



# **CODE RED TO CODE READY**

**Where Are Malaysian Nurses  
On Disaster Preparedness?**



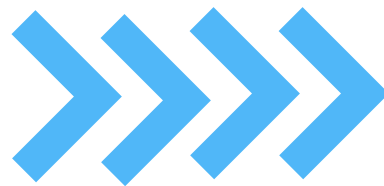
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# Pacific Ring of Fire

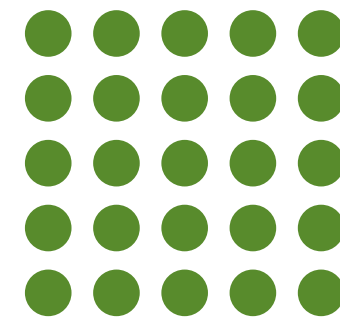


South Sandwich Trench



# DISASTER LANDSCAPE

- While Malaysia's location offers some protection from certain types of disasters, it is still vulnerable to a range of natural and human-induced hazards floods, landslides, haze, occasional storms and tropical cyclones that can lead to significant damage and disruption.





**FLOODS**



**LANDSLIDES**



**HAZE**



**STORMS AND  
TROPICAL CYCLONES**

# DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

While Directive No. 20 (Arahan MKN No. 20) historically governed disaster management under the National Security Council (MKN) in 1997, Malaysia currently follows NADMA's Directive No. 1 (Arahan NADMA No. 1), which outlines the updated guidelines and mechanisms for disaster management coordination and response at all levels.

- Directive No. 20 MKN
- 2015: NADMA
- Disaster Management Hierarchy
- Key Supporting Agencies
- Role of Nurses



# DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Malaysia's disaster management structure is currently guided by NADMA Directive No. 1, which outlines multi-agency coordination across national, state, and district levels, involving MOH, police, military, fire & rescue, civil defence, and community health teams including nurses.

- Directive No. 20 MKN
- 2015: NADMA
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<b>Directive</b>	<b>Issued By</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>MKN Directive No. 20</b>	National Security Council	Broad national security disasters	Still referenced but superseded in some areas
<b>NADMA Directive No. 1</b>	National Disaster Management Agency	Clearer scope on disaster types, response roles, coordination mechanisms	Currently used for guiding national and state response

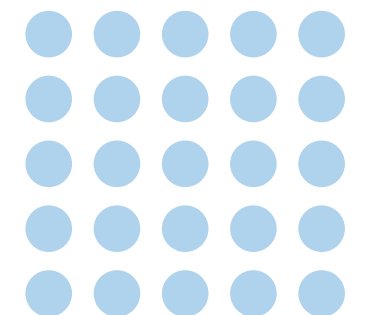
<b>Level</b>	<b>Key Body</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Function</b>
<b>National (Level III)</b>	National Disaster Management and Relief Committee	Deputy Prime Minister	Policy, funding, national coordination
<b>State (Level II)</b>	State Disaster Management Committee	State Secretary / Chief Minister	Response planning and coordination at state level
<b>District (Level I)</b>	District Disaster Management Committee	District Officer	Local response, resource mobilization, evacuation, shelter

# KEY SUPPORTING AGENCIES

- Ministry of Health (MOH) – Medical response, evacuation, public health surveillance.
- Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) – Security, enforcement, traffic control.
- Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM) – Logistics, transport, field hospitals.
- Fire and Rescue Department (BOMBA) – Search and rescue, fire safety.
- Malaysian Civil Defence Force (APM) – First aid, community evacuation, disaster drills.
- Meteorological Department (METMalaysia) – Forecasting and early warnings.

## Solution:

- Establish Inter-Agency Training & Communication Protocols
- Integrate Community-Based Early Response Systems
- Enhance Resource Sharing & Technological Capabilities





## ROLES OF NURSES

- Nurses are frontline responders during disasters and are mobilised through MOH protocols and hospital-based disaster teams.
- Their roles span from clinical care to community-level interventions, across all disaster phases.

▶ Clinical Care Provider

▶ Coordinator & Advocate

▶ Educator

▶ Psychosocial Supporter

# ROLES OF NURSES DURING PREPAREDNESS

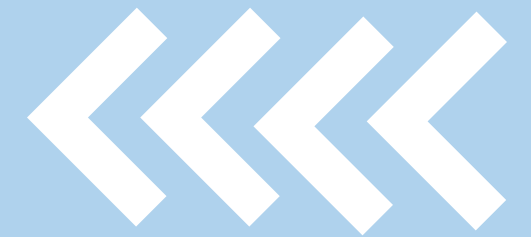
- Nurses play key roles in developing disaster plans, conducting community education, leading drills, and advocating for vulnerable populations.
- They also contribute to research and evaluate readiness to ensure effective disaster response.

➤ Planner

➤ Trainer & Drill Facilitators

➤ Educator & Advocate

➤ Researcher & Evaluator



# ROLES OF NURSES DURING RESPONSE

- Malaysian nurses are not just caregivers but disaster responders, public health educators, mental health supporters, and systems stabilisers during crises.
- Their diverse, adaptive roles make them essential assets in national and local disaster response systems.

▶ Operational Implementers

▶ Community Communicators

▶ Real-Time Evaluators

▶ Advocates for the Vulnerable





## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- Malaysia faces frequent floods, landslides, haze, and disease outbreaks.
- Disasters are becoming more complex, frequent, and community-centered.
- Nurses, as the largest healthcare workforce, are essential to disaster response, but are they ready?

