



# Tapah Voluntary Local Review 2023



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MALAYSIA





# Tapah

## Voluntary Local Review 2023

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This report is prepared for:  
**Tapah District Council**



This report is prepared by:  
**Urbanice Malaysia**



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**PART**

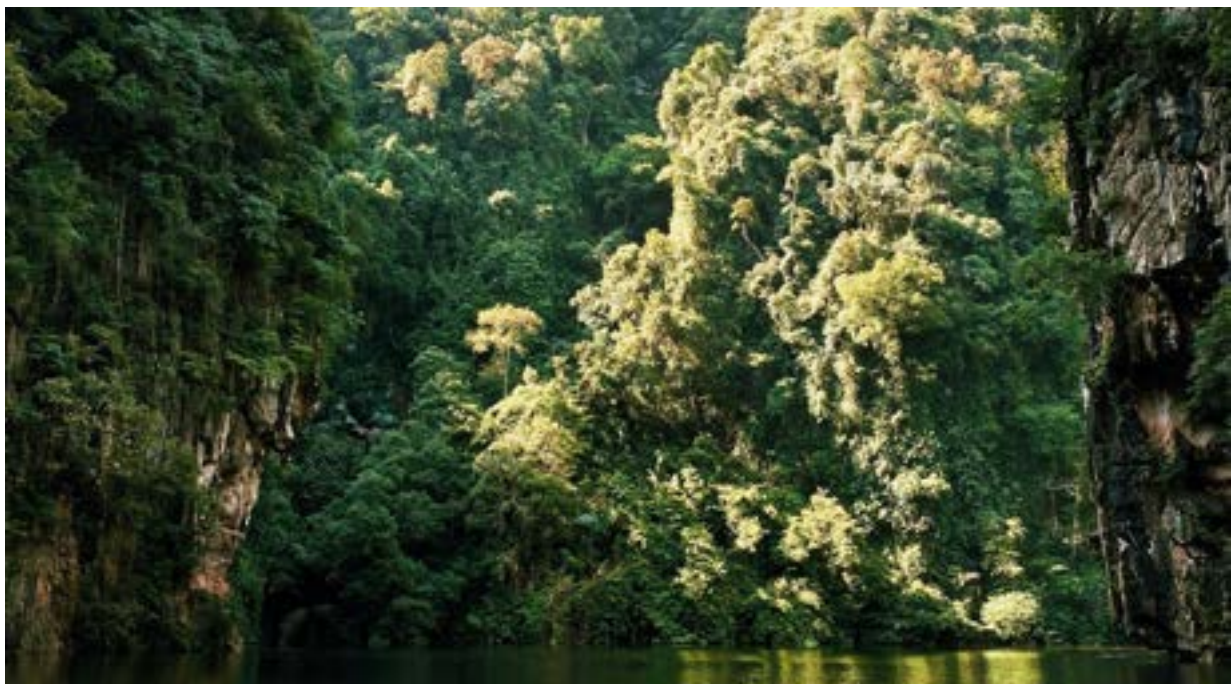
# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 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.



### 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.

## 1.2 Structure of the Report

Under Malaysia SDG Cities Project, there are three steps in preparing Voluntary Local Review (VLR) for Tapah 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 Tapah 2021 (published by Department of Statistics Malaysia, DOSM), Local Plan Tapah 2030 and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). This report is divided into two parts;

### Part A

- 1 Process and Framework of SDG Assessment Report
- 2 Tapah City's Profiling
- 3 MDT's Sustainability Pathway

### Part B

- 4 Overall SDGs Performance in Tapah
- 5 Progress on 17 SDGs in Tapah
- 6 Next Step for MDT

## 1.3 Process and Framework

### Introduction

SDG Workshop Tapah District Council is held for one day on July 25th, 2023, convening department representatives from different internal departments of MDT, council members, and technical agencies. The workshop aims to review Tapah SDGs progress and set the agenda for the next stage of Tapah 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 Tapah which ultimately set the foundation for the reporting of SDGs performance in Voluntary Local Review later at stage 3 of Malaysia SDG Cities Project.

