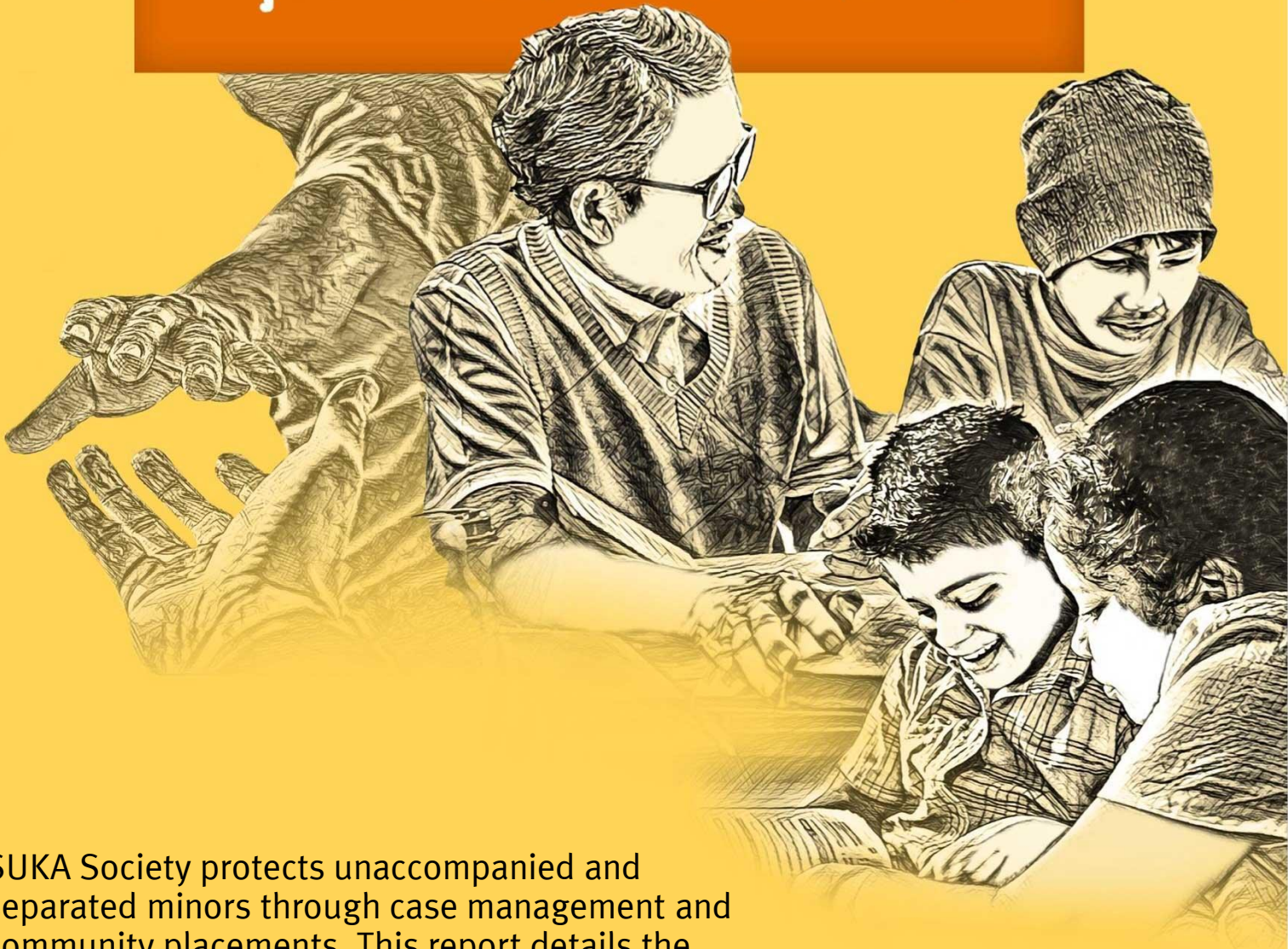


Providing Case Management for Children at Risk



SUKA Society protects unaccompanied and separated minors through case management and community placements. This report details the project's progress and impact from 2025.

