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MALAYSIA

YAN

Voluntary Local Review 2023

Implementing the 2030 Agenda in **Yan**



YAN DISTRICT COUNCIL VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW 2023

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This report is prepared for
Yan District Council



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Part A

1.0 Introduction

The District of Yan is one of the administrative districts in the state of Kedah, Malaysia. Located in the northern part of Peninsular Malaysia, Yan is known for its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and agricultural significance. It is bordered by the Strait of Malacca to the west and the Gunung Jerai (Mount Jerai) mountain range to the east, making it a scenic and tranquil destination.

1.0 INTRODUCTION



Malaysia SDG Cities

The Malaysia SDG Cities introduced by URBANICE Malaysia, as we recognizes that ***cities and communities are crucial in determining its own set of priorities and deciding on the means of implementation*** to ensure that the SDG Goals and targets are met.

The framework is set to encourages a bottom- up approach in developing local action plans that will accelerate the SDGs achievement for Malaysia where the 17 SDGs and its 169 targets of the 2030 Sustainable Agenda must be achieved. Localizing the global goals at cities and urban areas is important for an urban nation like Malaysia and the Malaysia SDG Cities will ensure that vertical integration between national and state policies at all levels are aligned to the SDGs by realizing the aspirations and ensuring of its effective implementation locally.

“There are 17 SDGs and 169 targets in total”

Why Malaysia Need SDG Cities ?

- 1 Raise local government awareness, commitment and capacities towards sustainable agenda.
- 2 Set local priorities and focus attention on urgent urban challenges to harness future opportunities.
- 3 Create a platform for Partnership to mobilize and empower stakeholders to identify practical integrated and innovative Solutions.
- 4 Develop an Action Plan to match the SDG and synchronized and align with National, State and Local development agendas.
- 5 Facilitate local government access to funding resources and develop business models to finance SDGs actions.
- 6 Strengthen role of Local Governments to monitor, evaluate and report SDG progress to national and state level

1.1 Structure Of The Report

Under Malaysia SDG Cities Project, there are three steps in preparing Voluntary Local Review (VLR) for Yan city. During the first step, SDG Assessment Report is written as the first interim report of Voluntary Local Review, which is based on **My Local Statistic of Yan 2021 (published by Department of Statistics Malaysia, DOSM), Local Plan Yan 2035 and Focus Group Discussions (FGD)**. This report is divided into two parts;



1.2 Process and Framework

Introduction

SDG Workshop Yan District Council is held for one day on April 12th, 2023, convening department representatives from different internal departments of MDY, council members, technical agencies, community representatives and with the MPs for Jerai, Guar Chempedak, and Sungai Limau and the internal departments of MDY, council members, the agencies, community representatives and other department officers of Yan district. The workshop aims to review Yan SDGs progress and set the agenda for the next stage of Yan SDGs journey. This is also part of the Malaysia SDG Cities framework for cities to embark on SDG localisation. Then, the key outcomes from the workshop are recorded and summarized in SDG Assessment Report and should inform the strategic direction moving forward. The report is written to build upon and tie together existing efforts in Yan which ultimately set the foundation for the reporting of SDGs performance in Voluntary Local Review later at stage 3 of Malaysia SDG Cities Project.

Workshop Objectives

- 1 Assessing the role and functions of MDY toward achieving SDGs targets
- 2 Assessing the understanding and level of perception of stakeholders SDGs
- 3 Inculcating the participants on how localization of SDGs improves efficiency and supports the Yan district and the 2030 agenda
- 3 Establishing and maintaining momentum, engaging stakeholders, and catalyzing political will

Workshop Modules

The one-day workshop started with a talk from Deputy CEO URBANICE Malaysia, **Dr Azmizam bin Abdul Rashid** to introduce participants about SDGs and its importance for cities, the Malaysia SDG Cities Framework, and case studies from across the Malaysian network cities. This introductory talk was to improve participants' familiarity with what a localizing SDG at city looks like. Then, the participants are divided into three groups to engage in a module with three different themes – social, governance and environment. Each groups led by a facilitator who was partnered with a co-facilitator. The facilitators used indicators of each SDGs as discussion points with intentions to, (1) assess the role and functions of MDY internal departments and agencies towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals targets, and (2) identify Yan's perceived issues and challenges in progressing towards achieving each SDGs. Lastly, a representative from each groups presented the summary of outcomes to the other participants. These facilitator-led activities helped participants better understand SDGs across the Yan. The outcomes from the stakeholder's engagement are set out in more details across this report according to related indicators of each SDGs. Supporting data are extracted from My Local Statistics Yan 2021 and other supplementary documents provided by MDY.

"A structured approach to achieving SDG goals through stakeholder engagement."



Key Outcomes

The workshop generated wide-ranging discussion about the current state of Yan, existing SDG efforts, and where future localising the SDG efforts should focus. This information will form the foundation of the Yan SDG Roadmap. The workshop is a physical session to encourage an open, informal and interactive discussion with the MPs for Jerai, Guar Chempedak, and Sungai Limau and the internal departments of MDY, council members, the agencies, community representatives and other department officers of Yan district. The workshop, which is held in three small groups, encourages the free flow of ideas, points of view, and inputs that are critical in establishing a path for SDG implementation in Yan. The sessions were divided into three groups based on the outcomes, which are as follows:

3 KEY OUTCOMES for Malaysia SDG Cities

Outcome 1

Ensure Inclusive Growth and Development for All

SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 6, SDG 7

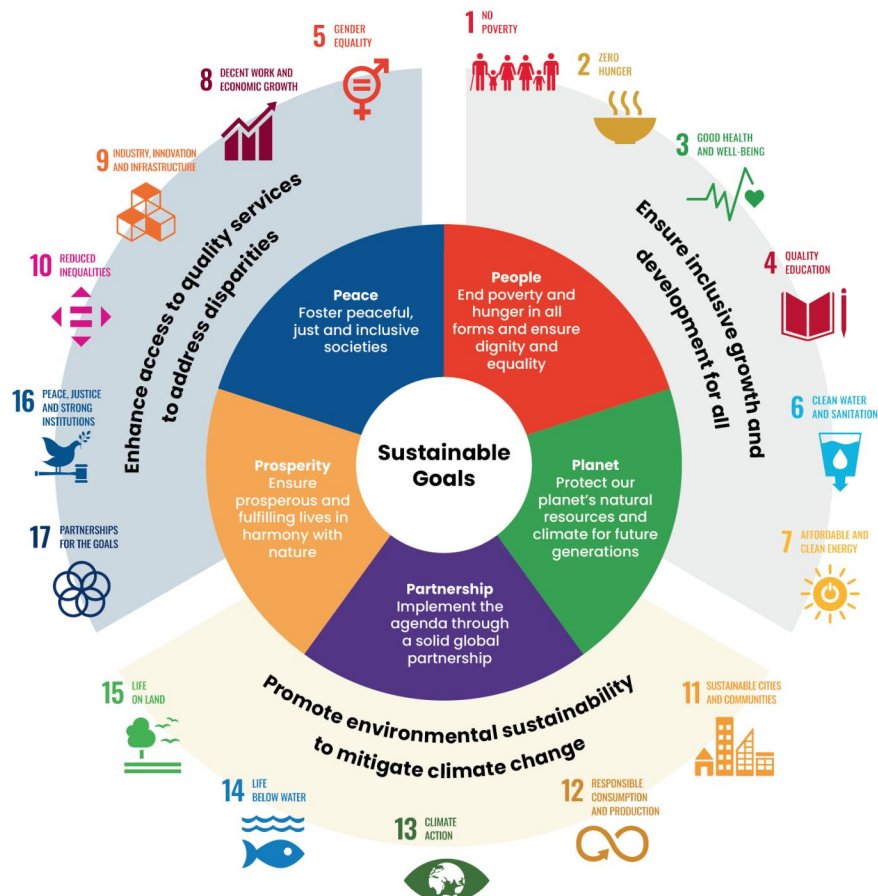
Outcome 2

Enhance access to quality services to address disparities

SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 16, SDG 17

Promote Environmental Sustainability to Mitigate Climate Change

SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15



1.3 Stakeholder Engagement

85
Participants

3
Groups

28
People in
each Group

WHICH STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED?

Group 1: Outcome 1

1. Jabatan Perancangan Bandar dan Desa Kedah (PLANMalaysia@Kedah)
2. Jabatan Pembangunan Masyarakat MDY
3. Pejabat Kesihatan Persekutaran MDY
4. Jabatan Kejuruteraan MDY
5. Ahli Majlis (3 persons)

Group 2: Outcome 2

1. Jabatan Perancang Bandar dan Landskap MDY (2 persons)
2. Jabatan Penguatkuasaan MDY
3. Jabatan Pembangunan Masyarakat MDY
4. Jabatan Khidmat Pengurusan MDY
5. Unit Undang-undang MDY
6. Jabatan Penilaian dan Pengurusan Harta MDY

Group 3: Outcome 3

1. Jabatan Perancang Bandar dan Landskap MDY
2. Jabatan Kesihatan Persekutaran
3. Jabatan Kejuruteraan MDY
4. Jabatan Perbendaharaan MDY
5. Ahli Majlis (3 persons)



City Profiling

2.0 Yan City Profile

Yan is a small, serene town and the administrative center of the Yan District in the state of Kedah, Malaysia. Known for its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and agricultural significance, Yan offers a peaceful and laid-back atmosphere, making it a hidden gem in northern Peninsular Malaysia. Yan is situated at the foothills of Gunung Jerai (Mount Jerai), a prominent mountain in Kedah, and is bordered by the Strait of Malacca to the west. The town is approximately 70 kilometers south of Alor Setar, the capital of Kedah, and is accessible via the North-South Expressway.

2.1 Yan at a Glance

Yan District is located in the state of Kedah, Malaysia. It is bordered by several districts, including Kota Setar to the north, Pendang and Kuala Muda to the east, and the state of Perak to the south.

The district is situated in the western part of Kedah and is bounded by the Straits of Malacca on its western side. Yan District spans a total area of approximately 24,766 Ha/ 247 km². Within Yan District, there are five Mukims, namely Dulang, Sala Besar, Singkir, Sungai Daun, and Yan. These Mukims contribute to the administrative area of Yan District.

The district of Yan was officially established in 1904, which corresponds to the year 1324 in the Islamic calendar (Hijrah). Its name at that time was derived from the end of the word "Sendayan" which refers to a type of plant that was abundant in this area.

The Significance of Yan

- Potential for eco-tourism and outdoor activities due to its natural surroundings.
- Rich in cultural and historical heritage, including landmarks such as the Sultan of Kedah Palace in Yan.
- Scenic landscapes, including mountains, paddy, fields, and natural beauty.
- Fertile agricultural and supporting diverse crops and contributing to the local economy.
- Cultural events and festivals showcasing local traditions, arts, and crafts.



Yan District ● **24,766 hectares**

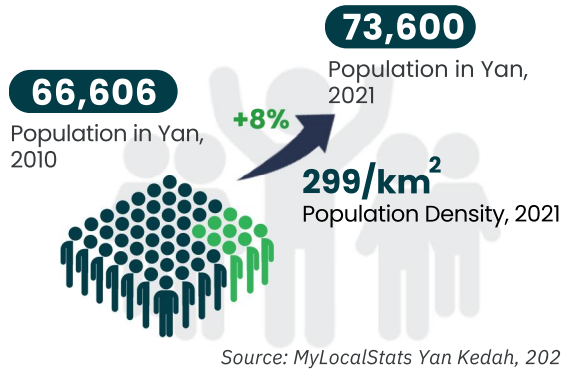
MDY Operation Area ● **3,736 hectares**

Population in 2020 ● **73,384**

Population Density in 2021 ● **299/km²**

Source: MyLocalStats Yan Kedah, 2021 & Draft Local Plan of MDY, Kedah 2035 (Replacement)

Demographic Profile

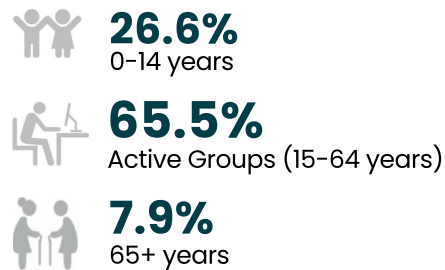


The population in Yan **grows 8% from 2010 to 2021**. It is also identified that the population average annual growth is 0.3%. Moreover, active groups population ranging from 15 to 64 years old dominated Yan (65.5%) in 2021.

Population by Gender

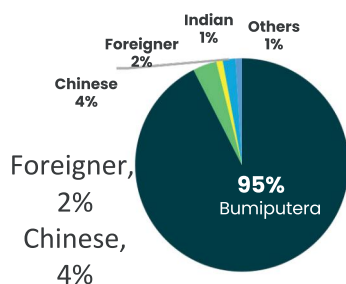


Population by Age Group



Population by Ethnic Group

Figure 1.1: Population by Ethnic Group, 2021

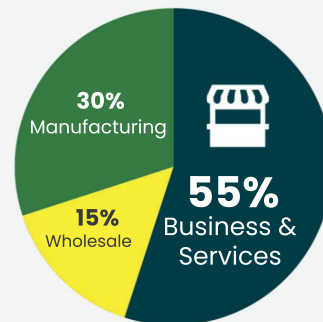


Source: MyLocal Stats Yan Kedah, 2021

Economic Activities

Mukim Dulang is the most densely populated mukim in Yan district with the highest number of residences and the highest number of households among other mukims (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2015).

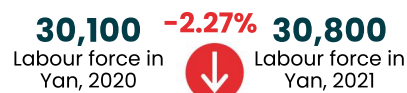
Figure 1.2: Estimated Working Population According to Land Use Composition of Yan District, State of Kedah, 2021



Source: Draft Local Plan of MDY, Kedah 2035 (Replacement)

From the estimated working population (PB), according to the land use composition of the district, business and services are the highest at 55% in Yan district and 54.52% in Kedah state.

Labour Force



Labour Force Participation Rate



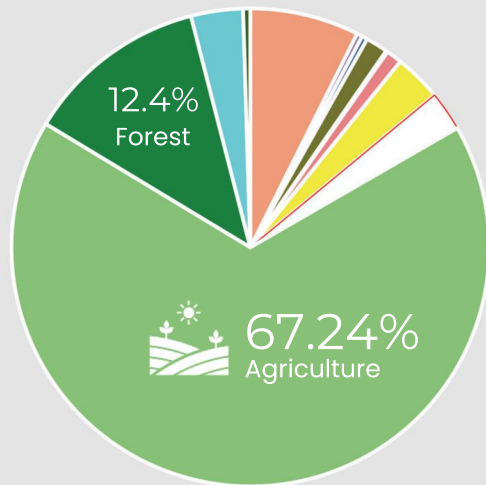
Unemployment Rate



Source: MyLocalStats Yan Kedah, 2021 & Main Findings of the Population and Housing Census Malaysia 2020; Administrative District of Yan, Department of Statistics Malaysia

Physical Aspect

Figure 1.3: Land Use Distribution in Yan, 2022



- Residential
- Industry
- Commercial
- Empty Land
- Open Space and Recreational
- Institution and Community Facility
- Transportation
- Infrastructure and Utility
- Agriculture
- Forest
- Water Body

Source: Draft Local Plan of MDY, Kedah 2035 (Replacement)

Based on the recalculation of land use data in 2022, the highest land use increase changes in Yan are Agriculture (+337.84 ha), Infrastructure & Utilities (+210.94 ha) and Housing (+138.38 ha) when compared to data in 2006.