The strengths and challenges of each SDGs were examined to provide an overview of the SDGs for Tapah. This comprehensive analysis was conducted by reviewing engagement sessions and analysing relevant documents, including the local plan and strategic plan.

### Workshop Objectives

1. Assessing the role and functions of MDT towards 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 City of Tapah and the 2030 agenda
4. Establishing and maintaining momentum, engaging stakeholders and catalysing political will



## Workshop Modules

The one-day workshop initiated with a presentation by Dr. Azmizam bin Abdul Rashid, Deputy CEO of URBANICE Malaysia, who introduced participants to the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their relevance to urban settings. He delved into the Malaysia SDG Cities Framework and showcased case studies from various cities within Malaysia's network. This introductory

by Tapah in advancing towards each SDG. The outcomes of these discussions were then presented by a representative from each group to the wider audience. Through these guided activities, participants gained a deeper comprehension of SDGs as they relate to Tapah's context.

Detailed outcomes stemming from stakeholder engagement are meticulously elaborated in this report, categorized according to relevant SDG indicators. The data supporting these findings are drawn from My Local Statistics Tapah 2021 and supplementary materials provided by MDT.

The session initiated with a discourse led by YDP Tapah regarding the untapped resources within Tapah that hold immense potential. The emphasis was on wholeheartedly embracing the Malaysia SDG Cities initiative without hesitation. The collective responsibility of ensuring sustainable progress aligned with global expectations for the Batang Padang region was underscored.

Tuan Hj Hisham, ADUN Kawasan Ayer Kuning, expressed appreciation for the privilege of being part of the chosen Local Authority under the RP3 EPU and Malaysia SDG Cities. He highlighted the significance of enhancing capacity, technical facilities, and skills, particularly for Local Authorities, as these factors are pivotal in participating effectively in international discussions. The strategic trajectory of Local Authorities' endeavors was emphasized.

The discourse briefly touched on Tapah's development, particularly its positioning as an SDG 17 partner, emphasizing the importance of collaborations to achieve the goals. Challenges were seen as surmountable through cooperative efforts. Participants in the meeting expressed their endorsement of initiatives that foster collaboration, generating optimism for achieving SDGs during the engagement session.

The main focal points identified for Tapah (Daerah Batang Padang) were tourism and food security.



session aimed to familiarize participants with the practical implementation of SDGs at the local level.

Subsequently, attendees were divided into three groups, each centered around a distinct theme – social, governance, and environment. These groups were guided by facilitators and co-facilitators. The facilitators employed SDG indicators as focal points for discussions, with the dual objectives of evaluating the role of internal departments and agencies of MDT in achieving SDG targets and pinpointing challenges faced



## Key Outcomes

The workshop generated wide-ranging discussion about the current state of Tapah, existing SDG efforts, and where future localising the SDG efforts should focus. This information will form the foundation of the Tapah SDG Roadmap.

The workshop is a physical session to encourage an open, informal and interactive discussion among MDT internal department officers and agencies. 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 Tapah. 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