Report Overview

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IMPACT NUMBERS

ACTIVE CASES

83 Total in programme, 2025

CASES CLOSED

23 Resolved or completed intervention by Dec 2025



SAFETY

Safety in the community

44

In unsafe situations before intervention



38

In safer situations after intervention



PERMANENCY

Legal protection in country of transit

75

With unclear legal status/undocumented



62

With legal status clarified/documented

- 11 pending UNHCR registration scheduling



STABILITY

Stable community placement

44

Without stable family placement before intervention



38

Achieved stability by the end of 2025

- 32 supported with kinship or foster care arrangements
- 2 supported with independent living
- 1 supported with residential care
- 3 ongoing interventions to stabilize community placement



PERMANENCY

Steps towards case resolution

33

With unclear case resolution



20

Cases resolved or in progress

- 1 resettled and 5 on the pathway to resettlement
- 2 reunited with family in Malaysia
- 5 prepared for independent living and 7 with ongoing preparation for independent living
- 13 pending case resolution

IMPACT NUMBERS



WELL-BEING Material needs

68

Struggling to
meet basic needs



65

With basic
needs met



WELL-BEING Education

58

With no access to
education or ability to
speak the local language

- 48 supported with access to learning centres/language classes
- 4 supported with skills-based courses



WELL-BEING Physical health

60

With physical health
concerns requiring medical
interventions

- 48 supported with access to primary care
- 15 supported with access to specialized/secondary care



WELL-BEING Housing

44

In unsafe
situations,
lacking access to
affordable
housing



38

Supported with
rental support
for affordable
housing



WELL-BEING Mental health

61

With mental health concerns
before intervention

- 21 supported with access to mental health interventions



WELL-BEING Risk and safety

15

Experienced actual
incidences of arrest with
law enforcement

- 2 detained but supported with legal assistance and released.
- 1 arrested, detained and deported.

Foreword

Families serve as the primary architects of a child's development and well-being. This is an obvious truth, yet thousands of children in Malaysia remain unaccompanied or confined to institutions, growing up without a nurturing family environment.

When we launched our Community Placement and Case Management Program (CPCM) back in 2014, we were determined to ensure that every unaccompanied and separated minor referred to us would be placed with a dedicated foster family. Most of these children come from the refugee community, requiring a robust program capable of navigating the unique challenges of serving such a vulnerable population. Beyond physical protection, we ensure every placement secures a child's safety, stability, and well-being while actively preserving their culture, language, and religious practices.

To date, we have protected over 420 children; of those, 369 have either successfully resettled in a third country or transitioned into independent living. However, progress is rarely linear. With shifting resettlement opportunities, the unaccompanied and separated minors in our care must be adequately prepared for adulthood before permanent pathways become available. This requires us to support these youth for longer periods, ensuring they have the skills, stability, and supportive environment needed to care for themselves and thrive in the community.

Our CPCM program has always focused on the minor; however, in 2025, we recognized that more needed to be done to support our foster parents. Most of these caregivers are from the refugee community themselves—individuals with a profound sense of responsibility for the children in their midst. As such, they are crucial stakeholders and partners whose efforts we must actively support and build upon. To facilitate this, we have engaged a full-time Foster Care Support Worker to ensure that identifying, recruiting, training, and supporting foster parents is conducted in a structured manner. We also introduced community focal points to assist in recruitment and to provide an added layer of grassroots support within the community.

None of this work would be possible without the unwavering commitment of our stakeholders and partners. Your support has been a lifeline, providing the foundation for these children to rebuild their lives. By sponsoring their holistic needs—including school fees, food, and rental assistance—you have provided more than just resources; you have made a profound investment in their dignity and future. We are deeply grateful for a partnership that ensures no child in our care has to face their challenges alone

Anderson Selvasegaram
Executive Director



Executive Summary

In 2025, the Community Placement & Case Management (CPCM) team provided comprehensive case management and intervention support to 83 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). Following the suspension of the resettlement pathway to the United States of America and limited placement in other countries, the majority of children under the CPCM programme remained in Malaysia without alternative durable solutions.

