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# CHANGE *for* CLIMATE

Findings from the National Youth Climate Change Survey Malaysia  
**November 2020**

# FOREWORD

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**There is no doubt that the climate crisis is also a youth crisis, and one we need to actively seek to reverse.**

”

Climate change is the greatest threat facing the world today. Amidst the many uncertainties climate change brings to our future, one certainty remains – that we will leave the earth to our young and future generations. As climate impacts intensify over time, it is our children and the young people of today who will pay the highest price. There is no doubt that the climate crisis is also a youth crisis, and one we need to actively seek to reverse.

UNDP and UNICEF, supported by EcoKnights conducted the National Climate Change Survey to better understand the knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of youth towards climate change. The findings of the survey show that youth in Malaysia are directly affected by the changes that happen in the environment, including climate change. Young people know change is coming and they are worried about their future. They are right to be concerned.

The survey further sheds light on the fact that young people in Malaysia are already taking individual and collective action to address climate change, with actions that inspire us all. Youth have increasingly strong awareness and will to lead our societies towards a low carbon and climate resilient future. Far from being victims of climate change, youth are valuable contributors to climate action and can be an important positive force for change when they are engaged and empowered.

We must commit to listen to the voices of young people, empower them to be powerful agents of change, and support their participation in climate action at all levels.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The most severe impacts of climate change will be faced by future generations, leaving today's youth one of the most vulnerable groups of our population. Despite the many ways climate change impacts young people, they continue to be excluded from the forefront of climate policy and conversations about solutions. In a country like Malaysia, youth are a critical stakeholder to engage in climate action, where they account for 43% of the country's population. Climate change is a youth issue; however, little is known about what youth in Malaysia think about climate change, and how climate change impacts them.**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), supported by a youth environmental organization EcoKnights conducted the National Youth Climate Change Survey from 28 July to 18 August 2020 through an interactive chatbot platform. A total of 1,393 respondents took part in the survey. The survey aimed to better understand the knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of youth towards climate change.

The survey found that:

- Young people are worried about climate change. 92% of young people think that climate change is a crisis.
- Survey respondents self-reported a fairly good to very good level of understanding of climate change. However, there still remains some confusion on basic scientific climate concepts.
- Youth are not isolated from environmental factors, and nine in 10 youth have personally experienced environment and climate-related effects.
- Nine in 10 youth are already taking individual actions to address climate change. Although youth are among the most vulnerable to climate change, they are potentially also the best placed to generate an ambitious societal response to combat climate change, through lifestyle changes and involvement in environmental activities.

- Young people face barriers to taking action. They say that a climate-friendly lifestyle is expensive, and that they need more information and knowledge on what they can do to tackle climate change. Furthermore, some do not think their individual actions can make a difference, which could lead to despair and discouragement.
- Youth are heavily reliant on social media for information on climate change, which reflects the high digital connectivity and social media savviness of Malaysian youth.

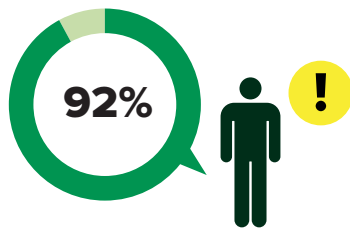
Overall, the survey results show that there is a need to better support capacities and enabling environments for youth participation in climate action. Several recommendations are suggested based on the survey results:

- Facilitate youth-led climate policies through systemic consultations and meaningful participation in climate policy-making processes.
- Make climate action more accessible and inclusive by moving the conversation beyond urban centres to encourage youth from rural and lower-income families to participate.
- Provide platforms, support, and recognition to indigenous youth, community groups, and civil society organisations who are leading climate action initiatives.

Young people will be living with the impacts of climate change and how the world chooses to respond to it will determine their future. Therefore, we must work alongside them to design a better future.

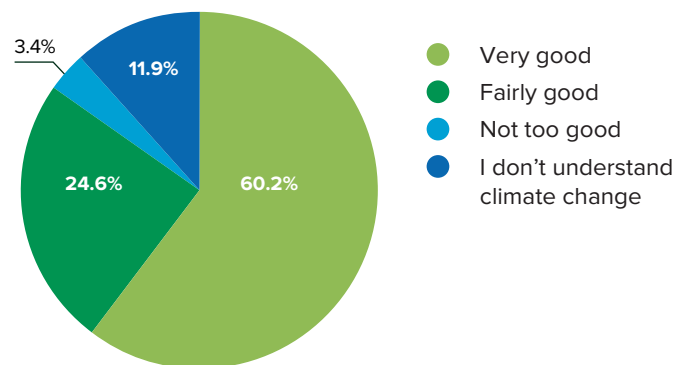
# AT A GLANCE

## Findings from the National Youth Climate Change Survey Malaysia



**92% of young people think that climate change is a crisis.** Youth surveyed exhibited high levels of concern regarding climate change, and there is consensus among youth that climate change is happening.

**Survey respondents self-reported that they have a fairly good to very good level of understanding of climate change.** However, there is some confusion on basic scientific climate concepts.



**Nine in 10 Malaysian youth have experienced environment and climate-related effects in the last three years.** Geographic location and demographic factors play a role in how young people experience these effects.

**Nine in 10 youth are already taking individual actions to address climate change.**



**Young people say that a climate-friendly lifestyle is expensive, and that they need more information and knowledge on what they can do to tackle climate change.** Some do not think that their individual actions can make a difference, which could lead to despair and discouragement.

**Youth are heavily reliant on social media for information on climate change,** which reflects the high digital connectivity and social media savviness of Malaysian youth. At the same time, there is a potential risk of misinformation on climate change or climate-related extreme events to easily spread through social media.





# 1. INTRODUCTION

**Climate change is one of the most serious challenges facing our world today. With business as usual, we are projected to exceed 1.5°C, which is the upper-limit of global warming according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and on a pathway to reach a 3.2°C increase in temperature by the end of the century<sup>1</sup>, putting our environment, food, health, water and stability at risk.**

The most severe impacts of climate change will be faced by future generations, leaving today's youth one of the most vulnerable groups of our population. Despite the many ways climate change impacts young people, they continue to be excluded from the forefront of climate policy and conversations about solutions.

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) represent a country's plan to reduce its greenhouse gasses and meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. However, many of the first submissions of the NDCs have overlooked the rights of children and youth, including their right to meaningfully participate in climate policymaking that affects them. A study by UNICEF<sup>2</sup> found that more than half of the NDCs failed to mention children, youth, or future generations. Of the 42% that did reference children, the majority positioned children as a vulnerable group. Only seven NDCs have positioned children as stakeholders to be included in climate decision making and action.

In a country like Malaysia, youth are a critical stakeholder to engage in climate action, where they account for 43% of the country's population<sup>3</sup>. Climate change is a youth issue; however, little is known about what youth in Malaysia think

about climate change, and how climate change impacts them. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and supported by a youth environmental organization EcoKnights conducted the National Youth Climate Change Survey from 28 July to 18 August 2020 through an interactive chatbot platform. A total of 1,393 respondents took part in the survey.

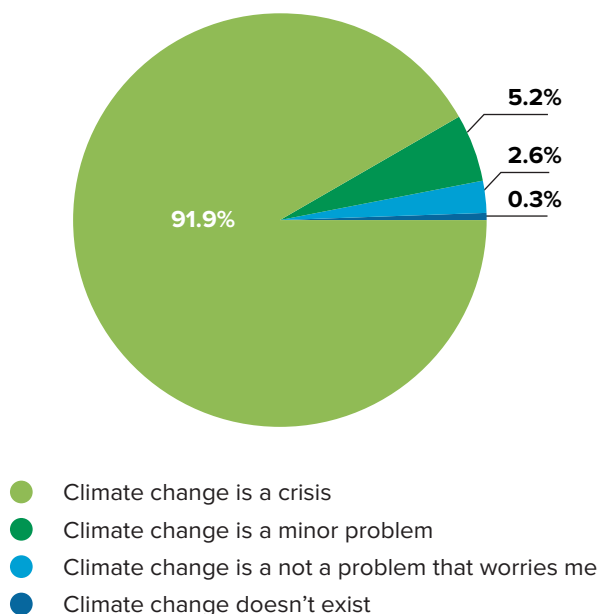
The survey aimed to better understand the knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of youth towards climate change. Ultimately, the survey seeks to provide additional information towards strengthening the participation and meaningful engagement of youth in climate plans, policies and programmes. We hope that this report will provide valuable insights and much-needed thought leadership to help advance the conversation around young people and climate change.

## 2. PERCEPTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE

### Youth<sup>4</sup> surveyed exhibited high levels of concern regarding climate change.

A large majority (91.9%) of youth agree that climate change is a crisis. Only 5.2% of youth surveyed mentioned that climate change is a minor problem, and 2.6% mentioned that climate change is not a problem that worries them. Just 0.3% of youth believe that climate change doesn't exist, reflecting a certainty that young people believe that climate change is happening.

Figure 1: Youth perceptions of climate change



“

Climate change is a huge issue and it frightens me to see people not taking it seriously! I have been lucky enough to not experience the extremes of this climate change crisis (except for the increasing scorching hot weather and occasional haze). This privilege puts me in place to be more responsible and help others who're suffering badly from climate change and I will continue to live up to that.

