MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI) MALAYSIA, 2024

"Malaysia's Multidimensional Poverty Index 2024 reduced to 0.0025, Reflecting Continuous Decline in Non-Monetary Deprivation"

*PUTRAJAYA, 20th FEBRUARY 2026 –Today, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) released the **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Malaysia** for the reference year 2024, with comparisons to 2022. The publication on Multidimensional Poverty presents poverty measurement in a broader context through a multidimensional approach, focusing on non-financial aspects using a multidimensional framework encompassing education, health and living standards. Three dimensions and 10 indicators were selected to holistically measure multidimensional poverty in Malaysia, based on concepts and guidelines from Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).*

Looking at the overall national performance, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin stated that the decline in the MPI reflects broad-based improvements across Malaysia's non-financial dimensions. The lower index value indicates that multidimensional poverty has become less severe, supported by a reduction in overlapping deprivations experienced by households. The assessment demonstrates that the decline in Malaysia's MPI from 2022 to 2024 coincided with decreases in the absolute contribution of most key indicators, particularly in health and selected living-standard components. Based on this assessment, Malaysia's national MPI declined from 0.0037 in 2022 to 0.0025 in 2024, signaling continued improvement in overall multidimensional well-being.

Peering into Malaysia's urban-rural gap, multidimensional poverty in urban areas remained low, with the MPI recorded at 0.0001 in both 2022 and 2024. By comparison, rural areas continued to experience higher levels of multidimensional poverty, although improvements were observed, with the rural MPI declining from 0.0164 in 2022 to 0.0109 in 2024. The persistent disparity between urban and rural MPI values highlights that multidimensional poverty remains more concentrated in rural communities.

From the perspective of the educational dimension, deprivation related to years of schooling showed clear improvement, declining from 0.0003 in 2022 to 0.0001 in 2024. This suggests that fewer households experienced limitations in years of schooling. For the school attendance indicator, the level remained stable at 0.0001 in both years. The slight relative change reflects the overall decline in education dimension deprivation in MPI. Thus, this indicator shows that the access to schooling continued to be extensively maintained. Overall, the education dimension showed steady progress during this period.

Looking at health-related deprivations, access to healthcare services continued to improve, declining from 0.0013 in 2022 to 0.0009 in 2024. Access to clean water supply also showed progress, decreasing from 0.0014 to 0.0010 over the same period. Despite these improvements, both indicators remained the key components of Malaysia's multidimensional poverty profile, reflecting persistent challenges in the health dimension. Together, these indicators remained the main contributors to the national MPI, highlighting the importance of continued efforts to improve healthcare services and clean water access for further reductions in multidimensional poverty.

Turning to living standards, most indicators recorded stable or improving trends. Housing conditions and room density remained at 0.0001, while deprivation related to sanitation, transport use, and access to basic communication equipment continued to be at 0.0000, reflecting minimal influence on the MPI. Access to waste collection services improved from 0.0004 in 2022 to 0.0003 in 2024, though it remained a notable component within the living standards dimension. Overall, the living standards dimension reflected gradual progress, with most deprivations either stable or improving during the period.

Based on international comparisons, Malaysia recorded an MPI score of 0.0025 in 2024, compared to Thailand (0.0018; 2022). MPI scores for several other countries are higher, including Viet Nam (0.0077; 2021), Indonesia (0.0140; 2017) and the Philippines (0.0158; 2022). DOSM has also compiled an MPI series that incorporates household income as an additional dimension.

Amid Malaysia's continued progress, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin emphasised that the lower Malaysia MPI score signals tangible progress in addressing non-financial aspects of poverty. Moving forward, strengthening access to clean water and healthcare services, alongside sustained improvements in basic living standards, remains essential to accelerating further reductions in multidimensional poverty and ensuring inclusive socio-economic development.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) is conducting the Economic Census 2026 (BE2026), themed "Data Nadi Ekonomi Rakyat". The sixth Economic Census, running from 5th January to 31st October 2026. BE2026 aims to collect comprehensive, structured data from all registered and unregistered business establishments in Malaysia to assess the nation's economic performance, structure and characteristics in an evidence-based manner.

Malaysia has, for the first time, successfully secured the top position globally in the biennial Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25 report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 197 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

OpenDOSM NextGen is a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through https://open.dosm.gov.my.

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
20 FEBRUARY 2026