Meanwhile, there is a significant reduction in land use from 2006 to 2022, namely from forest areas and vacant land. The forest reduction is the result of the realignment of the area count of Gunung Jerai Permanent Forest Reserve, Pulau Songsong and Pulau Bidan as well as the current forested area of Yan District. The vacant land area that has decreased is the result of the increased building saturation development activity.

Facilities

1 Hospital
17 Clinics



10 Secondary School (SMK)
28 Primary School (SRA)
51 Kindergarten / Pre-School

6 Police Station
27 Police Hut
1 Fire and Rescue Station



11 Community Centre
7 Banks

Natural Resources



Permanent Reserve Area of HSK

Area of HSK

3,026
(Hectares)



Coastal Area

30.48 km

Transportation



- One Stop Bus Station in Yan Besar
- Guar Chempedak Express Bus Station



- Sultan Abdul Halim Airport (AOR) di Alor Setar (57 km)
- Pulau Pinang International Airport (PEN) (90 km)

Source: MyLocalStats Yan Kedah, 2021 and Draft Local Plan of MDY, Kedah 2035 (Replacement)

Governance, Legal Frame Work and Finance

Yan District Council, also known as the Yan District Council, is the local government body responsible for governance and administration in the district of Yan.

As an important entity, the council plays a crucial role in providing various public services, maintaining infrastructure, and implementing policies to ensure the well-being and development of the area and its residents.

The governance structure of Yan District Council is based on democratic principles and aims to foster transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in decision-making processes. The council is headed by a Mayor/Council Chairperson who is appointed by all members of the Council.

Yan District Council, as the local authority of Yan District of Kedah, has a wide range of responsibilities and functions specific to the city's needs. These include managing and controlling development within the Yan District Council area, ensuring that all development plans comply with the requirements of the National Physical Plan and the Town and Country Planning Department. Additionally, the council is responsible for imposing assessment taxes and overseeing and regulating the cleaning works carried out by private companies. It also plays a vital role in enforcing all laws under Acts of Local Government Act 1976 (Act 171), Town and Country Planning Act 1976 (Act 172), and Streets, Drainage and Building Act 1974 (Act 133), as well as any other applicable minor laws that are enacted. Through these functions, Yan District Council contributes to the orderly



Yan District Council (MDY)

"By fulfilling these responsibilities, Yan District Council plays a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable and thriving community within the Yan District."

and sustainable development of Yan District while ensuring compliance with relevant regulations and maintaining the well-being of its residents.

Yan District Council also collaborates with other government agencies, private sector entities, and non governmental organizations to implement projects and programs that benefit the district. This collaborative approach helps in leveraging resources and expertise, resulting in more effective and efficient service delivery to the residents. In addition to its governance and administrative functions, Yan District Council operates within the legal framework provided by various laws and by- laws, including Acts 171 and 172.

The finance and revenue stream of Yan District Council (MDY), like other local government bodies in Malaysia, primarily rely on various sources to fund their operations, infrastructure development, and service delivery. Here are some of the key aspects of the finance and revenue stream of Yan District Council:

- Assessment Tax;
- License and Permit Fees;
- Property Development Charges;
- Parking Fees;
- Fines and Penalties; and
- Grants and Subsidies.

Yan District Council aims to manage its finances efficiently and effectively to ensure a sustainable revenue stream that supports the provision of quality services, infrastructure development, and the overall well-being of the district and its residents.

2.2 CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Based on Draft Local Plan of MDY, Kedah 2035(Replacement), Yan have several challenges such as:

- 1.** Insufficient educational and health care facilities to meet the growing population's needs.
- 2.** Inadequate public transportation infrastructure, leading to congestion and limited mobility options.
- 3.** High unemployment rates and limited job opportunities, especially for the local workforce.
- 4.** Limited access to clean and reliable water sources, affecting both residents and industries.
- 5.** Inadequate waste management systems, leading to environmental pollution and health hazards.
- 6.** Lack of recreational and green spaces, impacting the quality of life for residents.
- 7.** Vulnerability to natural disasters, such as floods or earthquakes, and the need for effective disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies.

City Sustainability

3.0 Yan Sustainability Journey

Pulau Songsong is a small, picturesque island located off the coast of Yan District in Kedah, Malaysia. It is part of the Strait of Malacca and is known for its stunning natural beauty, clear waters, and serene environment. The island is a popular destination for day trips, picnics, and water-based activities, attracting both locals and tourists seeking a peaceful escape. The island is characterized by its pristine beaches, clear turquoise waters, and lush greenery. The surrounding coral reefs and marine life make it a great spot for snorkeling and diving.

3.1 PERCEPTION ASSESSMENT

Online Readiness Survey

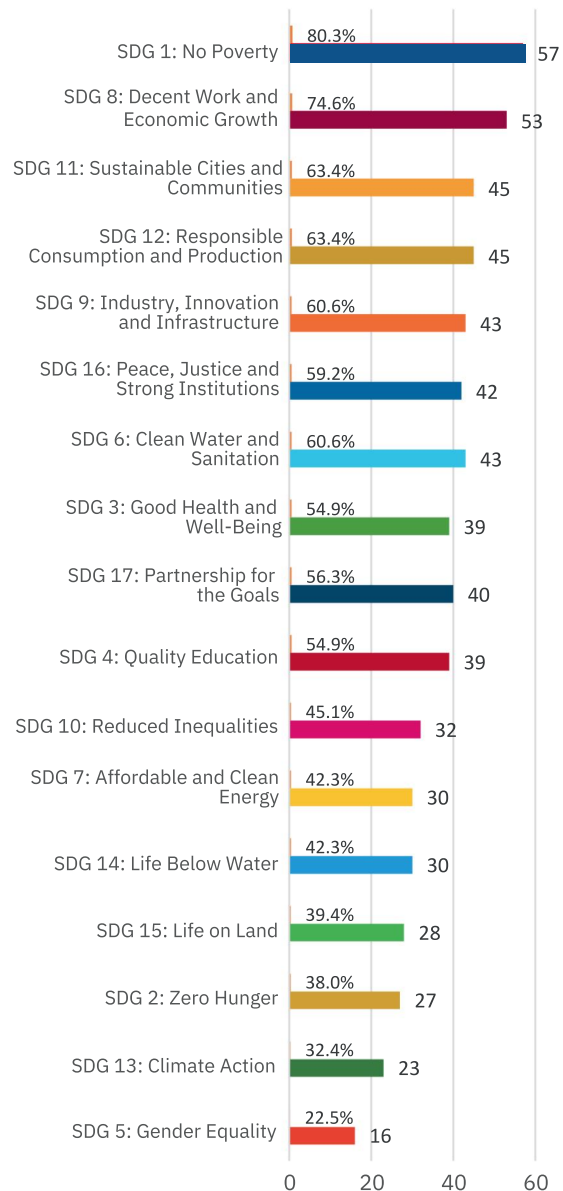
Before the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) took place on April 12th, 2023, an online survey was conducted to evaluate the preparedness and initial perceptions of residents, stakeholders, and communities in Yan District Council (MDY) regarding their knowledge and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the city council.

The survey aimed to gather valuable information regarding the specific importance of SDGs within the Yan district and identify areas that require additional focus and attention. A significant number of respondents actively participated in the Readiness Survey, providing valuable insights in to the readiness and perception of MD Yan regarding the SDGs and the city council's initiatives.

The following chart illustrates the outcomes of an MD Yan survey assessing the significance of the SDGs in the Yan district, ranked in order of importance. According to the survey,

- **SDG 1:** No Poverty, holds the highest level of importance among the SDGs in Yan
- It is closely trailed by **SDG 8:** Decent Work and Economic Growth, which holds the second position in terms of significance
- Subsequently, Yan considers **SDG 11:** Sustainable Cities and Communities to have relatively lower levels of importance.

Figure 1.4: Online Readiness Survey

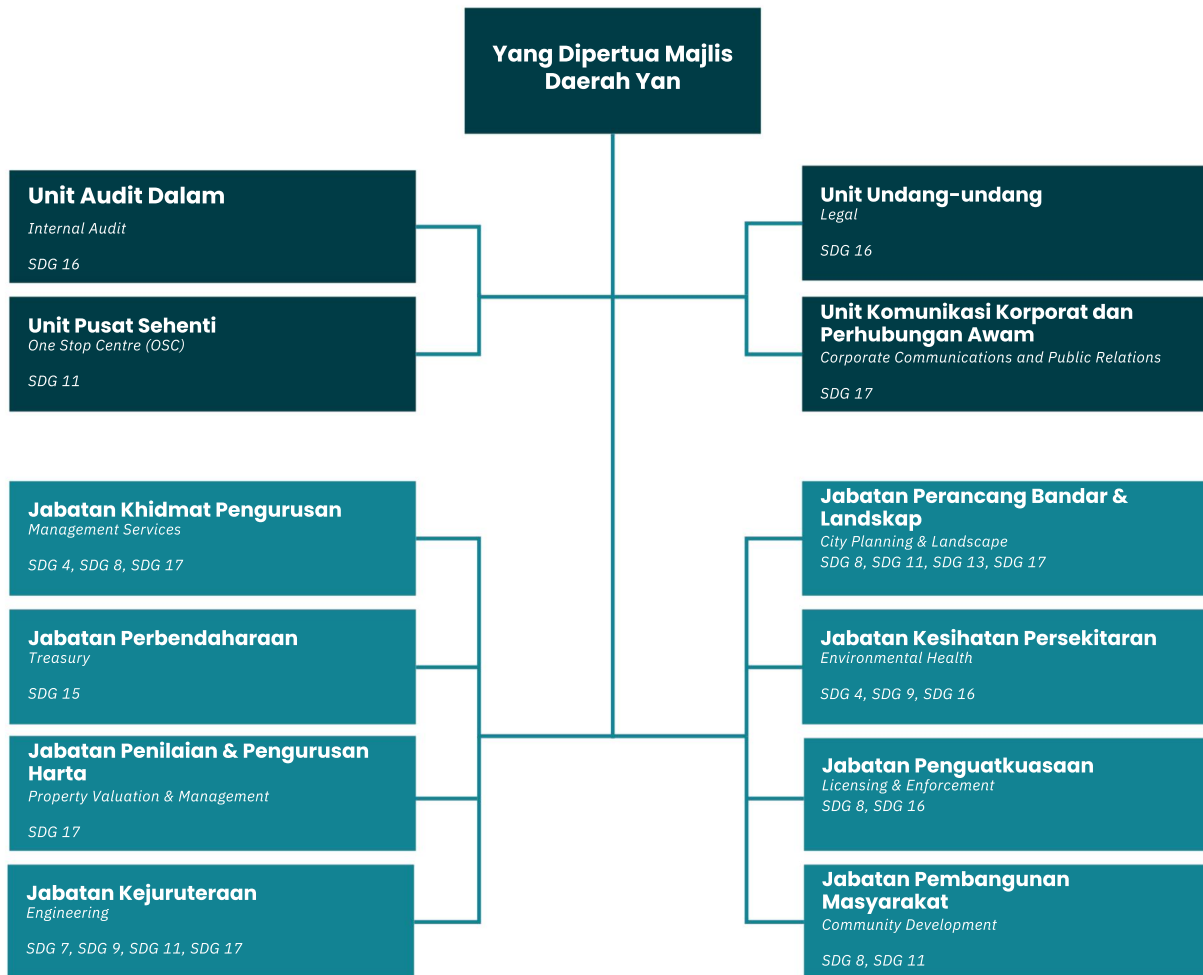


Source: Questionnaire Survey of Yan District Council, 2023

3.2 INTERNAL DEPARTMENT ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

The alignment between the SDGs and the internal department roles and functions of the MDY was meticulously carried out across its seven units and ten departments, with the most aligned SDGs being **SDG9, SDG11, SDG12, SDG14 & SDG16**.

Figure 1.5 : Alignment between the SDGs and the internal department roles and functions of the MDY



This process aimed to integrate the principles and objectives of the SDGs into the core activities and operations of the organization, fostering a holistic approach towards sustainable development.

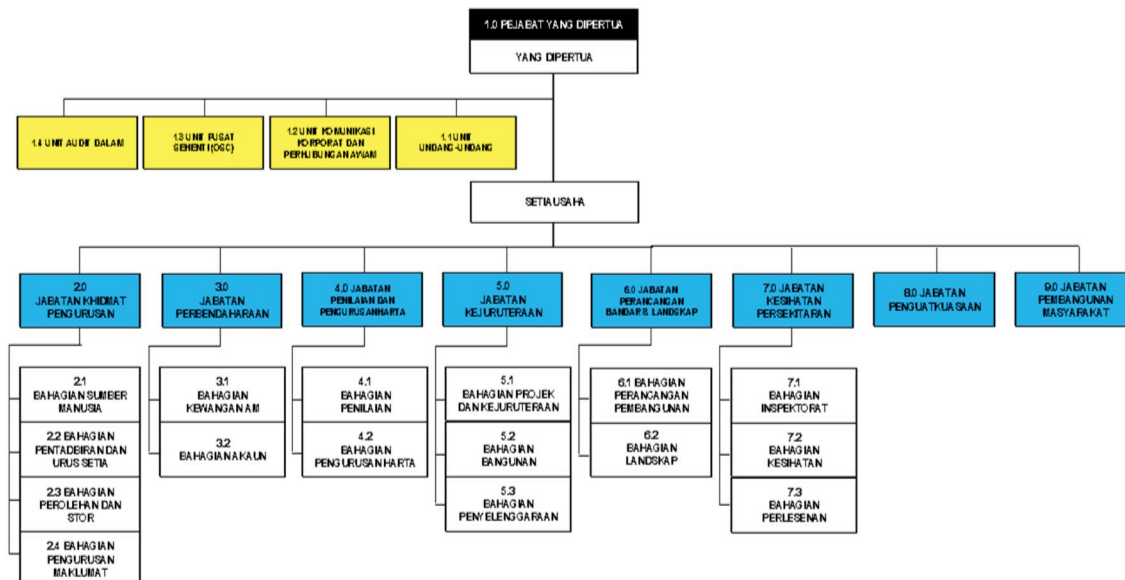
To ensure effective alignment, MDY initiated a comprehensive review and analysis of the SDGs and their corresponding targets. The organization recognized the importance of addressing the interconnected nature of the goals and sought to identify areas where its departments could contribute to achieving the SDGs in a coordinated and impactful manner.

Each unit and department then conducted an in-depth assessment of their roles, functions, and ongoing projects, mapping them against the SDGs and relevant targets.

This exercise allowed MDY to identify areas of synergy and potential gaps, ensuring that every department's efforts were aligned with the broader SDG framework.

By carrying out this comprehensive alignment process, MDY aimed to institutionalize the SDGs within its organizational culture and operations. This approach ensured that sustainable development considerations were integrated into decision-making processes, resource allocation, and performance management throughout the organization.

Figure 1.6: Organisation Chart of MDY



Source: Yan District Council Official Website, 2023



Part B

4.0 Progress On 17 SDGs By Indicators





No Poverty

In Yan, Malaysia, extreme poverty is defined as having a monthly household income below RM1,214 (approximately \$259.73) per capita. Recent data reveals a significant increase in the number of poor households, rising from 393 in 2020 to 1,693 in 2021, a change likely influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yan exhibits relatively low income inequality, with a Gini coefficient of 0.369 in 2019, although this figure has risen since 2016. Additionally, the poverty incidence decreased by 10.5% in 2019 compared to 2016.