”

“

It is the greatest crisis faced by our generation.

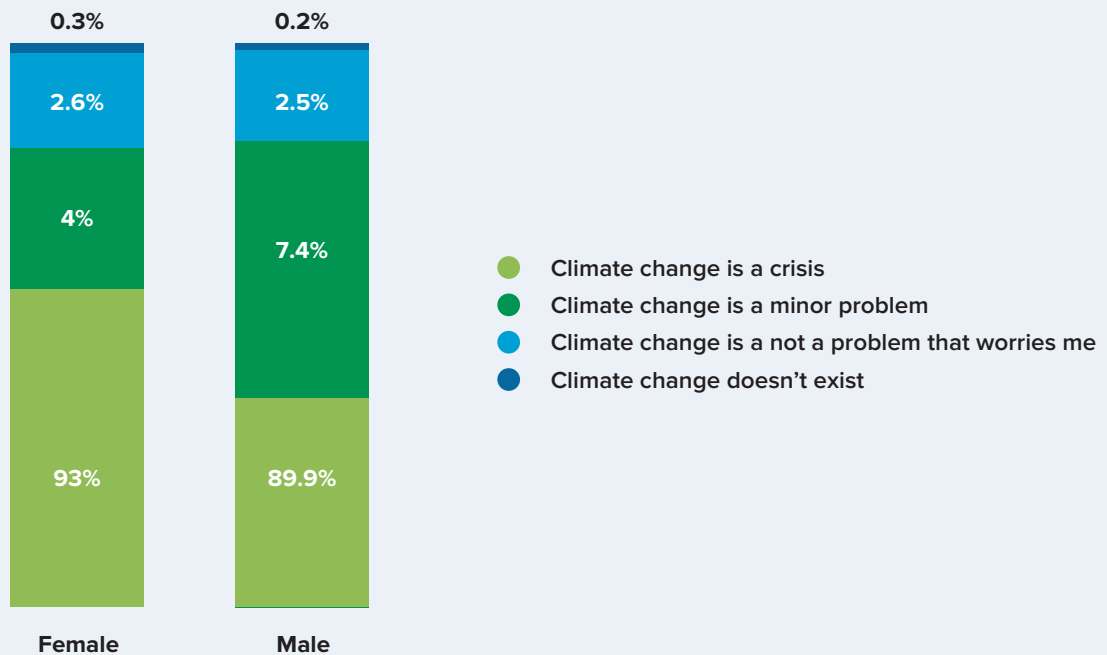
”

### Female respondents surveyed were also more likely than males to be concerned about climate change.

More female respondents indicated that climate change is a crisis (93.0% vs 89.9%). This is also consistent with a large body of research that shows a small – but consistent gender gap in views on climate change and the environment, where women are slightly more likely than men to be concerned about climate change<sup>5</sup>. Several explanations have been proposed for this gender gap, including value systems, perceptions of risk and vulnerability, and commitment to fairness and social justice.



Figure 2: Youth perceptions of climate change, by gender



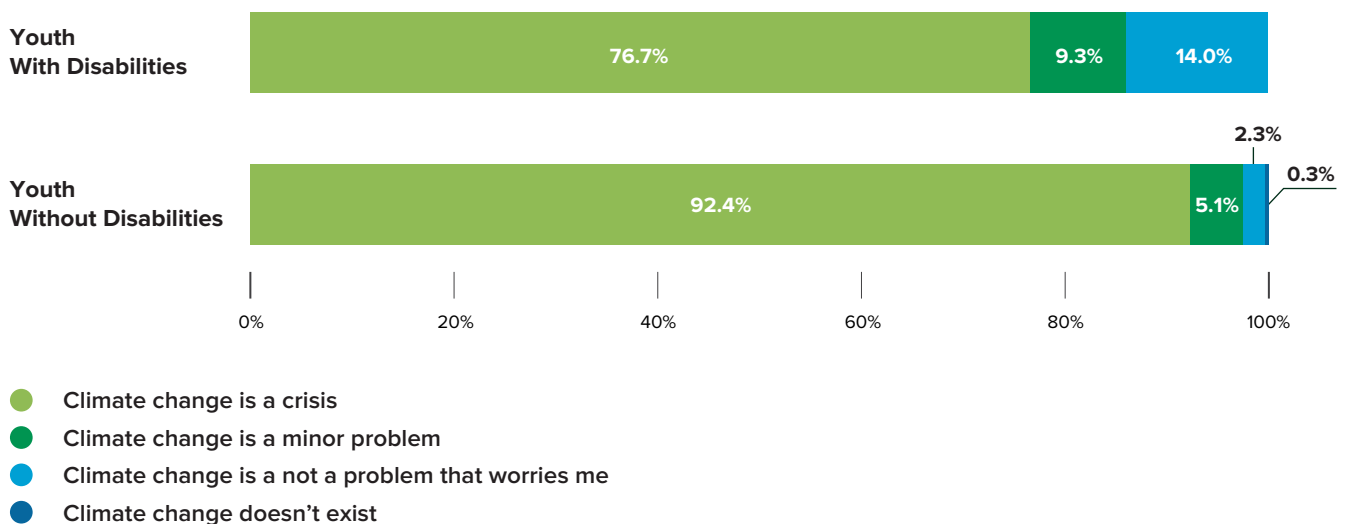
Differences in perceptions of climate change were evident for young people with disabilities. Compared with young people without disabilities, young people with disabilities were more likely to mention that climate change is not a problem that worries them (14.0% for youth with disabilities vs. 2.3% for youth without disabilities). Competing problems affect priorities, which points to a need to address social issues and immediate worries of youth, to maintain “energy” to care about climate change.

“

People don't really like to talk about it (climate change). Some even feel helpless to the brink that they see no point so they just continue with their lives.

”

Figure 3: Perception of climate change among youth with disabilities and youth without disabilities



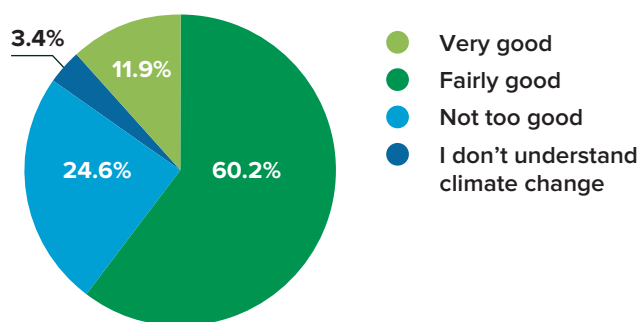
### 3. UNDERSTANDING OF CLIMATE CHANGE



#### Malaysian youth self-reported that they have a fairly good to good level understanding of climate change.

60.2% of respondents reported a “fairly good” understanding of climate change, while a further 11.9% indicated a “very good” understanding. A quarter of respondents indicated “not too good” and only 3.4% of respondents mentioned that they did not understand climate change.

Figure 4: Level of understanding of climate change

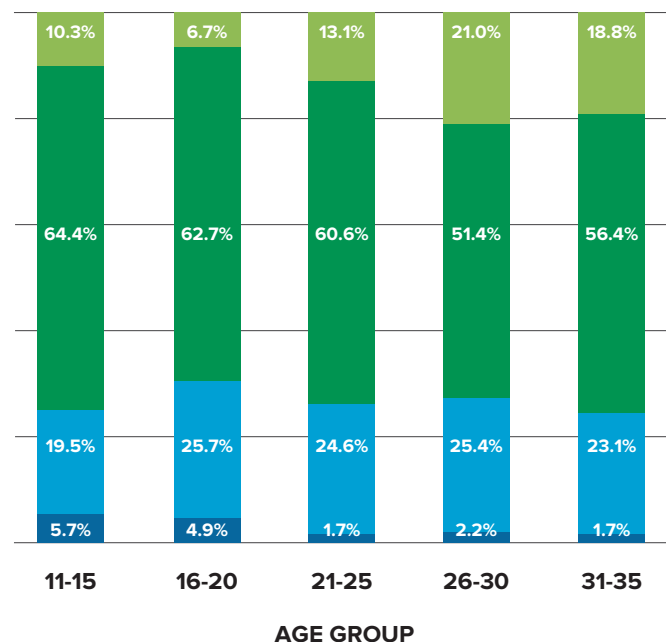


While respondents indicated a good understanding of climate change, an analysis of qualitative responses to the survey indicates that there remains some confusion around basic underlying scientific concepts. For example, there were inaccurate causal links between the short-term weather and long-term climate change, and the direct attribution of haze to climate change.

#### Youth aged 26 and above have the highest self-reported understanding.

Among those aged 26-30, one in five youth (21.0%) mentioned that they understand climate change very well. There is a steady increase in the percentage of respondents who have self-reported a very good understanding of climate change across the middle three age groups (16-20, 21-25 and 26-30).