In response, CPCM strategically shifted its focus toward supporting long-term reintegration within the Malaysian context. Key priorities included strengthening children's life skills, enhancing access to education and vocational opportunities, and building their capacity for independent living. This was reflected in the topics chosen for the Aspiration Programme this year in hope of helping to prepare the children better

Alongside individualized case support, CPCM organized a series of events and group activities aimed at fostering peer connections, strengthening social support networks, and promoting a sense of belonging and stability among the children. In addition to the annual Hari Raya and Christmas celebration, we also held two events organized to support different age groups within the programme: a Children's Outing to Zoo Negara and the CPCM Youth Camp.



A significant milestone this year was the launch of the Foster Care Programme, aimed at strengthening support for foster parents within the CPCM Programme. While we have primarily focused on addressing the needs of children, we recognized that foster parents also require consistent guidance and assistance to provide quality care to the minors placed under their care.

As this initiative was newly introduced, the Foster Care caseworker concentrated on understanding the needs of foster families and identifying the challenges faced by foster parents. Based on these insights, the team began planning and structuring targeted training content to enhance foster parents' capacity and caregiving skills.

Executive Summary

In an effort to strengthen relationships and foster meaningful engagement, the Foster Care caseworker also organized a Family Day for foster families and the minors under the CPCM programme. The event provided a valuable platform to build rapport with foster parents, express appreciation for their dedication, and enhance collaboration in supporting the children under their care.

Through these combined efforts, CPCM continued to uphold its commitment to safeguarding the well-being, resilience, and future prospects of unaccompanied and separated children under its care. By strengthening partnerships with foster families and creating meaningful experiences for the children, CPCM remains steadfast in its mission to provide holistic protection and support.



Programme Overview

Background

Refugee, asylum seeking and stateless children in Malaysia face a highly unpredictable life. This is because Malaysia is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. As our immigration laws make no distinction between refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons or undocumented migrants, anyone—including children without the necessary legal documents—are subjected to arrest and detention. The difficulties faced by a refugee, asylum seeking or stateless child are further compounded if the child is also unaccompanied or separated from his or her parents/primary caregiver. The lack of protection space in the country coupled with the absence of caregivers puts unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs) at a significant risk of abuse, violence and trauma.



Children who are unaccompanied or separated from their main caregivers are particularly vulnerable to the risk of exploitation, abuse, and trafficking due to their lack of protection and support. Children may be separated from their parents while fleeing from armed forces or being smuggled by human traffickers. Parents may also send their children alone to seek better economic opportunities or safety from war and conflicts.

Unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs) may have witnessed violence, lost loved ones, or endured perilous journeys prior to arriving in Malaysia. The separation from their families can cause significant emotional distress and psychological trauma. Without the safety and security provided by their own family, these children may struggle to adapt to new environments and build trust. On their own, they face numerous challenges in accessing essential services in Malaysia. They will have difficulty obtaining shelter, food, education, and healthcare. Without proper documentation or legal representation, they are vulnerable to exploitation and discrimination.

KEY FACTS



As of October 2025, there are 64,801 refugee children below the age of 18 in Malaysia and they are vulnerable to abuse, neglect and exploitation.¹



Children without parental care face growth and development issues due to lack of care and support.



Unaccompanied and separated children often lack access to welfare, healthcare and education services.

¹ UNHCR. (2025, Dec 11). Figures at a glance in Malaysia. UNHCR. <https://www.unhcr.org/my/what-we-do/figures-glance-malaysia#>

The Case Management & Community Placement (CPCM) Programme

Since 2015, SUKA Society has implemented a holistic case management programme to address the protection needs of unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs) from refugee, asylum-seeking, and stateless communities. This programme advocates for alternatives to child immigration detention by offering a community-based model that protects UASCs and is promoted to the government as a viable solution.

All unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) under the case management programme will be protected through a structured case management process that involves the following steps –



Our case management programme covers three critical areas:

Safety

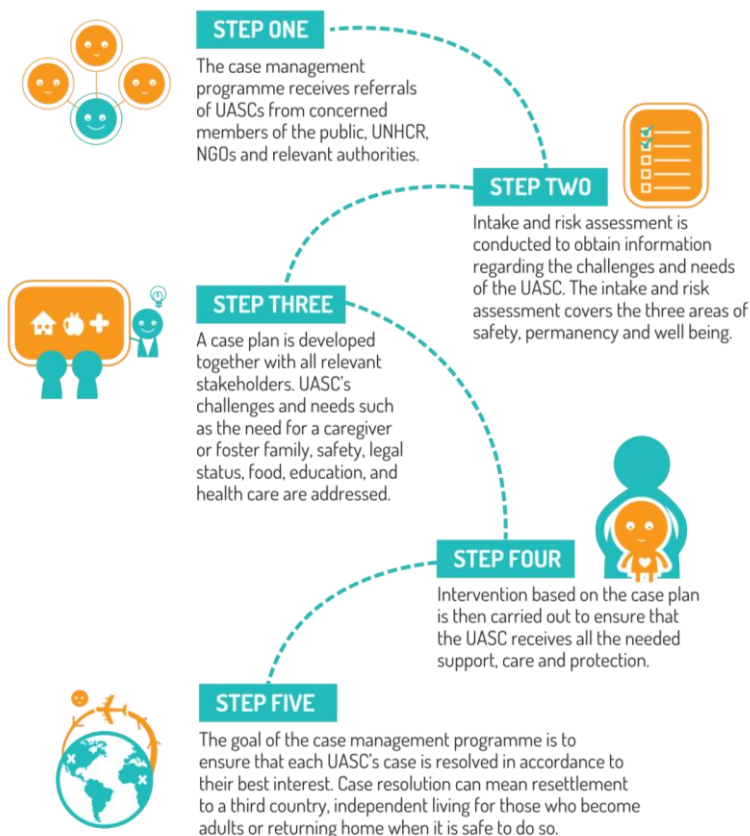
Ensuring that children under our case management programme are given protection from threat or actual harm.

