts, mini rempeyek, chocolate chip almond cookies, dark chocolate, Popia Nestum Conflakes, and kuih kapit. Participants also gained exposure through a dedicated exhibition booth, enabling them to promote their products, network with industry stakeholders, and increase market visibility

Market access support was not limited to the ISWC 2025 Conference. UAC also facilitated free opportunities for Kudap Kukis products to be promoted and sold through other exhibitions and events in which UAC participated, as well as through marketing efforts during festive celebrations. These opportunities provided continued exposure to potential customers and wider networks, helping participants strengthen their market presence and generate income beyond the programme's training and capacity-building activities. Through sustained market linkages and promotional support, the initiative contributed to strengthening the viability and long-term economic resilience of participant-led microenterprises.



Projek Dapur Sambal OKU: Empowering OKU Entrepreneurs





Projek Dapur Sambal OKU, a collaboration between UM and Akademi Permata Impian (APIM), Semenyih, empowers OKU learners to develop entrepreneurship and vocational skills. Supported by a start-up grant from the Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC), the project trains participants for free in producing *sambal belacan* and *ibu sambal* at a commercial scale, covering product preparation, quality control, and marketing strategies.

Workshops under the project were successfully conducted on 12 March and 8 May 2025, providing hands-on guidance, mentorship, and entrepreneurship modules to OKU learners with learning difficulties. These sessions enhance practical skills, build confidence, and expose participants to small-scale business management, enabling them to gain financial independence and self-reliance. Projek Dapur Sambal OKU also strengthens community engagement and fosters a sustainable local entrepreneurship ecosystem, creating lasting benefits for the OKU community.





Digital Empowerment for Women Entrepreneurs

UM Community Engagement Centre (UMCares), in collaboration with Wanita Perak and Pertubuhan Prihatin Wanita Perak, implemented a digital empowerment initiative for women entrepreneurs operating micro and small businesses in Ipoh and Taiping. Supported by a UMCares research grant, the programme provided free training on social media, WhatsApp Business, and digital accounting tools such as Zoho Books to strengthen business management and customer engagement. Participants also gained knowledge on sustainable business practices, including product safety, hygiene, and environmentally responsible operations. Follow-up support helped entrepreneurs apply these skills in their businesses, contributing to more resilient and sustainable local enterprises.



05 Sustainable Local Start-up Financial Assistance

Universiti Malaya supports local communities in establishing financially and socially sustainable businesses by providing financial assistance through:

- **Financial Support for Low-Income Households Through Business Equipment, Raw Materials and Skills Development** (Page 24)
- **Competition Grants for Early-Stage Entrepreneurs** (Page 25)

Financial Support for Low-Income Households Through Business Equipment, Raw Materials and Skills Development

As the lead implementing university for the Central Zone of the Program Pembasmian Kemiskinan Tegar (BMT), Universiti Malaya, through the Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC), supported low-income households in four urban communities in the Federal Territory through financial and capacity-building assistance. The programme provided productive business equipment, including sewing machines, blenders, rice cookers, ovens, refrigerators and mixers, to support the establishment and expansion of income-generating activities. On 25 and 26 February 2025, UAC also distributed RM500 Mydin vouchers to each participating Inisiatif Basmi Miskin Tegar (IBMT) participant engaged in food businesses to purchase raw materials, with the assistance provided following the submission of monthly sales reports. These financial inputs were complemented by entrepreneurship, motivational and skills training in areas such as food preparation, bakery and pastry, sewing and floor tiling. Together, these interventions supported the start-up and continued operation of small businesses, strengthened household income-generating capacity and enhanced economic resilience among participating low-income families.







Competition Grants for Early-Stage Entrepreneurs

UM provided financial support for aspiring entrepreneurs through entrepreneurship competitions that encouraged participants to develop and refine innovative business ideas. In June 2025, Royal Business (RoyalBizz), Kolej Kediaman Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah, and the UM Centre of Innovation and Enterprise (UMCIE) organised the PITCHLAB – Ideation & Entrepreneurship Competition. The programme introduced participants to entrepreneurial thinking through ideation workshops, mentoring sessions, and live pitching opportunities. To support further development of promising ideas, cash prizes of RM2,000, RM1,500, and RM1,000 were awarded to the top three teams.

