

MALAYSIA'S BUDGET 2025: A STEP FORWARD FOR EDUCATION

KUALA LUMPUR – Following the recent tabling of Malaysia's Budget 2025, Teach For Malaysia (TFM) commends the government's continued commitment to enhancing the education system, with the Ministry of Education receiving RM 64.1 billion, the highest allocation in history.

The Budget underscores the government's priority to enhance access to quality education, particularly for those most in need. This is aligned with TFM's belief that more resources should be channelled towards students with the highest needs, ensuring that all students can thrive in school regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds.

Broadening access to quality education

TFM commends the government's significant investments directed towards enhancing the education system. The increase in allocation for direct assistance aimed at low-income families such as the RMT programme and KWAPM will help enable and encourage more students to attend school. The RM2 billion designated for upgrading and maintaining schools nationwide, along with the RM10 million for additional rural school assistance, will improve students' learning environments and help address disparities in educational resources and opportunities. However, it is crucial to ensure these infrastructure-related funds are used efficiently, with minimal leakages, and ensure that projects are completed in a timely manner.

TFM welcomes the significant increase in development funds for preschool education, from RM28 million to RM150 million. Closing learning gaps early, before primary school, is essential for improving educational outcomes and promoting equity. Expanding access to quality early childhood care is a positive move, and we recommend that the government consider making pre-primary education compulsory and free for at least one year to achieve universal preschool enrollment.

The quality of education rises and falls on the quality of our teachers

The real leverage for improving educational outcomes lies in enhancing teaching quality. Research consistently shows that teacher quality is one of the strongest predictors of student outcomes and the quality of education cannot exceed the quality of its teachers. Thus, it is important to attract top talents into the teaching profession by making the teaching profession more attractive, and to continuously support teachers to ensure students receive the best education possible.

TFM commends the increase in living allowance for IPG teacher trainees, along with the previously announced salary adjustments for all civil servants, including teachers. Additionally, TFM also applauds the increase in budget allocation for both pre-service and in-service teacher training. There is a nearly two-fold increase in allocations directed towards institutions focused on teacher development, namely Institut Pendidikan Guru and Institut Aminuddin Baki. TFM also welcomes the increase in the allocation for in-service teacher training, rising from RM14 million in 2024 to RM19.6 million in 2025 – a 40% increase that signals the government's recognition of its importance. Support for our existing teachers is crucial, as the majority of those teaching today will remain in the profession for decades to come. Nevertheless, with over 416,000 teachers



nationwide, the allocation amounts to just RM47 per teacher. Moreover, while the increase is a positive step, the real impact will depend on how effectively these resources are utilised to provide tailored, high-quality continuous professional development (CPD) that meets teachers' needs, empowering them to become more effective in the classroom.

Conclusion

Overall, Teach For Malaysia (TFM) views Budget 2025 as a significant step forward, reinforcing the government's commitment to enhancing access to quality education. However, it is essential that reforms are carefully considered not only in terms of funding but also at the policy and implementation levels. Despite the significant investments that the Ministry of Education has received, we have yet to see substantial improvements in educational outcomes. Many challenges facing our education system require robust solutions that address systemic issues.

While the budget acts as an enabler, its true impact will be limited without well-designed policies and effective implementation. It is crucial that the funds not only reach the ground but are also safeguarded against leakages through continuous efforts to ensure efficient use. One way the government can ensure high-quality delivery is by leveraging the expertise of private sector and civil society organisations (CSOs) in specific areas, creating more opportunities for collaboration and stronger public-private partnerships. Nevertheless, the high priority given to education in this Budget underscores TFM's belief that the work of building a nation starts in the classroom.

About Us

Teach For Malaysia (TFM) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation on a mission to give all children the opportunity to realise their potential through quality education. We partner with various entities in the education ecosystem to drive immediate and long-term education transformation by developing and mobilising a diverse movement of leaders who are committed to addressing educational inequity. Founded in 2010, Teach For Malaysia (TFM) is a member of the Global Education Network Teach For All.

Since 2012, we have been building a transformational movement in our education system by placing the country's most promising graduates and young professionals in some of Malaysia's most high-need schools to combat education inequity through our flagship leadership development Fellowship programme. In 2020, we started expanding our programmes to reach existing teachers and leaders in the public education sector, supporting them to drive system transformation. Through our student leadership programmes, we empower young students to be agents of transformation in their own communities.

Since 2012, our programmes have reached more than 1090 schools and communities across all states in Malaysia, impacting over 503,000 students. Teach For Malaysia is also a 2022 Merdeka Award Recipient under the Education & Community Category.

Learn more about our impact here: [Teach For Malaysia Impact Report 2023](#)



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