Stability & Permanency

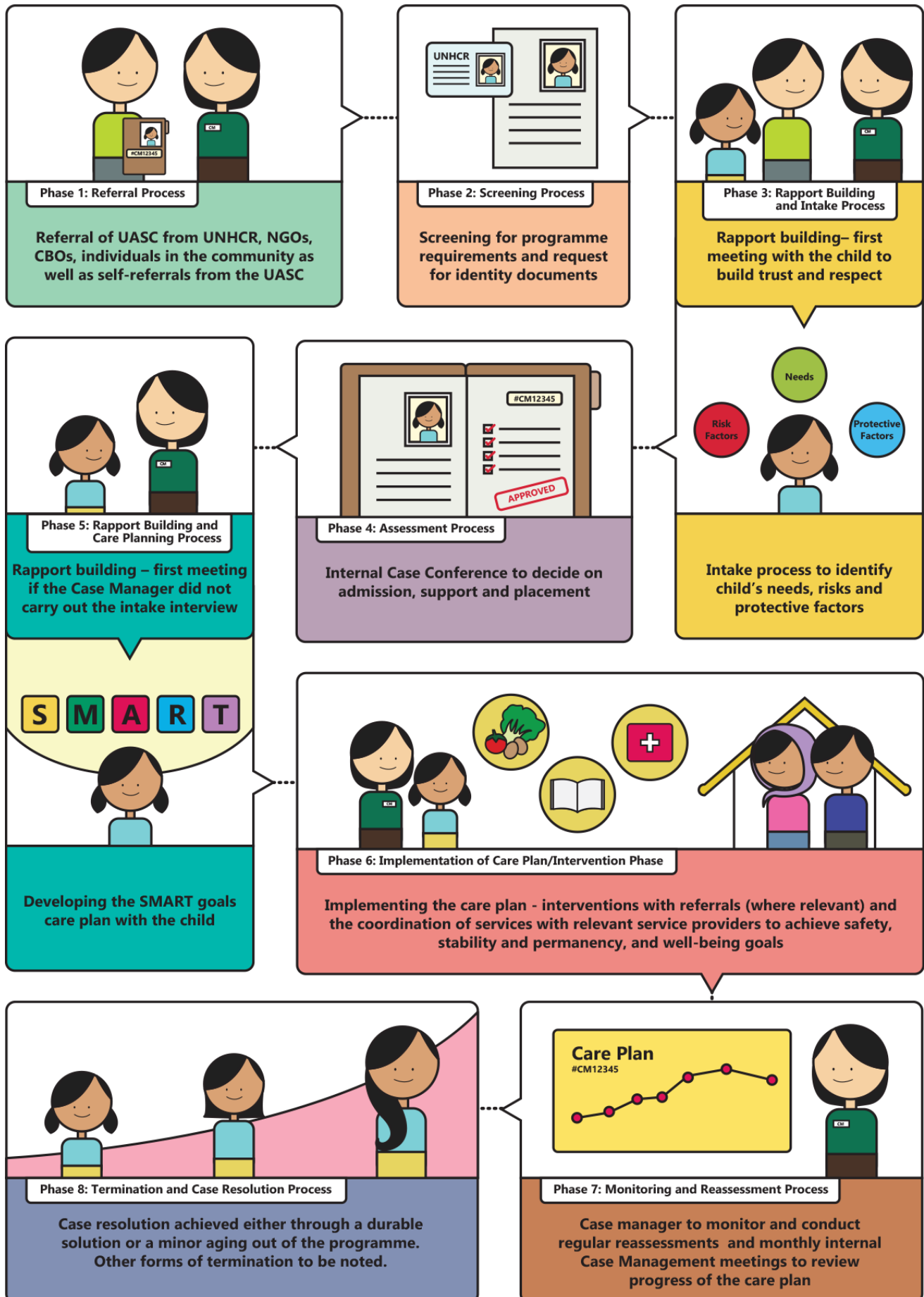
Creating a stable and permanent outcome for long term care and durable solution for children under our programme.

Well-being

Holistically providing adequate material well-being and affordable housing, improving access to healthcare and education, and developing positive relationships and a strong community support system for children under our programme.



The Case Management Process



CASE STUDY 1 OF 2

Ana's Journey

18-year-old Lisu girl from Myanmar

ARRIVAL IN MALAYSIA

Fleeing conscription, alone and undocumented

After she and her brother participated in several protests in Myanmar, the military came searching for them. Although she was only 16, her parents had to make the difficult decision to send her to Malaysia— a country where she knew no one and had no legal status.

- Sheltered by a community member, paying rent from her own wages
- Working as a masseur with no family support network
- Unable to understand English, not attending school as she needed to work
- Living in constant fear of being arrested and detained due to her undocumented status
- Chronic gastric pain and a crooked left calf caused daily discomfort

SUKA'S INTERVENTION

Building a foundation

SUKA worked to support her across multiple areas simultaneously, such as securing her legal standing, meeting her basic needs and opening doors to education and healthcare that had been out of reach.

Referred to UNHCR to expedite registration process

Monthly food and rental support provided

Enrolled in community school

Online English classes arranged

Medical check-up for gastric and leg pain

INDEPENDENCE

Aged out of the programme

With legal recognition, stable health and a completed education, she took the next steps to prepare for independent living.

- ✓ Successfully obtained UN card
- ✓ Completed Grade 9 with excellent results
- ✓ Able to understand and communicate in English
- ✓ Gastric and leg pain significantly reduced, physical health improved
- ✓ Independently enrolled in nail art course and found stable employment

CASE STUDY 2 OF 2

Chai's Journey

19-year-old Jingpaw boy from Myanmar

ARRIVAL IN MALAYSIA

Escaped forced labour but was alone, undocumented and carrying trauma

He arrived in Malaysia at age 15, having survived military detention and forced labour. Though sheltered by a community member, his environment was unsafe with an overcrowded home and housemates who frequently drank alcohol. Cut off from his family, he carried both physical injuries and the psychological weight of what he had endured.

