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NEWSLETTER

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KEMENTERIAN KEWANGAN MALAYSIA

YAYASAN HASANAH
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BEYOND INCOME: LISTENING TO THE REALITIES OF GRASSROOTS POVERTY

YB Dato' Seri Saifuddin Abdullah
Deputy Chairperson of APPGM-SDG;
Member of Parliament for Indera Mahkota

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"Projek TEKAD Gunting Komuniti" by Pertubuhan Padu Makmur under Indera Mahkota Parliamentary Constituency in 2026

BEYOND INCOME: LISTENING TO THE REALITIES OF GRASSROOTS POVERTY



By YB Dato' Seri Saifuddin Abdullah
(Deputy Chairperson of APPGM-SDG;
Member of Parliament for Indera Mahkota)

The work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) has always been anchored in a simple, unwavering conviction: meaningful national development must begin by understanding the lived realities of our communities.

Over the past seven years, the journey across parliamentary constituencies—from bustling urban flats to rural hamlets and remote interior settlements—has served as a constant reminder that poverty is rarely a simple equation. Behind every policy debate and macroeconomic figure are real individuals and families navigating the daily struggle of making a living, accessing essential services, caring for their elderly, and striving to build a secure future for their children.

National statistics provide an indispensable bird's-eye view, but aggregate numbers alone cannot capture how poverty is actually experienced on the ground. To design policies that truly transform lives, we must look beyond income and listen to the grassroots.



"Malaysian Sign Language (BIM) Class" Project by the Pahang Association of the Deaf under Indera Mahkota Parliamentary Constituency in 2024

Across the Indera Mahkota parliamentary constituency, a total of 8 impactful community development projects have been mobilised between the years 2021 and 2026, strategically distributed across one project in Phase 1 of 2021, two projects in Phase 2 of 2021, two projects in Phase 3 of 2021, one Community Learning Centre (2024), one Food Security initiative (2026), and one Income Generation initiative (2026). Driven by the dedicated involvement of 6 Solution Providers, these initiatives are supported by a cumulative fund disbursement of RM 294,000.

These community focused initiatives deliver profound human impact by directly embracing vulnerable and underserved groups, including individuals in addiction recovery, deaf youth and adults, *asnaf* households and school leavers. By providing practical vocational training in professional barbering, commercial baking, freshwater *patin* aquaculture, and martial arts coaching, as well as specialised Malay sign language literacy and inclusive Quranic education, the projects create genuine pathways to employment, entrepreneurship, and social reintegration.

Beyond restoring personal dignity and overcoming social stigma, this collective effort empowers participants to achieve sustainable independence, transforming local residents from aid recipients into confident, economically resilient contributors to their families and broader society.

Understanding Poverty as a Multidimensional Reality

Malaysia has achieved remarkable progress in reducing absolute poverty over the decades. Yet, income alone does not tell the full story. A household may earn just enough to sit above the official

monetary poverty line, yet still endure inadequate housing, limited access to digital networks, job insecurity, or a lack of formal social safety nets. A single health crisis or economic shock can instantly push such families into distress.

True wellbeing requires more than financial resources. It requires access to quality education, healthcare, basic infrastructure, social security, and safe, cohesive neighbourhoods. When we view poverty through this broader, multidimensional lens, we quickly realise that different communities face fundamentally different barriers.

A "one-size-fits-all" approach to poverty alleviation simply cannot deliver sustainable results. What works for an urban constituency struggling with cost-of-living pressures and youth employment will not solve the challenges of a remote interior community facing geographical isolation, high transport costs, and basic infrastructure gaps.

Local Evidence Drives Local Action

This is why APPGM-SDG has consistently advocated for localised evidence and grassroots-led development. In collaboration with the Ministry of Finance Malaysia and Yayasan Hasanah under the Policy Solutions Initiative, APPGM-SDG's goal is to bridge the gap between national policy frameworks and community realities.

Through tools like the Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI), APPGM-SDG seeks to look beneath the surface of poverty to identify the specific drivers of deprivation in different localities—whether it is a lack of formal social security, infrastructure deficits, or educational barriers.

However, research and measurement are never the final destination. The true value of localised evidence lies in its ability to empower local actors. When Members of Parliament, District Offices, local authorities, civil society organisations, and community leaders share a clear, evidence-based picture of local priorities, they can coordinate their efforts, target resources where they matter most, and implement tailored interventions that deliver tangible impact.

Building a Collaborative Ecosystem

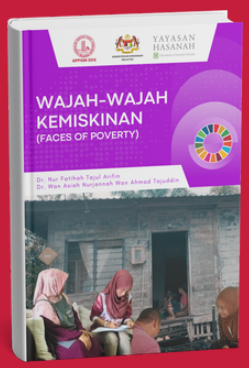
Eradicating poverty (SDG 1) and reducing inequalities (SDG 10) cannot be achieved by any single institution acting in isolation. Addressing complex social deprivations requires strong, active partnerships across every level of society. By embedding consultative practices into how we plan and deliver interventions, we ensure that government agencies, local authorities, civil society, and grassroots leaders move beyond siloed approaches to work as true collaborative partners.