Various initiatives aimed at combating poverty and empowering vulnerable communities are coordinated by multiple agencies, including Yan District Council, the Yan District Office, and Lembaga Zakat Kedah. Despite limited federal government interest and geographic constraints, Yan district strives for economic growth, particularly along its coastline and water resources. Key projects in development include a port, oil and gas facilities, and a power plant in Sg Limau, all designed to enhance the local economy. Currently, Yan is working on its 2035 local plan to support ongoing development and hopes to emerge as a tourist destination akin to Tanah Besar and Langkawi.

SDG 1: NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

MDY refers to the eKasih system, which is an integrated nationwide database designed to identify poverty levels in the Yan district. The eKasih system was created to support the Malaysian government in planning, implementing, and monitoring poverty eradication programs on a national level, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of these initiatives. Developed in-house by the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) within the Prime Minister's Department, the system was launched in October 2007 and implemented nationwide in July 2008. Currently, it uses the State Poverty Line Income (PU) from 2019 as the criterion to assess the poverty status of registered households.



In Malaysia, poverty is defined as a condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and necessities for a minimum standard of living and can be measured with few methods.

i. Extreme poverty is a situation in which household income is insufficient to meet basic needs of foods.

ii. Absolute poverty is a situation in which household income is insufficient to meet basic needs of food, shelter and clothing; and

iii. Relative Poverty takes into account the circumstances in which household incomes are in some cases below the median household income.

1.2 REDUCE POVERTY BY AT LEAST 50% IN YAN DISTRICT

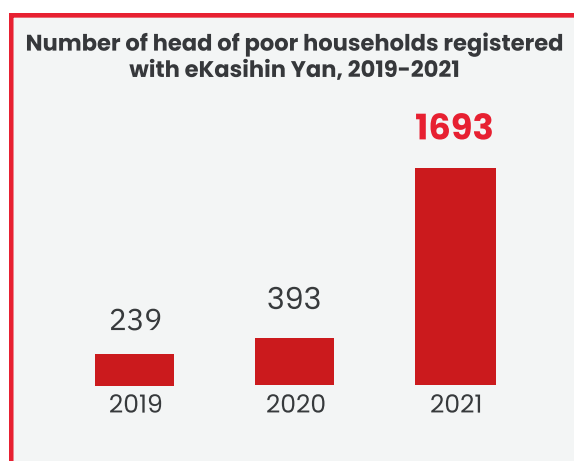
The Gini coefficient for Yan district was 0.291 in 2022, reflecting a decrease of 0.029. This figure is lower than both the Gini coefficient for Malaysia and that of the State of Kedah, as well as the targeted value of 0.388 for 2025. This indicates that income inequality in Yan district is well-positioned and has been improving over the years.

The **absolute poverty rate in Yan district** fell significantly, from 12.7% to 6.0% in 2022. This rate is lower than that of Malaysia and the State of Kedah, but still above the targeted rate of 4.2% for 2025. Similarly, the relative poverty rate also decreased, from 24.1% to 12.4% in 2022. While this rate is lower than that of Malaysia, it is slightly higher than the rate for the State of Kedah, although it remains below the targeted rate of 15.6% for 2025. This suggests that 12.4% of households in Yan district earn less than half of the median monthly household income for the area.

	Absolute Poverty Rate (%)		Relative Poverty Rate (%)		Gini Coefficient	
Year	2019	2022	2019	2022	2019	2022
Malaysia	5.6	6.2	16.9	16.6	0.407	0.404
Kedah	8.8	9	10.8	11.9	0.354	0.359
Yan	12.7	6	24.1	12.4	0.369	0.291
Targets 12 MP by 2025	4.2		15.6		0.388	

Source: HIES, 2022

The data indicates that the number of poor households registered with eKasih increased from 393 in 2020 to 1,693 in 2021. This change could either reflect the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the population in Yan or suggest a greater awareness of the eKasih system, leading to more households registering.



INITIATIVES FOR POVERTY ERADICATION IN YAN DISTRICT

Initiatives aimed at eradicating poverty in Yan district are coordinated by several agencies, including the Yan District Council, Yan District Office, and Lembaga Zakat Kedah. The following are the initiatives led by Yan District Council:

Initiatives by Yan District Council

1. Home Improvement Programs

Applicants must be registered in the eKasih system to qualify for this program. As of June 2023, a total of 42 projects have been completed, funded by the Ministry of Local Government Development (KPKT).

Number of Completed Projects under Supervision of MD Yan, 2020–2023

Year	Total Projects	Total Allocations (RM)
2020	2	26,000
2021	9	135,000
2022	21	315,000
2023	10	150,000

Source: MDY, 2023

2. Premise B40 Group

The Yan District Council offers business premises for the B40 group to start their businesses.

Initiatives by Lembaga Zakat Kedah (LZK)

1. Regular monitoring of asnaf

The Lembaga Zakat Kedah (LZK) is actively working to eradicate poverty in the Yan district by regularly monitoring the poverty database. They identify asnaf—individuals eligible to receive zakat aid collected from Muslims—who may not have been captured in the database..

2. Provision of paddy estates

Agriculture is the primary economic source in the Yan district. To support farmers among the asnaf, the LZK provides paddy estates for them to harvest five times over a two-year period. These initiatives reflect a comprehensive approach to poverty alleviation in Yan, addressing both immediate needs and long-term economic empowerment for vulnerable communities.



Zero Hunger

From 2019 to 2021, the agriculture sector in Yan District underwent significant production changes. There was an overall decline in 2020, with the exception of major fruit production. These fluctuations were influenced by various factors, including weather conditions and market demands. Despite the downturn in 2020, the sector rebounded in 2021, showing varied production levels compared to 2019.

Yan District plays an essential role in national food production, particularly through its paddy fields, which cover 55.8% of the district. The commitment to maintaining high-yield agricultural practices is evident in the development planning extending to 2035. This planning emphasizes Yan's vital role as a food production zone while also balancing urban development with the preservation of agricultural resources.

SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

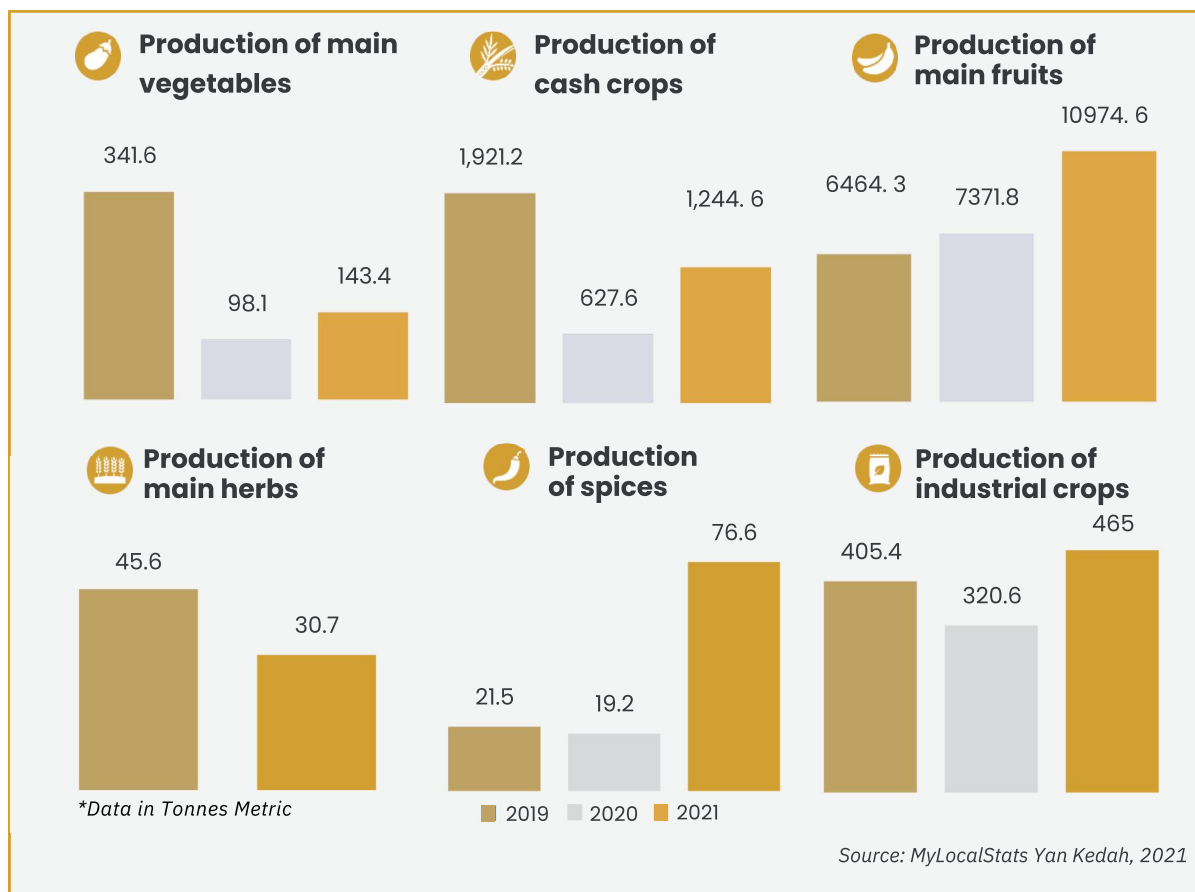
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.3 DOUBLE THE PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOMES OF SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS

The agricultural landscape in Yan District underwent significant changes in total crop production between 2019 and 2021. During this period, various agricultural products experienced fluctuations in their total production levels. Particularly in 2020, there was a general decline in total agricultural production, with the exception of major fruits, which saw an increase. This shift can be attributed to several factors, including weather conditions, market demands, and agricultural practices.

Despite the downturn in 2020, the agricultural sector in Yan District showed resilience, with total production rebounding in 2021. However, it's important to note that the total production levels in 2021 varied, sometimes exceeding or falling below the figures recorded in 2019. These fluctuations highlight the dynamic nature of agricultural activities in Yan District and emphasize the need for adaptive strategies to address the inherent uncertainties in the sector.

Production of agricultures in Yan District, 2019–2021



SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.4 SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

The productivity of agriculture in Yan is noteworthy, especially in the cultivation of paddy fields. Approximately 55.8 percent of the district is dedicated to expansive paddy fields, which cover 13,828.90 hectares. As a result, Yan has become a significant contributor to the nation's food production. The extensive cultivation of these paddy fields, both within and beyond the Muda Agricultural Development Authority (MADA), reflects the district's commitment to high-yield agricultural practices.

The focus on preserving and enhancing the productivity of these paddy areas is a key component of Yan's development planning through 2035. This emphasis on agricultural productivity highlights the district's crucial role as a food production zone and its dedication to maintaining a harmonious balance between urban development and the preservation of essential agricultural resources.



Source: Draft Local Plan MDY, Kedah 2035 (Replacement)



Good Health and Well-being

There are several health challenges faced by the Yan district. The maternal mortality rate in 2017 was higher than the targeted level, and there have been fluctuations in neonatal and under-five mortality rates, although they remain below international targets. Historically, cardiovascular diseases have been the primary cause of premature mortality; however, recent trends have shown some improvements, such as decreased rates for cardiovascular diseases and cancer in 2021. On the other hand, there is an increasing trend in chronic respiratory diseases.

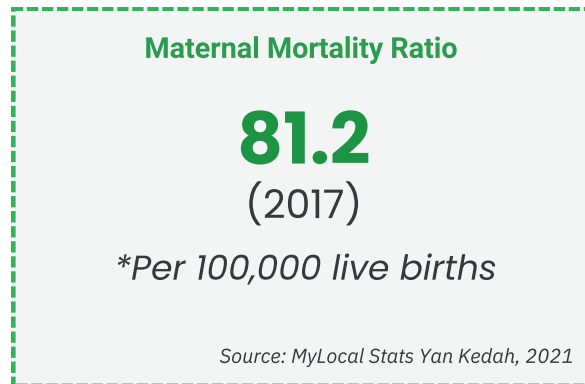
In 2021, there was a rise in premature mortality due to diabetes and suicide, with rates almost returning to 2019 levels, despite a decrease in 2020. These health issues are further compounded by the high consumption of rice, which is partly due to physically demanding labor, low health literacy, and limited recreational spaces.

Additionally, Yan is experiencing a concerning rise in drug addiction cases, along with fluctuating trends in road accidents, injuries, and fatalities. Although there are challenges related to healthcare infrastructure and capacity, patients generally follow their doctors' recommendations, and immunization coverage remains high, with over 93% of individuals completing their vaccinations.

SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

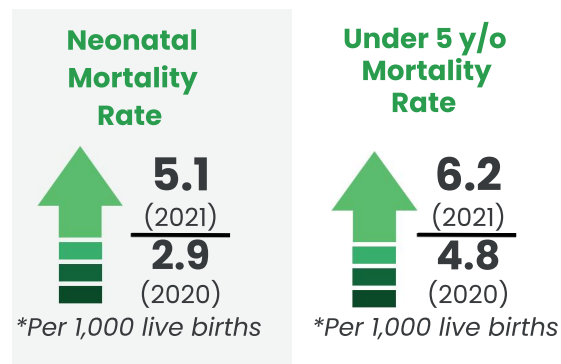
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.1 REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE



The maternal mortality ratio in Yan district was 81.2 per 100,000 live births in 2017, exceeding the target of 70 per 100,000 live births.

3.2 END ALL PREVENTABLE DEATHS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE



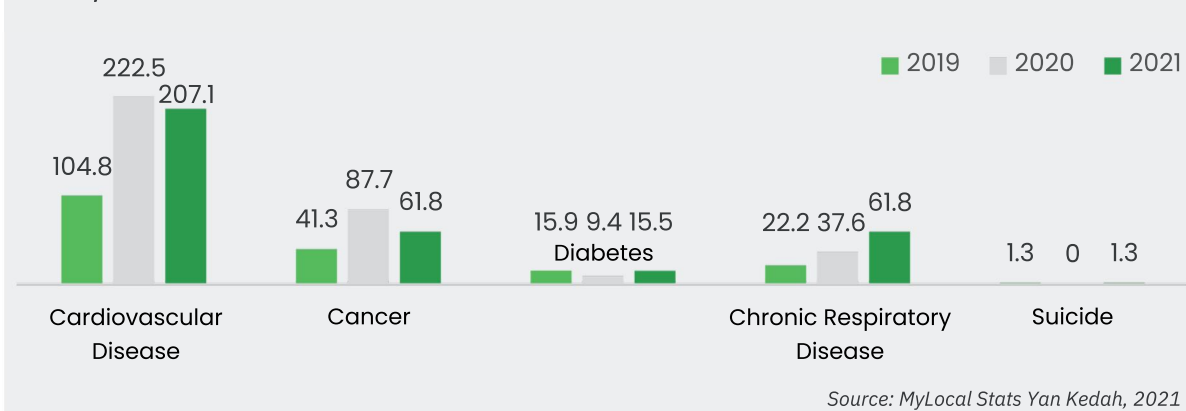
Source: MyLocal Stats Yan Kedah, 2021

In 2021, the neonatal mortality rate in Yan district increased to 5.1 per 1,000 live births, while the under-5 mortality rate rose to 6.2 per 1,000 live births, compared to 2020. Despite these increases, both rates remain below the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.2 targets of 12 per 1,000 live births for neonatal mortality and 25 per 1,000 live births for under-5 mortality.