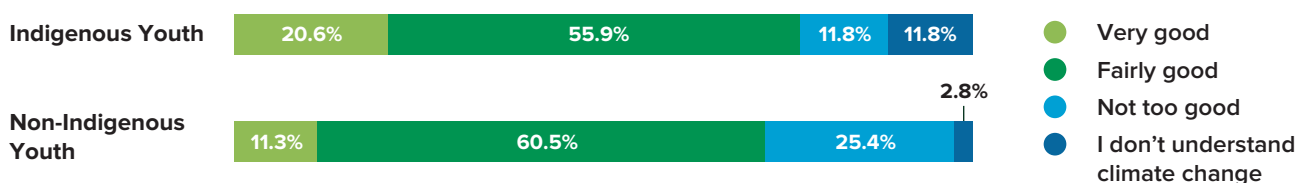
Figure 5: Understanding of climate change by age group



- Very good
- Fairly good
- Not too good
- I don't understand climate change

A higher proportion of indigenous youth have indicated a fairly good to very good understanding of climate change compared to non-indigenous youth (76.5% vs 71.8%). However, among indigenous youth who make up 5% of the total responses (69 respondents), a greater percentage do not understand climate change, compared to non-indigenous youth (11.8% vs 2.8%). This may suggest that indigenous youth are more attuned to climate issues but may have less access to scientific knowledge or information.

Figure 6: Understanding of climate change (indigenous youth vs non-indigenous youth)



## 4. PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE-RELATED EFFECTS



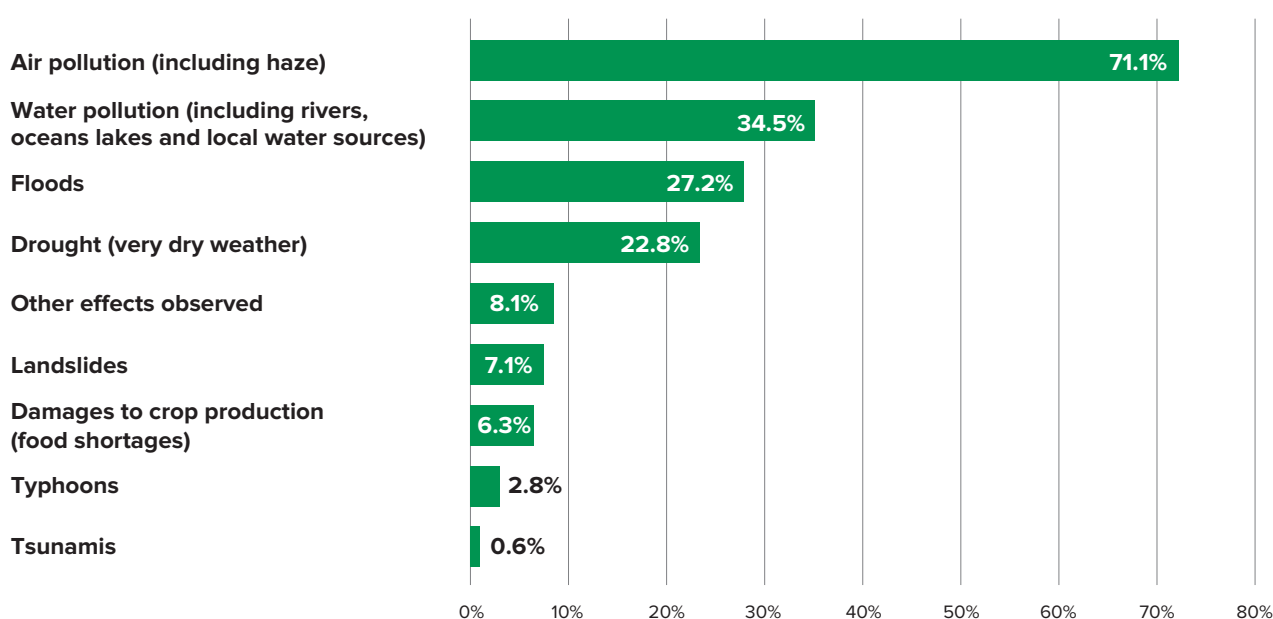
### **Nine in 10 Malaysian youth (91.3%) have experienced environment and climate-related effects<sup>6</sup> in the last 3 years.**

Air pollution, water pollution, floods and drought were the most common effects experienced by young people. Seven out of ten respondents have experienced air pollution (including haze), whereas a third of respondents have experienced water pollution in the last three years. More than a quarter of respondents mentioned floods as a climate-related impact that they had experienced.

The intensification of extreme weather events and climate change represent threats to the livelihoods and wellbeing of young people.

In open comments, several respondents mentioned that they are observing unpredictable weather patterns as compared to the last few years. Many respondents observed more hotter days and hotter weather, which is also consistent with findings from Malaysia's Third National Communications and Second Biennial Update Report on Climate Change which showed that increasing temperature trends of between 0.13 °C to 0.24 °C a decade have been observed in Malaysia.

Figure 7: Environment and climate-related effects experienced by youth in the past 3 years



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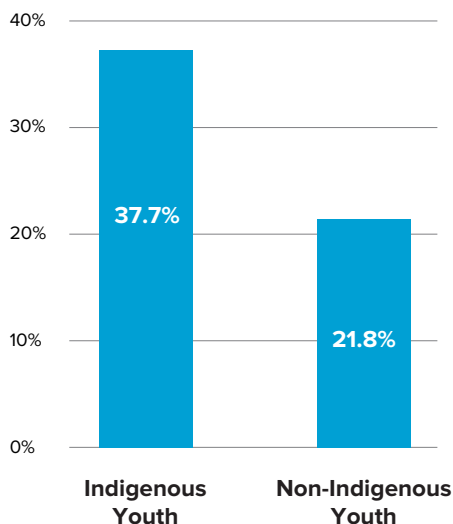
Kawasan peranginan tanah tinggi (Janda Baik, Genting Highland, Bukit Tinggi dan Cameron Highland) tidak lagi sejuk seperti 20 tahun yang lepas. Penghawa dingin perlu dihidupkan pada waktu tengahari. Ini merupakan kesan paling ketara yang boleh dirasai/dialami sendiri sekarang.

*The highland resort areas (Janda Baik, Genting Highlands, Bukit Tinggi and Cameron Highlands) are not as cold as 20 years ago. Nowadays we even have to turn on the air-conditioning during noon time. This is the most significant effect that I have noticed.*

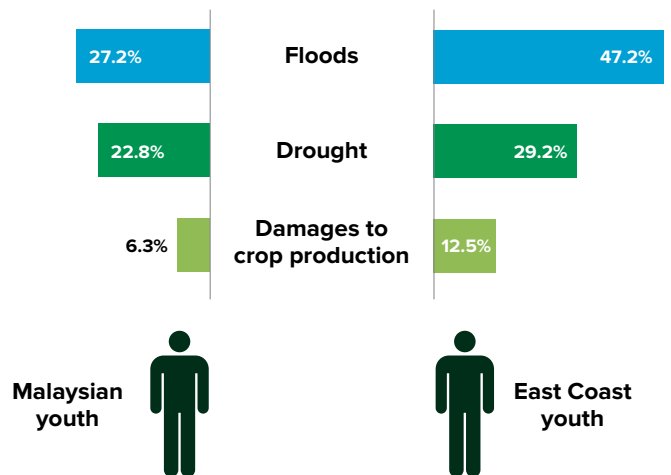
”

Even though many youths have been impacted by climate change in Malaysia, the impacts are not evenly distributed among all youth. Indigenous youth were more likely to have experienced droughts in the last three years compared to non-indigenous youth – the percentage of indigenous youth who have experienced droughts in the last three years was 37.7%, as compared to 21.8% of non-indigenous youth who have experienced the same.

Figure 8: Percentage of youth that have experienced droughts in the past 3 years



Compared to the average Malaysian youth, **youth in East Coast states (Terengganu, Kelantan, Pahang) have been disproportionately affected** by environment and climate-related effects. Young people in these states were more likely to have experienced floods, drought, and damages to crop production compared to the average Malaysian youth<sup>7</sup>.



“

Ketika banjir pada tahun 2014 di Kelantan, rumah sy hampir tenggelam dan kami terpaksa berpindah ke kawasan yg lebih tinggi.”

*During the 2014 floods in Kelantan, my home was almost submerged and we were forced to evacuate to higher ground.*

”

While youth from Sabah and Sarawak were less likely to have experienced water pollution compared to the average Malaysian youth (26.5% vs 34.5%), they were more likely to have experienced floods (38.1% vs 27.2%) and landslides (13.4% vs 7.1%).

Analysis from open-ended responses show that **personal experience with an extreme weather event close to home has the potential to change youth opinions on climate change and mobilise action.**

“

I once experienced drought, it was terrible and I clearly remember how many of my school events were cancelled due to it. The weather was terribly unbearable and that was the moment I believed that everyone should band together in making a change.

”

7. Note: Small sample size of respondents from East Coast States (72 responses) may limit the representativeness of the sample.