Additional financial assistance was provided through the Campus Pitch competition held during UM Giving Carnival 2025, where participants presented ideas related to healthcare, sustainability, community development, entrepreneurship, and other impactful solutions directly to industry professionals. Winning teams received cash awards of RM1,200, RM1,000, and RM800, providing early-stage financial support and recognition for their proposed ventures.







06 Programmes for Services Access

Universiti Malaya directly provides programmes and services that improve access to basic services for underserved communities. These initiatives are delivered through UM's healthcare professionals, facilities, outreach programmes, student and staff volunteer programmes, and community-based activities, addressing essential needs related to health and nutrition, as well as standards of living. The basic services directly provided through these programmes include:

- **HOPE@PPUM: Improving Access to Health and Nutrition Services** (Page 27)
- **Diabetes Health Screening and Nutrition Awareness Campaign by UM Pharmacy Society** (Page 28)
- **Urban PPR Health Literacy** (Page 28)
- **Majlis Sukarelawan Universiti Malaya Volunteer Support for Basic Services during Emergency Response** (Page 29)
- **OPKIM Community Programme Supports Local Households at Kuala Tahan** (Page 29)
- **Smart Water Purification Project by the Department of Chemical Engineering to Enhance Rural Access to Clean Water** (Page 30)
- **Projek SPARK (Sanitation Outreach and Awareness Programme – SOAP)** (Page 30)
- **CEGAH JaP: Community-Based Parasitic Infection Prevention** (Page 31)
- **Smile with the Samaritans – Expanding Access to Health Education** (Page 31)

HOPE@PPUM: Improving Access to Health and Nutrition Services

HOPE@PPUM is a series of community health outreach initiatives that improve access to essential health services, health education and early disease detection for diverse communities across Malaysia, including urban, rural, Indigenous and frontline groups. Through collaborations with government agencies, universities, NGOs and local partners, the programme brings preventive and primary healthcare services directly to underserved communities through health screenings, mental health support, eye and ENT checks, dental care, NCD risk assessments, vaccinations and mobile clinic services.

The programme also addresses child health and nutrition through specialised interventions, including child nutrition and stunting prevention training. These activities equip communities and relevant caregivers with knowledge to identify and address nutritional risks affecting children, supporting early intervention and contributing to improved child health outcomes.

Key engagements include outreach for the Kuala Lumpur Deaf Association community, PDRM officers at Bukit Aman, urban communities in Gombak, as well as indigenous communities in Kuala Tahan, Pekan, Hulu Kuang, and Royal Belum. HOPE@PPUM also supported disaster response efforts, including healthcare services for Putra Heights fire victims in collaboration with public university teaching hospitals under KHUAM.

Across all initiatives, HOPE@PPUM has reached more than a thousand beneficiaries, strengthening health awareness, promoting early detection of diseases, and improving equitable access to healthcare services. By bringing health services, preventive care and nutrition education closer to communities, HOPE@PPUM helps reduce barriers to accessing essential healthcare and supports healthier outcomes among vulnerable populations.









Diabetes Health Screening and Nutrition Awareness Campaign by UM Pharmacy Society



Promoting diabetes awareness, UM Pharmacy Society organised its annual public health campaign themed "Know, Prevent, Treat: Diabetes is Not a Barrier" at IWK Eco Park @ Pantai Dalam on 4 May 2025. The campaign provided members of the local community with access to free health screenings, including blood glucose and blood pressure checks, as well as personal consultations with professional pharmacists. Interactive exhibitions and educational activities provided information on diabetes, medicines, healthy nutrition, and active lifestyles, helping participants better understand diabetes prevention, management, and healthy living.

The campaign brought together various health agencies and partners, including the Ministry of Health Malaysia, Diabetes Malaysia, Universiti Malaya Medical Centre, CARiNG Pharmacy, and health-related faculties at Universiti Malaya. Through the direct provision of health screening, professional consultations, and health education, the campaign strengthened community access to preventive healthcare and practical information on nutrition and healthy lifestyles.

Urban PPR Health Literacy



The HeLP-PPR Outreach Programme improved health literacy among local urban low-income communities through a collaboration between Tropical Infectious Diseases Research and Education Centre (TIDREC) UM and the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) at two PPR locations in Selangor in May 2025. The initiative used interactive booths, demonstrations, and activities to educate residents on infectious diseases, hygiene practices, and early symptom recognition, reaching about 160 residents and increasing awareness of preventive healthcare.

