

## Malaysia



<http://www.who.int/countries/en/>

WHO region	Western Pacific
World Bank income group	Upper-middle-income
<b>CURRENT HEALTH INDICATORS</b>	
Total population in thousands (2013)	29717
% Population under 15 (2013)	26.1
% Population over 60 (2013)	8.5
Life expectancy at birth (2013) Total, Male, Female	76 (Female) 74 (Both sexes) 72 (Male)
Neonatal mortality rate per 1000 live births (2013)	4 [3-6]
Under-five mortality rate per 1000 live births (2013)	9 [7-10]
Maternal mortality ratio per 100 000 live births (2013)	29 [18-46]
% DTP3 Immunization coverage among 1-year-olds (2013)	97
% Births attended by skilled health workers (2012)	98.7
Density of physicians per 1000 population (2010)	1.198
Density of nurses and midwives per 1000 population (2010)	3.276
Total expenditure on health as % of GDP (2013)	4
General government expenditure on health as % of total government expenditure (2013)	5.9
Private expenditure on health as % of total expenditure on health (2013)	45.2
Adult (15+) literacy rate total (2010)	93.1
Population using improved drinking-water sources (%) (2012)	100 (Total) 100 (Urban) 99 (Rural)
Population using improved sanitation facilities (%) (2012)	96 (Total) 96 (Urban) 95 (Rural)
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.25 a day (PPP) (% of population) (2009)	
Gender-related Development Index rank out of 148 countries (2012)	42
Human Development Index rank out of 186 countries (2012)	64

#### Sources of data:

Global Health Observatory, April 2015  
<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.cco>

### HEALTH SITUATION

Malaysia is an upper middle income country with sustained economic stability, political commitment and financial investment in the social sectors. As a result, a relatively strong, primary care led and generally accessible health care system has evolved with good improvement in health outcomes.

But there are challenges: the prevalence of NCD and NCD risk factors continues to rise. It is estimated that two-thirds of all deaths are due to NCD. In addition, approximately 15% of adult Malaysians have diabetes mellitus, 33% have hypertension, 33% hypercholesterolemia, 29% are overweight and 15% obese. A large proportion of Malaysians with NCD risk factors remain undiagnosed.

It is estimated 4.7 million (23.1% of the adult population currently smoke tobacco (43.9% of men; 1.0% of women), leading to a significant proportion of adults who are exposed to second-hand smoke in restaurants (70%), at home (40%) and as indoor workers (40%).

Mental illness and disability has also become an increasingly recognised problem especially amongst children and teenagers - 20.0% of children (aged 5-16 years) have mental issues such as developmental disability, emotional and behavioural disorders.

Despite many achievements, communicable diseases still persist. In 2014, 108,698 cases of dengue were reported (more than double the 2013 cases), with 215 deaths. TB remains a concern with an incidence rate of annually reported cases of 78.3 per 100,000 pop and TB remains the highest infectious disease-related cause of mortality. Other leading contributors to the communicable disease burden include malaria, HIV/AIDS, food-borne diseases and hand, foot and mouth diseases. Early in 2014, Malaysia reported its first imported cases of Avian Influenza A (H7N9) and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

Review of the available data suggests that Malaysia has achieved/almost achieved most targets set for child health, adolescent birth rate, antenatal coverage, HIV/AIDS and malaria under the MDGs. Some challenges remain in certain MDG indicators that will require detailed understanding of local dynamics and augmentable policies.

With a vibrant economy, Malaysia attracts many people from neighbouring countries. Unfortunately, there are a number who do not enter the country legally and this creates a challenge for the health system as their participation in national preventive health programmes is minimal and they often present late for clinical care.

### HEALTH POLICIES AND SYSTEMS

Malaysia has embarked on an important mission towards becoming a progressive and high-income nation by 2020, as outlined in the Tenth Malaysian Plan (10MP) 2011-2015. The 10MP and the Country Health Plan 2011-2015 contain new policy directions, strategies and programmes that stress quality healthcare and a healthy community and they provide a strategy that is geared towards the establishment of a comprehensive healthcare system as well as a public recreational and sports infrastructure to support active lifestyles.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) has been assigned to provide a more efficient and effective health system that ensures universal access to quality healthcare. In line with this, the MOH is reviewing its conceptual framework for the health system, including aspects of health services delivery, financing, enabling structures and its governance.

Malaysia is committed to the UN political declaration on NCDs. It has already implemented the "National Strategic Plan for Non-Communicable Diseases (NSP-NCD) 2011-2015, where steps have been taken for policy and regulatory interventions, working with stakeholders outside of the health sector, in trying to create a health-promoting environment throughout the country. Malaysia has fulfilled IHR 2005 criteria and has ratified the WHO FCTC and made some inroads in its implementation.

### COOPERATION FOR HEALTH

Malaysia has also been playing increasingly important roles in regional health development cooperation by participating and contributing to regional and international health collaborations and activities through sharing and transfer of knowledge. It is taking the lead or coordinating activities such as emerging infectious diseases and food safety, and Malaysia formed an ASEAN Task Force for NCDs to assist with mounting a coordinated regional response to the NCD epidemic within the ASEAN community.

Malaysia is currently the chair of the Third Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health. Malaysia is also a member of WHO TDR Joint Coordinating Board since 1978.

WHO has designated five collaborating centres in Malaysia. These centres have pursued agreed programmes of work that benefit the country, regional and global levels. Malaysia also regularly hosts meetings, provides capacity building opportunities, and shares its experience, expertise and information with other countries in the Western Pacific Region and beyond.

**WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGIC AGENDA (2009–2013 extended to 2015 to facilitate alignment with Malaysia's 11<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan)**

Strategic Priorities	Country Cooperation Strategy Focus Areas
<p><b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Developing and strengthening the Health System and Health Policy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for review and policy dialog on national health system transformation plan</li> <li>• Strengthening regulatory capacity for medicines and health technologies, including GMP inspection, issues related to internet sales, and methods for analytical validation of biologics and other therapeutic products</li> <li>• Strengthening integrated people-centered health services through development of a framework for patient-centered care, strengthening the strategic human resource planning and the capacity for adapting clinical evidence-based practice guidelines to the Malaysian context</li> </ul>
<p><b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: Prevention and Control of NCDs, NCD risk factors and promotion of healthy lifestyles</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening NCD risk-factor intervention programmes, and the monitoring and evaluation of the NCD National Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Strengthen implementation of strategies to prevent harmful use of alcohol among youth</li> <li>• Strengthen capacity in environmental health including the tools and use of health impact assessments</li> </ul>
<p><b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Communicable Diseases prevention and Control</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to Malaysia's own capacity in communicable diseases, it is no longer necessary to provide planned programmatic support in this area, but WHO will provide technical advice, information and standards as needed according to specific emerging and urgent issues</li> </ul>
<p><b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Malaysia's participation and contribution in regional and international health collaboration</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO will continue to ensure Malaysia's engagement at the Regional and Global levels, making the most of opportunities for Malaysia to host technical meetings and share its experience, expertise and information with other countries in the Western Pacific Region and beyond, and to utilise both the expertise available from Malaysia as well as the capacity building opportunities offered by Malaysia to benefit other countries.</li> </ul>