

2008 Annual Report

“Stigma directed at PLHIVs not only makes it more difficult for people trying to come to terms with and manage their condition on a personal level, but it also interferes with attempts to fight the AIDS epidemic as a whole. On a national level, the stigma associated with HIV can deter governments from taking fast, effective action against the epidemic, whilst on a personal level it can make individuals reluctant to access HIV testing, treatment and care.”

– World AIDS Day 2008

Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman

President, Malaysian AIDS Council
and Chairman, Malaysian AIDS Foundation



Table of Contents

3	Foreword by YABhg Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor, Patron of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation
4	Statement by the President of the Malaysian AIDS Council and Chairman of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation
6	Overview of HIV/AIDS in Malaysia
8	About Us – Malaysian AIDS Council
9	Highlights of the year
	Major Programmes by the Malaysian AIDS Council
11	• Needle and Syringe Exchange
12	• Care and Support
13	• Outreach
14	• Drop-In Centres
15	• Advocacy
17	• Community Systems Strengthening
18	• Prevention Programmes for Women & Youth
19	International Collaboration
20	Financial Summary
<hr/>	
22	About Us – Malaysian AIDS Foundation
23	Highlights of the year
25	Financial Summary

Acknowledgement

This publication is made possible with support from the Ministry of Health, our partners and donors and UNAIDS/WHO Working Group on Global HIV/AIDS and STI Surveillance. Our appreciation also to all our volunteer photographers and Partner Organisations who contributed towards this publication.

Foreword by YABhg Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor, Patron of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation



It has been a great privilege for me to be Patron of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation and in the three years that I have been involved in its cause, I have seen the Foundation grow from strength to strength. Funds raised to support various treatment, care and support programmes of its sister organisation, the Malaysian AIDS Council, have helped to make a difference in the lives of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

However, the threat posed by HIV/AIDS in Malaysia remains as dangerous today as it was in 1986 when the first case of HIV was detected in our country. Among Malaysians living with HIV/AIDS, the most vulnerable are women and children and for this reason, I feel more attention should be given to them.

As primary caregivers, women have seen their household and community burdens grow as a result of HIV, often compromising their health and their ability to generate income. Children are also among the most vulnerable groups, putting them at risk physically, emotionally and economically.

With the sharp rise in the number of Malaysian women becoming infected, there must be more focus on the needs of women at risk and women in general. But too often, women are afraid to step forward to seek treatment for fear that they would be ostracised by their community and abandoned by their families. There is nothing crueler than being isolated by your family, friends and community just because you are infected by an illness.

Here, I would like to express my gratitude to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, JAKIM as well as our other partners and donors for their support and commitment all these years.

Last but not least, my thanks to the MAF Board of Trustees, MAC Executive Council members, our affiliates and staff for their dedication to ensure the successful implementation of programmes that go a long way to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS.

YABhg Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor

Statement by the President of the Malaysian AIDS Council and Chairman of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation

Mindful of the enormous and challenging role that the Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) plays nationally to contain the spread of HIV and reduce the negative impact that the epidemic brings to Malaysia, MAC embarked on a strategic planning process to guide us in our work for 2008-2010. The aim of the Strategic Plan, which was in line with the National Strategic Plan 2006-2010, was to provide a framework for the MAC Secretariat and Partner Organisations (POs) to work in a united and cohesive manner to scale up effective prevention and treatment programmes, particularly focusing on most-at-risk populations. This process has substantially contributed to the increased momentum and participation of the Partner Organisations together with the MAC Secretariat in the national HIV/AIDS response. Another notable achievement in 2008 was the greater focus by the MAC Secretariat and Partner Organisations in expanding programmes to areas outside of the Klang Valley.

MAC's prevention programme for injecting drug users through the needle and syringe exchange has now expanded to nine sites reaching more than 12,000 injecting drug users. Ensuring quality services and continued expansion of the programme together with development of a comprehensive prevention, treatment and care services for injecting drug users remains a major strategy and goal for MAC. Focus is also now on other most-at-risk populations, in particular sex workers and men who have sex with men (MSM), with new and existing programmes being developed and expanded. In addition, our care and support programmes reached approximately 350 adults and children living with and/or affected by HIV/AIDS in 2008, a significant increase compared with the previous year.

MAC's contribution to the HIV/AIDS response in Malaysia continues to gain recognition nationally, regionally and internationally. Along with two other Malaysian NGOs, MAC was selected to participate in the 1st Clinton Global Initiative to be held in Asia in December 2008 with its Commitment to Action to reduce HIV vulnerability among sex workers and transsexuals through community empowerment. With the continued support and partnership that we receive from government agencies, especially the AIDS/STI Unit of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, the private sector and other civil society organisations, MAC and its Partner Organisations are confident that we can continue to contribute to the aims of achieving Universal Access and the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

At the Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF), the year kicked off with a great start with a donation of more than RM1 million from the Standard Chartered Trust Fund. Thus, the Standard Chartered Paediatric AIDS Fund was established in July 2008 and currently provides monthly support to 330 infected and affected children across the country.

The 2008 Red Ribbon Gala biennial fundraising event by the Malaysian AIDS Foundation surpassed all the previous ones in glamour and excitement. Haute couture gowns direct from Elie Saab's Autumn/Winter Collection was the main highlight of the event. This was the first time that Elie Saab, Hollywood's renowned red carpet designer, showcased his collections in Malaysia. Appropriately themed "Red Carpet Glamour", beautifully crafted gowns stole the show and helped to raise more than RM1 million for MAF in the presence of DYMM Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Nur Zahirah and Patron YABhg Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome three new partner organisations to the MAC family — The Boys' Brigade



in Malaysia, who with their large network, I am confident will be able to greatly assist us with our youth programmes; Cahaya Harapan, the first Partner Organisation from the northern State of Kedah, which will be implementing harm reduction programmes; and He Intends Victory whose main focus will be providing care and shelter for People Living with HIV.

All our work and efforts have been made possible by the generous support from the Ministry of Health and other government agencies and contributions from our donors and volunteers. I wish to thank all MAC and MAF staff, members of the Executive Committee of MAC and the Board of Trustees of MAF and all staff and volunteers of POs for their indefatigable efforts and commitment in minimising the impact of HIV/AIDS in Malaysia. With the increased financial resource that has become available through government grants and corporate involvement, MAC and Partner Organisations are now in a stronger position to make a significant contribution towards reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS in Malaysia. Although much has been achieved in the last two years, there is so much more to be done. Implementing effective response with adequate amount of coverage for the most marginalised and vulnerable communities remain a huge challenge. Reaching and involving them is the key to a successful HIV response – and is a strategic priority for MAC for the next two years.

Terima Kasih.

