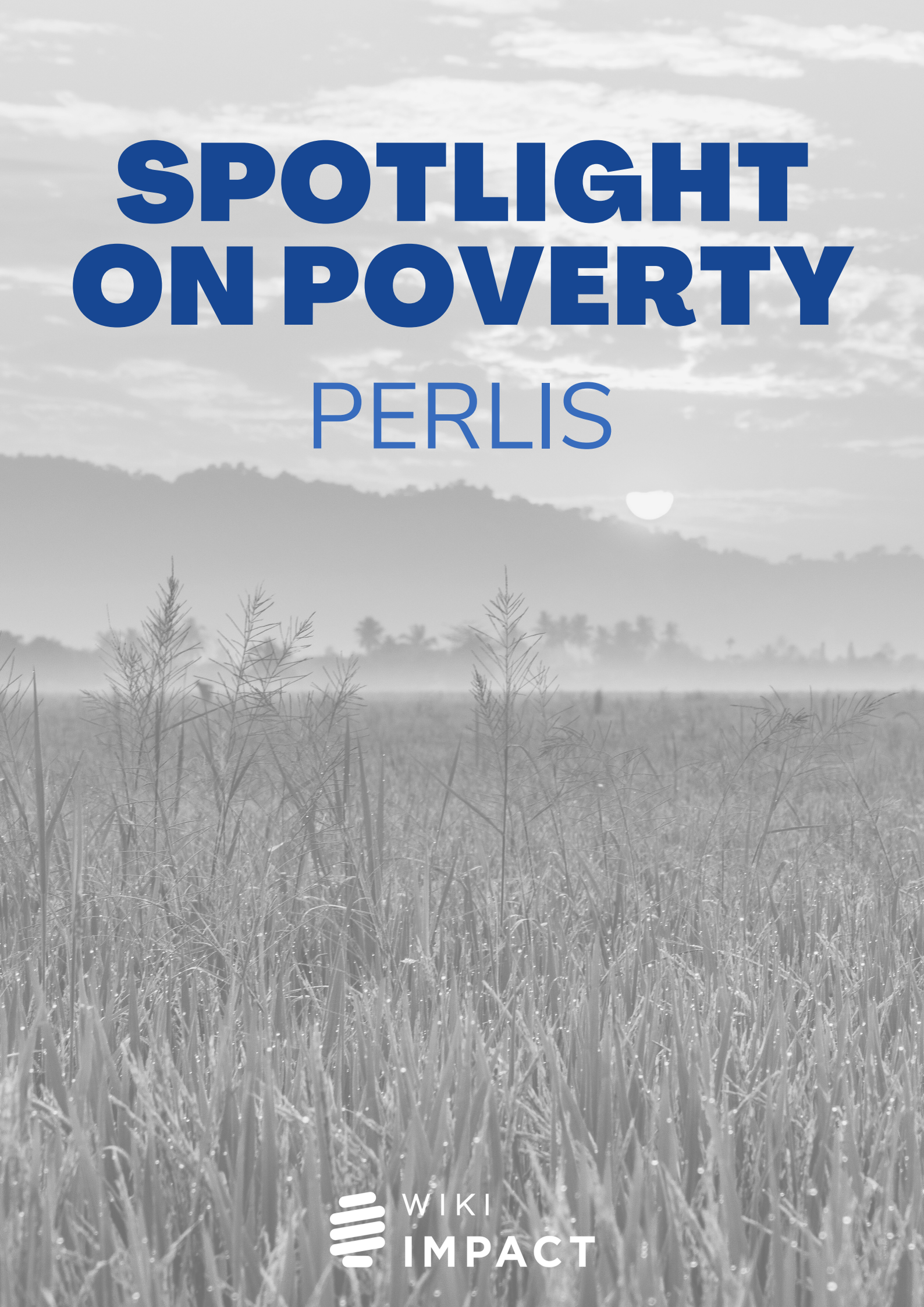

SPOTLIGHT ON POVERTY

PERLIS

WIKI IMPACT

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INTRODUCTION

Eradicating poverty remains one of the biggest challenges facing humanity today and the primary focus of Wiki Impact's Poverty Project.

Out of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), 'No Poverty' is the first. The stakes are high, human lives are on the line. It is of utmost importance that together, as a nation, state and community, work together to eliminate poverty.

End poverty in all its forms, everywhere.

We usually associate poverty with a lack of money – not being able to afford to put food on the table or having a roof over your head. While poverty definitely includes not being able to meet basic needs including meals, clothing and shelter, it is also about so much more than that.

"Fundamentally, poverty is a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities." United Nations, 1998

Let us restore human dignity, give back voices to people and provide opportunities where everyone can not only survive, but thrive.

Spotlight on Poverty is a series that aims to highlight the needs and gaps in the poorest districts of every state in Malaysia.