As we look to the future, our approach to poverty must continue to evolve. We must foster an ecosystem where policy flows not just from the top down, but is continually informed and refined by grassroots experience. Local leaders and residents know their communities' strengths and vulnerabilities best. By recognising them as active partners rather than passive recipients of aid, we unlock the true potential of community-led development.

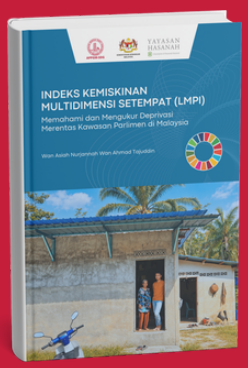
Poverty is experienced locally, and it is at the local level—one community, one neighbourhood, and one constituency at a time—that it must ultimately be overcome. Let us continue working together to ensure that our development policies remain compassionate, responsive, and deeply rooted in the principle of leaving no one behind.

PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO POVERTY

APPGM-SDG · KEMENTERIAN KEWANGAN MALAYSIA · YAYASAN HASANAH



WAJAH-WAJAH KEMISKINAN
(FACES OF POVERTY)



INDEKS KEMISKINAN MULTIDIMENSI SETEMPAT (LMPI)
Memahami dan Mengukur Deprivasi Merentas Kawasan Parlimen di Malaysia

*Only available in Malay

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The photo shows the condition of the respondent's home, which lacks toilet facilities; the respondent has also never received any information or guidance on how to register for and apply for housing or welfare assistance in Tenom.

POVERTY HAS MANY FACES; OUR MEASURES MUST TOO

Poverty is more than a number

When I meet families living in poverty, they rarely speak of income first. They speak of a leaking roof, a child who has stopped going to school, a clinic too far away, or the fear of what happens if the breadwinner falls ill. Poverty is not a single figure. It is a web of deprivations that feed one another, and how we measure it decides whom we see and whom we miss.

Malaysia grasped this long before "multidimensional" entered our policy vocabulary. The late Royal Professor Ungku Aziz proposed what came to be known as the Sarong Index: count the sarongs a household owns. A family sharing one sarong among several members was poor in ways an income survey could not capture, in dignity, in privacy, in the ability to step out into the world. It was a humble measure carrying a profound insight: poverty is about what people can and cannot do.

As the New Economic Policy took shape, we needed a consistent national yardstick, and the Poverty Line Income (PLI) gave us one. It served us well as Malaysia brought poverty down from nearly half of all households in 1970 to low single digits. The 2019 revision on PLI, which was introduced by me when I was the Minister in Prime Minister's Department (Economy) has raised the national PLI from RM980 to RM2,208, reminded us that the line itself must move as society moves. Yet income alone still tells only part of the story.



Foto tersebut memaparkan kediaman seorang responden kurang upaya di Kuala Langat yang tidak dapat keluar dari rumah untuk menyertai tinjauan. Oleh itu,, soal selidik dijalankan secara lisan melalui tingkap.

MPI as holistic poverty gauge

That is why Malaysia introduced its national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) under the Eleventh Malaysia Plan, measuring education, health and living standards alongside income. The latest Department of Statistics figures, published in February this year, show the national MPI falling from 0.0037 in 2022 to 0.0025 in 2024. Yet rural poverty remains far deeper than urban poverty, a gap that national averages easily hide.

The global picture warns us that progress is never automatic. The 2026 Global MPI by UNDP and Oxford University finds 1.2 billion people, or 18.9 per cent of those covered across 108 countries, living in acute multidimensional poverty. For the first time since the index began in 2010, that number has risen, by 51.5 million. More than half of the poor are children, and over four in five live in rural areas.

There is hope in the same report. Thirty-three countries have halved their MPI in under 15 years, and Viet Nam did so in seven. Poverty can be beaten, but only deliberately.



Data collection session with a respondent with disabilities who live alone in dilapidated houses in Kuala Kangsar.

From Policy to Solution

As Minister, I also led the Basmi Miskin Tegar Keluarga Malaysia (BMTKM) programme under the Twelfth Malaysia Plan, with the goal of zero hardcore poverty. We did not work from spreadsheets alone. Officers went locality by locality, 80 in the first phase, sitting with each family to understand its circumstances. Within a year, the number of hardcore poor households fell by more than half, from about 260,000 to under 130,000. While the program recorded national success, gaps were also identified while I was following the officers to the ground to visit the families identified for care packages through the E-kasih registry. I notice that there are families that are not hardcore poor but still listed in the E-kasih registry and receiving hardcore poor aid packages. These gaps need narrowing so that benefits can be truly targeted. The main lesson I carry is simple: when you go to the ground, you see what the data cannot.