Salam

Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman
President



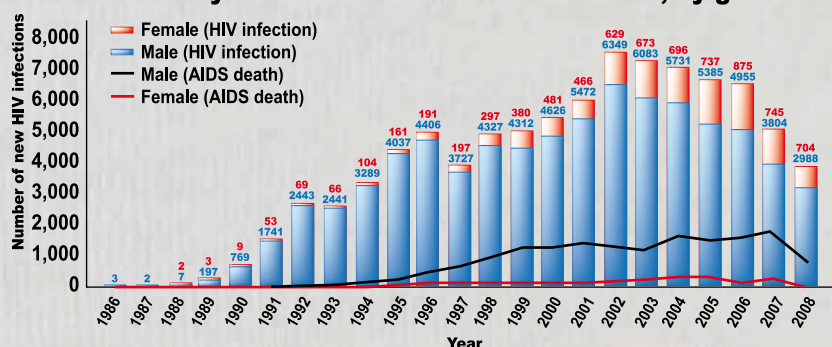
**The Malaysian
AIDS Council**

Overview of HIV/AIDS in Malaysia

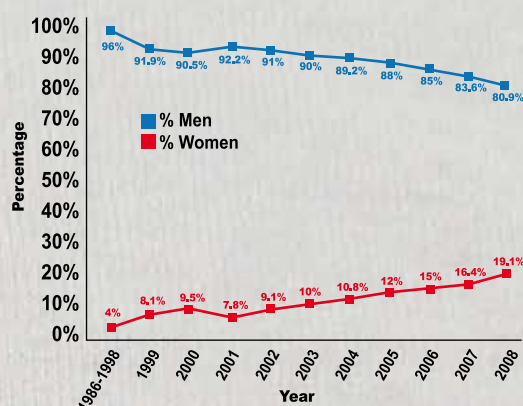
The Ministry of Health began reporting HIV/AIDS cases in 1986. Since then, a total of 84,630 HIV infections have been reported in Malaysia and 11,384 people have died from AIDS as at December 31, 2008. The majority of new HIV infections are found in adults aged 20 to 29 (32.5% of cases in 2003 and 24.9% of cases in 2008) and those aged 30 to 39 (41.8% of cases in 2003 and 42.2% of cases in 2008). HIV is transmitted mainly through injecting drug use (70% of cases in 2003 and 53.2% of cases in 2008) and the number of infections transmitted through heterosexual intercourse has increased from 19% of cases in 2003 to 26.8% of cases in 2008.

Although males represent the majority of new HIV cases in Malaysia, the number of HIV+ women has been increasing. Women represented 9.5% of all new cases in 2000, 10.8% of cases 2004, and 19.1% of cases in 2008.

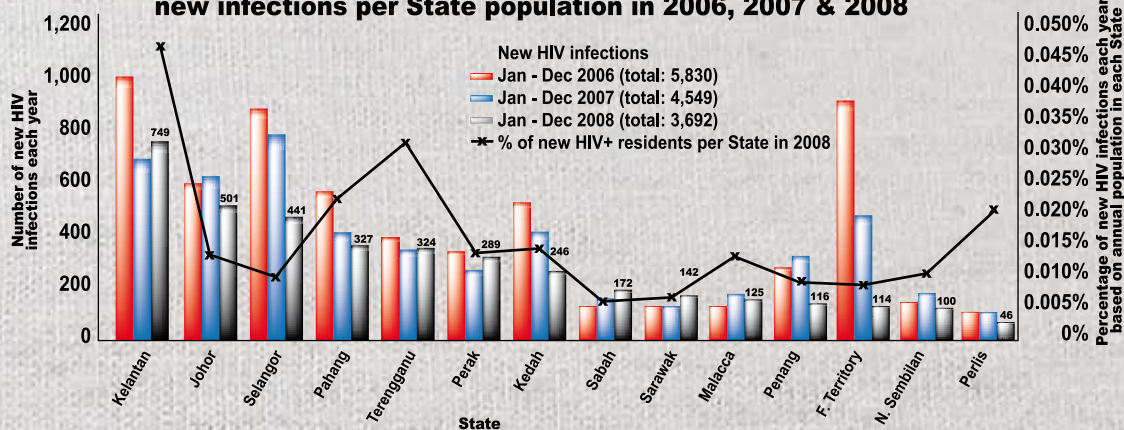
Total number of new HIV infections and AIDS Death for each year between 1986 and June 2008, by gender



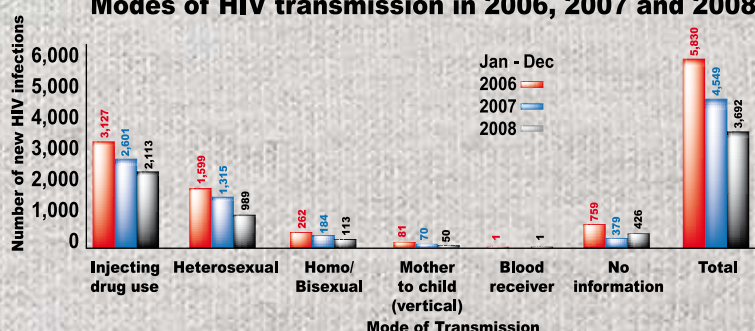
Percentage of HIV infections between 1986 and 2008, by gender (Total: 84,630)