3.1

REDUCE MORTALITY FROM NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH

Premature Mortality Rates of Major Non-Communicable Diseases per 100,000 Populations in Yan district, 2019–2021



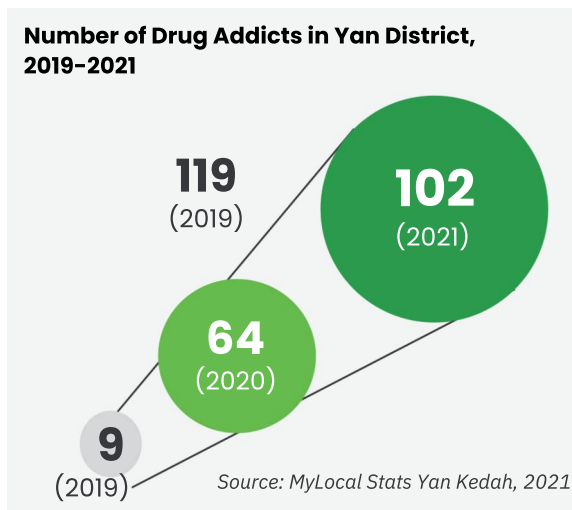
Cardiovascular diseases have been the leading cause of premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the Yan district for several years. This trend is also observed at the national level. In 2021, the rates of premature mortality due to cardiovascular diseases decreased, mirroring a similar pattern seen in cancer. However, there was an upward trend in the premature mortality rates of chronic respiratory diseases between 2019 and 2021. At the same time, the rates of premature mortality from diabetes and suicide increased in 2021, remaining roughly equivalent to the levels observed in 2019, despite a decrease in 2020.

Overall, NCDs in Kedah rank among the top three health concerns in Malaysia. This is largely due to the high consumption of rice as the staple food for both breakfast and dinner among residents in Yan, which is associated with the physically demanding labor many engage in, necessitating a high-energy diet. Additionally, health literacy within the population is low, and there is a limited availability of recreational areas in the Yan district to promote an active lifestyle.

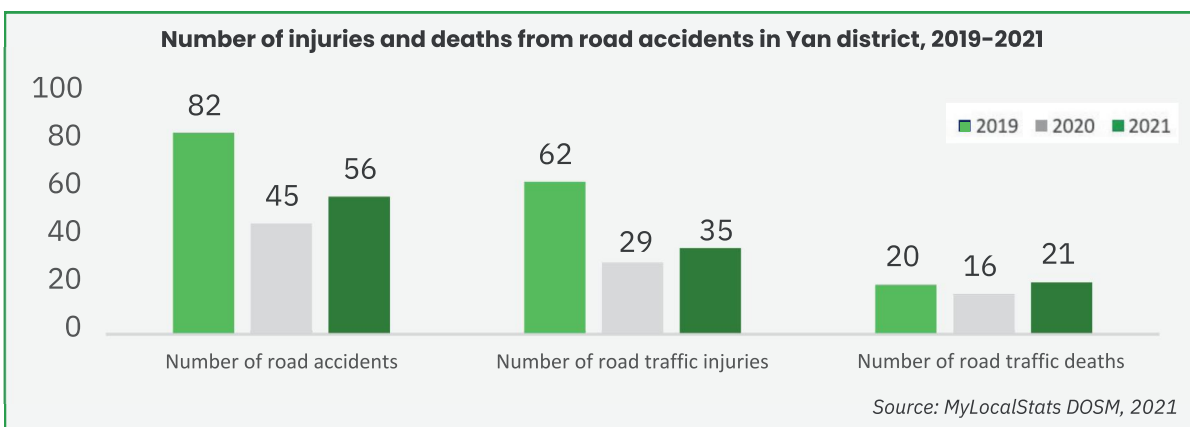
3.5 PREVENT AND TREAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Data from the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) shows that the number of drug addicts in Yan District has significantly increased over the past three years. In response to this growing issue, a voluntary committee called Skuad Anti-Dadah Yan Kedah has been established. This group is actively involved in organizing preventive education activities and raising public awareness about the dangers of drug abuse to individuals, families, and communities.

One of their key initiatives is the Omnipresence and Outreach Program, which has been regularly implemented over the years. This program targets several high-risk locations within Yan District, aiming to strengthen community engagement and foster a collective effort to address drug-related challenges.



3.6 REDUCE ROAD INJURIES AND DEATH

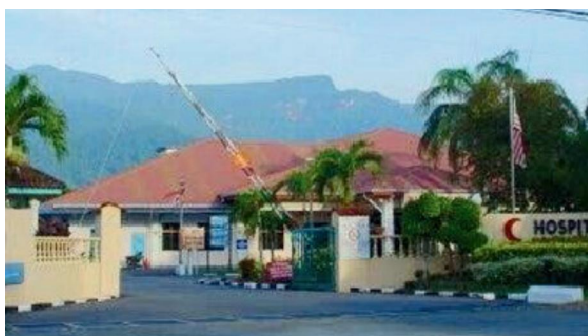


In 2020, the number of road accidents decreased; however, it increased again in 2021. This trend is also observed in the number of road traffic injuries and fatalities. In the Yan district, most road accidents result in injuries and deaths.

3.8 ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)

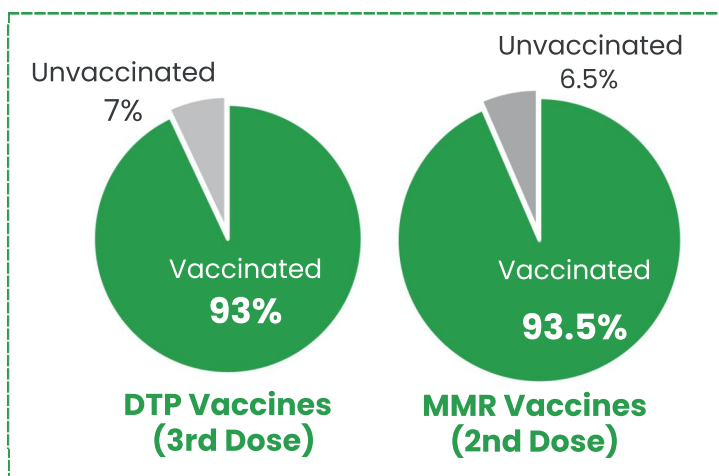
Yan District is served by one public hospital, known as Hospital Yan, which is located in the city. Although Hospital Yan is not a specialist facility, it benefits from its proximity to major specialist hospitals, such as Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim in Sungai Petani and Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah in Alor Setar. The district also has 24 clinics; however, concerns raised during a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) indicate that these clinics are insufficient to meet the needs of the growing population. Upgrades to the clinic infrastructure and capacity are considered necessary to better serve the community.

On a positive note, patients in Yan District demonstrate strong adherence to doctors' recommendations, reflecting effective medical guidance and trust in healthcare providers. However, the measurement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) at the district level has not yet been conducted and is only available at the national level.



3.B SUPPORT RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE VACCINES AND MEDICINES

Proportion of the target population in Yan district vaccinated by vaccines included in the national immunization programme, 2021



The national immunization program in Yan district has successfully provided the third dose of Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (DTP) and the second dose of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccines, covering almost the entire population. More than 93% of individuals have completed their national immunization schedule.



Quality Education

The Yan district is facing economic challenges in the post-pandemic period, resulting in decreased student attendance as families encourage their children to work. The education system has undergone changes, becoming less attractive and motivating for both parents and students, particularly following the discontinuation of the PT3 and UPSR examinations. The incorporation of Higher Order Thinking Skills (KBAT) has also created challenges for remote learning support.

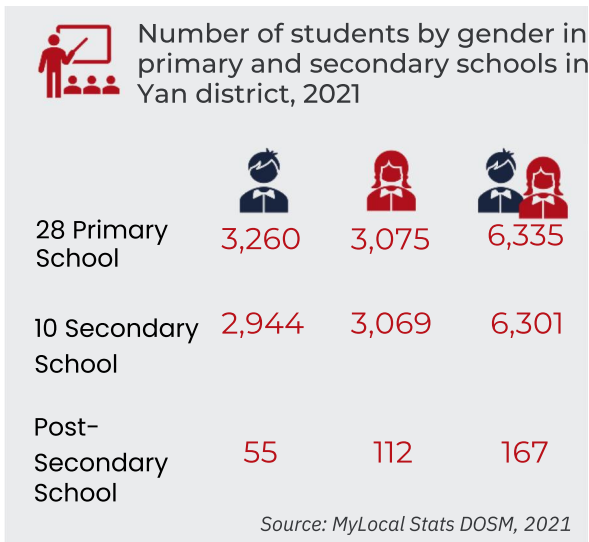
To address these issues, the Education District Office has introduced initiatives such as "Anak yang Baik lagi Cerdik" (ABC), which focuses on character building, and a School-Based Assessment (PBS) system tailored to meet individual student needs.

In terms of basic services and facilities, Yan district provides quality support with increased adaptations for students with special needs since 2021. The teacher-to-student ratios in the district have fluctuated over the years, reaching 1:11.45 in primary schools and 1:9.54 in secondary schools in 2021.

SDG 4: QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.1 FREE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



1. Economic Struggles After the Pandemic and Their Impact on Student Attendance

Findings from Focus Group Discussions (FGD) revealed that certain populations in the Yan district are experiencing financial pressures stemming from the pandemic. These challenges have significantly decreased student attendance at schools, as families are encouraging their children to enter the workforce to help contribute to household income. One participant expressed concern about the potential social impact of this situation on future human capital development.

2. Challenges in the Current Education System

Parents participating in the FGDs also pointed out that the structure of the education system has changed in a way that has made it less appealing to parents

and less motivating for students. This decline in attractiveness has been especially noticeable since the discontinuation of the PT3 and UPSR examinations. Moreover, the introduction of Higher Order Thinking Skills (KBAT) into the learning process has created significant challenges, particularly for parents and siblings trying to support remote learning.

To address misconceptions within the education system among parents, the Education District Office has initiated the following alternative systems:

1. "Anak yang Baik lagi Cerdik" (ABC)

The ABC initiative, introduced by the Education Ministry, aims to instill good manners, morals, and integrity in students. This initiative focuses on character development to tackle issues such as bullying, discipline, and the erosion of values among students.

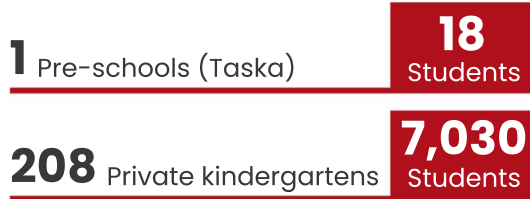
2. School-Based Assessment (PBS)

The PBS system provides a more student-centered approach by evaluating individual student performance and adjusting teaching techniques to meet established standards. This approach recognizes the importance of tailoring education to the unique needs and abilities of each student, thereby making the system more effective and inclusive.

4.2 EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION



Number of students in pre-schools and kindergarten in Yan district, 2021



Source: MyLocal Stats DOSM, 2021

Most children in Yan District are enrolled in private kindergartens for their pre-primary education. This trend suggests that families in the district prefer private institutions during the early stages of their children's learning. It reflects a commitment to providing quality education, which may include innovative teaching methods, better facilities, and an environment conducive to children's development.

4.3 EQUAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE TECHNICAL, VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Technical, vocational and higher education in Yan district:

- (i) Giat MARA Yan, Kedah
- (ii) Kolej Komuniti Jerai
- (iii) Sekolah Tahfiz (Maahad dan Madrasah)

CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

1. Education Opportunities for Young Paddy Farmers

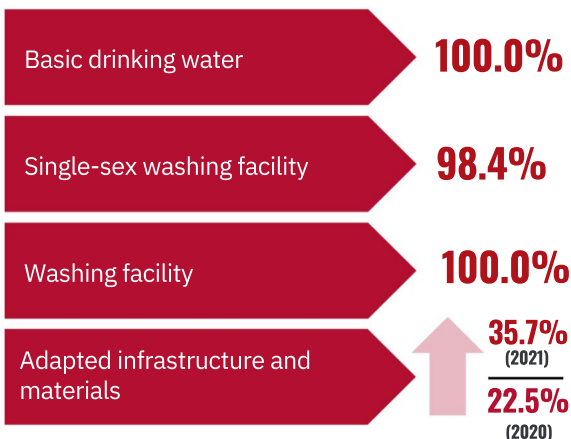
Given that Yan district serves as Malaysia's primary rice granary, it is imperative to secure a consistent workforce to sustain national rice production. The onus should not solely rely on parents to guide their children into the footsteps of paddy field cultivation. It is crucial to establish additional educational institutions in Yan district, focusing on imparting agricultural knowledge to the younger generation, particularly regarding the adoption of mechanization technology. The expertise of these individuals is pivotal in paddy cultivation and directly influences farm productivity. Knowledgeable farmers are more likely to adhere to good agricultural practices and protocols.

4.A BUILD AND UPGRADE INCLUSIVE AND SAFE SCHOOLS

Proportion of schools offering basic services, 2021



Proportion of schools offering accesses to, 2021



Source: MyLocalStats Yan Kedah, 2021

The data above shows that schools Yan district has offered great basic services and access to basic facilities. Every schools is equipped with electricity, access to basic drinking water and washing facility. Adapted infrastructure and materials to special students also has a 13.2% increase in 2021, as compared to 2020.

4.C SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED TEACHERS

Over the period of a decade, the ratio of teachers per student ratio has steadily reduced and is currently one of the lowest student-to-teachers ratio in the country. In 2021, the number of qualified teachers per ratio of students in primary school in Yan district is 1 :11.45 and secondary school is 1 :9.54. In 2017, the pupil to teacher ratio in secondary education in Malaysia was approximately 12.5 pupils for every teacher available.

Source: Ministry of Education, 2021



Gender Equality

Yan, Kedah is beginning to address Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), with an increasing recognition of the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment. By raising awareness and enhancing capacity, along with implementing targeted interventions in education, economic empowerment, healthcare, and political participation, Yan can make progress toward achieving SDG 5, contributing to a more equitable and prosperous community for everyone.

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 5 in Yan is currently in the early stages of implementation, and more localized data is needed to assess its progress and targets within the administrative boundary. Gathering additional information will help provide a clearer understanding of the specific challenges and opportunities related to gender equality and women's empowerment in Yan. This information is crucial for facilitating targeted efforts to effectively achieve SDG 5.

5.1 END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

In regards to discrimination against women and children, there seems to be a noticeable lack of significant concerns or claims in Yan. The local community appears satisfied with the current situation and does not raise considerable issues related to this matter.

5.4 VALUE UNPAID CARE AND PROMOTE SHARED DOMESTIC RESPONSIBILITIES

In the initial phase of awareness regarding SDG 5 in Yan, there is a significant lack of essential facilities designed to promote gender equality. In particular, there are insufficient caretaker amenities, especially for the elderly population.

To support single women and mothers, it is crucial to establish more affordable childcare centers across various departments. These centers would enable women to pursue their careers in Yan effectively.

5.5 ENSURE FULL PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING

Women Participation and Opportunities in Leadership

Yan District Council: In terms of gender equality, it is observed that there is a higher representation of female staff compared to male staff in MD Yan. While specific data to support this observation is not available, it suggests a potential trend towards greater gender representation within the organization. This focus on inclusivity aligns with the principles of SDG 5, which aims to promote gender equality and empower women in all aspects of life.

5.6 ENSURE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES**Sexual and reproductive health services**

- Yan can focus on improving women's access to healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive health. This includes ensuring access to family planning, maternal care, and addressing gender-based violence. In 2020, there was one government hospital and a total of 17 government clinics, which is a relatively high number for a given area. These facilities include health clinics, as well as mother and child health clinics, indicating a diverse range of healthcare services available to the community.
- The presence of multiple clinics, including those specifically focused on maternal and child health, suggests that residents in Yan have access to a variety of healthcare services. This diversity can be beneficial in addressing different healthcare needs and ensuring that healthcare is accessible to a wide range of individuals.



