

# “Translating Intention to Action”

Needs of the Vulnerable Closer to Home

Serving the Homeless  
The KECHARA Experience

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# HOMELESS



Just because he doesn't have a home  
doesn't mean he's not someone's  
father, son or friend.

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# Homeless and urban poor in Kuala Lumpur



Figure 5: Time schedule of varied on duty soup kitchens in Kuala Lumpur

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
13:00	Kechara SK						
14:00						KL Urban Fellowship	Samaritan Ministries
15:00							
16:00							
17:00						Global Street Mission	Food Not Bombs Grace Community Service Kechara SK
18:00							Dapur Jalanan
19:00						Global Street Mission	
20:00	Kaseh4u		Need to Feed the Need (NFN)		Samaritan Ministries Public		
21:00	PERTIWI		PERTIWI			Kechara SK	PERTIWI
22:00	Reach Out	Reach Out	Reach Out		Reach Out	Reach Out	Reach Out
23:00							
00:00	Reach Out		Reach Out		Reach Out	Reach Out	Reach Out
01:00						TNLP	
02:00							



Figure 6: Hotspots that visited by varied soup kitchens in Kuala Lumpur

Soup Kitchen	Location
Kechara SK	around KL* <a href="http://www.kechara.com/soup-kitchen/what-we-do/food-distribution/">*http://www.kechara.com/soup-kitchen/what-we-do/food-distribution/</a>
PERTIWI	Tune Hotel, Kota Raya, Sungkai / Masjid India
Kaseh4u	Tune Hotel, Jalan Sultan Ismail
Reach Out	Kota Raya, Around Central Market, Pudu Central, basically where the homeless sleep
Global Street Mission	Junction of Jln Raja Laut AND Jln Chow Kit pavement of 7/11;Lebuh Ampang below St. John's car park
Need to Feed the Need (NFN)	Chow Kit
Samaritan Ministries	Opposite Takaful and Public Bank on the river banks
TNLP	Brickfields, Pudu Market, Sentul, back alleys of PWTC, Loke Yew, Kenanga/ San Peng,Kampung Baru, Datuk Keramat, Ampang Jaya
KL Urban Fellowship	Jln Sultan (near SMK Confucius)
Food Not Bombs	Muzium Telekom
Grace Community Service	Jln Medan Bunus
Dapur Jalanan	Jln Panggung



# Homeless and urban poor in Kuala Lumpur

- Homelessness is a state of having no secure housing - includes individuals living in homes of their friends and family, in shelters and hostels and on the streets which is the most visible
- In Malaysia, there is no official definition of homelessness
- JKM(Jabatan Kebajikan Malaysia) report - there are 1,387 homeless people in Kuala Lumpur

# Homeless and urban poor in Kuala Lumpur

- Portfolio under displaced and marginalised groups under the umbrella of the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (MWFCD) with enforcement duty mandated to the Social Welfare Department (SWD)
- Highlighted as national issue in 3rd of July 2014, Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor proposed banning soup kitchens