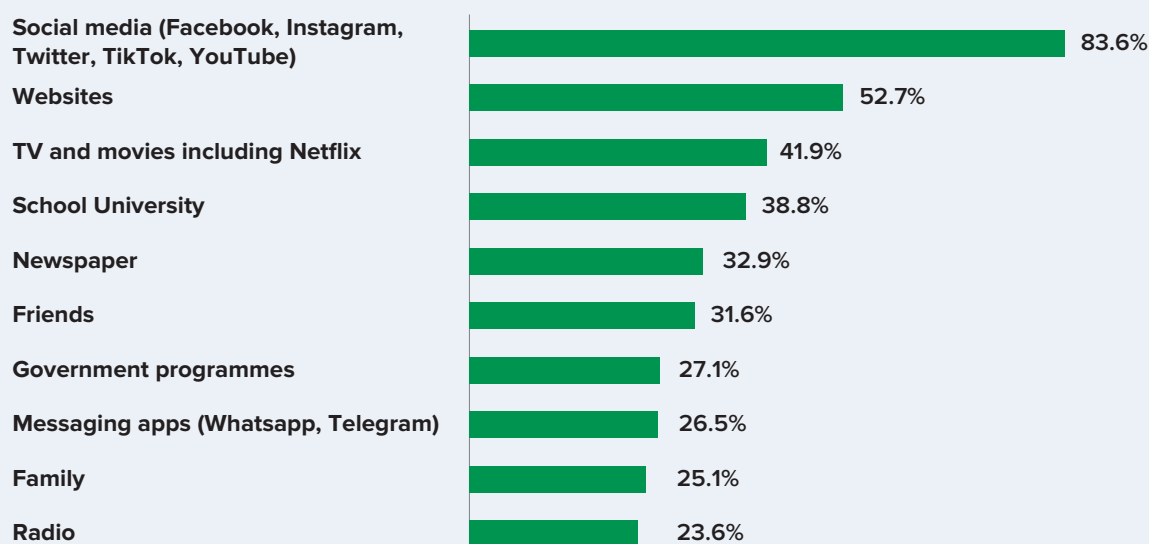


## 5. SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Young people in Malaysia today are getting information about climate change from several sources. **Youth are turning away from traditional media to digital sources of information on climate change**, which also reflects the high digital connectivity and social media savviness of Malaysian youth.

Eight out of 10 young people (83.6%) mentioned social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as their main source of climate information, whereas one out of two young people (52.7%) refer to websites.

Figure 9: Main source of climate change information



While digital mediums such as social media provide a platform to engage with Malaysian youth on climate-related topics, such mediums also can allow a barrage of misinformation or fake news on climate change or climate-related extreme events to spread.

Through open comments, the motivations for using social media to access climate information are further contextualised. While some youth get their information from news articles posted by certain media organizations or by their friends, others get their information on climate change from the views or personal opinions of their friends or influencers on social media.

Climate change is an abstract topic for most people, and personal opinions of those on social media accounts can help to personalise the topic or make it more concrete and meaningful to youth.

41.9% of youth get their information on climate change from TV and movies, perhaps reflecting the power of the moving image to stir emotions on climate change. Only 38.8% of youth are obtaining their information on climate change through formal education channels such as their schools and universities. Social media and digital connectivity also represent powerful tools to mobilise social movements around climate action.

Non-urban youth (32%) rely more on messaging apps such as WhatsApp for source of information than urban youth (24.5%), who have more access to other sources of information such as family, friends, and government programmes - indicating that urban youth are more well informed from their surroundings.

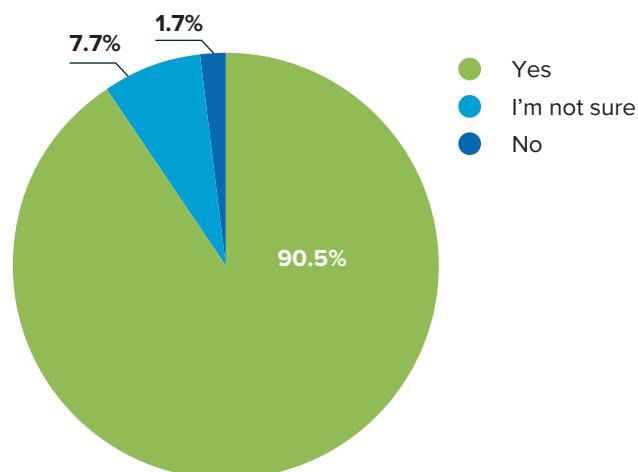


# 6. TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

## 6.1 MAKING A DIFFERENCE

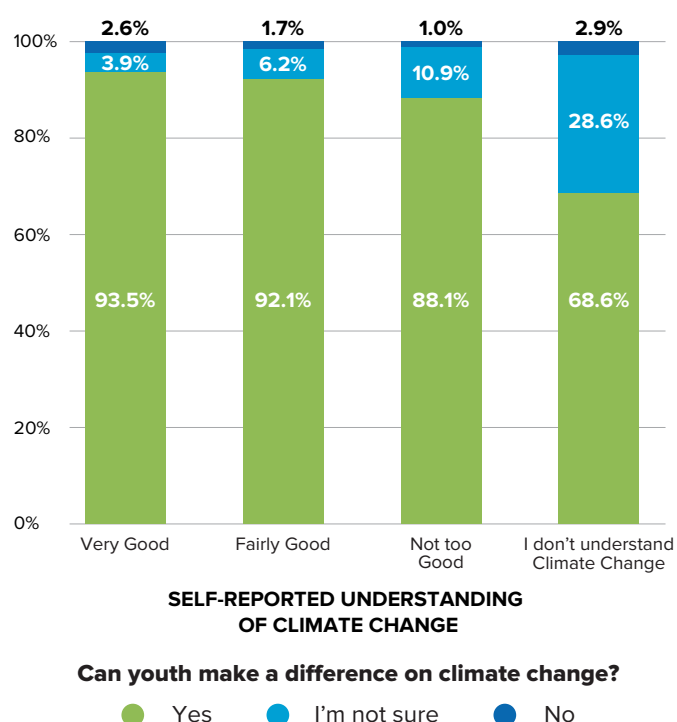
Young people are overwhelmingly confident (90.5%) that they can make a difference with regards to climate change. Only 7.7% of respondents mentioned that they were not sure whether they could make a difference. 1.7% of respondents think they are not able to make a difference.

Figure 10: Responses to the question of “Can youth make a difference on climate change?”



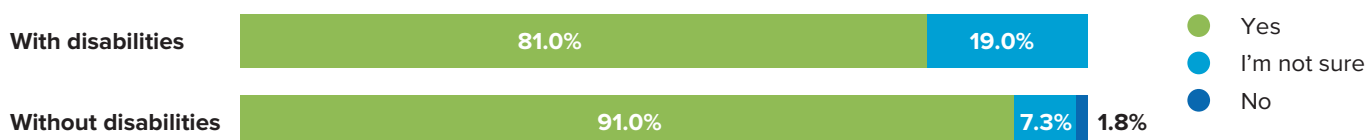
Knowledge affects youth perceptions on whether they can make a difference on climate change. Youth with better self-reported knowledge of climate change are more confident about the impact of youth in addressing climate change.

Figure 11: Perception on whether youth can make a difference by level of understanding of climate change



Youth with disabilities were less optimistic that youth could make a difference with regards to climate change, with 19.0% of youth with disabilities mentioning that they weren't sure whether they could make a difference, as compared to only 7.3% of youth without disabilities.

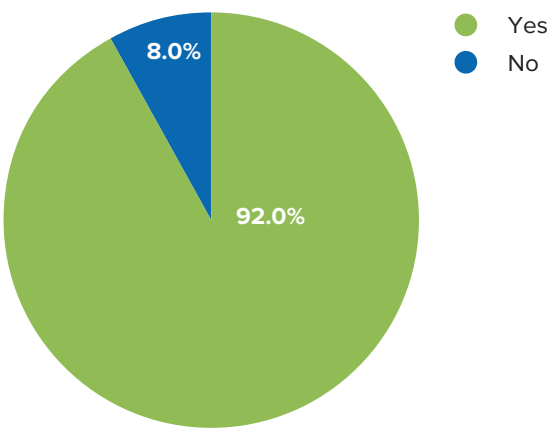
Figure 12: Responses to the question of can youth make a difference on climate change? Youth with disabilities vs youth without disabilities



6.2 TAKING PERSONAL ACTION

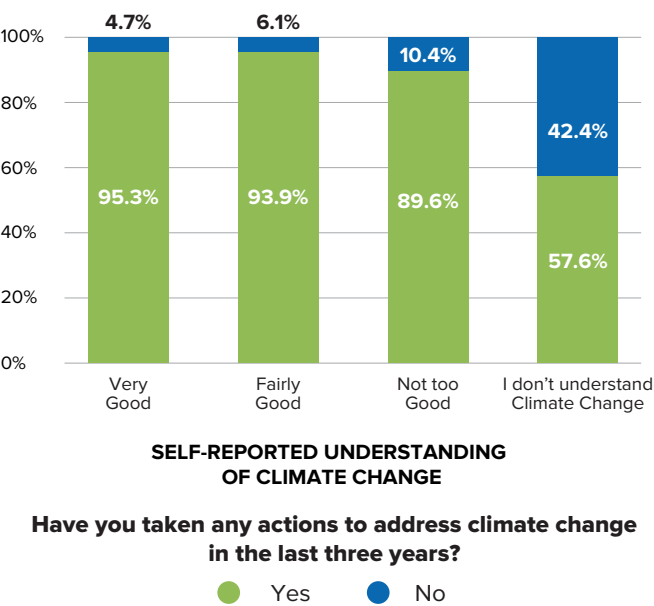
92.0% of young people have taken personal action to address climate change in the last three years, which shows interest among youth to take a proactive approach.