- Undocumented and at risk of arrest and detention
- Experienced flashbacks, anxiety and feelings of hopelessness from military assault
- Suffered from ankle pain which affect his daily movement
- Attended school with the assistance of a community member, but no certainty of continued support

SUKA'S INTERVENTION

Ensuring safety, stability and permanency

SUKA addressed his urgent needs immediately by moving him to safer housing, securing his legal status, treating his physical health and ensuring his education could continue without disruption.

Referred to UNHCR to expedite registration process

Found safer housing; provided food and rental support

Supported monthly school fees, allowing him to continue learning at his school

Arranged for medical check-up and treatment

INDEPENDENCE

From forced labour to university

He completed high school and his IGCSE examination with outstanding results. SUKA raised funds to support his tertiary education and he's currently enrolled in a local university while working independently to support himself.

- ✓ Successfully obtained UN card
- ✓ Had access to safe housing and sufficient food
- ✓ Ankle pain successfully treated, no longer in pain when walking
- ✓ Completed high school and IGCSE exam with flying colours
- ✓ Enrolled in university and working independently to support himself

Case Management Activities

In 2025, two annual celebrations and two special events were organised with aims of strengthening relationships among the CPCM community, supporting the children and their caregivers, and ensuring the children's well-being and personal development.



Hari Raya Celebration

12th April 2025, 24 participants

The annual celebration provides a meaningful and inclusive space for the children to celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri while participating in interactive and culturally enriching activities.

This year, the children tried batik painting, creating impressive masterpieces while having fun. They also received *duit raya* (Eid money) and goodie bags.

Children's Outing

9th Aug 2025, 7 participants (aged 12 & below)

The outing was planned to give the children a chance to take a break from their usual routine, while presenting an opportunity for them to bond with each other, and their case managers.

The children had a great time exploring Zoo Negara as they got to visit several exhibits and see the animals up close. Their favourite was the sea lion show which garnered much awe and a lot of laughter.



Christmas Party

13th Dec 2025, 31 participants

The party was held so the children could experience a Christmas celebration and enjoy a fun and meaningful time together.

The children played games facilitated by the case managers and enjoyed a magic show during their lunch. At the end of the party, they each received presents generously gifted by donors.

Youth Camp 2025

Date: 12th to 13th September 2025

Participants: 20 youths aged 13 to 17

Sponsored by:
Austrian Embassy in KL

 **Austrian
Embassy**
Kuala Lumpur

The CPCM Youth Camp is an annual two-day programme organised to bring together youths in the programme for an engaging and enriching experience. This year, the camp was held in LiLLA Rainforest Retreat in Hulu Langat.

We were greatly honoured by the visit of Ambassador Gerhard Eisi and his wife, representing the Austrian Embassy of Malaysia, which generously sponsored the camp. During their visit the ambassador and his wife graciously spent time interacting with the youths and spoke with the case managers and volunteers. Their presence was a great encouragement to both participants and the organising team.



SUKA staff and volunteers taking a group photo with Ambassador Gerhard Eisi and his wife.

In addition to recreational activities, teamwork centric activities held during the camp enabled the youths to have fun while fostering relationships between them. A health awareness workshop on HIV, drugs and vaping was also carried out during the camp to increase the awareness of health risks among the youths. Additionally, a Cultural Diversity Night was organised to encourage the youths to experience Malaysia's different cultures and promote mutual respect and understanding.



Ambassador Gerhard Eisi and his wife speaking to the youths.



Youths designing their team logo on a kite.



A youth attempting to guess the origin of local dishes.

Overall, the CPCM Youth Camp 2025 successfully created a safe and supportive environment for youths to learn, connect, and grow. The programme continues to serve as an important platform for empowerment, resilience-building, and holistic development among minors under CPCM's care.



The children proudly presenting their kolam art, created for Culture Diversity Night.

Aspiration Programme

In 2025, three Aspiration Programme sessions were conducted. The first two sessions were facilitated by volunteers from the IHard Family, contributing to the youths' learning and overall growth.



A facilitator introducing resume writing to the youths.