Clean Water And Sanitation

Yan District is dedicated to enhancing its infrastructure, with a particular emphasis on improving the irrigation and drainage systems as well as the water supply system to promote sustainable development. The proposed replacement toilet system in the Yan Local Plan 2035 represents a forward-thinking initiative aimed at developing a more systematic and environmentally friendly approach to sanitation.

Although there isn't a comprehensive water quality monitoring system in place, operational stations consistently report that the river water is moderately clean, indicating good and safe water quality. The Yan Local Plan 2035 outlines proactive measures, including the establishment of a proposed water quality monitoring system at Sungai Yan Kechil. This highlights Yan District's commitment to sustainable environmental management and the overall well-being of the community.

SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.1

UNIVERSAL AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SAFE AND AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER FOR ALL



100.0%

Households in Yan district has accessed to piped water in the house, 2019

Source: MyLocal Stats DOSM, 2021

The government of Malaysia recognizes the crucial importance of water supply for individual well-being and actively provides subsidies to ensure universal access to this essential resource. In Yan district, the achievement of SDG 6.1 is evident, as 100% of households gained access to safely managed water services as of 2019.

City Gaps and Challenges

1. Lack of Access to Clean Water

Access to clean water continues to be a significant challenge for some communities in the region. However, proactive efforts are being made to tackle this issue, including:

- **Construction of a Treatment Plant:**

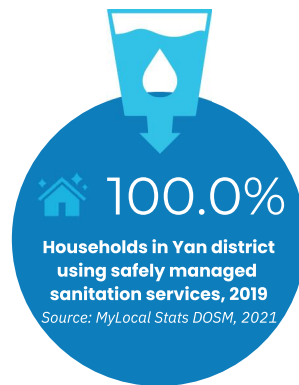
The development of a treatment plant in Jenun is a critical step toward improving water purification and distribution capabilities.

- **Replacement of Aging Water Pipes:**

Efforts are underway to modernize the water distribution infrastructure by replacing outdated and inefficient water pipes throughout the region.

These initiatives are essential for ensuring equitable access to clean water and enhancing the overall health and well-being of the community.

6.2 ACCESS TO ADEQUATE AND EQUITABLE SANITATION AND HYGIENE FOR ALL



Equitable access to sanitation and hygiene facilities is guaranteed for all residents of Kedah State, including those in Yan district. This commitment ensures that individuals from various socio-economic backgrounds have equal opportunities to maintain proper sanitation practices and high hygiene standards. By fostering inclusivity in access to these essential facilities, the region aims to create a healthier and more hygienic living environment for all its residents, ultimately contributing to their overall well-being and quality of life in Yan district.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

1. Replacement Toilet System from Pour Flush Toilet to Individual Septic Tank (IST) in Yan district.

- Benefits : More systematic and environmentally friendly
- Status : Proposed in Draft Local Plan MDY Kedah 2035 (Replacement)

IMPROVEMENTS INITIATIVE



Pour Flush

Conversion



Individual Septic Tank

6.3 IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SAFE REUSE

The Yan district is dedicated to maintaining and improving essential infrastructure to enhance water quality, wastewater treatment, and safe reuse. This initiative specifically targets irrigation and drainage systems, as well as the water supply system. This commitment underscores a practical approach to ensuring the efficiency and sustainability of these systems, which benefits both agricultural activities and the well-being of the local community. There are two agencies in the Yan district responsible for monitoring and maintaining the irrigation and drainage systems which are;

- (i) Department of Irrigation and Drainage (JPS), and
- (ii) Muda Agricultural Development Authority (MADA)

Maintenance and Monitoring Agencies	River Function	Total of Rivers	Length of Rivers (KM)
JPS	Natural Drainage (Run-Off)	22	108.15
MADA	Natural Drainage (Run-Off)	32	22.23
	Rice Planting Irrigation		
TOTAL		54	170.352

Source: Department of Irrigation and Drainage (JPS), 2022

Meanwhile, water supply system in Yan district in 2022, as follows:

Accounts and Water Usage

18,500

Total Accounts

25.25 MLD

Water Usage

Water Distribution System

56.0%

Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Rate

76.0%

Asbestos Cement (AC) Pipes

Raw Water Sources

- (i) Pedu Reservoir
- (ii) Ahning Reservoir
- (iii) Padang Terap River
- (iv) South Canal

Water Storage Capacity

6 Service Water Tanks

Water Treatment Capacity

- 2 Water Treatment Plants located in Pendang district (both districts shared the same plants)
- Negative treated water reserve margin

6.3 IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SAFE REUSE

Water Supply Infrastructure in Yan District

Water Treatment Plant (LRA)	Capacity (MLD)	Current Load (MLD)
LRA Jenun Lama	30	40
LRA Jenun Baru	55	77

Source: Syarikat Air DarulAman, 2022

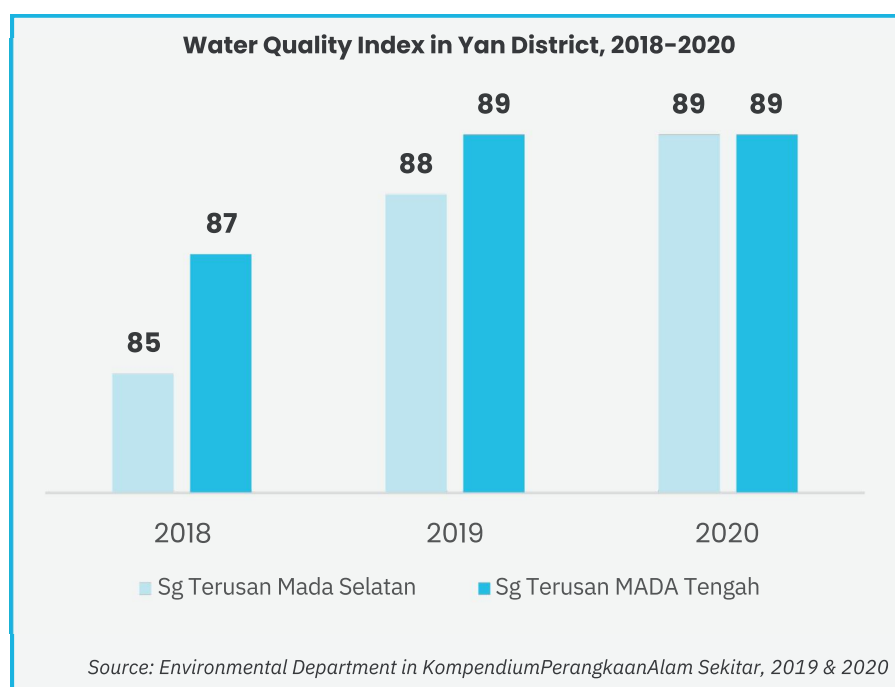
CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

1. Lack of a Proper Water Quality Monitoring System

The Department of Environment lacks a comprehensive water quality monitoring system for rivers in the Y and Yan districts, with the exceptions of Sungai Terusan Mada Selatan and Tethat, which have been operational since 2018.

Both monitoring stations reported that water quality was moderately clean for three consecutive years (2018-2020), achieving a Water Quality Index (WQI) exceeding 80, which categorizes the water as Class II. This classification indicates that the river water quality in the Y and Yan districts is generally good and safe for users.

In addition, the Local Plan Yan 2035 includes an initiative to establish a monitoring system at Sungai Yan Kechil as part of a supporting project under the Sustainable Environmental Quality Management Strategy.





Affordable And Clean Energy

The Yan district has a strong electrical supply system that relies on three main transmission intakes. While it predominantly depends on gas and coal, accounting for 95% of its energy sources, the government is actively promoting cleaner energy projects.

The district faces challenges, including the increasing demand for electricity in remote areas and an inadequate 11 kV power supply. To address these issues, the Local Plan 2035 proposes several solutions, including the establishment of a Mini-Hydro Power Station and the installation of solar panels. Additionally, the plan introduces a Digitalization Plan to enhance efficiency.

Furthermore, the agenda emphasizes energy efficiency through Green Building Index certification and the development of electric vehicle facilities, which align with national energy goals.

SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

7.1 UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO MODERN ENERGY

Electric Supply System in Yan District



Households in Yan district have accessed to electricity supply, 2019

The electrical supply system in the Yan district is well-developed and effectively meets its energy demands. Three primary transmission main intakes (PMUs) serve as the main providers of electrical supply, each with a capacity of 150 MVA. The primary power source for these PMUs is the National Energy Grid. Overall, the electrical supply system in the district is resilient, providing nearly the entire area with continuous electricity 24 hours a day through Tenaga Nasional Berhad via the National Grid Line.

Current Load

43.90 MW At Peak
30.00 MW On Average

SAIDI Index (Reliability)

56
mins/year

Source: State of Kedah Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), 2022

Towards Cleaner Energy in Northern Region of Malaysia

Gas and coal account for approximately 95% of electricity generation in Peninsular Malaysia, including the Yan district. Despite this heavy reliance on fossil fuels, the Federal Government is actively initiating projects aimed at generating cleaner energy from these sources, such as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

One significant project is the Pulau Bunting Integrated Development of Gas Supply Centre and Power Plant Project in Yan, Kedah. This initiative is part of a broader investment of RM14.4 billion in the state of Kedah and is being executed in collaboration with MMC Group and SKS Corporation Sdn. Bhd. It is receiving strong support from both the Federal Government and the Kedah State Government, alongside guidance from the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER).

City Gaps and Challenges

1. Increasing Demand for Electricity in Remote Areas

The demand for electricity in remote areas and regions outside the primary development corridor is increasing, driven by factors such as population growth, economic activity, and improving living standards. However, finding suitable sites for electrical substations in these areas is challenging. The unique geographical characteristics of these regions, along with the need to minimize environmental impact, complicate the site selection process. Additionally, the lack of established infrastructure and accessibility issues further hinder the identification of appropriate locations. The strategic placement of substations is essential to ensure a reliable and stable power supply in remote areas.

7.2 INCREASE GLOBAL PERCENTAGE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

In alignment with the National Energy Policy, which aims for renewable energy usage to reach 40% by 2035, Yan District has developed a series of proposals in its Local Plan 2035. These proposals fall under the fourth pillar, which focuses on effective infrastructure and utility services, as well as a comprehensive transportation system. The proposed initiatives are as follows:

Strengthening Renewable Energy Generation

- 1 Construction of Mini-Hydro Power Station at Sungai Terai in generating renewable energy approximately 10 MegaWatt (MW).
- 2 Installation of solar photovoltaic panels at building roof. Incentives and recognitions will be given to the buildings that successfully installed the panels as much 30% of the roof area.
- 3 Channeling the energy generated to the National Grid in supporting the grid stability.

Developing Smart And Low Carbon Elements Within the Energy Supply Sector

- 1 Formulation of Digitalization Plan to enable expansion of smart meter installation and usage of myTNB application.

7.3 DOUBLE THE IMPROVEMENT IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The National Energy Policy is focused on improving energy efficiency. Yan district aims to explore this goal under their Local Plan 2035, proposing initiatives to increase the number of Green Building Index certified buildings.

(i) Building Envelope that is Low Thermal Transmittance

- Overall Heat Transfer Value (OTTV);
- Roof Heat Transfer Value (RTTV); and
- Visible Light Transmission, (VLT).

(ii) Ventilation and Cooling Systems

- Changing the conventional air conditioning system to an efficient energy system such as district cooling systems.

(iii) Usage of efficient lights

- Such as LED and CFL

(iv) Energy Management System

- Building energy audits to monitor energy consumption and improve energy performance of building

(v) Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Facilities

- Such as, EV charging station and its parking

Source: Draft Local Plan MDY, Kedah 2035 (Replacement)

**8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH**



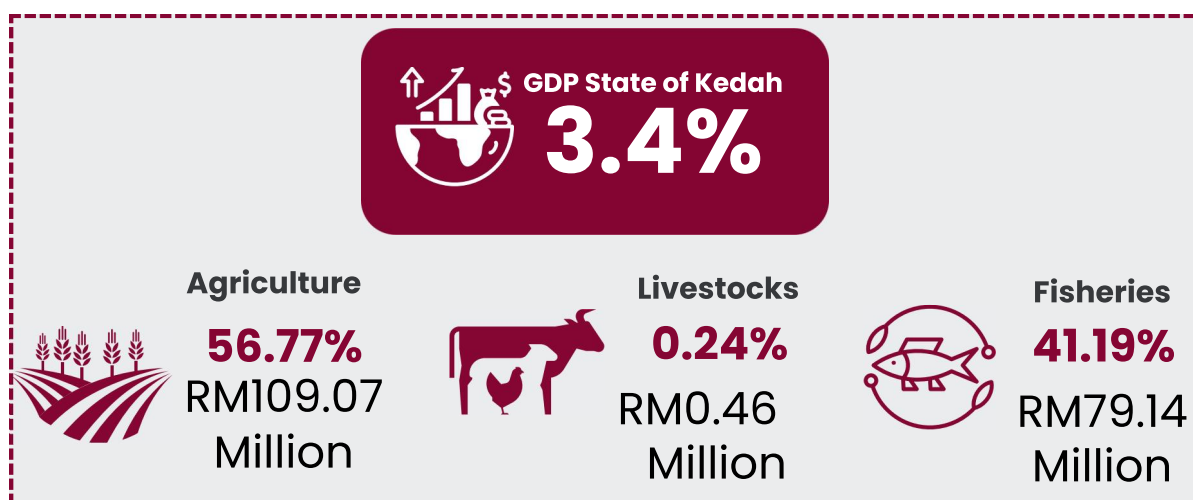
Decent Work and Economic Growth

In 2020, Kedah's contribution to the national GDP declined from 4.6% in 2019 to 3.4%. The Yan District, located within Kedah, depends heavily on the agriculture and service sectors for its primary income sources. This shift in Kedah's GDP underscores the importance of these sectors in influencing the economic health of Yan District. At the same time, Yan District experienced a positive shift in its labor market in 2020, with an increase in the labor force participation rate and a decrease in unemployment. This indicates improved employment dynamics and suggests that job opportunities within the region may be on the rise. These trends are essential for policymakers, as they provide valuable insights to help shape strategies for further economic development in Yan District and Kedah.

SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

8.2 DIVERSIFY, INNOVATE AND UPGRADE FOR ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY

In 2020, the state of Kedah made a significant contribution to the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP), accounting for 3.4%. However, this was a decrease from the 4.6% recorded in 2019. The economic landscape of the Yan district, located within Kedah, relies heavily on the agriculture and service sectors, which serve as the primary sources of income for the region. Guar Chempedak stands out as the main business area in Yan compared to other areas. The decline in the state's GDP reflects broader economic trends and highlights the significance of these key sectors in sustaining and influencing the overall economic health of the Yan district and, by extension, Kedah as a whole.



8.5 FULL EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK WITH EQUAL PAY

In 2020, Yan District saw an increase in labor force participation along with a decrease in unemployment. This positive trend indicates greater engagement in the workforce and better employment opportunities in the district. It highlights the need for strategies to strengthen the local job market and enhance overall economic conditions.

MAIN STATISTICS OF LABOUR FORCE	2018	2019	2020	2021
Labour Force ('000)	29.9	30.3	30.9	31.8
Employed Person ('000)	28.8	29.2	30.1	30.8
Outside Labour Force	19.7	20.2	20.2	21.2
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	60.4	60.0	60.4	60.1
Unemployed Person ('000)	1.2	1.1	0.8	1.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.0	3.8	2.7	3.1

Source: Draft Local Plan of MDY, Kedah 2035 (Replacement)



Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The Yan District faces significant deficits in infrastructure, especially in transportation, energy, and information technology. Recognizing the crucial role that strong infrastructure plays in promoting economic growth, it is essential to align efforts with Sustainable Development Goal 9. To achieve its vision of becoming a tourism destination, a food production zone, and a hub for the gas and petroleum industry by 2035, Yan must prioritize comprehensive infrastructure development to meet both current and future needs. Furthermore, Yan, Kedah, has the potential to promote inclusive and resilient industrialization in accordance with SDG 9, thereby unlocking its full economic growth potential. The prevailing industrial landscape in Yan District indicates a predominant trend toward medium-sized industries, particularly in food and beverage processing, with a notable concentration in rice milling.

SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

9.1 DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

 **674.2 KM**
Road Length in Yan, 2021

 **5**
Number of Digital Economy Centre in Yan, 2021

 **1**
Number of Citizen Information Centres in Yan, 2021

Yan District is currently facing significant infrastructure deficits, particularly in transportation, energy, and information and communication technology (ICT). Understanding the essential role that strong infrastructure plays in promoting economic growth and supporting the objectives of SDG 9, it is crucial to prioritize comprehensive infrastructure development in Yan.

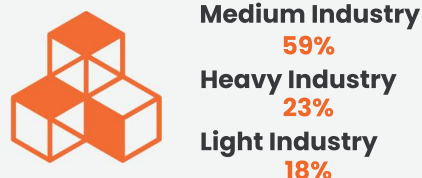
To achieve its goals by the year 2035, a coordinated effort is needed to enhance infrastructure facilities in a way that supports the district's vision. Yan aims to become a thriving tourism destination, a vital national food production zone, and an important hub for the gas and petroleum industry. This strategic focus is essential to ensure that Yan District is not only equipped to meet current infrastructure demands but is also prepared to adopt emerging technologies and seize new development opportunities.

By doing so, Yan District can lay the foundation for long-term economic prosperity and community well-being in the years ahead.

9.2 PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION

Yan, Kedah, has a unique opportunity to promote inclusive, sustainable, and resilient industrialization while advancing infrastructure development in line with SDG 9. By focusing on enhancing infrastructure, creating climate-resilient industrial zones, promoting inclusive job opportunities, supporting sustainable manufacturing, encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation, building local capacity, and exploring green industries, Yan can fully realize its potential for economic growth and community development. SDG 9 offers a guiding framework to ensure that industrialisation and infrastructure development benefit the entire community while adhering to global sustainability standards.

Types of Industries in Yan District by Rank, 2022



The industrial landscape in Yan District is characterised by a significant presence of medium-sized industries, which make up 59% of the industrial activities. Light industrial activities represent 18%, while heavy industries account for 23%. Among the medium-sized industries, the food and beverage processing sector stands out, comprising 72% of this category, with a particular emphasis on rice milling activities. This distribution highlights the district's focus on medium-scale industrial operations, especially in the essential area of food and beverage processing, with rice milling being a key component.

9.4 UPGRADING INFRASTRUCTURE AND RETROFIT INDUSTRIES TO SUSTAINABLE WITH INCREASED RESOURCE-USED EFFICIENCY

Several high-impact projects have been launched in the Yan District of Kedah Darul Aman. These projects focus on upgrading infrastructure and enhancing community resilience against natural disasters, especially flash floods. The goal of these investments is not only to improve infrastructure but also to promote sustainable development practices that benefit both the environment and local communities.

High Impacts Projects on SDG

01 Restoration and Enhancement of Drainage Infrastructure Project



This project aims to improve drainage infrastructure in various areas, including Pekan Yan, Jalan Pegawai, and Pantai Murni Waterfront. With an investment of RM1.17 million, it seeks to address flash flood issues in urban centers and residential areas, preventing property damage and loss of life.

02 Construction of Flood Control Infrastructure in Titi Hayun.



Constructing infrastructure costing 11.4 million to mitigate future disaster impacts, especially after the 2021 flash flood. This project addresses significant damage and loss, including loss of life, from recurrent disasters.

03 Replacement of Sungai Yan Besar Bridge Project



Replacing the bridge will cost RM 9.1million and is necessary to ensure smooth water flow and facilitate traffic, especially during the rainy season. This project aims to enhance community safety and infrastructure resilience by preventing flooding and ensuring convenient traffic movement.



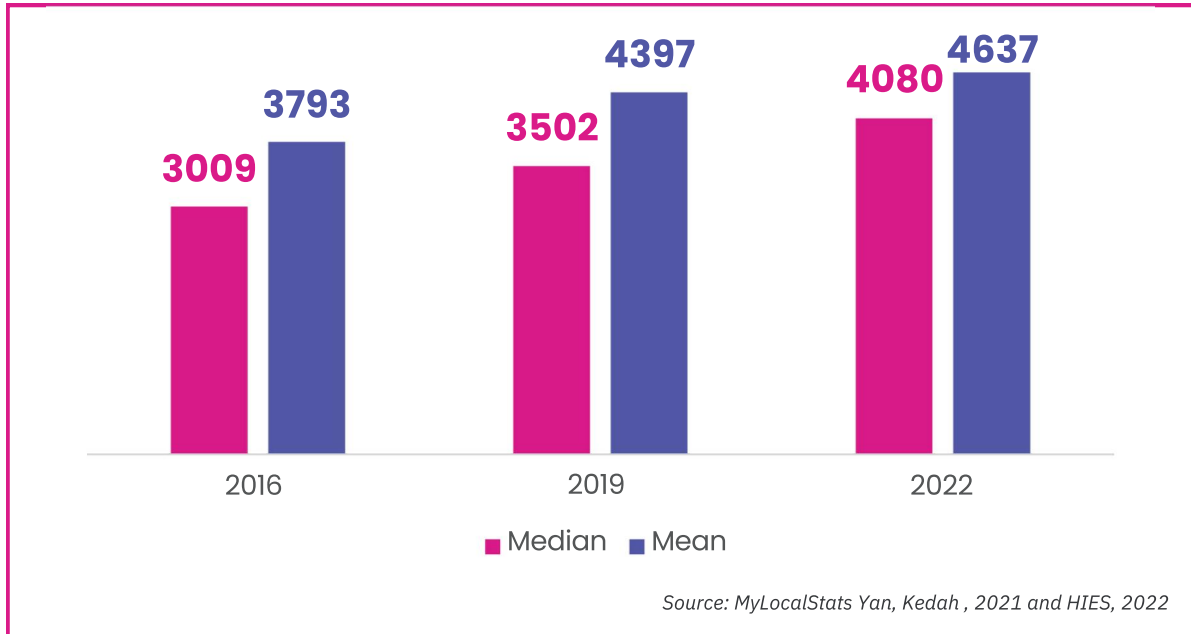
Reduced Inequalities

The Yan district has experienced a reduction in the income gap and an overall increase in monthly household gross income from 2016 to 2022, despite the ongoing disparities in income distribution. This positive trend indicates that the earnings of the Yan population have improved over the years. These developments suggest a promising future for the region's economic growth. Efforts should concentrate on promoting inclusive growth, ensuring equitable access to services, and sharing the benefits of development to further reduce inequalities in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 10 (SDG 10).

SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

10.1 REDUCE INCOME INEQUALITIES

Monthly Household Gross Income in Tampin and Negeri Sembilan, 2016 and 2019



The distribution of monthly household gross income in Yan District is right-skewed and unequal, indicating a disparity in income distribution among the population. However, this gap has been decreasing in recent years. More than 50 percent of households earn less than RM4,080, suggesting that most households in Yan fall within the B40 income group, which includes households with a monthly income of less than RM4,850. Between 2016 and 2022, both the median and mean monthly household gross income in Yan District increased, demonstrating that the population's earnings have risen over the years. While challenges in income distribution still exist in Yan District, the narrowing gap and the overall increase in household incomes are promising signs of economic progress and improved financial well-being in the region.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



Sustainable Cities and Communities

The Yan District faces various challenges, particularly in housing, transportation, and public spaces. Although there are 241 units of affordable housing available, the government struggles to meet the high demand for low-cost homes. This shortfall has led to the emergence of unplanned settlements and ongoing housing issues.

In terms of transportation, Yan relies on a one-stop bus service, but accessibility gaps remain, making it difficult for residents to connect with villages and popular destinations. Additionally, there are significant challenges regarding public spaces, including a shortage of open areas and poorly maintained facilities. These issues highlight the need for comprehensive urban planning and adequate budget allocation.

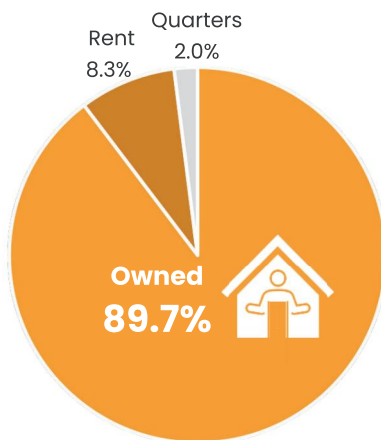
Addressing these gaps is essential for promoting inclusive growth and improving the overall well-being of Yan's residents. However, the recent development plan for Pulau Bunting as a federal port presents economic opportunities and aims to transform Yan into a more diversified township.

SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

11.1 SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In the Yan District, the current housing landscape includes 241 units of affordable housing provided by the Perumahan Awam Yan scheme. Furthermore, the availability of privately owned land has resulted in the construction of many individually owned houses throughout Yan.

Proportion of households in Yan, 2019



241 Low-cost Housing

Source: MyLocalStats Yan, Kedah, 2021



CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Despite the high poverty rate in Yan and the clear need for affordable housing, the government has struggled to provide an adequate supply of low-cost homes. The focus on profitability has deterred most developers from engaging in the construction of housing projects for low- to middle-income families. As a result, only four public housing projects have been completed to date. Additionally, these houses have not received consistent maintenance due to financial constraints, leaving them in poor condition. This housing deficit has contributed to the rise of unplanned settlements in Yan, making access to various village roads more difficult and exacerbating the overall housing challenges faced by the community.

High Impacts Projects on SDG

01 RESIDENTIAL HOUSE REPAIR PROJECT



Source: Yan District Council, Kedah (MDY), 2024

The high-impact housing repair projects, costing RM150,000, aim to improve residents' living conditions and security, while also contributing to sustainable urban development and fostering healthier, more resilient communities.

11.7 PROVIDE ACCESS TO SAFE AND INCLUSIVE GREEN AND PUBLIC SPACE

Yan District 24.14 hectares of open land Most of the open land consists of:

- (i) recreational commercial area
- (ii) public open land green and
- (iii) sports facilities and recreation



Yan faces significant challenges regarding the availability of public spaces. There is a shortage of open areas such as playgrounds and recreational parks, primarily due to limited land resources. Although the existing open spaces meet guideline requirements and planning standards, they lack inclusivity for all community members, including the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Additionally, public facilities like playgrounds, football fields, and streetlights are often poorly maintained due to budget constraints, which can pose potential risks to residents, particularly in rural areas. These issues underscore the need for comprehensive urban planning and better budget allocation to improve public spaces and ensure they are accessible and safe for everyone in Yan.



Responsible Consumption and Production

In Yan District, MD Yan and SW Corp have teamed up to enhance the waste management system. Neighborhoods currently enjoy a highest coverage of waste facilities at 54.5%. However, there are challenges, including a landfill that is expected to reach capacity by 2027 and inadequate waste diversion strategies. In non-taxed areas, such as villages, there is a scarcity of trash cans and unplanned construction, which contributes to waste accumulation problems.

While recycling initiatives exist, the level of readiness and awareness among Yan residents is still low. The urgent need for comprehensive waste management interventions is evident, and collaborative efforts are essential for success. The district's commitment aims to increase the recycling rate to 15% by 2035, with proposed initiatives that include building community recycling centers and fostering strategic collaborations with various stakeholders. These efforts are designed to promote sustainable waste management practices and help achieve Yan's environmental goals.

SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

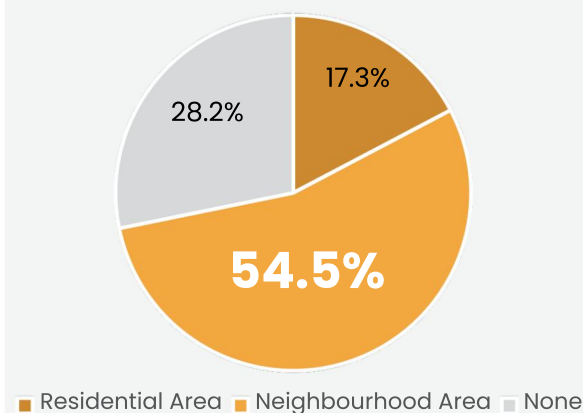
12.3 HALVE GLOBAL PER CAPITA FOOD WASTE

In Malaysia, food waste accounts for a significant 44% of total waste, highlighting the urgent need for effective management. However, specific statistics on food waste in Yan are lacking, despite a noticeable increase in waste from restaurants and stalls. This lack of data emphasises the importance of implementing targeted strategies in Yan to tackle the growing problem of food waste and improve waste management practices.

12.4 RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE

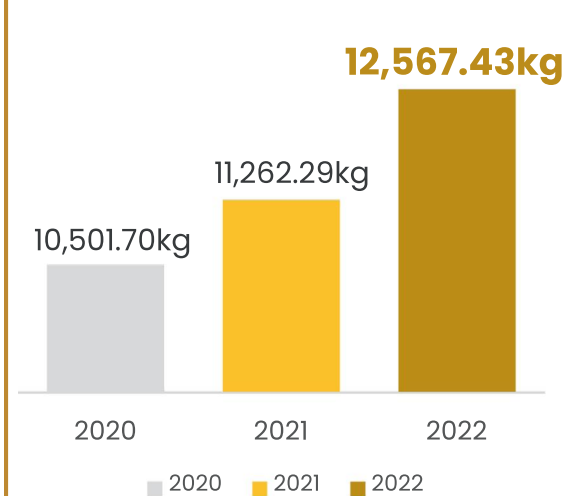
MD Yan, in partnership with SW Corp, has been working to improve the waste management system in the Yan district. Waste facilities are available in the neighborhood areas at a rate of 54.5%, followed by residential areas at 28.2%. However, there are no facilities in the remaining 17.3% of the district.

Waste Collection Facilities in Yan district, 2020-2022



The estimated total amount of solid waste generated in Yan district increased from 70 tonnes in 2020 to 125.67 tonnes in 2022.

Total amount of domestic waste generated (kg) in Yan district, 2020- 2022



CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

1. Unsustainable Waste Management

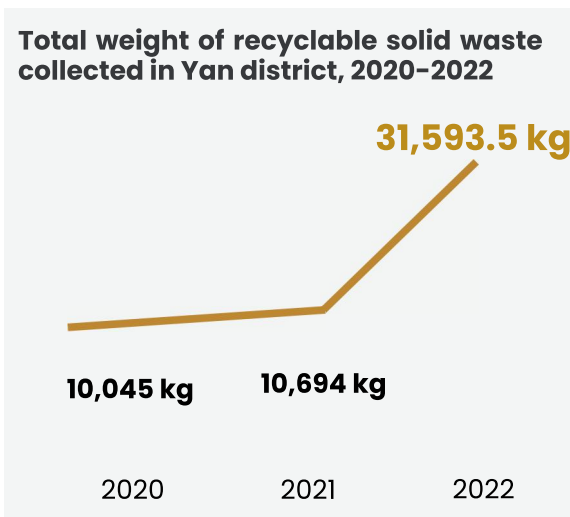
The landfill in Yan District is expected to reach its maximum capacity by 2027. Currently, the capacity to divert solid waste from the landfill is severely limited. The reliance on distant disposal facilities, such as the landfill in Kota Setar, poses additional challenges, especially considering the lack of suitable government-owned land within Yan for the establishment of new facilities. While land reclamation could be a potential solution, it faces financial challenges due to high associated costs. Furthermore, existing waste management operators struggle with issues such as insufficient equipment, and many current facilities are often dysfunctional.