That lesson lives on in the Localised MPI (LMPI) developed by the APPGM-SDG across 55 parliamentary constituencies. Using five dimensions and 27 indicators, it brings measurement down to where solutions actually happen. Its findings show social protection as most deprived dimension across all regions and interior locality deprivation affects people the most compared to urban and rural localities. Many communities are not short of capability; they are short of access to services, markets and infrastructure.

Its companion volume, *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* (Faces of Poverty), gives these numbers human faces through stories gathered in the field. Data tells us where to look; stories tell us what to do.

LMPI & its impact

I warmly welcome the Budget 2027 announcement that next year's Household Income and Expenditure Survey, covering 60,000 households, will strengthen the national MPI with new indicators which was inspired and consulted using APPGM-SDG's LMPI dimensions and indicators. It is a vital step towards seeing poverty as families live it.

But measurement must lead to action. We now need policy-level dialogues that bring Parliament, ministries, state governments, civil society and communities to the same table. And we need local solutions in motion, designed with the people they are meant to serve, not merely for them.

Amartya Sen reminded us that development can be seen "as a process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy." That is the true test of our poverty agenda: not whether a household crosses a line, but whether every Malaysian is free to live a life they have reason to value.

While poverty has many faces, the measurement and solutions has to also have many faces too, so that its effectively impact livelihood of deprived communities with long terms targeted interventions and policy solutions.

By Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed
(Advisor to the Society of Promotion of SDGs)



3 THROUGH THE WINDOW: A VIEW OF POVERTY'S MANY FACES





A photo of the enumerators keying in the response from a woman in Telok Datok who cannot read and write

Before this study, my view of poverty was purely financial. As the Local Coordinator for Kuala Langat, I knew the issues raised in our community mapping sessions, from rising living costs and unstable jobs to flash floods and poor access to basic services. To me, a poor household was simply one without a sustainable income. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) study widened that perspective and showed me how differently each person experiences poverty.

Between December 2025 and January 2026, with the support of two other enumerators, I interviewed 50 B40 households across six localities, from Jenjarom and Bandar Mahkota in the urban areas to Kampung Kelanang, Ladang Telok and the Mah Meri Orang Asli villages of Sungai Bumbun and Sungai Judah in the rural areas.

The journey began with collecting the data. For every household that agreed to take part, two others turned us away. And within the fifty that responded, one stayed with me most. Unable to walk, he answered the entire questionnaire from behind the window of his home, yet he spoke about his life with remarkable optimism and gratitude. He made me realise how often I take my own circumstances for granted, and his outlook still inspires me. In Sungai Bumbun, another respondent shared how a family member's untreated mental illness had quietly grown into a crisis. Realities like these rarely fit neatly into a single indicator.

Next came making sense of the data. Most households had little to fall back on in an emergency, with no savings, no insurance, and for many informal workers, no KWSP or PERKESO coverage. Gaps in adult education pointed to opportunities missed by earlier generations, while many rural households still lacked basic services like waste collection. Poverty never arrives from a single shortfall. It builds up through many small vulnerabilities at once.

Yet what these communities lack in the poverty dimensions, they make up for in community strength. Neighbours look out for one another, whether by sharing food, offering a ride to the clinic or lending a hand when someone falls on hard times. In Kampung Orang Asli Sungai Judah, everyone seemed to know each other by name, and no one was a stranger. Often, this support was the only safety net families had.

The study did not end with a report. The findings were brought to the Kuala Langat SDG Committee, chaired by the District Officer, and later guided our capacity building sessions with community leaders and district agencies. Together, we developed a two-year action plan to extend social protection to informal workers and improve coordination for underserved communities.

This journey taught me that poverty cannot be measured by income alone, and neither can resilience. Behind every data point is a person with a story worth hearing. When communities see their experiences reflected in the data and carried into the rooms where decisions are made, they begin to believe their voices matter. That belief is where real change begins.



A photo of a man who responded through a window (taken from outside of the front door with a locked grill)

By Wan Ahmad Mujaddid Wan Ahmad Tajuddin
(Local Coordinator for Kuala Langat)

4 PATRONAGE NETWORKS AS A COMMUNITY VOICE MECHANISM: A POVERTY CASE STUDY IN SABAH



Indeed, networks serve as a well-known platform when it comes to the process of distributing aid and poverty alleviation programmes, especially at the grassroots level. Over the past year of my experience with APPGM-SDG, I have witnessed many realities on the ground showing that poverty cannot be eradicated drastically; rather, it requires strong networks between leaders at the village, sub-district (*mukim*), and local levels. This is evidenced by several mapping studies conducted in Sabah focusing on island and interior areas, which revealed that informal collaboration determines whether a community can escape the clutches of poverty or remain trapped in it.