Figure 13: Have you taken any actions to address climate change in the last three years?



**Knowledge of climate change is strongly correlated with taking action.** Respondents with better self-reported knowledge of climate change are more inclined to have taken action to address climate change. This might suggest that interventions that centre around fostering better knowledge and understanding of climate topics are important to foster positive behaviour changes and mobilise climate action.

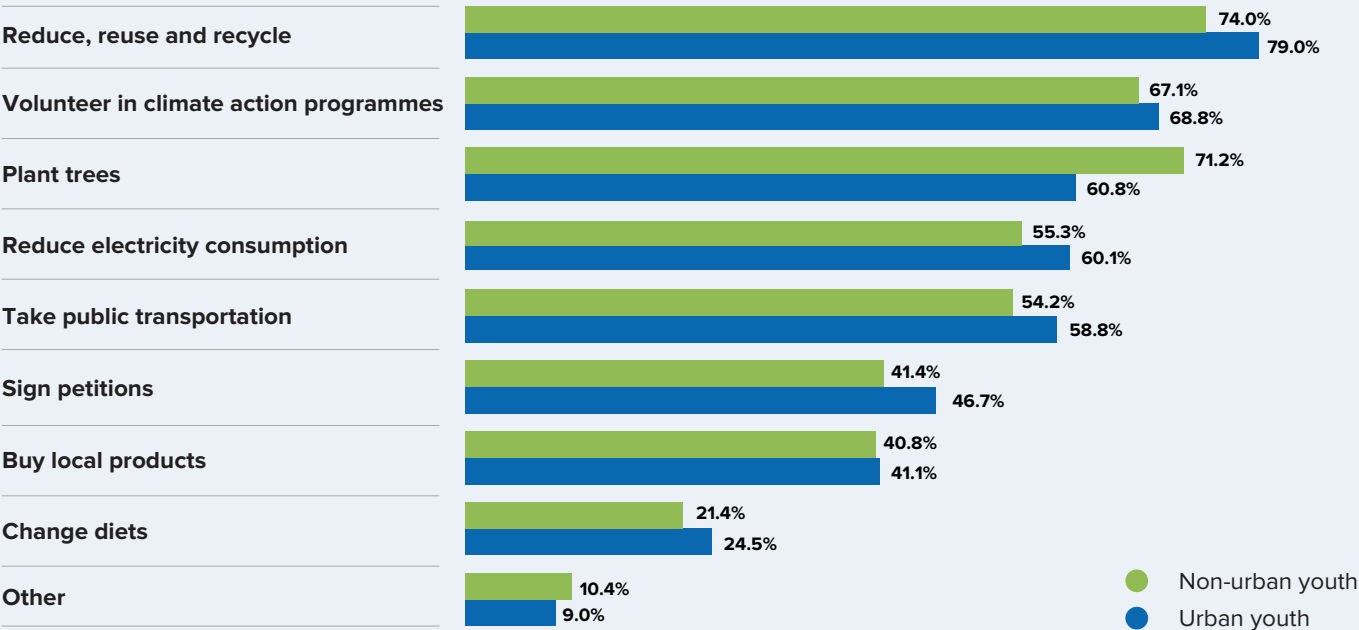
Figure 14: Impact of understanding of climate change towards taking action



Young people mentioned waste minimisation and management, volunteering in climate action programmes, and tree planting as the top actions they would take to fight climate change.

A greater percentage of non-urban youth indicate tree planting as an activity that they would take to fight climate change as compared to urban youth, which may be attributed to the stronger sense of connection to nature that non-urban youth have.

Figure 15: Actions that youth would take to address climate change, urban vs non urban



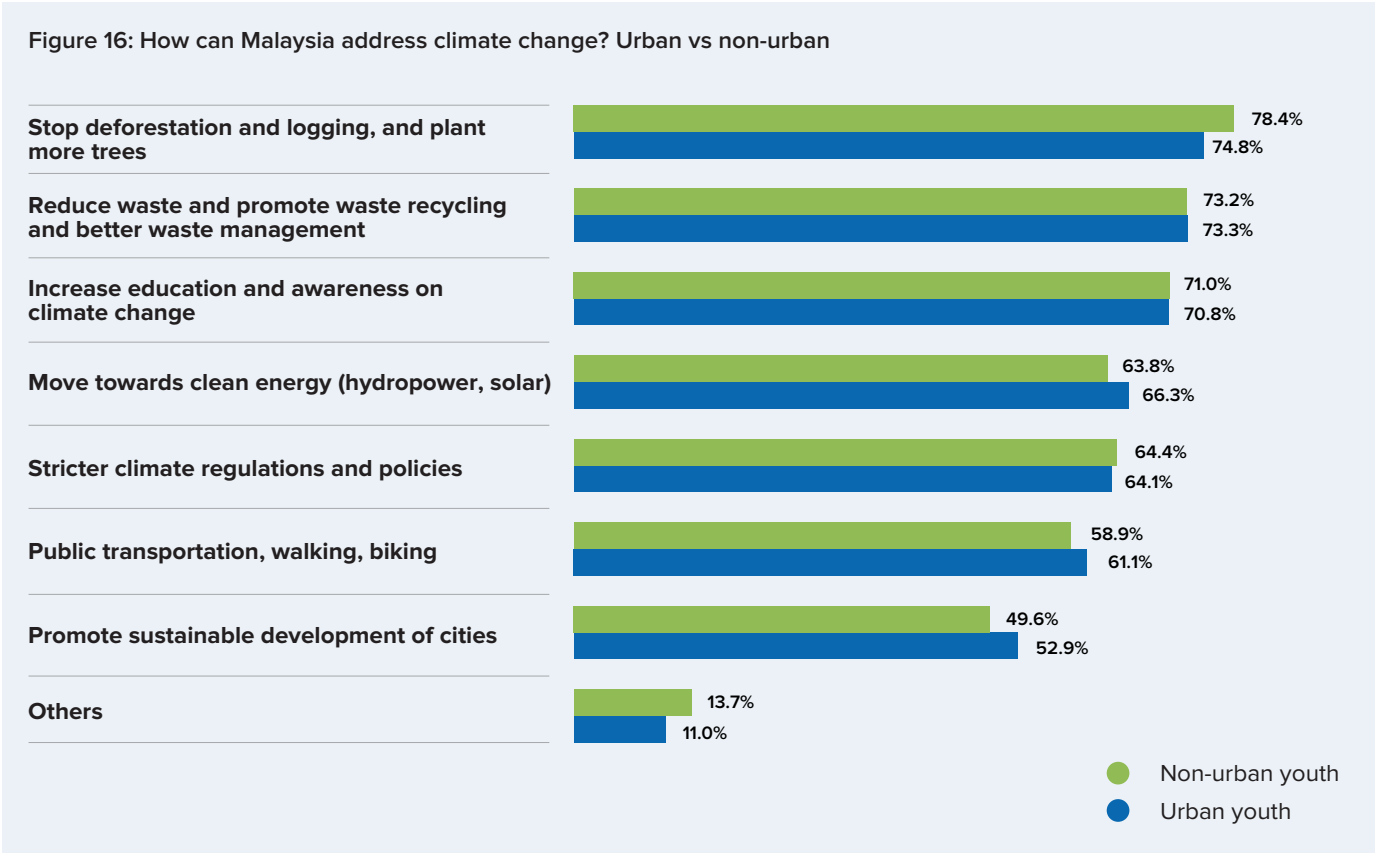
In open ended responses, respondents highlighted the actions they are taking individually and with their communities to address climate change. Respondents' comments indicate that young people are particularly motivated to minimise the use of single-use plastics.

“ I have started recycling at my home, in hopes to reduce waste production. I have also started reducing single use plastics to try live a zero waste lifestyle, as landfills are a source of pollution as well. The release of methane at landfills might also contribute to climate change.

“ I’m trying my best to reduce my carbon emissions. I take public transport when I can, but still very much depend on a car. At home, I do composting, I thrift shop pre-loved clothes online and I recycle (although now, it’s not very clear where our waste go). My family is using solar panels now, although I know not everyone can afford it. Hopefully solar panels become more cheap in the near future.

### 6.3 HOW MALAYSIA CAN ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

Stopping deforestation and logging, and planting trees, reducing waste, and promoting recycling and better waste management, and education and awareness on climate change were the top three things youth mentioned that Malaysia should do to address climate change.







Other suggestions provided by Malaysian youths on how Malaysia can address climate change point to a variety of priority areas— many involving not only the Government but also other stakeholders such as corporate, media, organizations, academia and general public. These are illustrated below.