2. Waste Management Efficiency At Non-Taxed Areas

In non-taxed areas, such as villages, there is a significant lack of trash cans and door-to-door waste collection services. As a result, substantial piles of waste accumulate along the roadsides, particularly in village areas where trash cans are not provided. Additionally, the layout of these areas makes it difficult for garbage trucks to navigate through them.

12.3 SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE WASTE GENERATION

Recycling programs in the community are conducted every month in the Yan district. The current recycling rate in this district stands at approximately 0.2%, with an average of 2.46 tonnes of recyclable items collected through waste segregation activities each month. The amount collected has increased significantly, rising from 10,045 kg in 2020 to 31,593.5 kg in 2022.



Source: MURNInetsMD Yan, 2020–2022

CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

1. Readiness Of Yan Residents for Waste Recycling

MDV has initiated a recycling program where communities that actively participate in recycling receive tokens. However, this program is not yet widespread across all areas. Additionally, the implementation of the 5R practices in the Yan district is still insufficient, and residents lack the awareness needed to engage fully in these recycling initiatives.

2. Waste Accumulation and Disposal Practices

During focus group discussions (FGDs), concerns were raised about waste accumulation along roadsides, particularly near chalets and inactive areas of MDV. This problem arises due to a lack of designated garbage disposal sites. Occasionally, individuals dispose of their waste in the neighboring villages within the operational area of MDV.

The challenges in the Yan District highlight the urgent need for comprehensive waste management interventions. With the ongoing increase in solid waste generation, it is essential for all parties to collaborate effectively. Integrated cooperation among stakeholders—including the community, government agencies, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other interested parties—is crucial for the success of recycling awareness programs within the community. This collaborative effort is necessary to promote and enhance sustainable practices effectively.

Improving the 5R practices (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, and Refuse) can bring numerous benefits. These include reducing the disposal of waste in landfills, lowering the operational costs of solid waste management, promoting the concept of waste-to-wealth, and educating the community about sustainable lifestyles and environmental conservation. According to the Yan Local Plan 2035, there is a goal to increase the recycling rate to 15% by the year 2035. A list of initiatives has been developed to demonstrate Yan's commitment to achieving this target:

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS (PROPOSED)

- Build Community Recycling Centre at Guar Cempedak and Yan Besar.
- Increase the dissemination of information, campaigns and promotions on the importance and benefits of recycling activities.
- Expand the Program 1 Community 1 Recycling (1C 1R) and Zero Waste Community for a Selected Community
- Create Recognition Related to Solid Waste Segregation Good Practices to individuals, associations/NGOs, government agencies, related entities and stakeholders.
- Create strategic collaboration with stakeholders such as schools, residents' representatives and others.



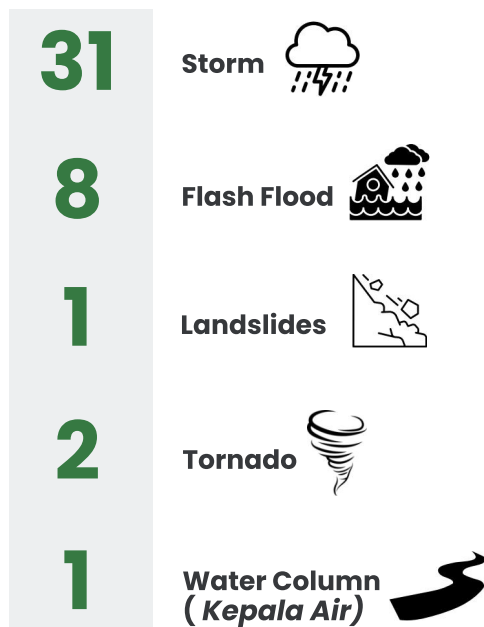
Climate Action

Yan District, located near the sea and surrounded by mountains, is susceptible to four types of natural disasters: storms, flash floods, landslides, and tornadoes. Despite experiencing various disasters, Yan remains unprepared in terms of disaster prevention and management, lacking a Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Action Plan. Furthermore, there are significant concerns related to insufficient water catchment areas, aging drainage systems, and environmental issues, such as air quality hazards stemming from industrial activities. Yan's goal of becoming a low-carbon city is challenged by the absence of a comprehensive carbon audit, which hampers effective carbon footprint mitigation.

SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION CONSUMPTION

13.1 STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE AND ADAPTIVE CAPACITY TO CLIMATE RELATED DISASTERS

From 2019 to 2023, Yan District faced a variety of geo-disaster cases, which have been systematically classified into four distinct risk types. This classification helps to provide a comprehensive understanding of the different challenges posed by each type of incident, enabling more targeted approaches to mitigation and response strategies in the region.



Source: Draft Local Plan MDY 2035, Kedah (Replacement)

The impacts of storms and floods in the Yan District during 2021 and 2022 reveal that Mukim Sala Besar, Sungai Daun, and Dulang frequently experience storm events. Flash floods are commonly reported in Mukim Yan and Mukim Singkir. During this period, a total of 85 household heads were affected by storms, while 975 household heads experienced the effects of floods.

National Coastal Vulnerability Index (NCVI)

The Coastal Zone Planning Unit (UPZP) of Sungai Daun, which includes Bunting Island, has a high National Coastal Vulnerability Index (NCVI) value of 4, indicating extreme susceptibility to geohazard incidents in the coastal area. A similar situation is observed in UPZP Yan, which also records a value of 4 for both the physical and social components of the NCVI. In contrast, UPZP Sala Besar registers a value of 1 for the NCVI, indicating very low vulnerability in both biodiversity and social aspects when faced with coastal disasters.

Coastal Zone Planning Unit (UPZP)	Code	NCVI	NCVI (Physical)	NCVI (Bio.)	NCVI (Social)
Sala Besar	K08	1	3	1	1
Sungai Daun (including Pulau Bunting)	K09	4	5	4	2
Dulang	K10	3	5	2	1
Yan	K11	4	4	2	4

Source: RFZPPN 2, 2022

Record of Geohazard Incidents

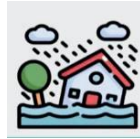
The debris flow incident on Mount Jerai is a geological process that occurs from the upstream region down to the river mouth. In August 2021, the Yan region experienced a recurrence of this event, which had not occurred for 100 years on Mount Jerai.

Impacts of Huge Landslides on Mount Jerai, 2021



Impacts of Debris Flow Incident in Yan District, 2021

RM75 Mil
Total Lost



1,732
Affected
Residential Houses



124
Affected Business
Premises



14
Affected Chalet
Units

Source: UTM, 2022

CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES**1. Disaster Action Plan**

MDY currently does not have a Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Action Plan, despite the occurrence of several disasters such as floods and major landslides in Yan. Additionally, Yan primarily focuses on land-related issues and lacks a strategy to prepare for disasters originating from the sea.

2. Lack of water catchment areas

There are insufficient water catchment areas or ponds, as the only existing ones are located in residential areas of towns and not in the villages.

3. Drainage System

The occurrence of major and flash floods is largely due to an inadequate drainage system that is outdated and clogged with debris. Furthermore, the illegal removal of trees, which play a vital role in flood mitigation, exacerbates the situation.

13.2 INTEGRATE CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES INTO POLICIES AND PLANNING

Yan's Pursuit towards Low Carbon City

One of the primary challenges facing Yan is its goal of becoming a low-carbon city. The Municipal Department of Yan (MD&) has not yet conducted a comprehensive carbon audit or measurement, which has resulted in a lack of clarity about the city's current carbon emission levels. This absence of critical data hinders strategic planning and limits the effectiveness of efforts to reduce carbon footprints. However, Yan is dedicated to addressing this issue through its Local Plan 2035.

CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES**1. Air Quality Hazards Stemming from Industrial Activities**

The findings from the focus group discussion (FGD) reveal a significant issue in Yan: the alarming air quality hazards caused by the unregulated emissions from the cement and rice factories located in Batu 17. These factories are releasing pollutants without proper control measures, leading to air pollution that directly affects nearby residents. The lack of adequate controls worsens the situation, posing a serious health risk to the local population. It is crucial to address this urgent challenge promptly, implementing immediate actions to reduce the environmental impact and prioritize the well-being of the community.



Life Below Water

The bathymetric profile of Yan District shows varying seabed depths, particularly around Bunting and Perak Islands. While the overall water quality is moderate, the area faces coastal challenges such as pollution from recreational activities and the improper disposal of fishing waste, both of which negatively impact beach environments and coral reefs. Additionally, fisheries production in Yan has significantly declined due to fishing practices and regulatory gaps. The presence of external vessels poses a further threat, highlighting the need for international cooperation. Furthermore, coastal erosion, classified as significant (Category 2) but not yet serious (Category 3), raises concerns regarding natural resources and physical planning in specific areas.

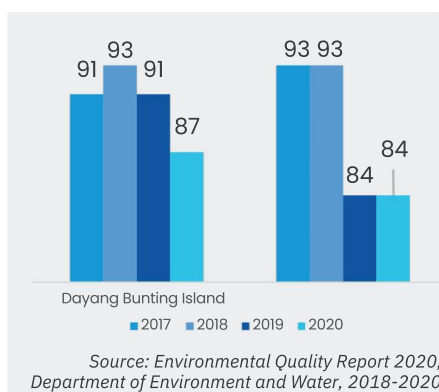
SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

14.1 REDUCE MARINE POLLUTION

The bathymetric profile data for Yan District has been sourced from the National Hydrographic Center (PHN), providing comprehensive marine details for the region. Notably, Bunting Island, which is closest to the mainland, exhibits sea depths ranging from 2 to 10 meters. In contrast, Dayang Bunting Island, located approximately 2 kilometers from the mainland, has considerably deeper waters with depths exceeding 80 meters. This data offers valuable insights into the underwater topography of the area, which are essential for understanding and managing the marine environments in Yan District. Additionally, there are three other nearby islands: Songsong Island, Telor Island, and Bidan Island. However, the water quality data for these islands is not included in the Environment Quality Report 2020.

Island Water Quality


The marine water quality monitoring station is situated on Dayang Bunting Island in Kedah. The trend of Water Quality Index (WQI) readings from 2017 to 2020 shows that there is no significant marine water pollution in the waters of Yan District. The following data reflects the Water Quality Index readings for the Island from 2017 to 2020.



Marine Water Quality

The five-year trend data from 2017 to 2020 shows that marine water quality is moderate, with Marine Water Quality Index (MWQI) readings below 80.

Marine Water Quality Index Readings, 2013-2017



>80 =
Moderate

Source: Environmental Quality Report 2020, Department of Environment and Water, 2018-2020

CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

The coastal areas of Pantai Murni and Songsong Island in Yan District are facing significant environmental issues. The main problem arises from pollution caused by recreational activities such as picnics and camping, leading to litter accumulation in the sea and on the shorelines. This pollution disrupts the tranquil atmosphere of these beaches.

Additionally, the unregulated disposal of fishing waste by local fishermen, largely due to the absence of designated dumping areas for net debris, worsens the situation. This improper waste disposal negatively impacts the natural surroundings, affecting the estuary and shoreline and ultimately contaminating the beach.

Furthermore, the fragile coral reef ecosystem on Songsong Island is threatened by plastic waste generated from various human activities.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS (PROPOSED)

- **Zero Discharge policy**

14.2 SUSTAINABLY MANAGE AND PROTECT MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

By 2025, global efforts toward marine and coastal conservation, particularly focusing on reducing plastic debris, have significantly increased. The Yan District Council (MDY) has launched targeted programs to sustainably manage and protect marine ecosystems, demonstrating its commitment to local initiatives that contribute to broader environmental sustainability goals.

High Impacts Projects on SDG

These high-impact environmental programs concentrate on the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems. These initiatives not only enhance the ecological health and resilience of these areas but also improve the quality of life for local communities, leading to a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable environment. Collaborative efforts among various stakeholders ensure the successful implementation and long-term effectiveness of these programs.

01**Coral Restoration and Beach Cleanup Program**

The program organized by the Yan District Council engaged approximately 300 participants. Activities included beach cleaning at Pantai Murni Waterfront and coral restoration at Pulau Songsong, with a safety briefing held before departure. Pulau Songsong was selected due to its significant ecological importance and the threats facing its coral reefs from various factors, including climate change and human activities. This program aims to improve the quality of the coral habitat and promote the growth of new coral, thereby reducing disruptions and competition from other marine organisms.

02**Mangrove Conservation and Sustainability Program**

The program was held in Kuala Sungai Limau, Yan, Kedah, organized by UUM in collaboration with the School of SK Sungai Limau, SMK Dulang, and the Kedah State Forestry Department. The event was attended by approximately 100 participants, including UUM staff and students, local teachers, and government employees. It focused on planting 500 mangrove trees as part of an initiative aimed at contributing to environmental conservation efforts and promoting sustainable development in the Yan district.

03 Go Green Adventour: Earth, We Heard You Program

The event at Pantai Murni Waterfront in Yan, Kedah, was organized by UUM in collaboration with the School of SK Sungai Limau, SMK Dulang, and the Yan District Council (MDY). It engaged 30 participants from UUM, MDY, and the PUSPANITA Yan District Branch. The activities included wall painting, a beach cleanup, and a closing ceremony that featured prayers and speeches. The event was praised for its positive impact on environmental awareness and community involvement.

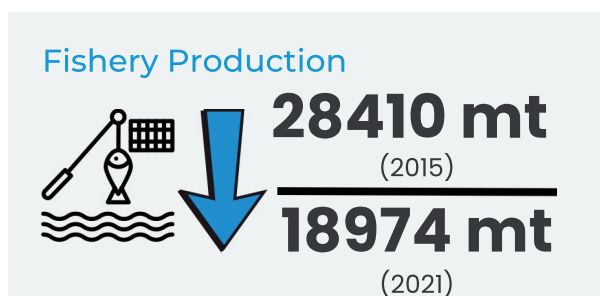
04 Series of Community Cleanup Programs

1. Beach Clean-Up Program at Pulau Songsong - Cost: RM5000
2. Community Service Program: Coral Restoration and Beach Cleaning at Pulau Songsong
3. Gerak Rahmah 2023 Program: Let's Clean and Beautify the State of Kedah at Pantai Murni
4. Beach Cleaning and Beautification Program at Murni Waterfront

Source: Yan District Council, Kedah (MDY), 2024

14.4 SUSTAINABLE FISHING

The decline in fisheries production in the Yan District is substantial, with a decrease of 33% from 28,410 metric tons in 2015 to 18,974 metric tons in 2021. On average, fishermen in this area earn a net income of between RM1,000 and RM2,000 per month. Currently, there are 1,086 registered fishermen with the Department of Fisheries. The use of trawl nets and dragon traps by fishermen has been identified as one of the factors negatively impacting fish productivity and marine habitats in the region.



Source: Draft Local Plan of MDY, Kedah 2035 (Replacement)

CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

1. Regulatory Gaps and International Cooperation

Discussions regarding fisheries issues were conducted during focus group discussions (FGDs) with relevant stakeholders. It was noted that the fisheries in Yan face a lack of adequate regulation, which has led to problems such as overfishing, particularly due to the use of illegal nets. This has resulted in a significant decline in the fish catch. Additionally, the situation is worsened by the intrusion of fishing boats from other states and countries into Yan's marine areas. This incursion not only disrupts local fishermen but also hampers the recovery of coral reefs. The uncontrolled arrival of external fishing vessels poses a serious threat to the fragile marine ecosystem, increasing the pressure

on fish stocks and heightening the vulnerability of coral reefs. Addressing these challenges requires the implementation of effective regulatory measures and international collaboration to ensure the sustainable management of Van's fisheries and the preservation of its marine environment.