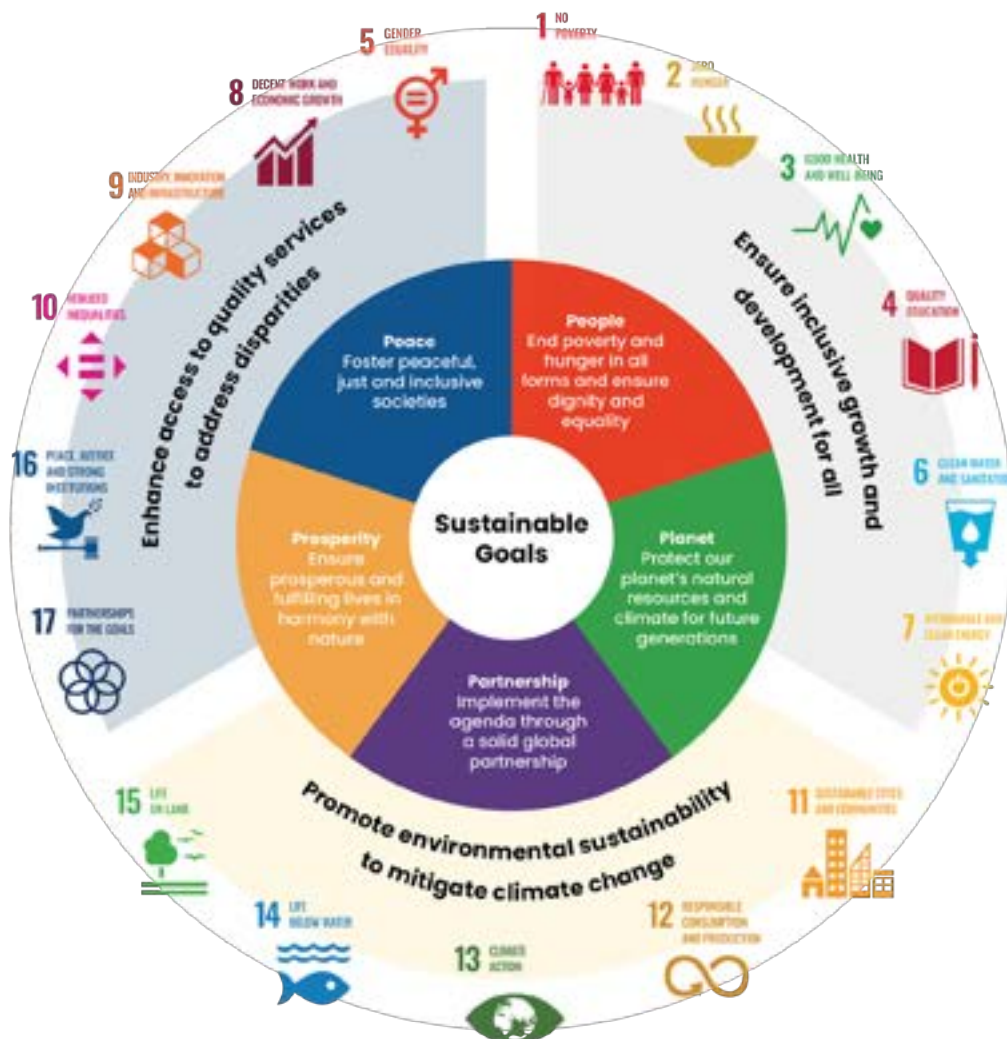
Enhance access to quality services to address disparities

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

#### Outcome 3

Promote Environmental Sustainability to Mitigate Climate Change

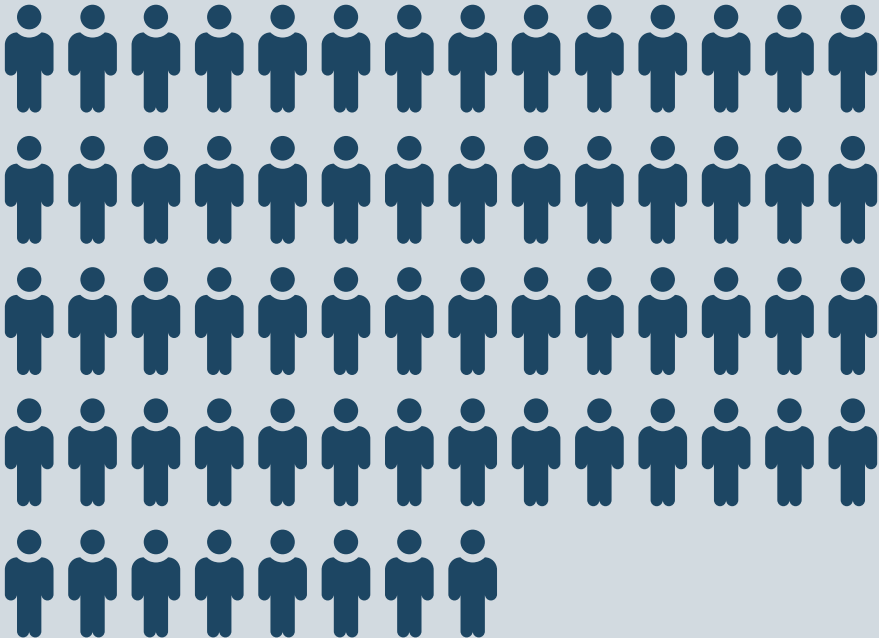
*SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15*