What's in this report?

This comprehensive report will give you grand overview of how the district is fairing. Poverty is a complex and interconnected issue that impacts on other issues of society.

The report will cover the following:

- Socio economic overview
- Employment
- Basic Amenities
- Education (Primary and Secondary)
- Healthcare
- Internet & Connectivity

How can this report be used?

If you're a changemaker (NGO, association, government led initiative, social investor) that is involved in alleviating poverty, this data will help you to make impactful and informed decisions on where to channel and focus your resources and efforts.

The data will also help policy makers and communicators better understand the state of poverty in these districts.

Let's work together to give a voice to the voiceless.

SPOTLIGHT ON POVERTY: PERLIS

Perlis or Perlis Indera Kayangan is the smallest state in Malaysia measuring 819 square kilometres. It is positioned at the northern part of the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia bordering the Satun and Songkhla Provinces. Perlis's capital is Kangar while its royal capital is Arau.

According to Malaysian history, the name Perlis originated from the Thai phrase "Phrao Loi" which meant coconut washed ashore. This was because there were many coconuts found washed ashore around Kuala Perlis. Locals began shortening the phrase and that was how "pereleh" or Perlis came to be. Although Perlis is not divided into administrative districts, it still has several communes or 'mukims'.

Image: Sanglang Jetty, Perlis

Kuala Perlis is a well-known fishing spot as enthusiastic anglers would head over to fish. Fishing competitions are also usually held in Kuala Perlis. On top of that, there is an abundance of seafood restaurants that offer fresh seafood for a relatively cheap price compared to the city centre.

The Perlis State Park is also another tourist attraction site, home to Gua Kelam and Gua Wang Burma. It sits on the country's longest limestone hills range called the Nakawan Park. The park spans about 5000 hectares with two reserve parks within the area — Mata Ayer and Wang Mu Forest Reserves.

PERLIS IN GENERAL

Brief overview of the population & poverty in Perlis

261.9

Population Size Perlis (2019)
Constitutes of **0.80%** of Malaysia's population

4593

Monthly Household Income (Median)
12.8% less than Malaysia (RM5,873)

0.334

GINI Coefficient
Compared to Malaysia's **0.407**

3.9%

Incidence of Absolute Poverty[1]
Compared to Malaysia's **5.6%**

12.1%

Incidence of Relative Poverty
Compared to Malaysia's **16.9%**

Ethnic Composition:

224,600
Bumiputeras

20,000
Chinese

3,300
Indians

5,300
Others

8,700
Non-Citizens

EMPLOYMENT

The Employment Situation in Perlis

96.7%

Employment Rate
in Perlis (2019)

3.3%

Unemployment Rate
Compared to Malaysia's **4.7%**

61.3 ('000)

Persons Outside the Labour Force
Out of population total in Perlis

112.2 ('000)

Persons in the Labour Force
Out of population total in Perlis

108.5 ('000)

Persons Employed
Out of the **112.2** persons in the labour force

3.7 ('000)

Persons Unemployed
Out of the **112.2** persons in the labour force

OBSERVATIONS

The unemployment rate in Perlis is relatively low when compared to the national rate. This meant that a large majority of the people of Perlis are employed.

Looking at the number of employed persons, almost 97% of the total labour force are employed, leaving the remaining 3% unemployed.

GROSS OUTPUT

An Insight on the Economic Output in Perlis

5,884

Total Gross Output Value
(RM Million)

RM 466 mil.

Manufacturing
7.9% of the Total Gross Output Value

RM 3879 mil.

Service
65.9% of the Total Gross Output Value

RM 1,262 mil.

Agriculture
21.4% of the Total Gross Output Value

RM 146 mil.

Construction
2.4% of the Total Gross Output Value

RM 33 mil.

Mining and Quarrying
0.5% of the Total Gross Output Value

OBSERVATIONS

The majority of the economy in Perlis is dominated by the **service sector**, followed by the agricultural sector which makes up 21.4% of the total output value.

At 65.9%, the service sector in Perlis makes up for more than half of the total gross output value, making it the most profitable industry in the state.