Majlis Sukarelawan Universiti Malaya Volunteer Support for Basic Services during Emergency Response





The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs), together with the Department of Student Affairs, Ministry of Higher Education, through the Majlis Sukarelawan Universiti Malaysia (MASKUM), mobilised volunteers from public universities to support communities affected by a fire incident in Putra Heights. Volunteer teams were deployed to Temporary Evacuation Centres (Pusat Pemindahan Sementara, PPS) to provide immediate assistance to affected individuals.

Teams from UM, working in collaboration with Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), supported access to basic services at the evacuation centres. Assistance included the provision of psychological support, basic medical services, and welfare assistance to displaced residents.
This coordinated response contributed to maintaining basic living conditions and supporting the wellbeing of affected communities during the emergency response and recovery period.

OPKIM Community Programme Supports Local Households at Kuala Tahan





The Alumni Engagement Centre and UM Giving, in collaboration with the Universiti Malaya Pahang Students' Alumni Association, organised the Perkampungan Kekeluargaan – Operasi Khidmat Masyarakat (OPKIM) programme in Kuala Tahan, Pahang, on 19 September 2025. The initiative aimed to strengthen UM's engagement with the local community through welfare-focused activities. A key component of the programme was the distribution of basic household necessities to residents, presented by Dr. Azni Zarina Taha, Executive Director of UM Giving, together with Dr. Nor Azlin Abd Aziz. This contribution offered practical support to local families in their daily living needs while fostering a positive connection between UM and the community.

Smart Water Purification Project by the Department of Chemical Engineering to Enhance Rural Access to Clean Water

UM's Department of Chemical Engineering carried out a community engagement visit to the Bachok Marine Research Station (BMRS) as part of an ongoing project to improve access to basic services in rural areas. Led by Prof. Mohd Azram Ramli, Dr. Zullhelmi Amir, and Dr. Mohd Usman Mohd Junakli, the initiative focuses on developing a smart water purification system that will provide a sustainable clean water supply to BMRS and nearby villages. Through the research project "Enhancing the Quality of Life in Rural Area Community by Providing Sustainable Clean Water Supply Using Smart Water Purification Technology," the team is working to address gaps in safe drinking water access. This effort strengthens community resilience by ensuring long-term access to essential services and improved living standards.



Projek SPARK (Sanitation Outreach and Awareness Programme – SOAP)

Projek SPARK is a community service initiative by Kolej Kediaman Tuanku Abdul Rahman (ASTAR) that implemented the Sanitation Outreach and Awareness Programme (SOAP) in Kg. Orang Asli Sungai Congkak, Hulu Langat, Selangor. The programme focused on improving access to basic health and sanitation awareness through hygiene talks, practical demonstrations, pre-hygiene screening, and interactive activities, alongside the distribution of essential items to households. Conducted in collaboration with the Department of Orang Asli Development (Jabatan Kemajuan Orang Asli, JAKOA) and the College of Health Sciences, UM Medical Centre, the initiative supported community understanding of sanitation and personal health practices, contributing to improved living conditions and access to basic health-related services at the local level.



Smile with the Samaritans – Expanding Access to Health Education

UM dental students, together with engineering students from National University of Singapore (NUS), ran Smile with the Samaritans, a community service project at Good Samaritan Home, Klang. The programme provided children with interactive oral health education, nutrition guidance, and healthy habit activities using hands-on sessions and digital learning tools. Educational materials, Oral Health Education kits, and a laptop were supplied to improve access to essential services and digital learning. Career talks and motivational sessions further inspired the children, helping broaden their horizons and build confidence for the future.



CEGAH JaP: Community-Based Parasitic Infection Prevention

The "Bersama Mencegah Jangkitan Parasit" (CEGAH JaP) program supported residents of low-cost public housing (PPRs) in Klang Valley by providing interactive health education on intestinal parasitic infections. Participants of all ages learned about risk factors, preventive measures, and the importance of deworming through games and visual demonstrations. Supported by the Ministry of Higher Education's FRGS and ThinkCity's K2K Community Grant, the program helped improve understanding of hygiene and disease prevention, reducing health risks for vulnerable urban communities. This local-level initiative contributed to better access to basic health services and enhanced the overall quality of life for residents.



07 Shaping Poverty Reduction Policies

Universiti Malaya engages in policy dialogue and development at local, regional, national and global levels to support poverty alleviation and address the diverse economic and social dimensions of poverty. This work is mainly undertaken through the Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC) and the Social Wellbeing Research Centre (SWRC), which contribute through research, stakeholder engagement, community-based initiatives and policy discussions.