Figure 17: Other suggestions on how Malaysia can address climate change

### HOW MALAYSIA CAN ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

<b>Volunteerism</b> Join local groups/ environmental communities ie: EcoBrick, Zero Waste Malaysia	<b>Media Communication</b> Communicating climate action through various forms of online, social and traditional media outlets to educate and increase awareness	<b>Research &amp; Development</b> Conducting research for knowledge-sharing, supported by provision of research/academic grants	<b>Green &amp; Clean Energy</b> Increase the usage of solar panels and renewable energy alternatives, subsidized by Government	<b>Green Practices in the Corporate Sector</b> Carbon neutral corporate practices and incentives for corporates to adopt green practices
<b>Voicing Out in Authorities</b> Encouraging the Government to implement green energy policies	<b>Plant-based Diet</b> Practice of plant-based diet to reduce level of animal agriculture	<b>Green Reclamation</b> Reclaim empty or unused spaces for tree-planting to reduce carbon footprint	<b>Strategic Collaboration with Authorities</b> Working and collaborating with local authorities to mobilise actions and adhere to policies set	<b>Public Engagement</b> Climate strikes, petitions, public campaigns and surveys

“

I think the first step to many is to properly introduce “climate change” to people of different backgrounds. Especially the youth of today. Probably do a campaign in school conducted by an organization and introduce and educate what climate change really is. Then, focus on the older generation. Probably highlight in the newspaper where you have a section giving info and facts about climate change. a medium that is easy to access and that everyone can see and read. make it lightweight and informative.

”

“

对于所谓的“洋垃圾”严格管控。每个国家和企业都有责任处理好自己的垃圾并对全世界居民负责任。

*Strictly control the so-called “global waste trade”. Every country and industry has the responsibility to manage its own waste.*

”

## 6.4 BARRIERS TO TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Despite the increased engagement of young people in climate action, they still face several barriers to taking climate action. The top barrier mentioned by 38.1% of surveyed youth is the perception that a climate-friendly lifestyle is expensive.

A lack of knowledge about climate change and a how to live a climate-friendly lifestyle, or a lack of available information on how to get involved in movements and activities that addresses climate change is a major hindrance for 37.3% of youth surveyed. 35.4% mentioned that their individual actions do not make a difference. 32.8% of youth do not know where to start, which could lead to despair and feeling of hopelessness.

Though 90% of youth say youth can make a difference and that they are already taking action, the responses to the question on barriers to taking climate action show more than a third of respondents feel that their individual action doesn't make a difference, and that they don't know where to start. This could indicate that respondents think that youth as a

collective group can make a difference but that they personally can't, or that they are already taking some steps towards leading a more carbon-friendly lifestyle but do not think that they are doing enough.

“

I really want to make a change but I dont know where to start.

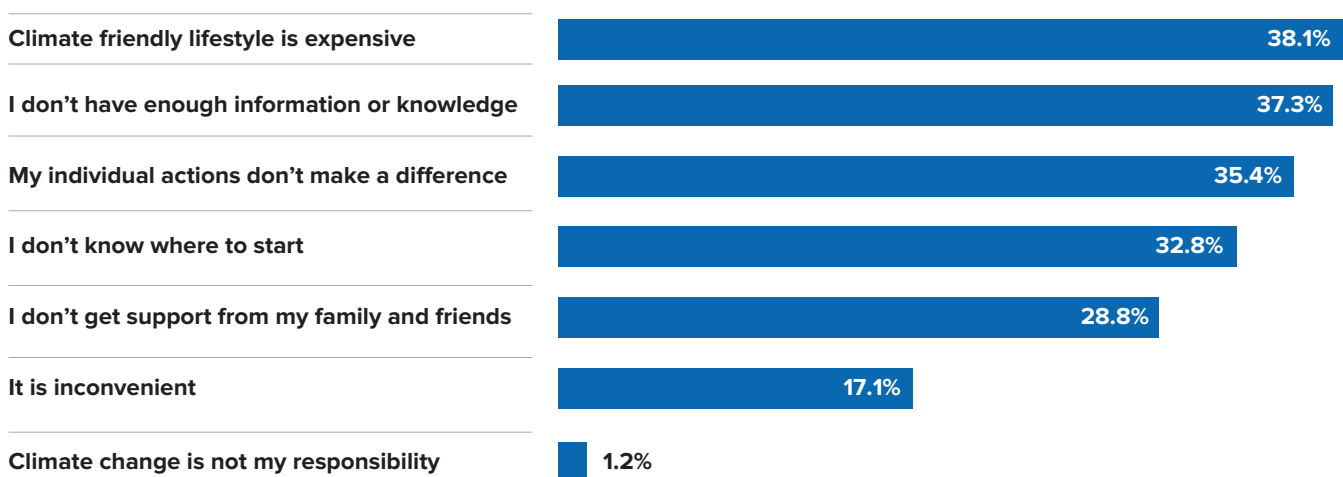
”

“

I would love to join an organisation and contribute change but I don't know where or how to start.

”

Figure 18: Barriers to taking climate action

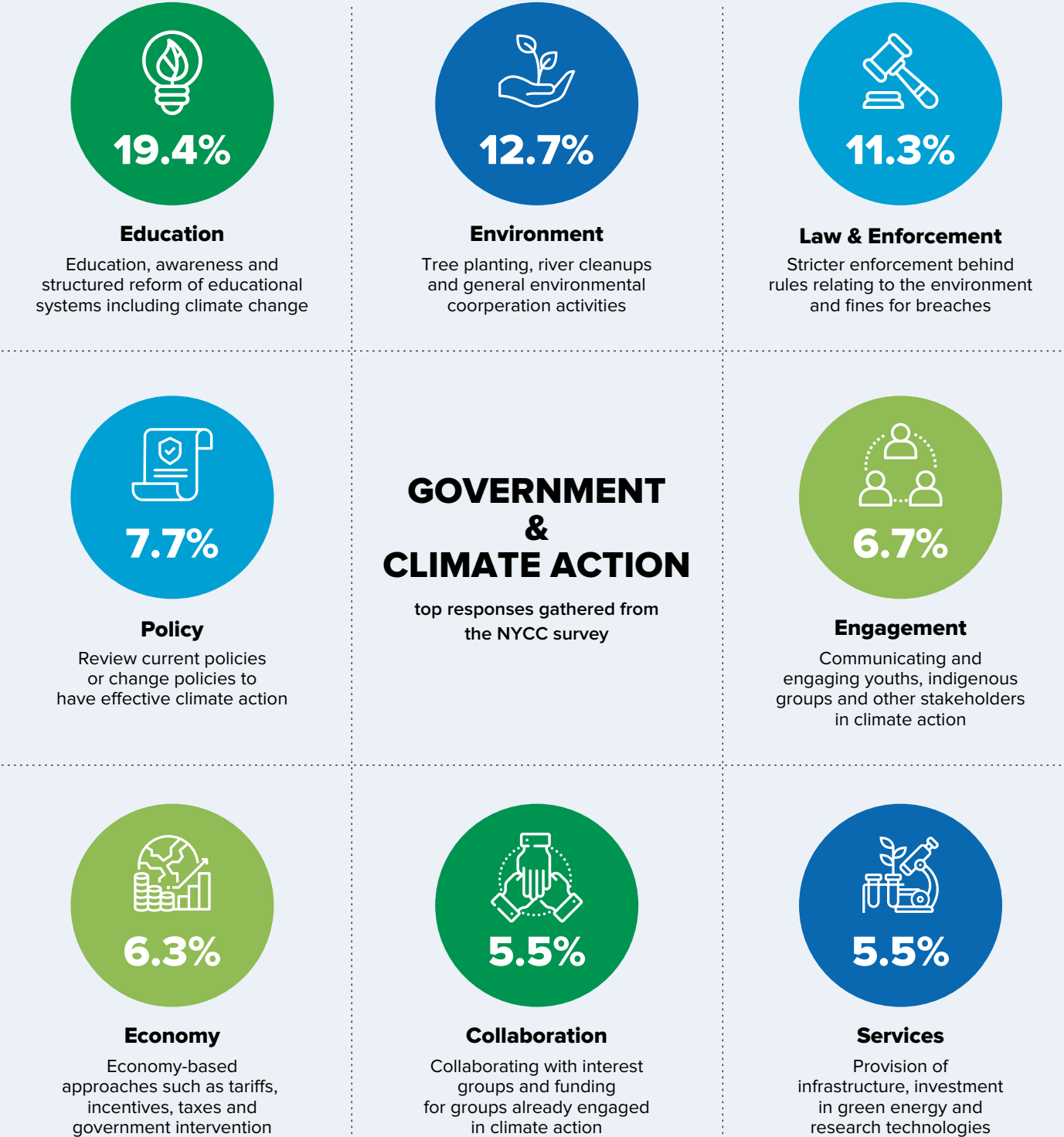




## 6.5 YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENT

When asked for feedback on what the government’s top priority for addressing climate change should be, youth provided suggestions that are grouped into eight main components, as shown in the illustration below:

Figure 19: What youth think government’s top priority for addressing climate change should be



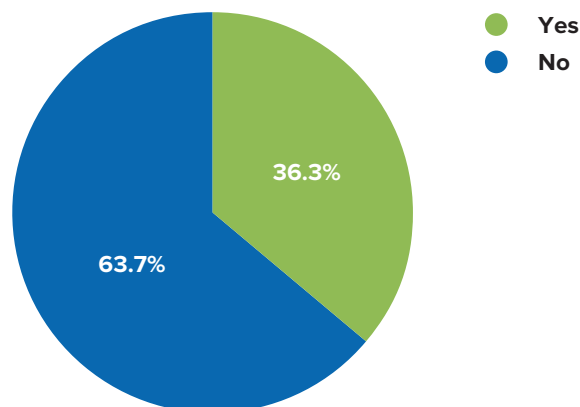
## 7. LOCAL ACTORS ON CLIMATE CHANGE



### 7.1 LOCAL YOUTH LEADERS INVOLVED IN CLIMATE ACTION

When asked whether they knew of any local youth icons who are involved in climate action, 63.7% of youth said “no”, whereas 36.3% of youth responded “yes”.