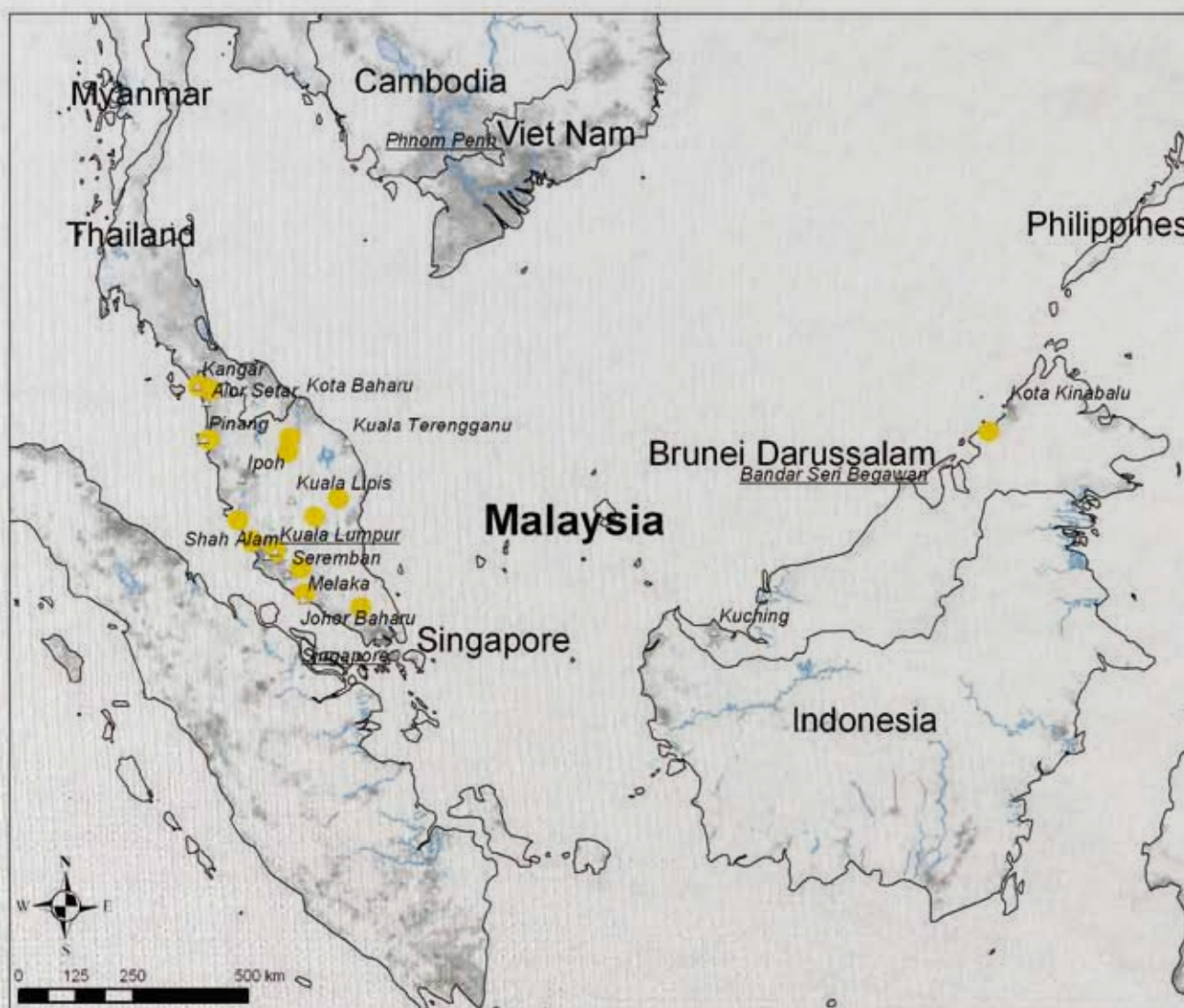


Number of new HIV infections and percentage of new infections per State population in 2006, 2007 & 2008



Modes of HIV transmission in 2006, 2007 and 2008





The boundaries and names shown and the destinations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organisation concerning the legal status of any country territory, city or area or its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. © WHO 2008. All rights reserved.

Mapping the geographical distribution of HIV prevalence among different population groups may assist in interpreting both the national coverage of the HIV surveillance system as well in explaining differences in levels of prevalence. The UNAIDS/WHO Working Group on Global HIV/AIDS and STI Surveillance, in collaboration with the Public Health Information and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) unit within the Information, Evidence and Research (IER) cluster of WHO, is producing maps showing the location and HIV prevalence in relation to population density, major urban areas and communication routes. For generalised epidemics, these maps show HIV prevalence among pregnant women. For non-generalised epidemics, specific populations of interest are shown, depending on the country.

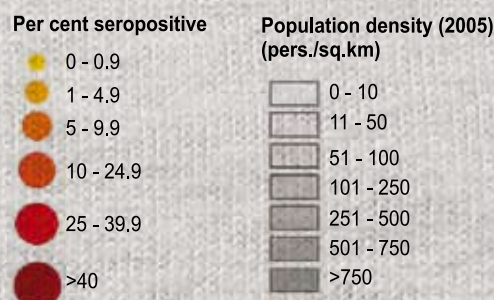
Note on methodology: Data obtained from the United States Bureau of the Census database was used as the basis for these maps. Some sentinel site locations have been displaced for visual clarity. In some cases, the location of certain sentinel sites was unable to be determined.

“UNAIDS/WHO Epidemiological Fact Sheet on HIV and AIDS, 2008 Update”

Data source: UNAIDS, WHO, CIESIN/FAO/CIAT, DCW, USCB. **Map production:** Public Health Information and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) World Health Organisation



HIV sentinel surveillance in pregnant women 2002-2006





The Malaysian AIDS Council

Executive Committee 2008-2010



Adviser: Datin Paduka Marina Tun Dr Mahathir



Seated from left: Datuk Mohd Zaman Khan (Vice-President); Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman (President); Dr Rusli Ismail (Honorary Secretary)

Standing from left: Dr Soraya Dato' Seri Azmi (Committee); Dr Cheah Swee Neo (Assistant Secretary); Ms Nancy Yap (Honorary Treasurer); Mr Alex Arokiam (Committee); Dr Hj Ghazali Hasni (Committee); Mr Andrew Tan (Committee) and Mr Pax Tan (Committee)

About Us

The Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) was established in 1992 to serve as an umbrella organisation to support and coordinate the efforts of organisations working on HIV/AIDS issues in Malaysia. MAC, in partnership with government agencies, private sector and international organisations ensures a committed and effective response by NGOs working on HIV/AIDS issues in Malaysia.

The primary objectives of MAC are:

- Increase awareness of HIV/AIDS
- Prevent the spread of HIV
- Eliminate discrimination, stigma and prejudice associated with HIV/AIDS
- Promote and protect the rights of those made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS
- Ensure the highest possible quality of life for those with HIV/AIDS

- Provide care and support to individuals with HIV/AIDS

Vision

A society free from the negative impact of HIV and AIDS, where the AIDS epidemic is under control through comprehensive prevention, treatment, care, support and impact alleviation services, particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalised populations.

Mission

To represent, mobilise, and strengthen non-governmental organisations and communities to ensure political commitment and effective response in a supportive environment at national and local levels. In scaling up its unified efforts, the Malaysian AIDS Council will work in partnership with

the government, private sector, international organisations and people living with HIV.

Strategic Plan 2008-2010

The year 2008 also marked a milestone achievement for MAC when it launched its Strategic Plan for 2008-2010. This plan details MAC's action plan for the next two years and is guided by the Malaysian Government's National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS 2006-2010.

The MAC Strategic Plan includes HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support efforts across Malaysia. It also outlines efforts to advocate a supportive environment in Malaysia and to address the issue of stigma and discrimination faced by Malaysians living with HIV.

Highlights of the Year



International AIDS Memorial Day 2008 (May 2008)

The theme for this year's International AIDS Memorial Day, held on May 31, was NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER FORGET. The event at One Utama Shopping Centre was held to educate the public on HIV/AIDS issues and raise awareness of the challenges, stigma and discrimination faced by HIV+ Malaysians. Among the activities at this event included a performance by The Fallen Leaves Theatre Company – a group comprising 12 HIV+ Malaysians who spread prevention and awareness messages through theatre. More than 800 participants attended the event, including 200 People Living with HIV (PLHIV).