# 1.4 Stakeholder Engagement

## Participants

64



## Groups

3

### Group 1: Outcome 1

- 1) Jabatan Perancang Bandar MDT
- 2) Jabatan Bangunan MDT
- 3) Jabatan Pembangunan Komuniti dan Sosial MDT
- 4) Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Tapah
- 5) Jabatan Kejuruteraan & Penyelenggaraan
- 6) Ahli Majlis (2 persons)

### Group 2: Outcome 2

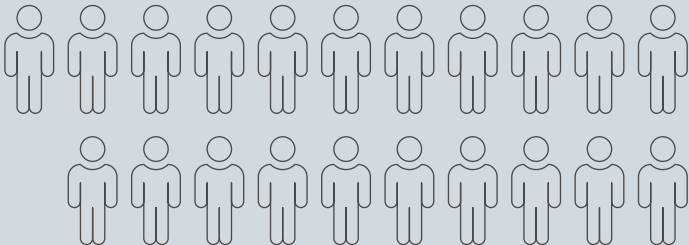
- 1) Jabatan Perancang Bandar MDT (2 persons)
- 2) Jabatan Pelesenan dan Penguatkuasaan MDT
- 3) Jabatan Pembangunan Komuniti dan Sosial MDT
- 4) Unit Persuruhjaya Bangunan (COB) MDT
- 5) Unit Undang-undang & Integriti MDT
- 6) Jabatan Penilaian dan Pengurusan Harta MDT

### Group 3: Outcome 3

- 1) Jabatan Perancang Bandar MDT
- 2) Jabatan Kesihatan Persekitaran dan Perkhidmatan Bandar MDT
- 3) Jabatan Kejuruteraan & Penyelenggaraan MDT
- 4) Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran Daerah Tapah

## People in Each Group

21



# 2

## Tapah City Profile

## 2.1 Tapah at a Glance

Tapah is a small town located in the Batang Padang district of the state of Perak, Malaysia. The town's name is derived from a freshwater fish known as the "Tapah Fish" or its scientific name, *Wallago attu*. Local residents say that the town's name originates from the Perak Malay dialect, meaning "it's alright" or "no problem."

The town of Tapah is situated along the federal highway between Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh. There is an intersection leading to Pekan (Tapah Road) on the left, which connects to the town of Teluk Intan. Flowing alongside it is the Batang Padang River. Tapah also has an entrance to the North-South Expressway. The Tapah Rest and Service Area is built near the town, and a toll plaza is constructed for exiting to Tapah. Those who take a left turn can head towards the winding road (Route 59) leading to Cameron Highlands, as well as the Kuala Woh Waterfall and Lata Kinjang Waterfall.

### Significant of Tapah:

- Two ETS train station which are Tapah Road and Sungkai connecting the district to other major towns in neighbouring state.
- Home to important educational institutions; Maktab Rendah Sains Mara Felda Trolak, Sekolah Menengah Sains Tapah, Institusi Latihan Statistik Sungkai, Universiti Teknologi Mara Tapah Road and Sekolah Menengah Tahfiz Darul Ridzuan Batang Padang.
- Asean Agrotech Distribution Centre in Tapah with a total area of 900 acres.
- Big scale solar farms in Tapah
- Eco-tourism products in Tapah which are Lata Kinjang, Lata Iskandar, Kuala Who, Sg Klah Hot Spring and Refarm Recreational Centre



#### Total Parliament Areas

893 km<sup>2</sup>

#### Administrative Areas

179,078.80

Hectares

#### Population in 2020

79,092

Hectares

#### Population Density in 2020

89/km<sup>2</sup>

Source: Source: MyLocal Stats Batang Padang, 2021 & Batang Padang District Local Plan, 2035



## Demographic Profile

The population of Tapah is 79,092, which constitutes 62% of the total population of Batang Padang. The overall population of Batang Padang is 126,300, with a population density of 89 residents per square kilometer.