BASIC AMENITIES

Available utilities and amenities for the population

100%

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

100% for all of Malaysia

99.6%

PIPED WATER IN THE HOUSE

Compared to **95.9%** for Malaysia

0.3%

PUBLIC WATER STAND PIPE

Compared to **0.4%** for Malaysia

0.1%

OTHERS

Compared to **3.7%** for Malaysia

GARBAGE COLLECTION FACILITY

15.7%

NONE AVAILABLE

Compared to 8.2% for Malaysia

38.4%

WITHIN THE AREA*

Compared to 22.9% for Malaysia

45.9%

LIVING QUARTERS

Compared to 68.9% for Malaysia

*Garbage collection in the collection area where the distance is more than 100 metres away from the living quarters

EDUCATION: PRIMARY

An overview on the state of primary school education in Perlis

43,391
PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

2377
PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS
1% of primary school teachers in Malaysia

74
PRIMARY SCHOOLS

1:587
RATIO OF PRIMARY SCHOOL TO STUDENTS
Compared to **1:351** in Malaysia

1:19
RATIO OF PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS TO STUDENTS
Compared to **1:11** in Malaysia

HOUSEHOLD DISTANCE FROM SCHOOL

100%
<5KM FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL
Compared to 98.7% for Malaysia

0%
5-9KM FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL
Compared to 0.9% for Malaysia

0%
>9KM FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL
Compared to 0.4% for Malaysia

EDUCATION: SECONDARY

An overview on the state of secondary school education in Perlis

19,741
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

2350
SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS
1.2% of secondary school teachers in Malaysia

30
SECONDARY SCHOOLS

1:658
RATIO OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TO STUDENTS
Compared to **1:824** in Malaysia

1:8
RATIO OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS TO STUDENTS
Compared to **1:11** in Malaysia

HOUSEHOLD DISTANCE FROM SCHOOL

98.8%
<5KM FROM SECONDARY SCHOOL
Compared to 94.0% for Malaysia

1.2%
5-9KM FROM SECONDARY SCHOOL
Compared to 2.8% for Malaysia

0%
>9KM FROM SECONDARY SCHOOL
Compared to 3.2% for Malaysia

HEALTHCARE

Available government healthcare facilites

1

Public Hospitals

1

Private Hospitals

44

Government Clinic(s)

552

Beds

1:474

Ratio of beds to population

Compared to **1:710** in Malaysia

OBSERVATION:

With only one public hospital and one private hospital, Perlis may be able to provide enough bed space in an event of a pandemic breakout. However, more severe medical cases may require referral to hospitals in Kedah when specialists are needed.

HOUSEHOLD DISTANCE FROM PUBLIC HEALTHCARE CENTRES

99.3%

<5KM FROM FACILITY

Compared to 92.6% for Malaysia

0.7%

5-9KM FROM FACILITY

Compared to 4.5% for Malaysia

0%

>9KM FROM FACILITY

Compared to 2.9% for Malaysia

INTERNET & CONNECTIVITY

Internet penetration and accessibility in Perlis

97.3%

MOBILE PHONE

Compared to **98.2%** for Malaysia

73.2%

PAY TV CHANNEL

Compared to **75.8%** for Malaysia

88.2%

SUBSCRIPTION INTERNET AT HOME

Compared to **90.1%** for Malaysia

13

MALAYSIA INTERNET CENTRES

1

RURAL INTERNET CENTRES

1

CITIZEN INTERNET CENTRES

Pusat Dialisis Tuanku Syed Putra — NKF

This dialysis centre provides affordable treatment to the poor patients in Perlis suffering from end-stage kidney failure. They are the sole NGO Dialysis Centre in Perlis.

Phone Number: 04-977-7411
Website: https://pdtsp-nkf.org
E-mail: kgr_nkf@yahoo.com

DEFINITIONS

An explanation of the terminologies used in this Spotlight

Absolute poverty- "The most severe type of poverty where there is a severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services." (UN 1995 report of the World Summit for Social Development)

Relative Poverty- It is when impoverished households earn 50% less than the national median household incomes. This means that the household does have money, however they do not have enough money to afford anything other than the basics. This type of poverty is also dependant on the economy of the country, and as such is subject to change from time to time.

GINI Index- It is defined as the measure of statistical dispersion intended to represent the income inequality within a nation. It is calculated using a specific formula and the results determines the different levels of income inequality.

GINI Index:

- <0.2 = perfect income equality
- 0.2-0.3 = relative equality
- 0.3-0.4 = adequate equality
- 0.4-0.5 = big income gap
- >0.5 = severe income gap

The bigger the number of the GINI index, the more severe the income inequality. Anything less than 0.2 represent perfect income equality, while anything higher than 0.5 represents a severe income inequality. Any number between 0.2 and 0.3 is considered an adequate safe value. A value of 0.4 is considered the warning level that immediate action must be taken to reduce income inequality.

DEFINITIONS

An explanation of the terminology used in this Spotlight

Labour force- It represents the group of people in the population that are currently actively looking for work, or already working.

Outside labour force- Refers to the group of people that are not actively looking for work. Example : Pensioners, school children, infants, and housewives.

Employed force- The group of people within the population that are currently working for pay at least one hour per week.

Unemployed force- The group of people within the population that are currently able and looking for work, but not yet hired.

Gross output- "The total output of a firm, industry, or economy without deducting intermediate costs." (Collins Dictionary)

This means that the Gross Output of an industry is the immediate value of their output/sales, without taking into account the cost of labour and production.

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