World AIDS Day (November 2008)

World AIDS Day is held around the world to create awareness of HIV/AIDS. The theme STOP AIDS, KEEP THE PROMISE is an appeal to governments, policy-makers and regional health authorities to ensure that they meet the many targets that have been set in the fight against HIV and AIDS, particularly the promise of universal access to HIV treatment, care, support and prevention services by 2010. The activities held during the event on November 30 at Berjaya Times Square included a bicycle Ride for Life, a play by People Living with HIV (PLHIV), performances by local celebrities, a condom fashion show and a children's colouring contest in conjunction with One Life Revolution.





Launching of MAC Strategic Plan 2008-2010 (November 2008)

The Malaysian AIDS Council launched its Strategic Plan 2008-2010 on World AIDS Day 2008 on November 30 at Berjaya Times Square. This plan details the Council's action plan for the next two years and is guided by the Malaysian Government's National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS 2006-2010. In launching the Strategic Plan, MAC President Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman said: "To this end, MAC will continue to play its part in raising awareness and to educate the public on HIV. In its Strategic Plan 2008-2010, MAC will advocate for a supportive and legal environment to address the issue on stigma and discrimination."



Major Programmes by the Malaysian AIDS Council

Needle and Syringe Exchange

Sharing of needles among injecting drug users (IDUs) is the main mode of HIV transmission in Malaysia. IDUs may be sexually active and some are married and may therefore spread HIV, either through sexual intercourse or injecting material.

The Needle and Syringe Exchange Programme (NSEP) was introduced in Malaysia in January 2006 by the Ministry of Health together with the Malaysian AIDS Council and its Partner Organisations. NSEP is effective in reducing the spread of HIV among injecting drug users and enables governmental and non-governmental organisations to reach out to drug users.

In 2008, there were nine NSEP sites in Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru, Penang, Kuantan, Jengka, Kota Bharu and Alor Setar.

The Malaysian AIDS Council and the Ministry of Health plan to continuously upscale the NSEP in coming years. In 2009, at least three additional NSEP sites will be set up in Terengganu, Selangor and Johor.

Year	Accumulative Clients Per Year
2006	4,357
2007	2,310
2008	5,571
Total	12,229

NSEPs are exchange programmes and not distribution centres for needles and syringes. NSEPs are often housed in drop-in centres where clients are able to rest, eat, bathe, wash their clothing

and receive basic medical attention. There are strict rules enforced at these sites and no drugs are allowed on the premises.

Activities of NSEPs include:

- Exchanging used needles for sterile ones
- Safe disposal of used injecting material
- Reaching out and educating drug users about HIV/AIDS issues
- Providing drug users with referrals to rehabilitation, health and welfare agencies
- Encouraging safer sex through education and distribution of condoms

Operating sites data from January – December 2008	
Sites	No of Clients
DiC Pahang (Kuantan)	757
Intan Life Zone (Johor Bahru)	1,087
IKHLAS (Chow Kit)	1,287
Sahabat (Kota Bharu)	1,373
AARG (Penang)	156
ACC (Seberang Prai)	216
Cahaya Harapan (Alor Setar)	464
DiC Pahang (Jengka)	231
Total	5,571

* Not inclusive of KAWAN's site in KL



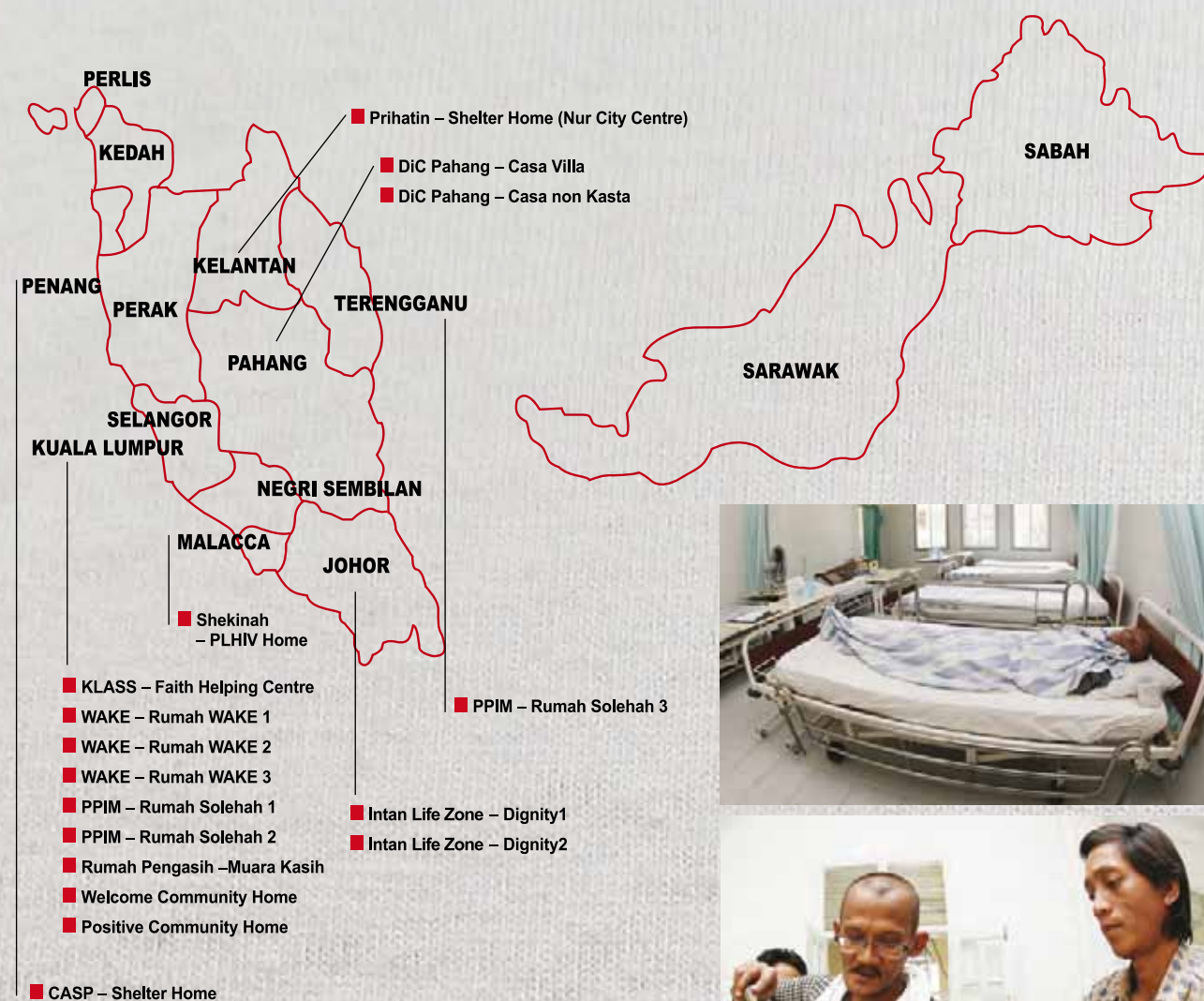
Care and Support

Shelter homes are an important approach in residential setting by community care-givers and non-governmental organisations. Shelter homes mainly focus on homeless and neglected individuals living with HIV. This service also provides for individuals who are dependent and in need of assistance with their daily lives. A total of 17 shelter homes operate under the auspices of the Malaysian AIDS Council.

