



**For Immediate Release**

**November 15, 2021**

## **CIMB Islamic collaborates with Thrive Well and Teach For Malaysia to create safe spaces**

CIMB Islamic Bank Berhad (“CIMB Islamic”) has partnered once again with Thrive Well in the CIMB Islamic Safe Space Programme to deliver community mental health services to the B40 communities in and around the Klang Valley.

Now in its third year, the partnership has been further strengthened with Teach For Malaysia’s involvement, by lending their experience in working with students from the B40 communities. This expanded collaboration recently launched the K.A.M.I. initiative (Keluarga Akrab Mencapai Impian), aiding the Seksyen U16 community of Taman Bukit Subang in Shah Alam.

Working closely with Muhammad Shakir Ameer Mohideen, Local Councillor of Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam, and Ahmad Faudzi Mohd Nazam, Chairman of *Kawasan Rukun Tetangga* for the area, this project hopes to strengthen access to psychosocial and mental health support within the community.

K.A.M.I. is one of Thrive Well’s core community services, and works on building emotional resilience, self-advocacy skills and healthy communication within families. It is designed by mental health practitioners and delivered by trained facilitators for youths and parents.

“The pandemic took away lives, jobs, schooling, financial security and so much more. It separated family and friends and people were left without their support systems. We must come together to recover and strengthen our sense of community, individual resilience and emotional wellbeing. CIMB Islamic is pleased to support the K.A.M.I. initiative through sponsorship as well as staff volunteers for the second year as part of our efforts to promote sustainable and positive impact on communities,” said Ahmad Shahrman Mohd Shariff, Chief Executive Officer of CIMB Islamic Bank Berhad.

Apart from financial difficulties brought on by the pandemic, parents have also had to juggle the demands of work while closely managing their children’s schooling and activities at home.

“When such a huge part of a child’s life is disrupted like that, we can expect there to be severe difficulties in adjusting. Not just for children but for parents as well. Now that schools are opening up, families need that extra support in going through another round of change,” said Zahirah Zulkifly, Director of Education Ecosystem Engagement of Teach For Malaysia.

According to UNICEF’s latest research<sup>1</sup> on the impacts of COVID-19 on children’s mental health globally, “a median of 1 in 5 young people aged 15–24 surveyed said they often feel depressed or have little interest in doing things.”

“It has been an extremely traumatic year for many. For those living in unsafe homes, for parents wondering how to feed their family, for children not having the space to play and socialise. The unmitigated stress from all this can manifest in the forms of anxiety, depression, strained relationships and even abuse - physical or otherwise,” added Cindy Chew, Director of Community Development of Thrive Well.

<sup>1</sup> The State of the World’s Children 2021 – report by UNICEF ([https://www.unicef.org/reports/state-worlds-children-2021?utm\\_source=referral&utm\\_medium=media&utm\\_campaign=sowc-web](https://www.unicef.org/reports/state-worlds-children-2021?utm_source=referral&utm_medium=media&utm_campaign=sowc-web))



Effective intervention must be taken now. A UNICEF report<sup>2</sup> highlighted “a new analysis ... indicates that lost contribution to economies due to mental disorders that lead to disability or death among young people is estimated at nearly US\$390 billion a year.”

K.A.M.I. initiative is providing volunteering opportunities to staff from the partnering organisations as well as graduates and individuals who are keen to lend their hands in helping the local communities.

To find out more about the K.A.M.I. initiative, contact Cindy Chew at [cindy@thethrive.center](mailto:cindy@thethrive.center) of Thrive Well.

#### **About CIMB Islamic Bank**

CIMB Islamic Bank, licensed under Malaysia's Islamic Financial Services Act 2013, is the main operating entity of CIMB Group's global Islamic banking and finance franchise. It offers Shariah-compliant products and services to CIMB Group's consumer banking, commercial banking, wholesale banking and asset management businesses.

CIMB Islamic's services, products and operations comply strictly with global Shariah principles and standards under the guidance of the CIMB Islamic Board Shariah Committee which comprises world renowned Shariah experts and scholars. CIMB Islamic provides comprehensive and innovative Shariah-compliant financial products and services to meet the needs of individuals, small and medium scale enterprises as well as large institutional customers.

CIMB Group's Islamic banking and finance business is supported by the Group's network of around 33,000 employees in 15 countries comprising an experienced senior management team and a global team of Islamic banking and financial services professionals in all core components of the Islamic banking and financial services market. CIMB Group has one of the most extensive retail branch networks in ASEAN, with 635 branches as at 30 June 2021.

#### **About Thrive Well**

Thrive Well is a social enterprise with a mission to expand trauma-informed community mental health services to individuals, communities and organisations, particularly the marginalised and high-needs communities, in a sustainable manner.

#### **About Teach For Malaysia**

##### **Who we are:**

Teach For Malaysia is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, on a mission to give all children the opportunity to attain an excellent education. We partner with the Ministry of Education to reach high-need public schools. It is one of the 60 partners of the prestigious global education network, Teach For All.

Since 2012, Teach For Malaysia has been building a transformational movement in our education system by placing the country's most promising leaders as full-time teachers in some of Malaysia's most high-need schools to combat education inequity. In 2020, we expanded our work to also train and coach in-service public school STEM teachers through the 2-year Program Duta Guru (PDG). PDG is a development programme with the objective to empower teachers to be highly competent and committed; serving as role models to enhance higher order thinking skills (HOTS) through STEM education as a foundation to being a competitive nation.

In response to the pandemic, TFM is committed to a 2023 Education Recovery Plan that develops teachers and supports educational stakeholders to navigate the digital divide, socio-emotional wellbeing concerns, on top of adopting innovative teaching techniques and methodologies to engage with students.

##### **Our impact:**

##### **The largest pipeline of youth empowerment in education**

Since our launch in 2012, our movement of over 583 Teach For Malaysia Fellows, Program Duta Guru Teachers and Alumni, across 9 cohorts has impacted more than 164,200 students in over 308 schools across 10 states in Malaysia. You can find out more in our [2020 Impact Report](#).

<sup>2</sup>Impact of COVID-19 on poor mental health in children and young people 'tip of the iceberg' - press release by UNICEF (<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/impact-covid-19-poor-mental-health-children-and-young-people-tip-iceberg>)