Social gatherings such as traditional *kenduri*, informal coffee sessions (*kupi-kupi*) during wedding ceremonies, and *tingkuang* serve as bottom-up platforms for local champions to highlight ideas, opinions, and proposals to be heard. However, this requires listeners who do not merely listen, but deeply understand what the community at the grassroots level actually needs. Their gentleness, tolerance, high sense of etiquette, and openness in welcoming guests made it easy for me to mingle and connect warmly with the community. Listening to their personal stories taught me to always be grateful and to learn how they manage to remain so calm when facing dire moments—such as the rising cost of living, lack of electricity,absence of clean water supply, reliance on rainwater, inability to pay for their children's school fees, fasting when there is no food to eat, and sharing side dishes with neighbours. Sharing these same hardships endows them with remarkable resilience against life's adversities. They do not beg for sympathy, nor do they vent on social media against anyone—including agencies, elected representatives, or responsible parties who fail to carry out their trust. Instead, they maintain good faith amidst everything they go through.



The Focus Group Discussion (FGD) interview session turned into a festive gathering and a lively exchange of views.

Togetherness or reciprocity (quid pro quo) forms the backbone for them to support one another in times of difficulty. If this spirit can be forged into a solid network spanning the community, sub-district, district, state, and national levels, it is by no means impossible for communities to break free from the shackles of poverty. They are by no means poor in moral values, culture, manners, or speech; rather, it is precisely their high level of etiquette, moral integrity,tolerance, and gentleness that makes them vulnerable to breach of trust and dishonesty by a handful of individuals—forcing them to continuously struggle for access to aid, education, transportation, healthcare, and subsidised goods.



Our arrival was welcomed with delicious food, warm laughter, and the openness of the leaders and villagers.

If only patronage networks were practiced correctly, the distribution of aid and the spillover of economic benefits to the underprivileged would certainly grant them the opportunity to participate in and contribute to shared prosperity and equality. Not all patronage is practised solely to secure votes during elections; instead, it can be utilised as a mechanism to assist vulnerable groups so they are not continuously marginalised from today's tide of development and modernisation.



One of the water villages we visited has many shared natural spring water wells, which are collectively cleaned,maintained, and cared for for communal use.

One of the water villages we visited illustrated how a community manages limited resources through practices of cooperation and shared responsibility. In this village, there are several natural spring wells used collectively by the residents. These facilities serve not only as a daily water source but are also cleaned, maintained, and cared for together to ensure their continued use for the entire community.

This practice reflects the existence of solidarity, trust, reciprocity, and collective responsibility within societal life. In an environment of limited basic amenities, the residents' ability to share resources and manage communal needs represents a key form of community resilience. However, mutual cooperation among residents cannot necessarily replace the need for more comprehensive and sustainable public infrastructure.

These observations also open up space to understand the relationship between poverty and patronage politics. For communities facing restricted access to basic amenities and economic resources, relationships with local leaders, elected representatives, or political actors may serve as one of the channels to convey their needs to the authorities. In this context, a patronage network can function as a bridge connecting the community with parties who have access to resources, assistance, and decision-making processes.

Nevertheless, it is crucial to distinguish between community solidarity and political patronage. The residents' cooperation in maintaining the water wells is a practice of shared resource management and does not necessarily indicate the presence of patronage. Conversely, the issue of patronage arises when access to aid, development, or institutional attention depends on personal connections, political reciprocity, or an individual's position within a power network.

Therefore, the experience in this water village raises deeper questions: to what extent can internal community resilience and cooperation help them overcome poverty, and to what extent do they still rely on patronage networks to ensure their basic needs receive attention from formal institutions? These questions are vital for understanding how communities not only survive under severe constraints, but also strive to secure the recognition, services, and development they rightfully deserve.

By Sitti Aisyah Orlando
(Local Coordinator for Lahad Datu)

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LIVED REALITIES: UNDERSTANDING POVERTY THROUGH FIELDWORK COORDINATION IN JELI, KELANTAN





The experience of conducting the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) study under the APPGM-SDG initiative in Jeli,Kelantan, provided an opportunity to view the issue of poverty through various dimensions. Poverty is commonly understood as a lack of income or difficulty in meeting basic needs. However, when engaging directly with the community, every respondent's answer revealed lives, experiences, and challenges that differed significantly from initial expectations.

Interacting with both Malay and *Orang Asli* communities offered a deeper understanding of the diverse backgrounds and needs of the local population. Each respondent carried a unique life story and set of experiences. This study was not merely about asking questions and recording answers; it demanded a readiness to listen, understand, and respect the experiences shared. Conversations with respondents were an invaluable aspect of the study, as every response reflected the real-life contexts they endure.