▶ High Disaster Exposure

▶ Nurses Are the Backbone of Healthcare

▶ Rising Complexity and Frequency

▶ The Readiness Question

# WHERE ARE WE NOW?



Strong in Response, Less Prepared in Planning:

- Malaysian nurses are highly visible during crises - COVID-19, 2014/2021 floods, and dengue outbreaks.
- Many are deployed under MOH, HERTs for trauma care, triage, and evacuation centre support.

➤ Frontline Crisis Responders

➤ Resilient but Underprepared

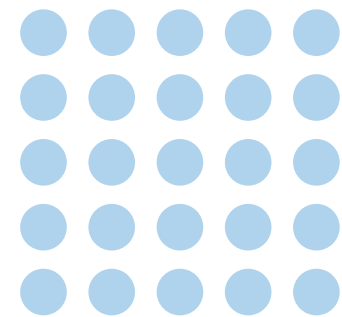
➤ Active in Emergency Deployments

➤ Reactive More Than Proactive



# WHAT ARE THE CURRENT STRENGTHS?

- Responsive workforce during emergencies.
- Participation in MOH disaster teams, vaccination efforts, quarantine centres, and field hospitals.
- Emerging leadership roles in programs like CBDRM.



▶ Highly Responsive in Crises

▶ Active Across Multiple Fronts

▶ Emerging as Leaders in the Field

▶ Bridging Clinical and Community Response





## WHAT ARE THE GAPS?

- Lack of disaster nursing specialisation, certification, or national competency framework.
- Minimal policy engagement or representation in national disaster planning.
- Unequal training opportunities between urban and rural nurses.

▶ Inexistence of disaster nursing

▶ Inadequate simulations and drills

▶ Limited structured education

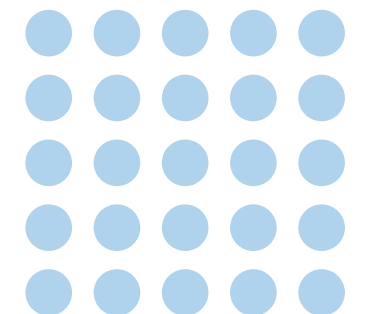
▶ Limited access to disaster technology

# THE WAY FORWARD: FROM CODE RED TO CODE READY

- Integrate disaster nursing in curriculum across all levels (pre-service, CPD).
- Recognise disaster nursing as a subspecialty with a clear role in NADMA Directive No. 1.
- Expand inter-agency simulation training with police, fire, and military.
- Empower nurses to lead community-based DRR initiatives.
- Promote AI, AR/VR, and mobile tech in preparedness training..

## Solution:

- Institutionalise Disaster Nursing Education and Recognition
- Strengthen Inter-Agency and Community Collaboration
- Embrace Technology for Training and Preparedness





## CALL FOR ACTION!

- Let's build a generation of Malaysian nurses who are disaster-ready. not just disaster-reactive.
- Collaboration is key, from ministries to universities to local communities.
- We must shift from asking "Where are our nurses in disaster?" to saying "Our nurses lead in disaster resilience."

▶ Build a Disaster-Ready Nursing Workforce

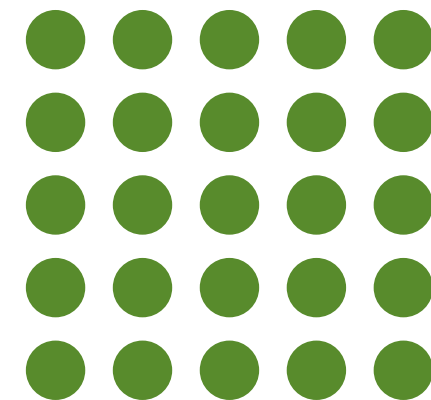
▶ Reframe the Narrative

▶ Foster Multi-Sector Collaboration

▶ Empower Leadership at All Levels

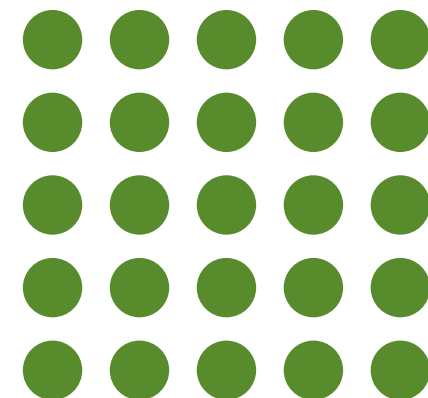
# Conclusion

- Malaysian nurses have proven time and again that they are capable, committed, and essential during disaster response; however, being present is no longer enough. We must now ensure they are prepared.
- By investing in education, recognising disaster nursing as a subspecialty, embracing innovation, and strengthening inter-agency and community partnerships, we can transform our nurses from responders to resilient leaders in disaster risk reduction and health system resilience.



# Take Home Message!

Preparedness is not just a policy. It is a mindset. Malaysian nurses must be equipped not only to save lives during disaster, but to lead, plan, and protect before it strikes.



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**9th International Research Conference of  
World Society of Disaster Nursing**

**<https://wsdn2026.com/>**

*Pre-Conference*

**17<sup>TH</sup> SEPT**

**2026**

**18<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPT**

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# THANK YOU



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