Figure 20: Do you know of any local youth icons who are involved in climate action?



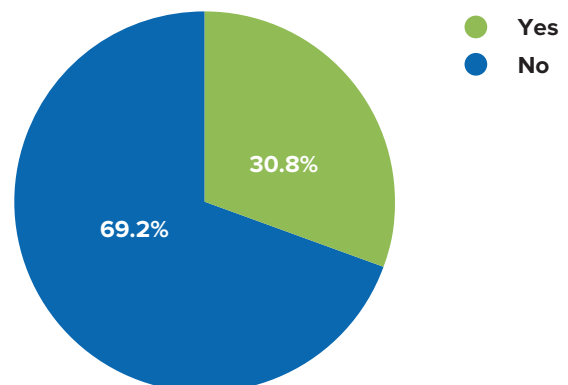
The respondents who mentioned they knew of a local youth icon were then asked if they could name the youth icons involved in climate action. Most respondents (47.1%) mentioned Greta Thunberg, which may indicate that global youth leaders were more well-known compared to local youth leaders. Other local youth leaders were also mentioned as per the word cloud. Local youth leaders were known for starting environmental movements and non-profits to address sustainability issues, and for advocating on environment and climate issues through their social media platforms.



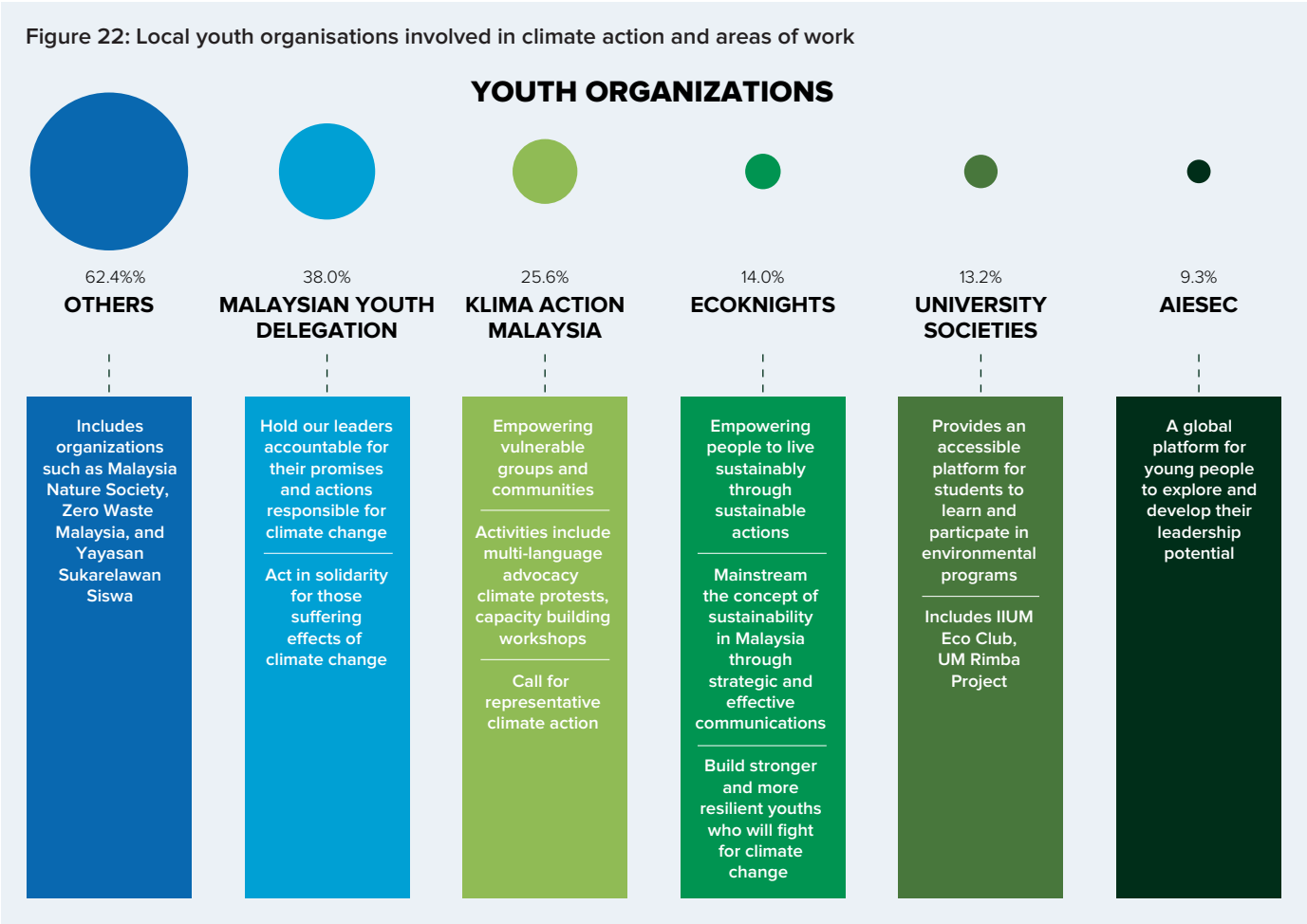
### 7.2 LOCAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN CLIMATE ACTION

69.2% of respondents did not know of any local youth organizations involved in climate action, versus 30.8% of respondents who knew of local youth organizations.

Figure 21: Do you know of any local youth organisations who are involved in climate action?



When asked if they could name the local youth organizations involved in climate action, responses from youth are mapped in the illustration below, together with the respective areas of work.



The illustration below maps out the operational base as well as the outreach of the different youth organizations in regard to climate action. The operation base of youth organizations is highly skewed to urban centers such as Klang Valley and Penang, representing a gap in terms of being able to reach out and mobilise youth from towns and rural areas.



# 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of this survey, UNDP, UNICEF and EcoKnights propose the following recommendations:

## 1. EDUCATION

- **Educate youth about climate change and its impacts.** Instilling environmental and climate awareness at a young age is pivotal to empower a generation of youth that can act on climate change. The best entry point for this outside from home is the education system. Environmental and climate education should be accessible to all children and youth, via inclusion of the topics within the school curriculums, integrating environmental and climate best practices in daily activities at school, and organising, developing, and delivering more environmental and climate related programs for schoolchildren to participate in.

## 2. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

- **Facilitate youth-led climate policies that aims to protect the rights and best interests of young people.** Young people's involvement in shaping the future climate regime can be strengthened through systematic consultations and meaningful participation of young people in climate policy-making process. This includes providing youth a seat at the table within the decision-making platforms. A first opportunity to embark on youth-sensitive policy making would be for the update of Malaysia's Nationally Determined Contribution, to be submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by end of 2020. Climate policies can be developed to contain explicit and meaningful references to youth, and while recognising their different needs, capacities, and vulnerabilities.
- **Enhance climate change communication and narratives.** The knowledge gap between young people and scientific communities can be bridged through active social media engagement and informative digital content and videos to transmit complex scientific research findings. To effectively communicate climate change, we must make it locally accessible, and that means that we need to share information where youth are already spending their time. Climate change narratives can be further strengthened by speaking the same language as youth and breaking down difficult concepts into easily digestible formats, so youth can understand climate change better.
- **Ensure that the conversation about climate change and interest in climate action goes beyond urban centers and certain demographic groups.** This would entail reaching out to rural youth and youth from lower-income families and equipping them with information about climate change and its effects, while creating opportunities for all youth to participate in inclusive movements that can address climate change within their communities.

- **Address psychological and physical health impacts of climate change and environmental stresses on youth.** Recognizing that youth are one of the most vulnerable groups impacted by climate change, there is a need to address the psychological and physical health impacts that they suffer from. More youth will be suffering from climate anxiety and climate grief in the near future, as well as harm by air pollution, climate-related hazards, and worsening natural disasters. It is important to better understand and analyze the psychological and physical health impacts of climate change, to design programs that can enable young people to better cope and adapt to climate change and its impacts.
- **Prioritize climate change as a national agenda.** Globally, the scientific consensus is clear, that we only have about a decade to lower the carbon emission rate, before the world faces catastrophic events, leading to an unsafe future for our future generation. This survey conveys that the Malaysian youth too, are worried for their future. Malaysia must play a proactive role in addressing the climate crisis, by prioritising climate change as a national agenda.