# Homeless and urban poor in Kuala Lumpur - factors causing homelessness

## 3.0 CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

Figure 3: Main causes of homelessness

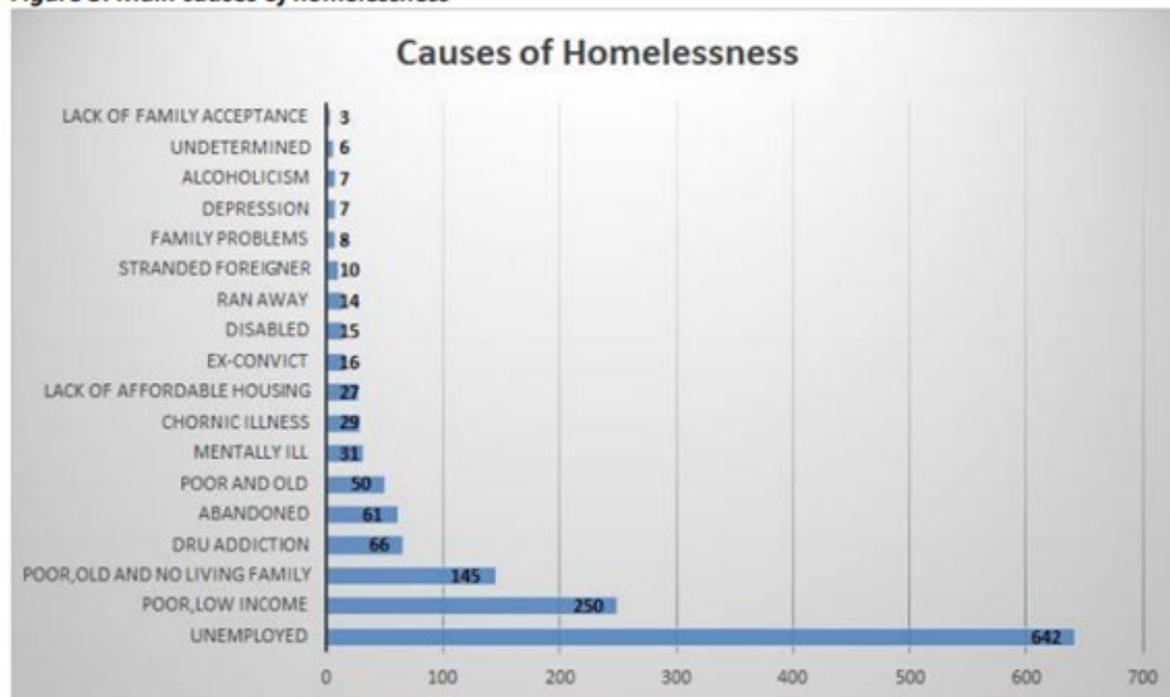


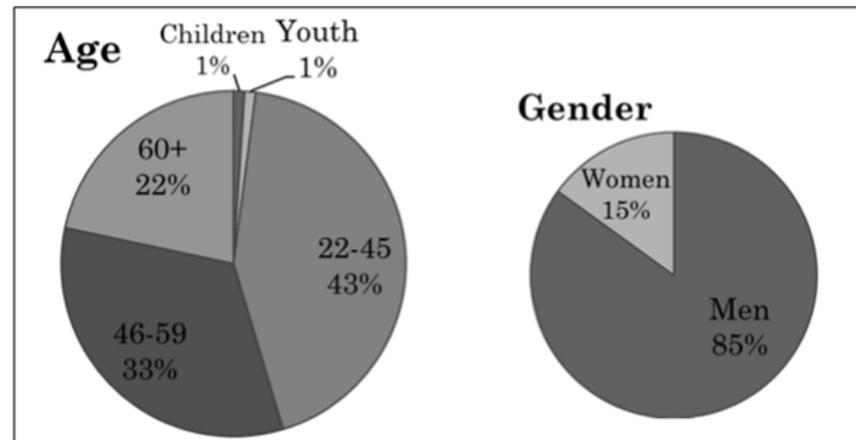
Figure 3 above shows the main causes of homelessness among the respondents. Unfortunately, the survey only allowed for ONE contributing factor per respondent rather than having the respondents or the survey taker to indicate more than one contributing factor which would be more reflective of the multidimensional nature of the causes of homelessness. Unemployment, low-income and old age without a living family were ranked the top three as causes of homelessness totalling 75% of all respondents.

## Summary:

- Unemployment – lack of skills, ex-convict, LGBT
- Low income – lack of affordable housing
- Poor, old, no living family
- Substance abuse – alcohol, drugs
- Gambling
- Mentally ill
- Abandoned

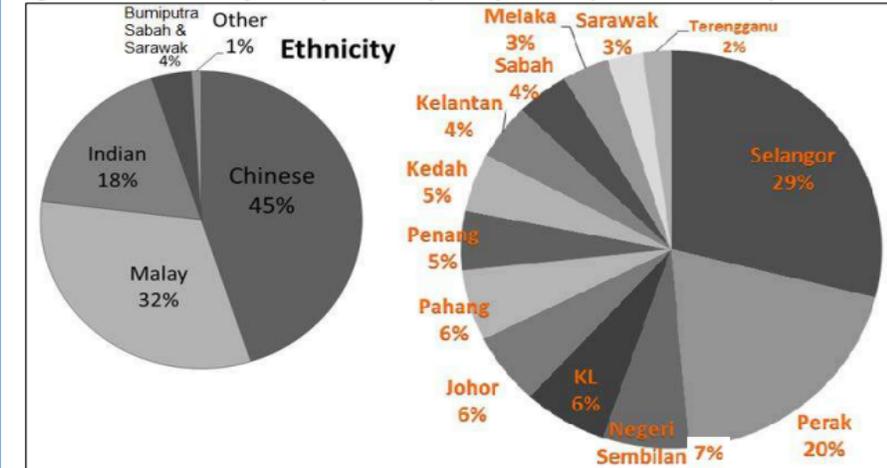
# Homeless and urban poor in Kuala Lumpur – age, gender and ethnic distribution

Figure 1: Homeless Profile in Kuala Lumpur according to age and gender



Source: Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development. (n.d.). Profiling Golongan Gelandangan (Homeless) di Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur. Putrajaya: (Unpublished)

Figure 2: The breakdown of ethnicity and state of birth of homeless persons in Kuala Lumpur



Source: Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development. (n.d.). Profiling Golongan Gelandangan (Homeless) di Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur. Putrajaya: (Unpublished)

**Summary:**  
**Men > women**  
**55% age > 46**  
**Chinese > Malays & Indians**

# Kechara Soup Kitchen

## Mission

*Short term*, to provide sustenance and basic medical care for the homeless and urban poor

*Medium term*, to provide a soup kitchen building as a place of safety, “off street”, for the distribution of hot food and medical treatment facilities, whilst continuing to provide street food delivery

*Long term*, to provide a nurture centre building as a place of training and assistance to help make the homeless employable and for them to re-enter society.