Examples of policies includes:

Local:

- **Integrating ESG into Institutional Policy for Inclusive Wellbeing at Universiti Malaya** **(Page 33)**
- **Round Table Discussion on the Socioeconomic Status of the Urban Chinese B40 Community in Kepong** **(Page 34)**

Regional:

- **Higher Education and Poverty Eradication: ASEAN's Path to Inclusive Growth** **(Page 35)**

National:

- **Framework for Old-Age Income Protection Reform under RMK13** **(Page 36)**
- **Seminar Ungku Aziz 2.0 – From Data to Policy Action** **(Page 37)**
- **Ungku Aziz Memorial Forum 2.0 Explores Hidden Dimensions of Poverty** **(Page 37)**
- **SWRC Conducts Focus Group to Inform Belanjawanku Expenditure Guide** **(Page 38)**

Global:

- **The Sandwich Generation: Global Policy Dialogue on Poverty and Social Protection** **(Page 39)**
- **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Forum and Workshop: MPI as a Catalyst for Socioeconomic Transformation** **(Page 40)**

Integrating ESG into Institutional Policy for Inclusive Wellbeing at Universiti Malaya

UM hosted the UM Sustainability & ESG Policy Development Workshop on 16–17 December 2025, bringing together diverse stakeholders to develop an integrated sustainability policy framework aligned with the UM Strategic Plan 2026–2030. Organised by the Universiti Malaya Sustainable Development Centre (UMSDC) in collaboration with the UM Centre of Excellence on ESG, the workshop examined how environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles can be embedded across governance, operations, research, and teaching.





Importantly, the social dimension of ESG includes poverty-related elements, particularly in addressing equitable access to education, wellbeing, and institutional support systems for students and staff from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. Through focused group discussions involving academic and non-academic staff, students, university leaders, industry partners, alumni, and government agencies, the workshop generated insights to strengthen inclusive policies that reduce economic vulnerability within the university community.



Round Table Discussion on the Socioeconomic Status of the Urban Chinese B40 Community in Kepong





The Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC), Universiti Malaya, in collaboration with All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) organised a roundtable discussion on 16 October 2025, bringing together researchers, community representatives and policy practitioners to examine the socioeconomic conditions of the local urban Chinese B40 community in Kepong, including income vulnerability, cost-of-living pressures, education mobility and access to social support systems. The discussion generated ground-level insights into policy gaps and opportunities for targeted interventions, contributing to evidence-based local policy dialogue and poverty alleviation strategies in Malaysia. This is part of UAC's role in supporting APPGM-SDG by providing parliamentarians with insights into sustainability issues on the ground.



Higher Education and Poverty Eradication: ASEAN's Path to Inclusive Growth



The Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC), UM, together with the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Malaysia, organised the regional forum "Higher Education and Poverty Eradication: ASEAN's Path to Inclusive Growth" under the theme "Redefining Poverty Eradication in ASEAN: Multidimensional Perspectives, Evidence and Pathways for Inclusive Development." Held on 6 November 2025 at Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC) as part of Festival IDEA Putrajaya, the forum provided a platform for regional policy dialogue on poverty eradication and inclusive development across ASEAN.

The programme featured keynote presentations on national and regional commitments to ending poverty in ASEAN and policy innovations and social protection for poverty eradication in Southeast Asia, including perspectives from the former Minister of Economy, Malaysia, and the former Lead Economist of the World Bank, Indonesia.

A regional forum session brought together experts from the World Bank East Asia and Pacific, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand to discuss higher education's role in poverty eradication and inclusive growth. The exchange of evidence, institutional experiences, and policy perspectives supported regional discussions on strategies to address multidimensional poverty, strengthen social protection, and promote inclusive development across ASEAN.

Through this forum, UM contributed to regional policy dialogue on poverty reduction in ASEAN, facilitating knowledge exchange among academics, policymakers, and practitioners to inform policy considerations and collaborative approaches to addressing poverty in all its dimensions.

Framework for Old-Age Income Protection Reform under RMK13



The Social Wellbeing Research Centre (SWRC), in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), produced a policy working paper titled The paper presents a comprehensive situation analysis, policy objectives, reform strategies, and a phased roadmap to strengthen Malaysia's old-age income protection system under the 13th Malaysia Plan (RMK13). By proposing structural reforms, including the consolidation of social assistance and long-term pension adequacy measures, the study contributes to national policy efforts aimed at reducing poverty and improving income security among the elderly population.

