

**Rural Resilience and Transformation in Asia (Post-Pandemic):
Challenges, Pathways, and Investments**
13th AsiaDHRRA General Assembly
4 July 2023, Via Zoom

**DHRRA Malaysia - HIGHLIGHTS OF OPERATIONS/ PERFORMANCE
(2021-2022)**



From 2021-2022, what was your organization's **MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT**** in terms of:

I. Empowering Rural Peoples' Organizations (RPOs) in delivering effective services to their members, influencing policymakers, and contributing to rural transformation.

(Discuss who your partner-RPOs are. How do you support them in terms of organizational/production/economic development, especially in strengthening their positing in the value chains? So far, what are the result of your interventions?)

DHRRA Malaysia joined hands with 20 NGOs to form a coalition to provide emergency support for vulnerable and marginalized communities from the beginning of the pandemic through an initiative called COVIDCAREMY.

Community leaders throughout West Malaysia were capacitated by DHRRA Malaysia to reach out and support members of vulnerable communities in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. DHRRA Malaysia also worked closely with women leaders, both political leaders, and women CSOs by providing training, current information, resources, verified information on government assistance, and COVID-19 SOP. During the flood, these community leaders became a support system for the affected communities by providing both first aid and long-term support.

DHRRA Malaysia also capacitated women leaders as agents of development in order to strengthen the role of women in the Malaysian society by increasing women's participation in decision-making and policy-making positions. Issues highlighted during these discussions were also brought to the attention of the respective government agencies for remedy. Some of the feedback has also been incorporated into the election manifesto by various parties.

II. Leading priority Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (RDPE) agenda at the national, regional & global spheres

(Discuss your key policy advocacy work and results so far. Discuss as well if there are any public and/or private program that you were able to access or take part of.)

DHRRRA Malaysia is a part of a national civil society platform called CSO Platform. Through the platform, DHRRRA Malaysia is able to highlight SDG and statelessness-related issues and recommendations. DHRRRA Malaysia is also periodically invited by the national media to provide input on the challenges and development of the bottom 40% (income) of Malaysian households.

III. Innovating in offering value and data-driven programs & services to RDPE stakeholders towards sustainability.

(Discuss the internal capacity strengthening and innovations that you have carried out to improve your services to partners and to achieve your organizational goals/targets.)

During the COVIDCAREY initiative, evidence-based approach was utilized to ensure the aid reaches those who deserve it on time. Data was collected through various means and verified through WhatsApp before aid is distributed by the resource mobilization team. In order to meet the needs of vulnerable communities, extensive online fundraising was done successfully in a short period of time. Moreover, due to the lockdowns, training sessions were conducted virtually to capacitate the community leaders and stakeholders to strengthen the support for the community members.

IV. Other key significant achievements

(Discuss if there are any other major achievements that you wish to highlight.)

In October 2022, DHRRRA Malaysia received an award for the Best NGO in providing services to the B40 and stateless community. B40 represents the bottom 40% of Malaysian household income. The award was presented by YB Datuk Seri M. Saravanan, the Minister of Human Resources, at the Nambikkai Star Icon Awards.

*** Please include in your discussion above how you have address/respond to cross-cutting concerns/issues such as territorial rural development, climate resilience and agroecology, rural youth and women, and agricultural digitalization.*