The population is gender-diverse, with males making up 53.8% and females comprising 46.2% (resulting in a sex ratio of 117 males per 100 females). Among the population, 67.9% belong to the active working group, while the aging society accounts for 7.7% of the population. The dependency ratio stands at 47.2, with a young age dependency ratio of 35.9 compared to an old age dependency ratio of 11.3.

**Population in Batang Padang District, 2020**

126,300

**Population in Tapah, 2020**

79,092 (62%)

**Population Density, 2020**

89/km<sup>2</sup> (Low Density)

Source: P.072 Tapah, Subnational Statistic for Parliament and DUN, February 2022

### Population by Gender



Male

53.8%



Female

46.2%

### Population by Age Group



0-14 years

24.4%



Active Groups  
(15-64 years)

67.9%

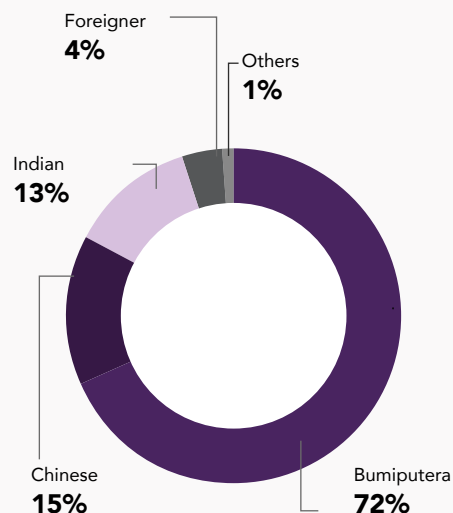


65+ years

7.7%

Source: P.072 Tapah, Subnational Statistic for Parliament and DUN, February 2022

### Population by Ethnic Group



### Household Size & Gross Income

Average Household Size, 2020

3.6

Monthly Statistics Household Gross Income

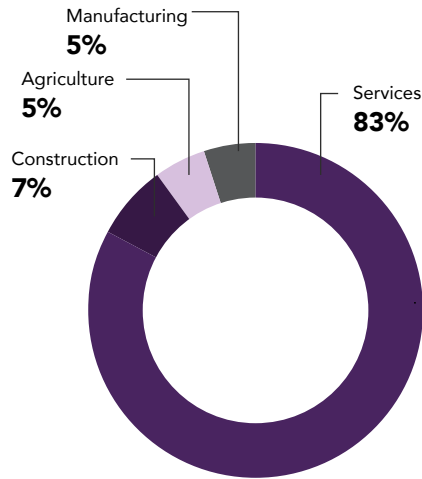
State/ District	Median (RM)		Mean (RM)	
	2016	2019	2016	2019
Perak	7,225	8,210	9,463	N.A.
Tapah	5,421	6,249	6,140	7,598

Source: Batang Padang District Local Plan, 2035

## Economic Activities

Number of Establishments

**Figure 2.1:** Main Field of Employment in Tapah



Source: MyLocal Stats Batang Padang, 2021

### Employment

**40,000**

Labour force in Tapah, 2020

**38,200**

Employment in Tapah, 2020

**68.1%**

Labour force participation rate in Tapah, 2020

**4.4%**

Unemployment rate in Tapah, 2020

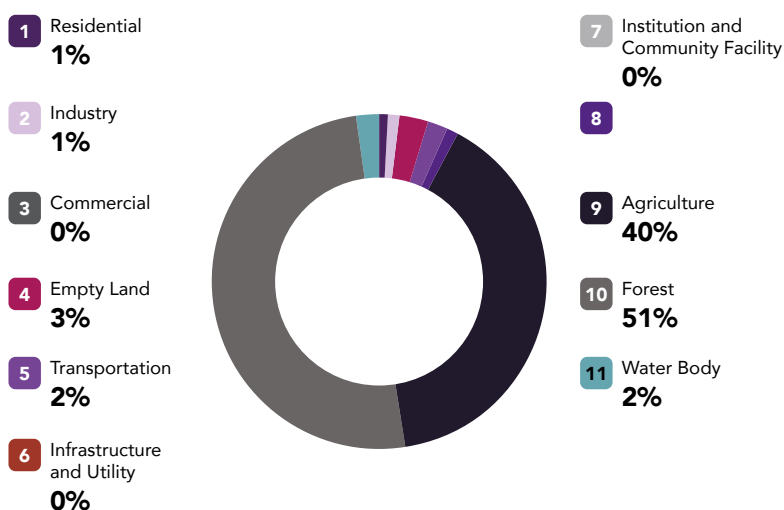
Source: P.072 Tapah, Subnational Statistic for Parliament and DUN, February 2022