The Lived Realities Behind Respondents' Answers

During interviews, respondents initially provided brief answers regarding their employment and income. However, as conversations unfolded, broader household challenges emerged—such as supporting large families, coping with unstable employment, managing failing health, or struggling with daily living expenses. Poverty cannot be evaluated solely on income. Listening to the authentic experiences of the community provides a far more comprehensive picture of their lives.



From Collecting Data to Understanding People

Every recorded response must be approached with a sense of deep responsibility. Behind the collected data lie lived realities that must be interpreted carefully, ensuring that the information accurately represents the respondents' circumstances without being clouded by assumptions or personal bias. This experience taught me to become a better listener, to remain open to different lived experiences, and to be more sensitive to challenges that are not immediately visible. Understanding poverty requires not only technical skills in data collection, but also empathy, patience, and a duty of care toward the communities involved.

Awareness and Responsibility

Poverty eradication efforts should never cease once data collection is complete. Instead, research findings must be closely examined and translated into appropriate actions based on community needs. Collaboration among government agencies, local leaders, civil society organisations, and the community is vital. Insights from the MPI study can help facilitate more focused discussions on priority issues, targeted interventions, and necessary follow-up measures.

Acting with Understanding

The true value of the MPI study lies not merely in the information gathered, but in how effectively that knowledge deepens our understanding of people's lives. This experience reinforced the conviction that sustainable development begins by listening to community voices, respecting their experiences, and ensuring that identified needs are prioritised in future planning.





Ultimately, behind every poverty data point is a human being who deserves to be understood, heard, and given the opportunity to build a better life. This realisation has been the most meaningful lesson gained throughout my responsibility as an MPI study coordinator in Jeli, Kelantan.

By Rozlan Daud
(Local Coordinator for Jeli)

Congratulations



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BEYOND THE NUMBERS: UNDERSTANDING MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY IN PADANG BESAR



My involvement in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) study in Padang Besar Parliamentary Constituency deepened my understanding that poverty cannot be measured by income alone. Behind every questionnaire response is a life shaped by responsibilities, circumstances, and challenges that may not be visible to others. The experience reminded me that field research is not simply about collecting data; it is also an opportunity to listen and understand the realities of a community.

Fieldwork took place from 19 to 23 October 2025 across five areas: Titi Tinggi, Beseri, Chuping, Mata Ayer and Santan. A total of 50 respondents participated in a guided survey covering five dimensions: education, health, living standards, social protection, and social cohesion and safety. The process showed me that each household has different circumstances and needs, even within the same constituency.

The journey also came with challenges. Some residents were hesitant to share personal information, while reaching certain locations required additional time and effort. This taught me not to take trust for granted. Clear explanations, respectful communication, and a friendly approach are essential when engaging with respondents. I also learned that community-based research must be sensitive to people's backgrounds, cultures, and individual experiences.



The findings made the different dimensions of poverty more tangible. Some 52% of respondents had no social protection, while 56% did not have enough savings to cover at least three months. In addition, 12% were reported to lack basic digital skills, and 46% lived in areas without scheduled waste collection services. These figures show that vulnerability can take many forms, including financial insecurity, limited access to services and fewer opportunities to participate in an increasingly digital world.



At the same time, the study highlighted the strength of the community. All respondents said they had family members, friends, or neighbours they could turn to in times of need. This social support is a valuable community asset and should be recognised in development efforts.

The MPI experience in Padang Besar taught me to approach data with empathy and connect findings with action. Effective interventions must reflect households' actual needs, including social protection, digital literacy, access to treated water and waste management. To me, the value of the study does not end when the report is completed. Its real value lies in helping community voices be heard and encouraging fairer, more targeted and meaningful change.

By Muhammad Ilman Syahir Ibrahim
(Local Coordinator for Padang Besar)

7 PERSEVERING IN HARDSHIP, STRONG FOR THE FUTURE

Behind a mother's smile lies a thousand trials that words cannot fully express. In a terrace house in Bukit Rambai, a single mother struggles to navigate life alongside her child. Beneath the fortitude she displays is a story of sacrifice, hardship,and the relentless fight of a mother who never stops ensuring her child receives the proper care they deserve. Since the passing of her husband, she has relied on the SOCSO (PERKESO) benefit payments left by her late husband as her primary source of income. However, life's trials did not end there. The child she raised was born with a health condition—imperforate anus—requiring the lifelong use of a stoma bag as well as regular follow-up treatments at the hospital. The responsibility of caring for her child prevents her from securing full-time employment, as her child's every need and treatment depend entirely on her constant care and attention.