Each shelter home requires a varying combination of health care, supportive services and life skill programmes accommodating an average of 15-25 residents per home. The services provided by shelter home programmes differ from one setting to another, but commonly include basic nursing care; palliative care and end of life support(if any); bereavement counselling; promoting continuum of care

through establishment of referral system with medical centres in the proximity; emotional and spiritual support; nutritional food supply; educating and supporting PLHIV on positive prevention; self-organisation of PLHIV; treatment literacy – preparing clients for Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART) treatment uptake; vocational training and support group.

Shelter homes supported by the Malaysian AIDS Council from funds received from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and the private sector in 2008:



Outreach

Sex workers (SW)/Transsexuals (TS)/Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) are among the most-at-risk populations (MARPs) to be made vulnerable by HIV. Specific behaviours can place sex workers, their clients and regular partners at risk, and contextual factors can further exacerbate their vulnerability to HIV. The sexual transmission of HIV and other STIs among MSM is resurfacing as a problem in Malaysia mainly due to unprotected sexual behaviour.



Outreach through fixed or mobile services for this community aims to broaden access to prevention interventions, including STI care, condom distribution, counselling and referral. Outreach work is the front line programme in our mission to assist MARPs in leading healthy lives. Utilising a harm reduction model, the outreach programmes help to address the impact of discrimination, HIV/AIDS, sexual health, poverty, drug use and violence. The goals of this programme are to promote safer sex practices, risk reduction techniques and substance abuse prevention methods.

The Malaysian AIDS Council has funded outreach programmes in Kuala Lumpur, Klang, Penang, Teluk Intan and Kuching respectively in 2008. In year 2009, MAC plans to scale up the outreach programmes to all other States in Malaysia.

Challenges

- SW/TS/MSM are not always easily accessible and are often driven underground due to laws or policies criminalising their activities.
- Insufficient coverage for outreach programmes. Currently, programmes only exist in major cities and need to be scaled up to second-tier cities.
- Time-consuming to build the rapport and gain trust between the outreach workers and MARPs.



Total of SW/TS contacts reached through outreach in year 2008	75,210
Total of MSM contacts reached through outreach in year 2008	8,931
Total of condoms distributed in year 2008	386,844



Drop-In Centres

HIV interventions should both diminish the social, legal and political barriers faced by MARPs and expand the options available to MARPs to exercise more control over their health and environment. There is strong evidence that MARPs who are less marginalised in their communities and most active in working toward improved conditions are less vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. Accordingly, activities that build links with co-workers, family, local groups, religious institutions and other civil society institutions help reduce vulnerability. Governments and civil society should support such activities by providing resources for safe spaces, such as drop-in centres and community-based and cultural activities.



Drop-In Centres (DIC) provide MARPs with a safe place to seek refuge for a few hours each day. At the drop-in centres, they are provided shelter, a place to rest, laundry facilities and basic food. These centres are important in the fight against HIV/AIDS as they allow outreach workers to reach out to vulnerable communities and provide education on HIV/AIDS, support sessions and referrals. Outreach workers also distribute information, education and communication (IEC) materials, condoms and provide condom negotiating training.

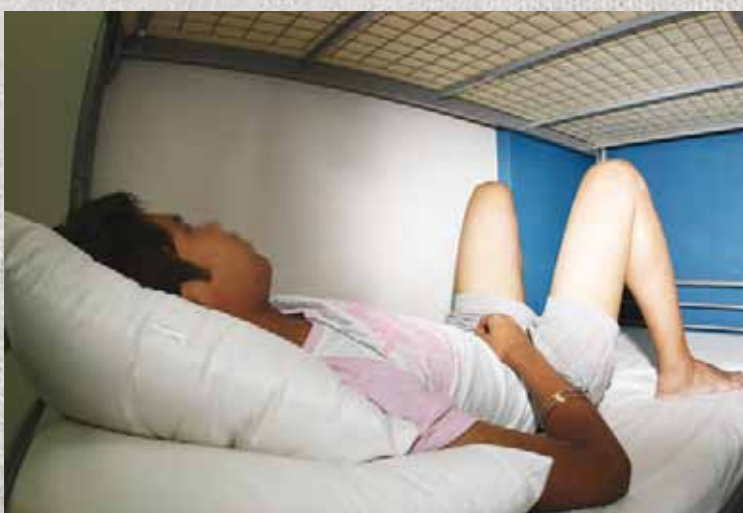
Other services provided include support sessions, counselling services, voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), health screening, first aid assistance, peer education programme and family re-unification programme.

The drop-in centres are located as close as possible to areas or sites where MARPs gather and spend their time. To ensure that an effective 'client-friendly environment' exists at the drop-in centres, a non-judgmental approach is practised.

In 2008, the Malaysian AIDS Council counts five DICs located in Kuala Lumpur, Teluk Intan and Kuching.



Total of SW/TS contacts accessed to DIC services in 2008	9,777
Total of MSM contacts accessed to DIC services in 2008	2,165



Advocacy

In December 2008, the Cabinet Committee on AIDS, which is chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, appointed the Malaysian AIDS Council to sit on the committee. Prior to this, MAC was represented at the Technical Committee on AIDS chaired by the Director-General, Ministry of Health.

– *Berita Harian (Friday, December 26, 2008)*



On Air with Aljazeera

The Malaysian AIDS Council received wide publicity in the print and electronic media, including radio and TV talk shows, for its various activities in 2008. MAC president, Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, had the privilege of being interviewed by Aljazeera for its 101 East programme in December 2008.

During the interview, Prof Dr Adeeba expressed concern over the lack of medical knowledge about HIV and touched on treatment for Malaysians living with HIV, in particular women who are HIV+.

“People need to realise that there has been much advance in the world of HIV. Recent studies have shown that you can live at least 49 years from the time you start treatment,” said Prof Dr Adeeba.

“For HIV+ mothers, what we do is give her the same anti-HIV treatment at certain point during her pregnancy to bring the level of the virus down completely. During labour and delivery, we once again give medications to reduce the chance of transmission. In the past, when this was not done, the risk of the child being born positive is about 1:3. In these days, the risk can be as low as less than 2 per cent,” she added.

Stigma and Discrimination Survey

Malaysians living with HIV face discrimination and stigma on a daily basis. Many lose their jobs when their status is disclosed and most experience injustice due to Malaysians’ inaccurate awareness about HIV and AIDS. To gauge the extent of stigma and discrimination faced by People Living with HIV (PLHIV), the Malaysian AIDS Council carried out a survey in May 2008, sponsored by Synovate (M) Sdn Bhd. A total of 1,023 people in Kuala Lumpur, Petaling Jaya and Johor Bahru participated in this survey and a sample of the results is summarised below.



