1 in 11 adults globally has diabetes

IMPROVING AWARENESS AND OUTCOMES

Malaysia is famous for powerhouse financial hub Kuala Lumpur, beautiful beaches, secluded islands, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It’s lesser known for having one of the world’s highest rates of diabetes.

One in six Malaysians – 3.5 million people – has diabetes; an estimated 1.75 million more are undiagnosed. Seeing the number of cases rise steadily, Lions have stepped in to reverse the trend in rural Kedah State, which shoulders the country’s highest prevalence of diabetes, a frightening 25.4 percent.

With a US$10,000 Diabetes grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) augmenting local funds raised, Lions are holding 33 screening events in 11 rural Kedah State districts to diagnose those with diabetes; refer them for treatment; and provide education about the disease that can cause devastation like blindness, kidney disease, and amputation.

“We need to reach people who are often less able to access life-saving services and education,” said Lion Lim Kean Leng, chair of the screening project. “The more people know about diabetes, and how to avoid or manage it, the healthier our neighbors and country will be.”
A Disease of Epic Proportion

162.6 million.

According to the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), that’s the number of people in this part of the world with diabetes\(^1\). But that’s just the beginning. Consider these sobering insights into the disease the World Health Organization says is the eighth leading cause of death worldwide\(^4\):

China leads the world in people with diabetes: **116 million\(^6\)**

Of all IDF regions, Western Pacific ranked highest in diabetes-related deaths of 20-79-year-olds\(^9\)

**Diabetes-related health expenditure in the region**

- **2019:** US$162.2B
- **2030:** ~US$182B\(^7\)

**THAT’S HERE. GLOBALLY, DIABETES LOOKED LIKE THIS IN 2019:**

- **~463 million** 20-79-year-olds had diabetes
  - Cases expected by 2045: 700 million
- **50%** of diabetes cases were undiagnosed
- **10%** of all health expenditure on adults was due to diabetes
- **374 million** people were at increased risk of type 2 diabetes
- **4.2 million** deaths were caused by diabetes
- **Type 1 diabetes has no known cause nor cure;** combating type 2 diabetes — often caused by poor diet and lack of exercise — requires education and behaviour modification programs. Left untreated, diabetes can lead to blindness, nerve damage, kidney failure, stroke, heart attack, and more\(^8\).

**LCIF AND LIONS**

Funding Service, Delivering Solutions

Since 2000, diabetes’ prevalence has risen more than 300%\(^2\). LCIF and Lions are there, and part of the solution to this global epidemic.

lcif.org/diabetes

**Sources/Note:** \(^1\)International Diabetes Federation; \(^2\)World Health Organization; grant limits subject to change