Amid these constraints, she chooses not to remain passive. Instead, she took the initiative to sell small snacks around her neighbourhood to add to her family's income. Although the earnings are modest, it is one of the few efforts within her power to keep life going. The vehicle she owns is old and dilapidated, forcing her to rely on help from other family members to take her child to the hospital for medical appointments. Even more heartbreakingly, her child has also faced mockery and physical bullying. Beside the physical suffering endured, the child bears emotional wounds no young child should ever have to carry. As a mother, such experiences inevitably deepen the anxiety and grief she silently carries.



This story served as a reminder to me that poverty is not merely about a lack of money, but also about the struggle to access medical treatment, opportunities to earn a living, and the right to a dignified life. Eradicating poverty is not just about extending aid; it is about restoring hope, easing burdens, and ensuring that no family is left to struggle alone in the face of life's trials.





By Nur Aina Bahirah Japari
(Local Coordinator for Tangga Batu)

8 BEYOND THE INDEX: POST-MPI INTERVENTIONS AS A TARGETED WAY FORWARD

The APPGM-SDG LMPI journey

The MPI study by APPGM-SDG is a historical journey that started when UNDP launched the initiative to revisit and revise the Nasional Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI) in 2022. APPGM-SDG through its grounded experience developed an initial MPI study instrument with 5 dimensions and 24 indicators. A publication was written by Debbie Ann Loh who was leading the MPI initiative.

When Policy Solutions Joint Initiative by APPGM-SDG & Yayasan Hasanah was introduced, I did a face lift to the APPGM-SDG MPI structure and included into the project as one of major deliverables in 55 locations. Hence, the MPI study was undertaken with involvement of 2,775 households using revised 5 dimensions and 27 indicators. The findings were published in two books, one is qualitative narrative, *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* and Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) technical quantitative findings.

The publications highlight one core need; surveyed households repeat one finding everywhere: households are poor in access, not in capability.

Most have work, land or some income. Yet a hospital trip costing RM150 in Tanjung Piai and up to RM1,500 in Mukah, a missing identity document or an unreliable water supply consumes that income before living standards can improve.

Because one household often falls short on two or three dimensions at once, the MPI indicators should work as a service-delivery checklist, not merely a scorecard. It deepens one's understanding about a household's deprivation which now affected not by one factor, but multiple and multidimensional factors. In order to address the deprivation, the post-MPI intervention means acting on what the index reveals, in three interconnected ways.

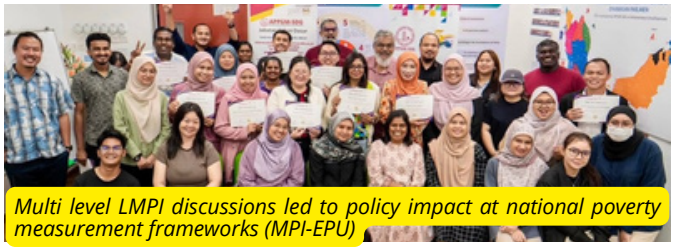


Drinking water restoration project, a post-MPI targeted initiative in KOA Patah Jelutong Pahang

Targeted programmes and support packages based on MPI

The first step is to match each household's deprivation profile to a defined support package. A household weak on health and living standards needs transport support for recurring treatment and a water or sanitation repair. One weak on education and social protection needs school-transport help, document registration and enrolment in a savings or protection scheme.

Packages should be built from the 27 indicators, delivered by the agency that owns each one, and coordinated through a single case file. Households with the deepest, overlapping deprivation should be served first, and each package should state what graduation looks like. Granular data also matters for funding: communities missing from national statistics can be prioritised only if their deprivation is visible.



Multi level LMPI discussions led to policy impact at national poverty measurement frameworks (MPI-EPU)

Family and neighbourhood interventions

Poverty is lived by individuals inside a family, so support must fit each person. In one home a child may miss school for lack of transport, a teenager may be unsupervised in a cramped flat, a parent may work without KWSP or PERKESO cover, and a grandparent may lack the card that unlocks aid. The study links drug abuse to gaps in employment, government aid, family ties and community leadership, showing that such harms are jointly caused and cannot be solved one agency at a time.

Family plans should therefore name a target for each member: boarding or transport support for the child, skills and safe activities for the teenager, income and protection for the working adult, and documentation, assistive devices and care for elderly or disabled relatives. Single mothers and carers of disabled children, who carry the heaviest load, also need childcare and respite support.

Neighbourhood action should sit alongside with financed lift maintenance in PPR flats, scheduled waste collection in suburban areas, active community leaders, and the *gotong-royong* flood preparation that communities already practise. Neighbourhood strengthening programs are also part of the post-MPI solution to the families that creates a feeling that neighbourhood leaders as their shoulder to lean on.

Short- mid and long-term interventions

Policy reform is slow and sometimes stagnant due to many reasons. So interim measures must carry households while it takes effect. **Short-term interventions**, within a year, are inexpensive and unlock existing entitlements such as drives for birth certificates, identity cards and OKU registration; transport vouchers for dialysis, chemotherapy and school; small repairs, such as the water tank restored in the Kampung Patah Jelutong pilot; and an emergency fund for flood-hit households.