Session 1 — 21st June 2025

Future and Work Guide

18
attendees

Future planning

Goal-setting exercises and letters to future selves.

Job readiness

Identifying and enhancing personal strengths, building employability skills and resume writing.

Session 2 — 19th July 2025

Mental Health & Home Guide

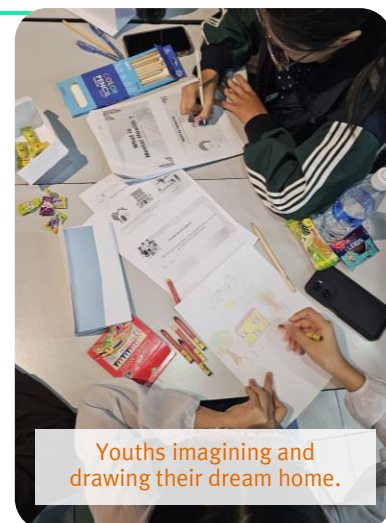
14
attendees

Emotional well-being

Reframing negative thoughts, recognizing stress and its impact.

Housing readiness & safety awareness

Maintaining a safe and comfortable living environment, identifying safe housing options and practical advice on renting as refugees in Malaysia.



Youths imagining and drawing their dream home.



Youths engaged in discussion during the workshop.

Session 3 — 12th September 2025

Health Awareness Workshop

20
attendees

Dangers of HIV

Modes of transmission and prevention methods of HIV.

Risks of Drugs and Vaping

Health risks and legal context of drugs and vaping.



The Aspiration Programme has benefited me greatly and taught me a lot. The first session helped me realise that I enjoy cooking and taking care of people, and I would like to become a doctor. The second session taught me the importance of maintaining cleanliness and how I can apply it in my daily life.

18-year-old Somali youth



Foster Care Programme

Foster care has always been a vital part of the CPCM programme and in 2025, we were able to create a more structured foster care programme after increasing capacity. By ensuring that every foster family feels supported and valued, we hope to help create a stable and supportive environment that promotes the well-being and development of the children in care.

Developed to provide structured support to foster parents under the CPCM programme, its first year centred on establishing a strong foundation by building trust, strengthening relationships, and maintaining consistent engagement with families.

Moving forward in 2026, we hope to launch a quarterly foster parent support group covering emotional well-being, self-care, parenting adolescents, and stress management. We also hope to continue community outreach to raise awareness and recruit new foster families as well as expand the Direct Aid initiative to respond to a wider range of urgent needs across the foster care network.

KEY INITIATIVES



Home visits

Visit foster families with case managers to build trust and familiarity.

14

Foster families visited



Engagement Events

Organise events to strengthen relationships, create community, and help families feel recognised and supported.

1

Event held in 2025



Assistance

Provide prompt and accessible financial assistance to foster families, addressing medical or educational expenses to ease financial stress.

6

Foster families supported

Assistance

The idea behind the Assistance initiative is to provide support for families, ensuring the children's best interests and the families' overall well-being are prioritised, while empowering them to regain self-sufficiency and confidence in their fostering role. The initiative is made up of two types—the Community Fund and Direct Aid. Both cover needs in the form of financial and in-kind assistance.

Assistance	Category	Aid provided	Individuals Impacted
Community Fund	Physical & Mental Wellbeing	Counselling sessions, medication, transport to sessions	3 (1 adult, 2 children)
	Education	School registration and 1-month school fees	5 (2 adults, 3 children)
	Safety	Rental fees	7 (5 adults, 2 children)
	Physical & Mental Wellbeing	Medical fees for baby	4 (2 adults, 2 children)
Direct Aid	Basic Needs	Essential food items	5 (1 adult, 4 kids)
	Physical & Mental Wellbeing	Medical expenses for foster parent	5 (2 adults, 3 kids)

Moving forward, the assistance initiative will continue to complement other support efforts by providing a practical and responsive safety net, ensuring foster parents know they are not alone in facing challenges.