These results suggest that many Malaysians have limited awareness about HIV and many harbour discriminatory feelings towards People Living with HIV (PLHIV). The Malaysian AIDS Council is committed to raising awareness of HIV/AIDS among the Malaysian public and is also committed to advocating for a supportive legal environment to address the issue of stigma and discrimination faced by PLHIV. These efforts are outlined in MAC’s Strategic Plan for 2008-2010 and include engaging in regular dialogues with the government, international agencies, corporate sectors as well as the communities and legal advocates.



Fallen Leaves

Fallen Leaves Theatre Company is the first theatrical troupe comprising People Living with HIV (PLHIV) who are also former drug users. Fallen Leaves premiered at The Actors Studio Bangsar in 2006 and have been performed at over 37 venues across Malaysia. This theatre company raises awareness and highlights the impact of HIV/AIDS through thought-provoking drama and workshops.



One Life Revolution, March – December 2008

One Life Revolution (OLR) is an interactive exhibition introduced by World Vision in 2002. The exhibition allows visitors to experience the pain of social injustice endured by People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and victims of child trafficking. OLR Malaysia was organised by World Vision Malaysia in partnership with the Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) and in collaboration with Malaysian CARE. The first leg of the exhibition (March – July 2008) was funded by World Vision and the second leg was sponsored by MAC through a grant received from the Ministry of Health (MoH). OLR Malaysia featured three Asian life-threads and stories covering different aspects of HIV/AIDS and child trafficking. Some 30,000 people visited the exhibition held in Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur, Kota Bharu, Kuching, Penang, Kuantan, and Johor Bahru.

Venue	Dates	No of visitors
Monash University	5-8 March	2,145
NAPEI, Mid Valley Exhibition Centre	15-16 March	1,207
KB Mall, Kota Bharu	10-12 April	2,363
The Spring, Kuching	1-4 May	4,707
Dream Centre (DUMC), Petaling Jaya	8-13 July	3,486
Gurney Plaza, Penang	12-14 August	3,074
East Coast Mall, Kuantan	16-19 October	4,840
Johor Bahru City Square	13-16 November	4,026
Berjaya Times Square, Kuala Lumpur	28 November–1 December	3,608
Total		29,456



Community Systems Strengthening

Community Systems Strengthening includes “initiatives that contribute to the development and/or strengthening of community-based organisations in order to improve knowledge of, and access to improved health service delivery.”



CSS initiatives include:

■ **Building capacity** of community-based organisations (including both physical infrastructure, communication technology, financial management, strategic planning capacity, monitoring and evaluation and information management capacity)

■ **Building partnership** at the local level to improve coordination, enhance impact and avoid duplication of service delivery; and

■ **Sustainable long-term financing** of Community-Based Organisations.



Prevention Programmes for Women and Youth

There has been an increase in HIV transmission through heterosexual contact, particularly among women, many of whom are housewives. The percentage of women with HIV in Malaysia increased from 10.0% of all new HIV cases in 2003 to 19.1% of new cases in 2008. Young people, on the other hand, may practise risky behaviour, such as having multiple sexual partners and inconsistent condom use, that places them at risk for HIV infection. Many young people also lack sufficient information and understanding of HIV/AIDS and this increases their vulnerability to HIV.

Case study

■ Women and HIV/AIDS Workshop

Organised by AIDS Action and Research Group (AARG)

- A total of 71 women and girls attended the workshop of which 80% increased their knowledge of HIV/AIDS. The interesting part is the sharing experience by People Living with HIV as part of the programme to educate the general public in reducing stigma and discrimination based on real case studies.

The percentage of women making up new HIV cases in Malaysia has been increasing and there is a need to focus not only on the needs of women who practise high-risk behaviours, but all women in general. There are very few Malaysian organisations that specifically address the issue of women and HIV. More needs to be done in lobbying for women's sexual and reproductive rights, providing education and information regarding sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) and educating women about choices in protection against HIV and other STDs.

There should also be specific considerations for HIV prevention among young people as the programme has to be modified to suit the target group. These include training the trainer to understand young people, their concerns and to address any needs relating to consent and confidentiality; facilities and services have been designed or modified to be youth-friendly with consideration given to appreciate time, affordability and privacy; and attention is paid to community support for youth-friendly services and to attract young people to those services.

Thus, in 2008, the Malaysian AIDS Council, with funding from Dell Ltd, started a project called 'Youth Speak through Drama' which is based on an interactive Youth to Youth Theatre (Y2Y) programme focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention, education and awareness. Other youth activities implemented are Youth HIV/AIDS Prevention programme, Training of Trainer (TOT) Programme and Empowering Youth Programme.



Level 1: Training of peer educators (4 days)
Level 2: Peer Educators' outreach (1 or 2 days)
Level 3: HIV exhibits/ showcase (1 day)

Youth Speak Through Drama Programme



International Collaboration



The Malaysian AIDS Council is involved in regional and international partnerships to strengthen networking capacity and to benchmark against international standards. In 2008, MAC participated in the production of the Malaysian United Nations General Assembly Special Sessions (UNGASS) Country Progress Review and co-organised a workshop on Civil Society Participation for Universal Access. Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman also participated in international HIV/AIDS conferences and assemblies. Through these and other efforts, MAC is able to contribute to the global response to HIV while also learning and sharing effective strategies for HIV prevention.

In January 2008, MAC and the Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organisations (APCASO) contributed to the Third Malaysian UNGASS Country Progress Report prepared by the Malaysian government. Results of this report showed that there was an improvement in Malaysia's universal access to prevention, care, and support pertaining to HIV between 2005 and 2008. The UNGASS Report enables both local and international bodies to evaluate and review progress pertaining to HIV/AIDS issues in Malaysia.

In March 2008, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) supported a workshop on Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Universal Access Initiatives jointly organised by the Malaysian AIDS Council, Seven Sisters, APCASO and Coordination



of Action Research on AIDS & Mobility (CARAM-Asia). An important outcome of this workshop was the implementation of an action plan to increase and strengthen participation of NGOs in the HIV/AIDS response. This action plan has been incorporated into MAC's Strategic Plan for 2008-2010.

MAC also made international headlines in August 2008 when Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, an international figure due to her work on HIV in Malaysia and abroad, also had the honour of being among the plenary speakers at the 2008 International AIDS Conference held in Mexico. At this prestigious conference, Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman spoke about harm

reduction programmes in Malaysia and was the only plenary speaker from Asia.

In October 2008, the South East Asia Regional Workshop on the prevention of HIV related to injecting drug use was held at Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The two-day workshop was attended by parliamentarians, service providers, drug user networks and community representatives from 15 countries.

The Malaysian AIDS Foundation sponsored 12 individuals working on the Needle and Syringe Exchange Programme to participate in this workshop. The team presented two papers – 'Harm Reduction Programme in Malaysia' and 'Prison Programme in Malaysia' – during the workshop and attended discussions on policy, practice, legal environment and access to health topics.