Mid-term interventions, over one to three years, build capacity through mobile clinics, transit housing near schools, contracted waste collection, voluntary protection schemes for farmers, fishers and other informal workers, maintenance financing for PPR lifts as well as funded empowerment programmes.

Long-term policy interventions & solutions, within RMK-13 (2026-2030), annual budget or beyond, address structural gaps such as roads, bridges, water systems and grids such as in Tenom distribution gap. The national MPI & LMPI should be embedded in policy design and resource allocation with evidences gathered from short and mid-term interventions.

The way forward

The LMPI has shown who is deprived and where. The next step is to treat each dimension as a delivery commitment, a named package, a named agency, a family-level intervention and a timeline running to 2030 and beyond. Progress should be tracked by re-scoring households every year, so support follows need rather than paperwork.



Post-MPI programme in Pulau Tigabu Sabah

By Paniirselvam Jayaraman
(Policy Solutions Department)

UPCOMMING DIALOGUE

Joint Organisers: APPGM-SDG, MY POVERTY IS

Strategic Partners: MINISTRY OF FINANCE MALAYSIA, YAYASAN HASANAH

POVERTY DIALOGUE

Beyond Poverty Numbers, From Measurement to Meaningful Change

In conjunction with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2026



Sessions Lineup

- APPGM-SDG's Localised MPI (LMPI) - Findings across Malaysia
- MyPovertyIs field reflection on poverty & marginalisation
- Beyond Poverty Numbers - From Global Commitments to Lived Realities
- The Ground Truth - Living Through Poverty



Keynote Address

Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed

Former Minister of Economy;
Distinguished Fellow, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN Malaysia); &
Advisor, Society for Promotion of SDGs (PPMPL)

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PARLIMEN MALAYSIA

09 7 OCTOBER 2026



APPGM-SDG LAUNCHES 16 PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY ISSUE MAPPING REPORTS 2026: AMPLIFYING GRASSROOTS VOICES WITH SIX MAIN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THEMES

APPGM-SDG officially launched its main annual event held at the Parliament of Malaysia Building. The launching ceremony was officiated by YB Datuk Seri Dr. Zaliha Mustafa, Member of Parliament for Sekijang and the Chairperson of the Government Backbenchers Club (BBC), and attended by YB Puan Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis @ Fakharudy, Chairperson of the APPGM-SDG Committee, Members of Parliament from the *Dewan Rakyat* and *Dewan Negara*, as well as representatives from ministries, government agencies, and civil society organisations.

Main Focus: Findings of the 2026 Parliamentary Constituency Issue Mapping Fieldwork

Issue mapping serves as the foundation and annual priority for APPGM-SDG in bringing the reality and voices of grassroots communities to the highest level. APPGM-SDG conducted fieldwork to identify issues related to the SDGs or sustainable development goals across 16 parliamentary constituencies throughout Malaysia in 2026.

The findings highlight six (6) main issues faced by grassroots communities. Three (3) are recurring issues identified in both 2025 and 2026. The first issue is the availability of basic and public infrastructure and facilities. The second issue is the need for socio-economic support for fishermen and farmers. The third issue is the necessity to strengthen local small traders and the local economy.

Recently, 3 emerging issues surfaced from this year's fieldwork. The first issue is the rapid degradation of the environment and climate change. The second issue is the gap in two-way communication between governance entities and grassroots communities. The third issue is the neglect and developmental lag regarding heritage, arts, and cultural identity.

APPGM-SDG hopes that these issues will receive the attention of policymakers and the government, as well as encourage action by all responsible parties so that every issue faced by grassroots communities can be resolved.



Strengthening Capacity Building & Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) Study

In addition to the 16 Parliamentary Issue Mapping Reports 2026, APPGM-SDG also launched two other important publication series:

1. **Compilation of 2025 Parliamentary Constituency Capacity Building Workshop Reports (Volumes 1–6)**: A total of 28 Capacity Building Workshops were carried out involving 32 parliamentary constituencies from February 2025 to March 2026, with a total of 728 participants, including 26 participants comprising District Officers, Chief Assistant District Officers, and Assistant District Officers. Various representatives from ministries, agencies, and stakeholders were also present. These workshops served as a platform to strengthen understanding regarding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to formulate proposed solutions to local issues based on the context of each area. A total of 120 proposed solutions were identified throughout the implementation of the workshops.

The workshop findings highlight various local development issues encompassing social, economic, environmental, as well as governance and cooperation aspects, while emphasising the importance of collaboration between Parliaments, District Offices, government agencies, local authorities, and communities. The workshop approach placed emphasis on local potential and assets that can be leveraged to support community development. The Capacity Building Workshops did not merely identify issues, but served as a starting point to translate local issues and potential into proposals, actions, and more meaningful impacts for the community.