Foster Care Programme

Engagement Events

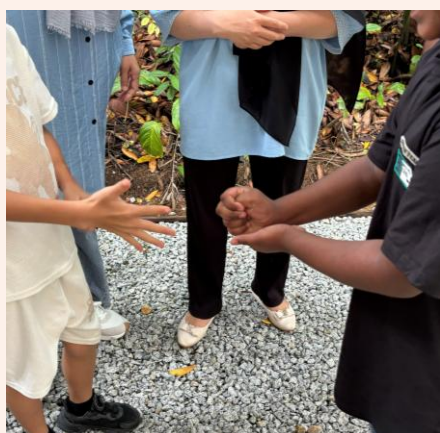
In 2025, the CPCM programme organised Family Day, the first engagement event for minors and their foster families. The event was aimed to strengthening relationships between the minors and foster families, while fostering a sense of community.

Family Day

29th November 2025

The event provided a safe and informal space for foster families to interact, build connections, and feel recognised and supported by SUKA Society.

A total of 11 foster families participated in the event, enjoying a day of fun and relaxation together. They participated in various engaging station games and ended the day with a hearty lunch.



Children enjoying playing together during the station games.



A father colouring together with his child during a break.



A child enjoying the pizza provided for lunch.

“

My kids and I liked the event. The food was delicious, and we were very happy. Next time, we want to join again. My sons want to attend all the events, and they made new friends.

A foster family from the Somali community

We were very happy with the event, and my son too. He even asked if we will come again next year! The food was good. Thank you for helping all of us. Overall, we all liked it so much.

A foster family from the Lisu community

”





A foster family ready to relax and have fun during the Family Day event.

Acknowledgements

SUKA Society would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, partners, volunteers and service providers for their unwavering support and invaluable contributions towards the Community Placement and Case Management (CPCM) programme.

We are especially thankful to our corporate sponsors for their generous partnership and support in providing for the holistic needs of the children.

- AS White Sdn Bhd
- Austrian Embassy of Malaysia
- En Compass Sdn Bhd
- FBS Malaysia
- Porticus Asia Ltd.
- Ueber Marketing Sdn Bhd

We would also like to acknowledge the individual sponsors of our Sponsorship Programme for sponsoring various aspect of our programme such as school fees, food and rental for the children.

- Chew Chai Yoong
- Goh Yhing Yee
- Himin Ng
- Ian Ong
- Rachel Choong
- Sreejit Raghu
- Stephen Lew
- Tien Chin Pei (Lily)
- Valerie Lanjuran

Last but not least, we would like to thank our individual sponsors for their generosity in supporting the children with needed supplies.

- Foo Wen Sze
- Goh Jia Hui
- Hasbe
- Jessica Ho
- Logeswary Mahalingam
- Mr Chan
- Nur Amirah Binti Zulkefle
- Puvana
- Sharlene Oong
- Victor Choo

Your dedication plays a crucial role in helping us meet the needs of the minors, and we deeply appreciate your commitment to making a meaningful difference in their lives.



Programme Expenses for 2025

Community Placement and Case Management Programme

No.	Details	Total (MYR)
01.	Programme Manpower Overhead (Case Supervisor, Case Managers, Community Focal Point)	390,211.04
02.	Food, Rental, Medical, Education for minors	287,425.17
03.	Events (Youth Camp, Children's Day & Aspiration Programme)	22,434.40
04.	Interpretation Costs	12,970.99
05.	Foster Care Support Group	8,291.26
06.	Supplies for minors	4,288.84
07.	Travel	2,224.00
08.	Training	1,202.30
09.	Resettlement Cost	519.20
10.	Foster Care Direct Aid & Medical	212.60
11.	Printing & Stationery	18.00
Total Yearly Programme Cost		729,797.80

How Can You Help?

Our CPCM programme appreciates welfare support in both monetary form and goods such as food, clothing, bedding and school supplies. Looking out for those who are marginalised and taking steps to learn more about the refugee communities, either by volunteering for our CPCM events or simply having a conversation with them, also go a long way.

Contact Details

For more information regarding the CPCM programme, get in touch with us at enquiry@sukasociety.org.

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