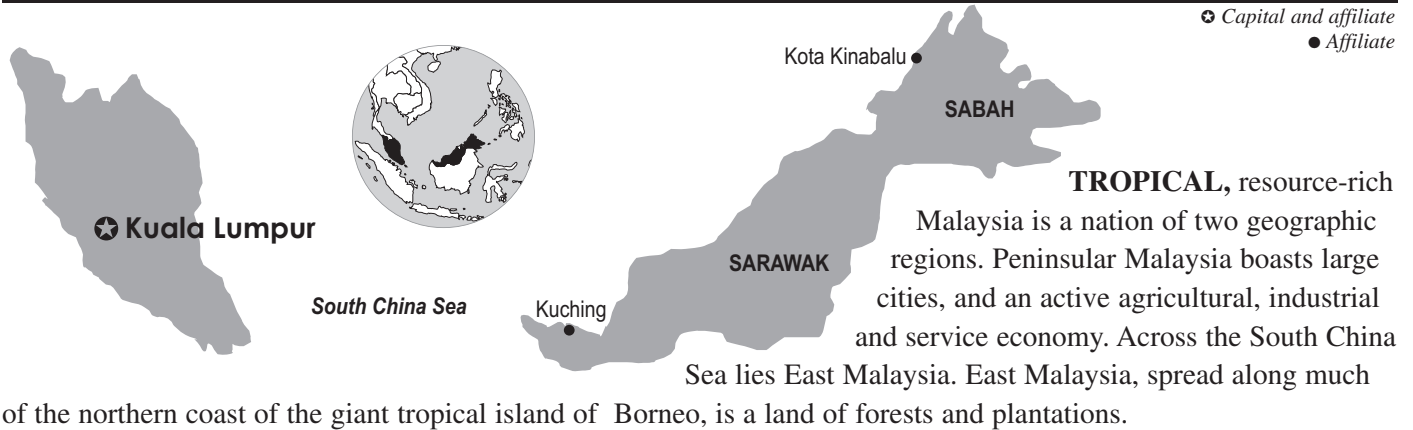


# Malaysia

## Country Profile

★ Capital and affiliate  
● Affiliate



The federal government and state governments support public housing schemes in urban areas yet many families are not reached through these programs. Affordability is an issue. Land and housing costs are often too high for the 6.2% of the population who live below the poverty level. Families find themselves living in squatter communities in larger cities. In the countryside, housing needs are more acute and there is less formal help.

Habitat for Humanity Malaysia therefore focuses its work on helping meet the needs of low-income families in rural areas. In rural Sarawak, for example, nearly one third of Habitat's target group consists of families with insufficient incomes to build on their own land or unable to afford other housing programs.

HFH Malaysia built its first house in 1999 in Kuching, Sarawak. There are affiliates in Kuching (1999), Kuala Lumpur (2003) and Kota Kinabalu (2004). Discussions are under way with community leaders to establish affiliates in Penang, Melaka, Miri and Kuantan.

HFH Malaysia works in both semi-urban and rural areas, building houses along with renovations. It also seeks community partnerships to obtain land for needy families.

Habitat affiliates use various construction methods: raised floor construction with timber; concrete slab construction with hollow blocks; and modular house construction with polystyrene panels. The average house size ranges from 50 sq. m. up to nearly 60 sq. m.

Homeowners typically repay their no-interest, no-profit mortgage over ten years at an average of US\$26.50 a month. In most cases, this is lower than the rents they paid prior to becoming Habitat home partners.

### COUNTRY FACTS

**Area:** 329,750 sq. km.  
**Population:** 23,522,482  
**Capital:** Kuala Lumpur  
**Ethnic groups:** Malay and other indigenous 58%, Chinese 24%, Indian 8%, others 10%  
**Religions:** Muslim, Buddhist, Daoist, Hindu, Christian, Sikh.  
**Languages:** Bahasa Melayu (official), English, Mandarin, Chinese dialects, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Punjabi, and Iban, Kadazan and indigenous languages

### HABITAT FACTS

Families Helped

**30**

Cost Of One House\*

**US\$4,940**

As of April 2005

\* international sponsorship cost

### Habitat Highlights

- Kuching affiliate has dedicated its 30th Habitat home.
- Successful second Habitat Benefit Concert with "The Manhattan Trio" held in Kuching in February 2005.
- General Electric International Inc. sponsors Kuala Lumpur's first Habitat home, with the possibility of up to eight houses in the next two years.
- Three Renaissance hotels (Kuala Lumpur, Melaka and Kota Bharu) have adopted Habitat as their community service project, providing volunteer teams, facilities and other resources.
- The Marriot Hotel, Miri, has come on board as a Habitat partner.
- Public relations firm Grey Worldwide Southeast Asia is a supporter.
- International School of Kuala Lumpur has sent four works teams through an active Campus Chapter.



### HFH Malaysia

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