2. **Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) Report**: The publication of the Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) study report offers a localised perspective to understand how poverty and vulnerability are experienced across Malaysia. LMPI was developed through the Policy Solutions Initiative, a joint effort between APPGM-SDG, Yayasan Hasanah, and the Ministry of Finance Malaysia. LMPI complements Malaysia's National Multidimensional Poverty Index by bridging the macro-level national perspective with the micro-level reality of households and communities. LMPI examines the forms of deprivation experienced by communities within local contexts and links poverty measurement to more targeted policy actions.

   LMPI is not merely another method to measure poverty, but serves as an evidence-based platform for action. By identifying the forms of deprivation experienced by households, how those deprivations overlap, and how their patterns differ according to local contexts, this study aims to support planning and budget allocation at various levels—from macro to micro—including more targeted state-level and district-level interventions. The study also aims to strengthen collaboration between institutions and communities, as well as contribute to continuous improvement in multidimensional poverty measurement in Malaysia.



Commitment to Translating Data into Policy Action

In her keynote address, YB Datuk Seri Dr. Zaliha Mustafa emphasised that sustainable development must begin with an accurate understanding of societal realities. She expressed hope that the findings and reports published would serve as an important reference in budget allocations and government policy formulation at the district, state, and national levels.

Meanwhile, YB Puan Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis highlighted that the relevance of APPGM-SDG lies in ensuring that issues identified on the ground are consistently followed up with targeted action by Members of Parliament, ministries, and relevant agencies to ensure that the principle of "Leaving No One Behind" can be realised.

Compilation of 2026 Parliamentary Constituency Issue Mapping Reports



Compilation of 2025 Parliamentary Constituency Capacity Building Workshop Reports



Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) Report



Dengan kerjasama

YAYASAN HASANAH

By Dr. Teo Lee Ken & Paniirselvam Jayaraman
(Constituency Coordination and Policy Solutions Department)

10 21 OCTOBER 2026



CHARTING THE COURSE FOR 2027–2030: APPGM-SDG COMMITTEE CONVENES AT PARLIAMENT

The APPGM-SDG Committee convened at the Parliament of Malaysia for a meeting to review the organisation's current progress, assess its financial position, and on its strategic direction for the coming years. The meeting brought together:

1. YB Puan Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis @ Fakharudy *(Chairperson; MP for Kota Belud)*
2. YB Datuk Zahari Kechik *(Secretary; MP for Jeli)*
3. YB Tuan Rushdan Rusmi *(Committee Member; MP for Padang Besar)*
4. YB Puan Young Syefura Othman *(Committee Member; MP for Bentong)*
5. YB Puan Rodziah Ismail *(Committee Member; MP for Ampang)*
6. YB Tuan Oscar Ling Chai Yiew *(Committee Member; MP for Miri)*
7. YB Senator Dr. Jufitri Joha *(Committee Member; Senator for Dewan Rakyat)*

The meeting provided an important platform for the Committee to reflect on the progress of ongoing initiatives, review the organisation's priorities and financial sustainability, and consider the resources and strategic approaches needed to achieve its objectives. Discussions also focused on strengthening organisational readiness for the year ahead, alongside the development of a longer-term roadmap to guide APPGM-SDG's work from 2027 to 2030.



Through these discussions, the Committee reaffirmed the importance of sound financial planning, effective governance, and strategic coordination in ensuring the continuity and effectiveness of APPGM-SDG's programmes and initiatives. The meeting also highlighted the need for forward-looking planning to sustain the organisation's efforts in addressing local challenges and supporting community-driven development.

As APPGM-SDG continues to advance the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such engagements remain essential in aligning organisational priorities with its broader mission of strengthening parliamentary engagement, fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration, and translating the SDGs into meaningful action at the community level.

Through continued collaboration, accountability, and strategic planning, APPGM-SDG remains committed to building more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient communities across Malaysia.



By Arissa Syuhada Shahril
(Head of Secretariat Department)



We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Members of Parliament for their unwavering cooperation and commitment. Throughout the month, APPGM-SDG has had the privilege of engaging with various parliamentary constituencies through various meeting and events. These milestones were made possible through the dedicated efforts between the Members of Parliament and APPGM-SDG. We value this synergy between policy and grassroots action, and we look forward to further strengthening our partnership to advance the Sustainable Development Goals across Malaysia.

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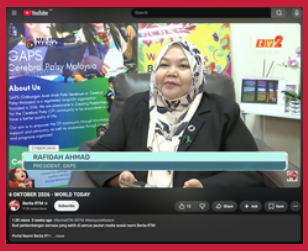

APPGM-SDG

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