The Social Wellbeing Research Centre (SWRC), in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), produced a policy working paper titled "Securing Dignity in Ageing: A Framework for Malaysia's Integrated Old-Age Income Protection in Advancing RMK13." The paper presents a comprehensive situation analysis, policy objectives, reform strategies, and a phased roadmap to strengthen Malaysia's old-age income protection system under the 13th Malaysia Plan (RMK13).

By proposing structural reforms, including the consolidation of social assistance and measures to strengthen long-term pension adequacy, the study provides evidence and policy recommendations to support national policy reform aimed at reducing old-age poverty, strengthening income security, and improving social protection for Malaysia's ageing population.

Seminar Ungku Aziz 2.0 – From Data to Policy Action

Seminar Ungku Aziz 2.0, held on 17–18 December 2025 brought together 20 poverty-focused research grant recipients under the Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC). The seminar, themed "*Data ke Tindakan Dasar: Mengarusperdanakan Penyelidikan dalam Agenda Pembasmian Kemiskinan*," featured presentations from 20 multidisciplinary research teams showcasing evidence-based findings aimed at strengthening poverty eradication strategies. The programme served as a platform to translate research data into actionable policy recommendations, facilitating engagement between researchers, stakeholders, and policymakers to inform local and national poverty alleviation initiatives.









Ungku Aziz Memorial Forum 2.0 Explores Hidden Dimensions of Poverty

Held in conjunction with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, the Ungku Aziz Memorial Forum 2.0 brought together academics, policy practitioners, and institutional representatives to revisit the "Sarong Index" introduced by Allahyarham Prof. Diraja Ungku Abdul Aziz Ungku Abdul Hamid and discuss hidden dimensions of poverty in contemporary Malaysia. Organised by the Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC), the forum provided a platform for critical discussion on poverty measurement and inclusive development.

The programme featured keynote presentations by Dr. Muhammad Syafiq Borhanuddin (IKIM) and Dr. Muhammed Abdul Khalid (IKMAS-UKM), followed by a panel discussion with Prof. Dr. Fatimah Kari (UM), Dr. Sharifah Fatimah Alzahrah Syed Hussein (UIAM), and Encik Azlan Shah Nabees Khan (ARBA Foundation). Through evidence-based discussions and expert perspectives, the forum contributed to national policy dialogue, generating insights that can inform policy considerations and strategies to address poverty in Malaysia.

SWRC Conducts Focus Group to Inform Belanjawanku Expenditure Guide



As part of the preparation for the Belanjawanku (Expenditure Guide for Malaysians) 2026/2027, the Social Wellbeing Research Centre (SWRC), UM, conducted a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in Georgetown, Penang, to collect monthly household expenditure data for developing a realistic budget covering essential categories such as food, housing, and transportation. More than 50 participants representing diverse household types, including singles, married couples, single parents, and senior citizens, took part in the sessions.

Led by researchers from SWRC and UM, the discussion generated evidence on the cost of living experienced by different groups. The insights gathered contributed to national policy preparation through the development of the Belanjawanku expenditure guide, providing evidence to support policymaking on household financial wellbeing, living standards, and strategies to reduce financial vulnerability and poverty in Malaysia.



Belanjawanku Expenditure Guide for Malaysian Individuals and Families

Klang Valley and Selected cities 2024/2025

Mansor, N., Nik Osman, N. N. A., Awang, H., Omar, Z., Abd Ghani, M. A. A., Aznan, M. H. H., Mohaimi, M. M., Shahabudin, S. M., Abdullah, N., Mohd Satar, N. H., Zakaria, R. H., Soak Lu, Y., & Yin Mei, N. (2024). Belanjawanku expenditure guide for Malaysian individuals and families: Klang Valley and selected cities 2024/2025. Social Wellbeing Research Centre.