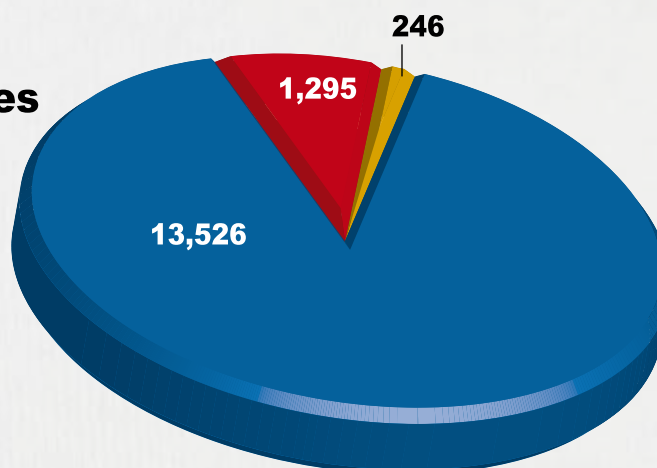
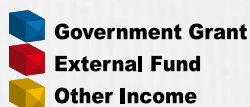
In December 2008, Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman attended the 1st Clinton Global Initiative held in Hong Kong. During this meeting, Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman presented MAC's Commitment to Action. MAC's pledge, called MAWAR, outlines MAC's commitment to reduce HIV vulnerability among sex workers and transsexuals through community empowerment projects. Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman was congratulated by former US President Bill Clinton and MAC's pledge had the honour of being featured and recognised at this meeting.

MAC Financial Summary

Incoming resources


Total: RM15,067


RM '000



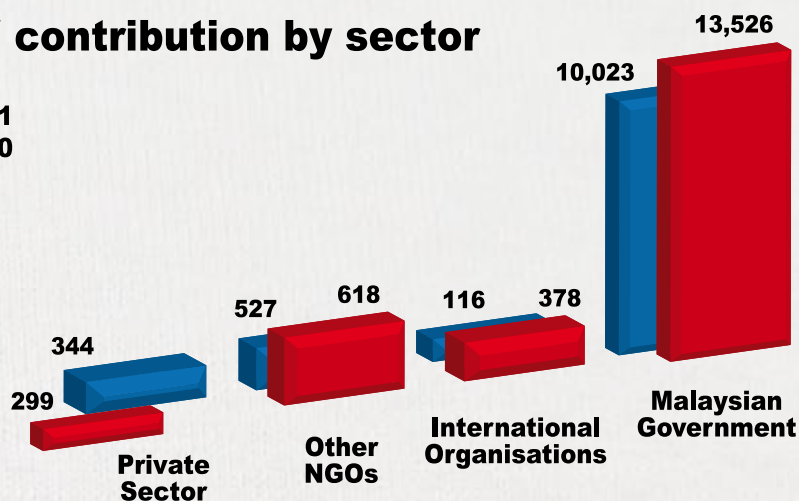
Source of contribution by sector

Total

 2008: 14,821

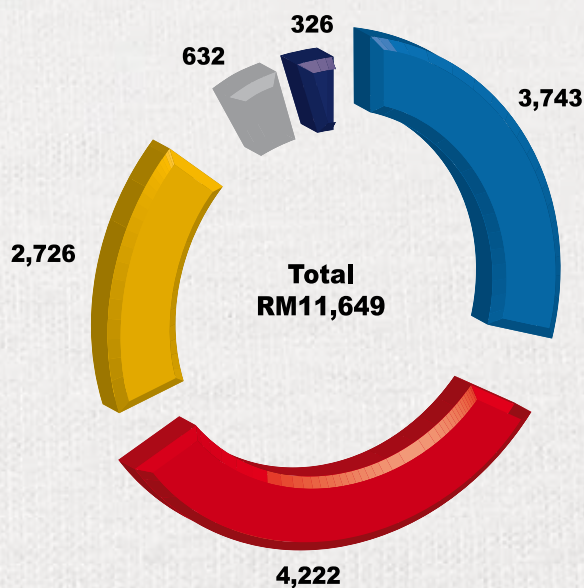
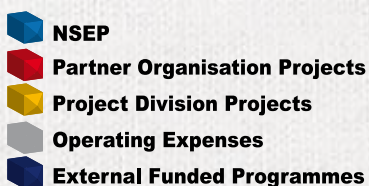
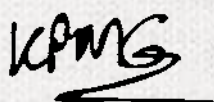
 2007: 11,010

RM '000



How it was spent

RM '000

KPMG
Chartered Accountants

The audited financial statement of accounts as at 31 December 2008 can be viewed on our website at mac.org.my



**The Malaysian
AIDS Foundation**



The Malaysian AIDS Foundation

Board of Trustees 2008 - 2010



Patron: YABhg Datin Seri Paduka Rosmah Mansor



Adviser: Datin Paduka Marina Tun Dr Mahathir



Seated from left: Datin Mina Cheah – Foong (Honorary Secretary); Dato' Maznah Abdul Jalil (Honorary Treasurer)

Standing from left: Dr Zaha Rina Zahari (Trustee); Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman (Chairman); Ms Nancy Yap (Trustee); Datuk Mohd Zaman Khan (Trustee)

Absent: Prof Madya Dr Rusli Ismail (Trustee) and Dato' Nancy Yeoh (Trustee)

About Us

The Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF) raises money and manages funds to support the activities of the Malaysian AIDS Council and its Partner Organisations.

These activities include efforts to:

- Prevent the spread of HIV
- Educate Malaysians on HIV/AIDS issues
- Support Malaysians living with HIV
- Support children orphaned or made vulnerable by AIDS
- Protect and promote the rights of individuals with HIV/AIDS

MAF also provides financial support to Malaysians living with HIV and families made vulnerable by HIV through the Standard Chartered Paediatric AIDS Fund and the Circle of Hope which comprises the Business Assistance and Medicine Assistance Schemes.

The Standard Chartered Paediatric AIDS Fund provides support to children from low-income homes who are orphaned or made vulnerable by AIDS.

Through this scheme, financial assistance and sponsorships are offered on a monthly basis to the children to meet basic daily needs such

as food, clothing and schooling as well as medical treatment.

The Business Assistance Scheme helps alleviate the negative economic impact of HIV/AIDS by providing interest-free loans to people living with HIV who are unable to secure credit from traditional sources.

The Medicine Assistance Scheme enables Malaysians with HIV from low-income homes to undergo Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART) with the primary objective of helping them prolong and improve their quality of life.

Highlights of the Year



M.A.C AIDS FUND (December 2008)

When it comes to HIV/AIDS, one cosmetics brand that has consistently supported this cause is M.A.C Cosmetics. In conjunction with World AIDS Day celebration, M.A.C Cosmetics Malaysia presented the Malaysian AIDS Foundation with RM130, 000 – all from the sale of its Viva Glam lipstick and lip gloss. The cheque was presented to MAF President, Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, by Estee Lauder Companies managing director Loo Kai Nan on December 1, 2008, at the M.A.C Cosmetics Pavilion Kuala Lumpur freestanding store.