14.5 CONSERVE COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS



0.49% (118.77ha)
of the Yan is beach area

According to the Rancangan Fizikal Zon Persisiran Pantai Negara 2 report, the coastal areas in this region are experiencing significant coastal erosion, classified as Level 2. This erosion adversely affects the quality of natural resources and various aspects of physical planning, including infrastructure development and human settlements. Key areas impacted by this issue include Terusan Dulang, Kampung Yan Kecil, and Kampung Permatang Serentang, as reported by the Department of Drainage and Irrigation in 2015.

The district's coastline is muddy and vulnerable to strong waves, with only a few sparse mangrove trees found in limited locations. This situation increases the coastline's susceptibility to the combined threats of coastal erosion and rising sea levels. According to data from the Department of Drainage and Irrigation (JPS), coastal erosion in this district is categorized into Level 2 (Significant) and Level 3 (Not yet serious).



Life on Land

Yan District includes three Permanent Forest Reserves, which make up 12.21% of its total area, with HSK Gunung Jerai being the largest. These reserves are crucial for water catchment and biodiversity. However, the district faces environmental challenges, including unauthorized activities in the forests and disruptive quarry operations. Additionally, there has been a 3.12% decline in land use from 2006 to 2022, attributed to reassessments and increased construction. This situation highlights the need for a balanced approach to sustainable development in the region.

SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND

15.1 CONSERVE AND RESTORE TERRESTRIAL AND FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEM

There are three Permanent Forest Reserves (HSK) in the Yan District, covering a total area of 3,025.95 hectares, which constitutes 12.21% of the district's total area. All the HSKs comprise terrestrial forests classified as protection areas, serving as vital water catchment zones and rich in biodiversity. The largest of these reserves is HSK Gunung Jerai, which spans 2,969.80 hectares, accounting for 93.91% of the total HSK area.



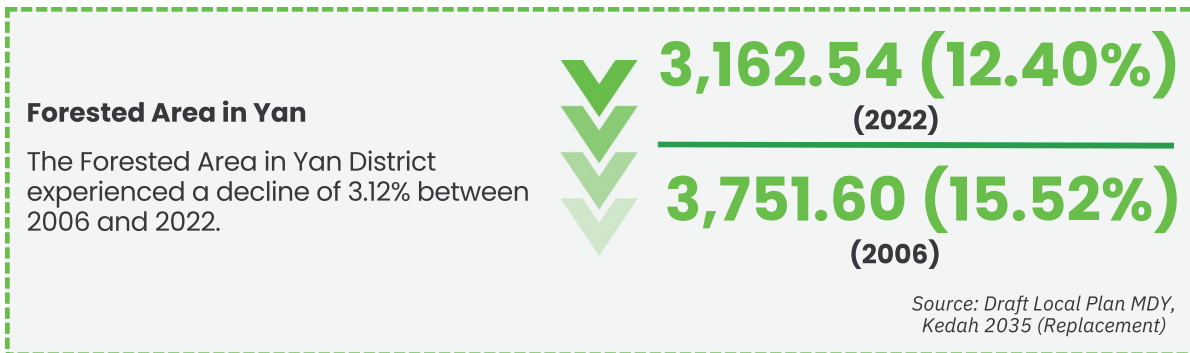
CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

1. Re-zoning of Forest Land for Industrial Use

The findings from the focus group discussion revealed that Yan District is currently facing significant environmental challenges. One major issue is the re-zoning of forest land for industrial use in Singkir, driven by ongoing quarry activities. The rapid expansion of these quarry operations in Singkir Darat and Bukit Besar has raised serious concerns. The explosions associated with these activities not only disrupt the natural landscape but also pose a risk of triggering landslides, which can worsen environmental instability.

The forest in this region is home to a variety of wildlife, including leopards and wildcats, which may be threatened by the pressures of nearby development. It is crucial to address these issues to protect the ecological balance of Yan District and promote sustainable practices that benefit both the environment and the local communities.

15.2 END DEFORESTATION AND RESTORE DEGRADED LAND



CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

1. Land Reassessment and Increased Construction

The reduction in forested areas is the result of a reassessment of the measured extents of the Gunung Jerai Permanent Forest Reserve, Songsong Island, Bidan Island, and the forested regions within Yan District. This recalculation has led to an overall decrease in forest coverage. At the same time, the diminishing availability of open land is due to increasing construction activities. As construction efforts intensify, the demand for built infrastructure has contributed to the decline of previously open spaces, highlighting the significant impact of development on the region's landscape.

15.4 CONSERVATION OF MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS, INCLUDING THEIR BIODIVERSITY

Jerai Geopark, which includes Gunung Jerai and its surrounding areas in Kedah, Malaysia, showcases the region's rich geological, ecological, and cultural heritage. This geopark features unique geological formations, diverse ecosystems, and significant historical sites, making it an ideal destination for eco-tourism and environmental education. Jerai Geopark has received national recognition twice for its outstanding efforts in conservation and sustainable tourism, highlighting its importance at a national level. Currently, Jerai Geopark is striving to achieve UNESCO Global Geopark status, which would provide international recognition and further enhance its conservation and educational initiatives. This goal reflects the commitment to preserving the region's natural and cultural heritage while promoting sustainable development and community engagement.



Jerai Geopark was declared a National Geopark in 2017 and successfully maintained this status for another four years. Additionally, various efforts, supported by the state government, were implemented, including the establishment of a permanent management unit for Jerai Geopark. This unit is equipped with a research team to identify areas with outstanding universal value (OUV).



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

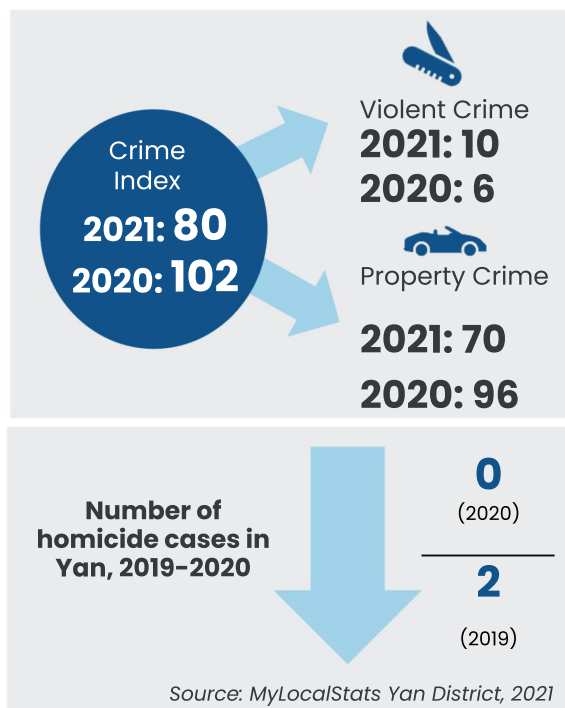
In Yan, the local commitment to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 is evident through initiatives such as increased CCTV surveillance and the adoption of an Anti-Corruption Policy by the Yan District Council. These measures aim to enhance public safety and improve governance transparency, ultimately fostering a secure and accountable community.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

16.1 REDUCE VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE

The Crime Index in Yan has decreased by 21.6 percent, falling to 80 cases in 2021 from 102 cases in 2020. However, violent crimes have increased by 66.7 percent, reaching 10 cases in 2021. In contrast, property crimes have decreased by 27.1 percent, totaling 70 cases in 2021. Notably, the number of homicide cases in Yan has dropped to zero in 2021, compared to previous years.

The significant decline in property crimes suggests that improved security measures or law enforcement efforts have positively impacted the protection of individuals' property rights and overall safety. Nevertheless, the increase in violent crimes raises concerns and may necessitate targeted interventions to address the underlying causes. This could involve community engagement, conflict resolution programs, or specific law enforcement strategies aimed at reducing violence.



Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV)

In 2021, Yan took a noteworthy step to enhance public safety and reduce crime by installing a total of 28 Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras throughout the city. This initiative was part of the broader Crime Reduction and Safe City Program, which aimed to improve the security and well-being of its residents.

25 CCTV in Yan District Council 2021



Source: MyLocalStats Yan District, 2021

16.5 SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE CORRUPTIONS AND BRIBERY

Anti Corruption Policy

The Yan District Council has adopted an Anti-Corruption Policy, highlighting its commitment to transparency, accountability, and ethical governance. This policy conveys a strong message that the council is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of conduct in its operations. It likely includes guidelines, procedures, and measures aimed at preventing, detecting, and addressing corrupt practices within the organization.

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Partnership for the Goals

SDG 17 highlights the significance of partnerships in achieving sustainable development in Yan. The district has actively collaborated with local stakeholders, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations to promote sustainable development, resource sharing, and capacity building. These efforts aim to foster a stronger and more resilient community.

SDG 17 : PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

17.9 ENHANCE SDG CAPACITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

SDG Awareness

Awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Yan is still in its early stages. This highlights the need for increased efforts in capacity building and providing technical assistance to local authorities and communities. Such support is essential to ensure a better understanding of the SDGs and their effective implementation in the region.

Challenges obtained from the engagement are listed as follows:

- **Lack of Understanding:** Limited awareness may reflect a lack of understanding of the SDGs, their importance, and how they relate to Yan's specific context. This can hinder the development of effective strategies.
- **Resource Constraints:** Capacity building and technical assistance require various resources, including funding, expertise, and time. Identifying and securing these resources can pose a challenge, especially in resource-constrained environments.
- **Coordination:** Effective implementation of the SDGs often necessitates coordination among various stakeholders. Early-stage awareness can indicate that coordination mechanisms are not well-established, leading to fragmented efforts.
- **Measuring Progress:** Without a clear understanding of the SDGs, establishing baseline data and effectively measuring progress toward the goals can be challenging. This makes it difficult to track the impact of initiatives.

Part B

5.0 Way Forward



5.0 Next Steps for Yan

In Yan, the next steps for local authorities in their pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are outlined as follows:

Phase 2: The priority areas for SDGs within the Yan will be identified. Ongoing stakeholder consultation will be essential in developing the SDG roadmap for the city. All participants of the workshop, including those who were unable to attend and newly identified stakeholders, will be invited to contribute to this process.

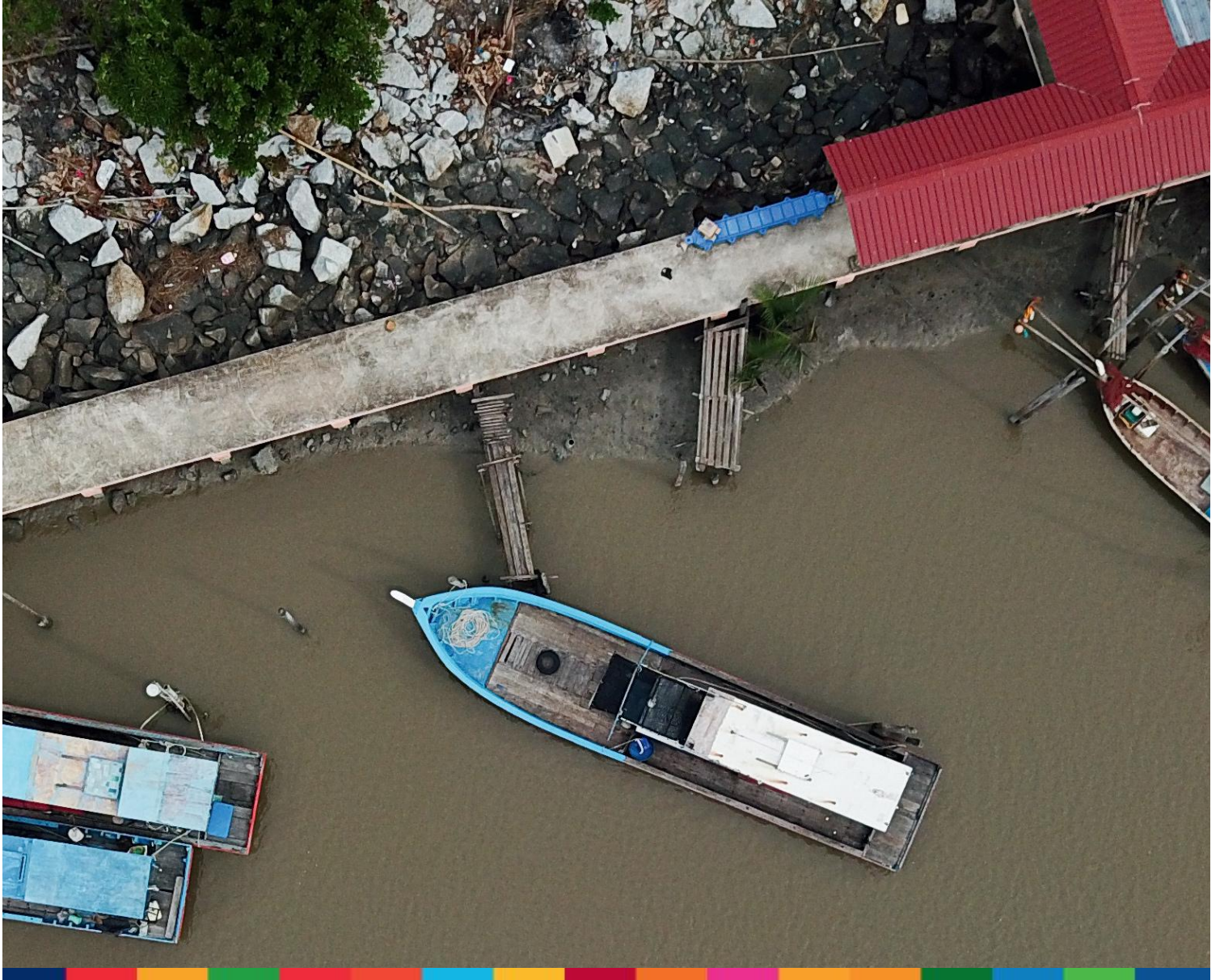
Phase 3: This phase will focus on accelerating the drafting of the SDG Roadmap report for Yan. It will involve conducting a comprehensive analysis of each SDG, proposing actions to expedite progress, and establishing indicators to measure achievements. These steps reflect a proactive approach to incorporating the SDGs into Yan's development planning. The involvement of various stakeholders and a systematic roadmap will guide the city toward effective implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, ultimately leading to sustainable development and an improved quality of life for its residents.

Additionally, data collection for each of the 17 SDGs will be conducted to enhance the analysis and understanding of the current status and progress of each goal in Yan. This data collection process will provide valuable insights and enable more informed decision-making regarding the specific actions needed to achieve the SDGs in the city.

“Regular monitoring and reporting of progress will be essential to track the achievements and identify areas that require further attention and improvement. This will involve establishing appropriate indicators and measurement mechanisms to assess the impact of actions taken towards the SDGs.”

Moving forward, the implementation of the SDGs in Yan will require a collaborative and participatory approach. Engaging stakeholders from various sectors—including government agencies, private companies, civil society organizations, and community members—will be crucial in driving progress and ensuring the success of SDG initiatives.

The path forward for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Yan requires the ongoing commitment of all stakeholders and effective coordination among various sectors. It is crucial to rely on data-driven decision-making and adopt a participatory approach that includes and engages all members of the community. By collaborating toward the SDGs, Yan can create a sustainable and prosperous future for its residents.



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