INTRODUCTION

Belanjawanku is an **expenditure guide** that provides estimated minimum monthly expenses for various types of goods and services, tailored to different family sizes in Malaysia. It is a budget that can be used for informational purposes or as a guide for personal finance. Elsewhere, it is known as a reference budget or budget standard, containing household expenditures categorised into baskets of goods and services, along with their associated costs. It serves as a guide for families of specific sizes and compositions **to attain a decent standard of living.**

Scan the QR code to read or download the booklet

The Sandwich Generation: Global Policy Dialogue on Poverty and Social Protection

The “sandwich generation” refers to individuals supporting both ageing parents and dependent children. The growing pressures associated with population ageing, rising life expectancy, and caregiving responsibilities can increase household financial vulnerability and the risk of poverty, particularly when working adults face simultaneous costs related to children’s education and the care of older parents.

In March 2025, UM’s Social Wellbeing Research Centre (SWRC), in collaboration with the Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia, convened a national and global policy roundtable on the challenges faced by the sandwich generation. The discussion brought together policymakers, experts, and stakeholders, alongside representatives from UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Bank Group, to examine the growing pressures faced by Malaysian families and gaps in existing social protection frameworks.

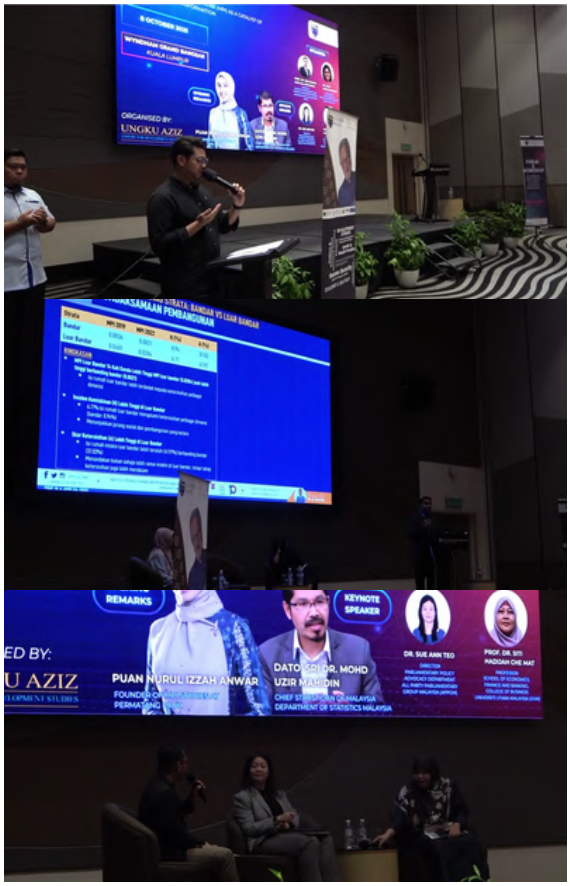


Key presentations addressed pension shortfalls and proposed a consumption-based contributory pension model, explored global lessons on ageing and labour markets, and emphasised the importance of investing in children within an ageing demographic context. Panel discussions examined the intersections of social protection, wellbeing, and the care economy, highlighting the need for integrated and rights-based approaches.

The roundtable concluded with calls for greater investment in the care economy, improved retirement planning, and holistic social protection policies that support caregiving responsibilities and economic participation. Through engagement with international organisations and the exchange of global policy perspectives, the initiative contributed to national and global policy dialogue on reducing poverty and economic vulnerability among intergenerational caregivers.

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Forum and Workshop: MPI as a Catalyst for Socioeconomic Transformation





The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a globally recognised framework for measuring poverty beyond income, examining overlapping deprivations across areas such as education, health, and living standards. Introduced in Malaysia as a multidimensional approach to poverty measurement, MPI provides an evidence base for developing more holistic and targeted policies to address poverty. Building on this global framework, the Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC) organised the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Forum and Workshop: "MPI as a Catalyst for Socioeconomic Transformation" on 8–9 October 2025.

The programme brought together academics, policymakers, statisticians, and practitioners, including representatives from the Department of Statistics Malaysia, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Malaysia, Parliamentary Policy Advocacy Department of the All Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia (APPGM), Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). It provided a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange on the use of MPI in policy planning, field research, and data analysis.

The forum explored how MPI data can be translated into evidence-based policy actions and context-sensitive interventions that are more targeted, inclusive, and sustainable. Participants also received practical training in MPI data calculation, analysis, and interpretation, with discussions covering diverse urban, peri-urban, and rural contexts.

Through this initiative, UM contributed to global efforts to advance data-driven, holistic, and people-centred approaches to poverty reduction, supporting the application of multidimensional poverty evidence to inform policies addressing poverty across its interconnected dimensions.