## 3. EMPOWERMENT

- **Provide platforms for youth to engage in environmental and climate action.** The survey shows that a vast majority of the Malaysian youth perceive that climate change is a crisis, and that they are willing to take action to address the issue. The Government and non-governmental organizations play an important role to provide platforms and avenues for youth to engage in environmental and climate action and be empowered to be agents of change. Support can be provided through financial assistance, physical space to carry out activities, and online tools for mobilisation. Providing recognition to youth and civil society who are leading and taking their own initiatives would also spur the momentum for more youth to be involved in climate action.
- **Allocate resources for research, capacity building and academic institutions for climate change.** As climate change is a field that is growing in significance, it is important to allocate resources to further strengthen the research sector in government bodies, universities, think tanks and research centers, provide trainings to build capacity in terms of sound knowledge and leadership in climate change science, law, policy, mitigation, and adaptation, and invest in academic institutions as centres that cultivate thought leaders on climate change.

# ANNEX 1: METHODOLOGY AND RESPONDENTS' PROFILE

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted from 28 July to 18 August 2020 through an interactive U-Report/WhatsApp chatbot. The survey was conducted in English, Bahasa Malaysia and Mandarin, with a 99% survey completion rate. The survey links were publicly accessible through the social media platforms of UNDP Malaysia, UNICEF Malaysia and EcoKnights, and were distributed to an email database of close to 40 youth organizations, environmental NGOs, and universities or schools for further dissemination through their platforms and networks. Participation in the survey was fully voluntary.

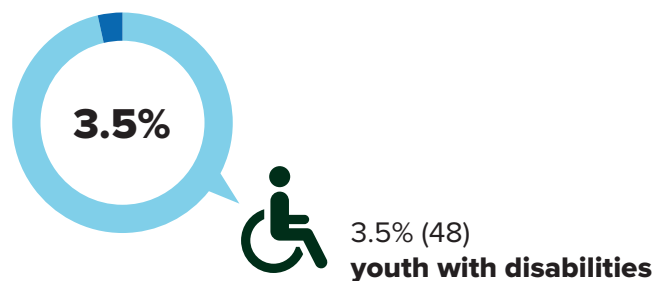
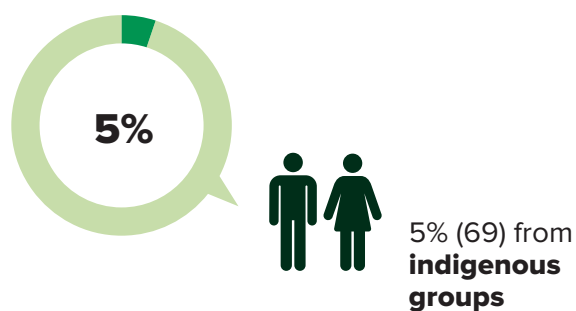
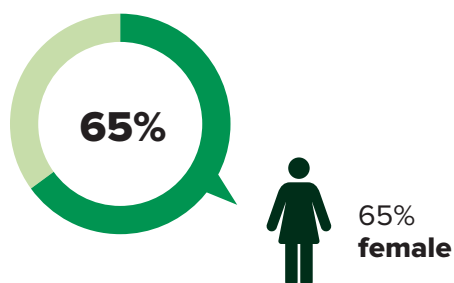
The following caveats on the representativeness of the sample to the general population should be noted in interpreting survey data:

- This was an opt-in survey, creating potential self-selection bias;
- The survey was conducted online and would be less accessible to groups with poor/no internet connectivity and digital literacy; and
- The geographical distribution of survey respondents is not representative of the entire Malaysian youth population.

Nevertheless, the findings reveal interesting insights and trends into the perceptions of youth concerning climate change in Malaysia and should be supplemented with further in-depth studies on youth and climate change.

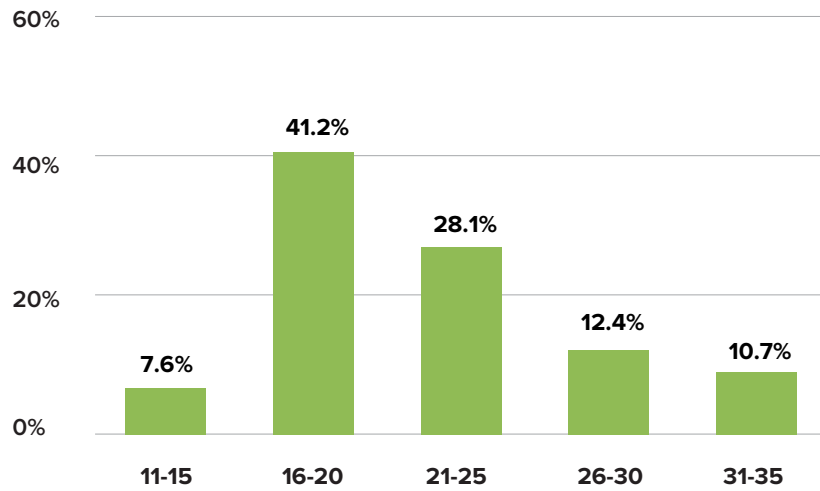
## RESPONDENTS' PROFILE

A total of 1,393 responses were received, which were filtered to leave **1,377 responses** from participants aged **11-35 years**.

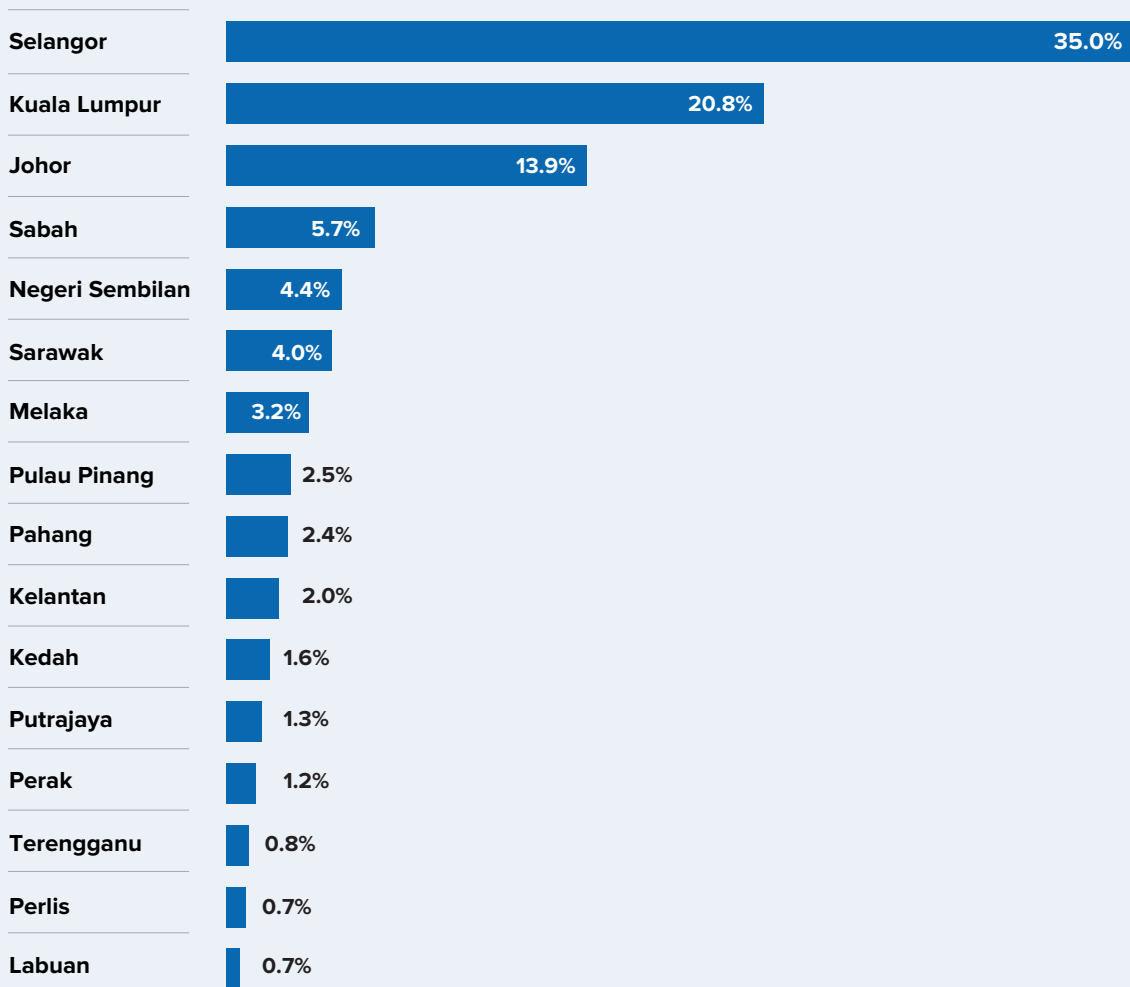




## RESPONDENTS BY AGE GROUP



## RESPONDENTS BY STATE





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