FOUNDER, H.E.  
THE 25<sup>TH</sup> TSEM RINPOCHE

Justin Cheah, Operations Director since 2007



# IMU Foundation Clinic Visualization to reality



Renovation to meet standards of registered private clinic



- IMU Foundation Steering Committee
- IHH Khazanah Funds
- Interprofessional faculty input
- IMU healthcare



**CLINICAL SERVICES**  
**12<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

- Tuesday clinics
- 21 clinic sessions to date



# IMU FOUNDATION CLINIC

- **Objective is to provide healthcare to the urban poor and homeless in central Kuala Lumpur under the Kechara umbrella:**
  - **First project under IMU Foundation**
  - **IMU Foundation Clinic consists of a medical and dental clinic**
  - **IMU Foundation Medical Clinic started operations on 12<sup>th</sup> March and runs clinical services every Tuesday**
  - **Premise is at Kechara Soup Kitchen, Jalan Barat, Pudu, Kuala Lumpur.**
  - **IMU Foundation Dental Clinic will start in two to three months**

# IMU Foundation Medical Clinic - Aims

- **Provide accessible basic health care**
  - clinic services at the site of food distribution
- **Provide a support system**
  - compassionate human interaction, treated with respect and welcomed
- **Provide health education to empower the clients**
  - to be proactive in self-care, disease prevention and health promotion
- **Data collection**
  - to study the socio-economic needs and health issues in the community in order to serve it better and for research

# IMU FOUNDATION MEDICAL CLINIC – services

Emotional support

Acute and chronic care

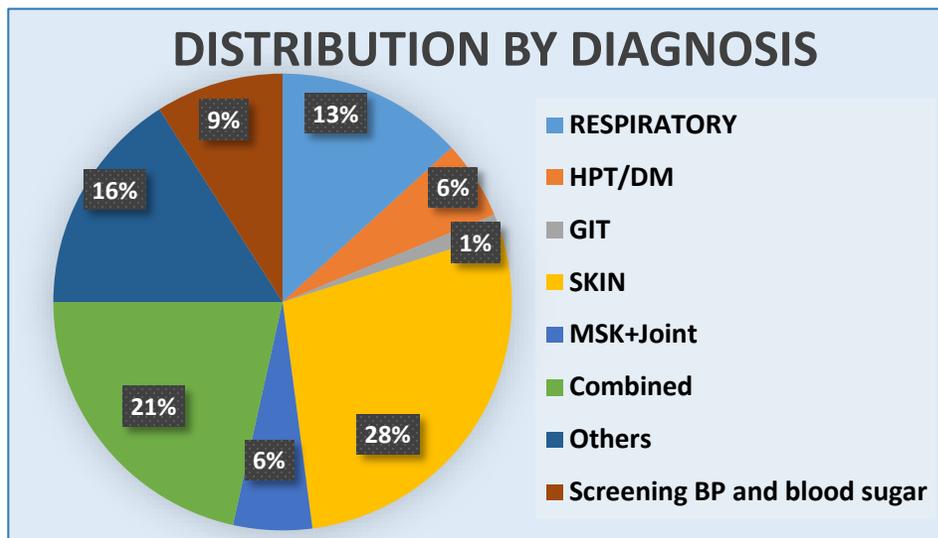
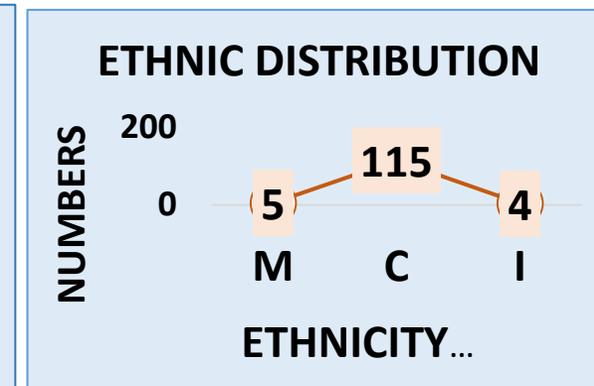
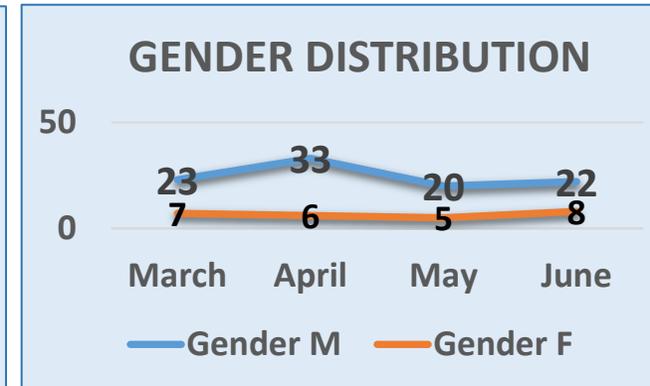
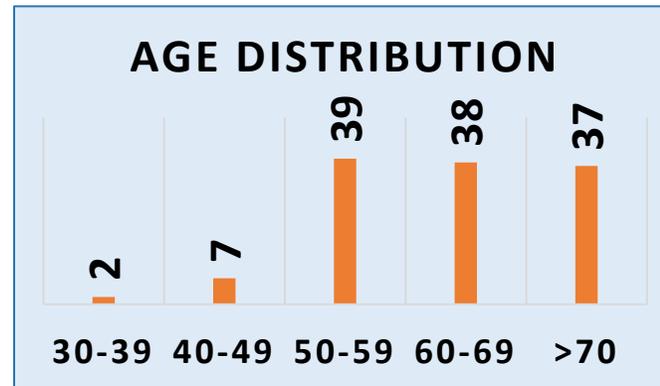
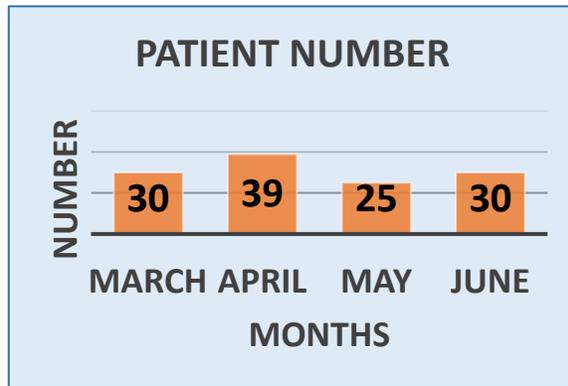
Medication counselling