Standard Chartered Paediatric AIDS Fund (July 2008)

Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad pledged RM1.18 million to the Standard Chartered Paediatric AIDS Fund to support children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in Malaysia. The programme was set up in collaboration with Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF). Aimed at alleviating financial strains of children affected by HIV/AIDS, the programme will support 330 children, aged between one and 13 years, from low-income families. They each receive RM300 a month for three years to cover basic needs such as food, education and medical treatment.



Red Ribbon Gala 2008 (October 2008)

The theme for this year's biennial Red Ribbon Gala was RED CARPET GLAMOUR. The event on October 25 at Mandarin Oriental Hotel brought together Kuala Lumpur's corporate giants, socialites and the community in an evening of glamour and philanthropy. Over RM1 million was raised to support the activities of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation. Highlights of the gala included the presentation of the Mercedes-Benz Malaysia Red Ribbon Media Awards to recognise journalistic and creative excellence relating to HIV/AIDS in all media and the Dr Siti Hasmah Award which recognises outstanding contributions of an individual or organisation for exemplary work to support People Living with HIV/AIDS in Malaysia.



Dell Champion Road Run/Walk (August 2008)

About 2,900 Dell employees, many accompanied by family members and friends, helped raise more than RM225,000 for HIV/AIDS awareness in its third annual Dell Champion Road Run/Walk, held in Bayan Lepas, Penang, on August 28. The event, the largest of six Dell 'Run Across Asia' events, benefited the Malaysian AIDS Foundation. Dell has a long-term commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS in Malaysia.



Levi's® 501® Live Unbuttoned campaign (November 2008)

Following the success of Levi's® 501® Live Unbuttoned campaign, Levi's® Brand and Malaysian AIDS Foundation presented their 'Strategic Plan for the Malaysian Youth' in an effort to enhance awareness and to fight against HIV and AIDS in Malaysia. The highlight of the event saw Levi's® Brand presenting a cheque worth RM10,000 to the Malaysian AIDS Foundation. The funds, accumulated through the sales of Levi's® 501 throughout the month of October 2008 was presented to MAF Chairman Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman by Evelyn Tan, Country Manager of Levi Strauss Malaysia, on November 3 at Pastis, The Gardens Mall.

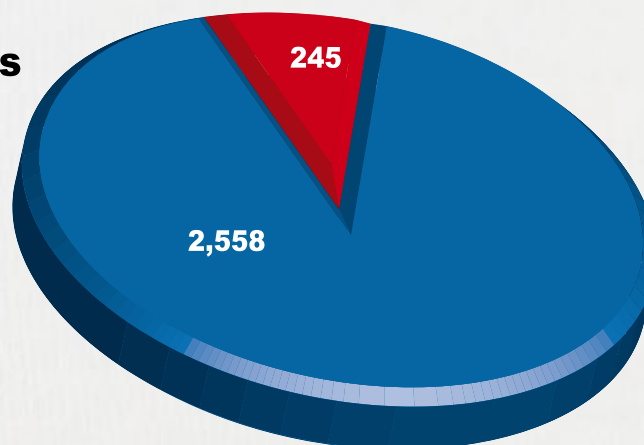
MAF Financial Summary

Incoming resources

Total: RM2,803

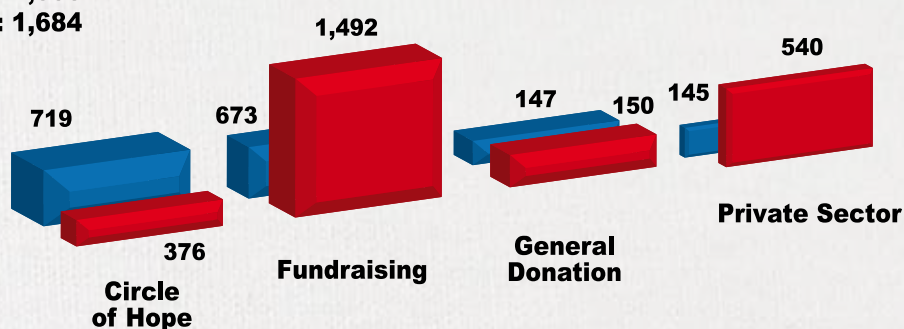
RM '000

- Fundraising, donation & contribution
- Other Income



Source of contribution by sector

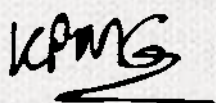
Total
■ 2008: 2,558
■ 2007: 1,684



How it was spent

Total: RM2,096

RM '000



KPMG
Chartered Accountants

The audited financial statement of accounts as at 31 December 2008 can be viewed on our website at mac.org.my



**MALAYSIAN AIDS COUNCIL
MALAYSIAN AIDS FOUNDATION**

No 12, Jalan 13/48A
The Boulevard Shop Office
Off Jalan Sentul
51000 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
T +603 4045 1033
F +603 4042 6133
W www.mac.org.my

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

AIDS Action and Research Group ● Association of Malaysian Medical Assistants ● Bar Council ● Buddhist Missionary Society Malaysia ● Catholic Welfare Services ● Community AIDS Service Penang ● Pertubuhan Kumpulan Sokong Bantu & Khidmat Nasihat Dadah Pahang ● Federation of Reproductive Health Associations, Malaysia ● Harapan Komuniti Berhad ● Pertubuhan Komuniti Intan, Teluk Intan ● Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia ● Kuala Lumpur AIDS Support Services ● Kota Kinabalu AIDS Support Services Association ● Malaysian CARE ● Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism ● Malaysian Dental Association ● Malaysian Indian Youth Council ● Malaysian Medical Association ● Malaysian Red Crescent Society ● Malaysian Youth Council ● Malaysian Hindu Youth Council ● National Council of Women's Organisations ● Natural Therapy Centre ● Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia ● Persatuan Perantaraan Pesakit-Pesakit Kelantan ● Persatuan Pengasih Malaysia ● Pertubuhan Masyarakat Prihatin ● Pertubuhan Kebajikan Intan Zon Kehidupan Johor Bahru ● PT Foundation ● Sarawak AIDS Concern Society ● Selangor and Federal Territory Federation of Reproductive Health Associations, Malaysia ● Shekinah Home Services Sdn Bhd ● Soroptimist International Club of Bangsar ● St. John's Ambulance of Malaysia ● The Boys' Brigade In Malaysia ● Tenaganita Sdn Bhd ● The Buddies of Ipoh ● The Estates Hospital Assistants Association, Peninsular Malaysia ● The Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall ● Women's Aid Organisation ● Women & Health Association of Kuala Lumpur ● Youth With A Mission Malaysia