Student involvement





# IMU Foundation Medical Clinic (March – June, 2019)



## SUMMARY

Total number of clinic sessions (March- June)	14
Total number of patients (March- June)	124
Age distribution	114 > 50
Gender distribution	79% males
Ethnic distribution	92.7% Chinese

***Health issues – 28% skin, 16% joint and muscle pains, 13% respiratory***

# IMU VOICES & VISIONS – Alumni and student

**Dr Sharena – “I am given the opportunity to give back to society. I am also made aware the societal needs and its lacking. My vision for this project is for it to be a platform for society to look into the healthcare of the underprivileged”**



**Dr Eric – “Being able to treat a patient without having to consider the cost involved is one of the positive outcomes from the IMU Foundation clinic. Despite having limited resources, it helps one to fully utilize what is available and give the best one can give to patients.**



**Dr Wong Pei Se – “A patient presented with severe skin dryness for a long time.. His skin improved with 2 weeks treatment and the patient was pleased with the results. It gives me such a sense of accomplishment to witness our care helps even though is just advice with basic skin care with aqueous cream. This are little things we can do to bring some change in other's life. This is why I like this project**



**Pharmacy Student WONG YEE HUA- “Having involved in IMU Foundation Clinic in Kechara Soup Kitchen has provided me a golden opportunity to practice what I've learnt. As a volunteer, I was given hands on experience in shelving the medication, dispensing and counselling under guide of lecturers. As a 3rd year pharmacy student, I will strongly encourage my peers to involve in this. “**



# IMU Foundation Clinic – future plans



Regular services  
Screening  
Health education

Extension of services to the low cost flat under Kechara's umbrella



With alumni & like minded volunteers/ ministry



# MR W'S STORY



No man is an island,  
Entire of itself,  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main.  
If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less.  
As well as if a promontory were.  
As well as if a manor of thy friend's  
Or of thine own were:  
Any man's death diminishes me,  
Because I am involved in mankind,  
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;  
It tolls for thee.

*by: John Donne*

# Acknowledgements:

- IMU Steering Committee – Prof Zainur Rashid Zainuddin, Dr Sasikala Devi, Ms Lee Mun Sun, AP Dr Christopher Vincent, Dr Lydia Lee



- Ms Aida Lina Alias - Senior Executive, E-Learning



- Chairman IMU Foundation:

Prof Dato' Sivalingam Nalliah to Prof Ong Kok Hai



# THANK YOU

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