The primary sector of economic activity in Tapah is services, which accounts for the majority of establishments at 83% (1168 establishments). Following services, the construction sector comprises 7% of establishments (137 establishments), while agriculture makes up 5% of the establishments (66 establishments).

## Physical Aspect

The land use in Tapah is characterized by a significant proportion of non-built up areas, with forests covering 51.7% of the total land use. Agriculture occupies 35% of the land, indicating a strong connection between the local economy and farming practices.

**Figure 2.2:** Land Use Distribution in Batang Padang



Source: Batang Padang District Local Plan, 2035

This land use distribution highlights the importance of agriculture and eco-tourism as key drivers of the local economy, showcasing the area's reliance on these sectors for economic sustenance and development.

## Facilities

### Health Facilities

**1** Hospital      **14** Clinics

### Safety Facilities

**7** Police Station      **1** Fire and Rescue Station

### Educational Facilities

**10** Secondary School (SMK)      **40** Primary School (SRA)

### Community Facilities

**1** Rural Community Centre

**Source:** P.072 Tapah, Subnational Statistic for Parliament and DUN, February 2022

## Natural Resources

**59,845.38<sub>Ha</sub>** Watershed Forests      **69,277.53<sub>Ha</sub>** Permanent Forest Reserves (HSK)      **3,349.10<sub>Ha</sub>** Central Forest Spine (CFS)

## Transportation

**186km** Land Public Transport      **5** Bus Operator Company

## Electricity Supply System

**2** Total Main Incoming Substation (PMU)      **1** Main Splitter Substation (PPU)      **2** Mini Power-Zone Unit Substation (MPPU)

**Source:** Tapah District Local Plan, 2035

The installed capacity at 11 kV is equivalent to 130 MVA, which translates to 117 MW.

## Solid Waste Management

### Total Solid Waste Generation

Batang Padang District

**109** ton/day

### Total Solid Waste collected

Tapah District Council

**70** ton/day

### Percentage of solid waste collected by MDT

**64%**

**Source:** Batang Padang District Local Plan, 2035

## Governance, Legal Framework and Finance

The Tapah District Council (MDT) was established on 1 September 1979, and was gazetted according to the Perak State Gazette No. PK.PU. 89/24.11.1979, covering an area of 14,628 hectares. At that time, Tapah District included the left and right areas of the main route from the border of the Kinta Selatan District Council (now known as the Kampar District Council) to Trolak and ten chains on the left and right of Jalan Sungkai/ Kg. Menderang, Bidor/Teluk Intan, Tapah/Cameron Highlands and Temoh/Teluk Intan.

Then the latest data from 2016 based on the Batang Padang District Local Plan 2035, the expansion of the Tapah District to reach 179,078.80 hectares. The Tapah area currently covers the entire Chenderiang sub-district (except for the Mambang Diawan area under the Kampar District Council), Batang Padang sub-district, Bidor sub-district and Sungkai sub-district.

## MDT Internal Departments

The Tapah District Council has several departments and units, each playing their respective roles and responsibilities. Department heads are appointed to supervise and oversee their subordinate staff. The relevant departments/units are:

- 1) Office of the Chairman
  - Internal Audit Unit Legal Unit Local Service Center (OSC) Unit Corporate, Public Relations, and Tourism Unit
- 2) Planning, Development, and Landscape Department
- 3) Treasury Department
- 4) Engineering and Building Department
- 5) Property Assessment and Management Department
- 6) Management Services Department
- 7) Public Health and Municipal Services Department
  - Licensing and Rental Unit City Cleanliness Unit City Security Unit
- 8) Enforcement Department



Photo by Job Savelsberg on Unsplash

# 3 **Tapah Sustainability Journey**



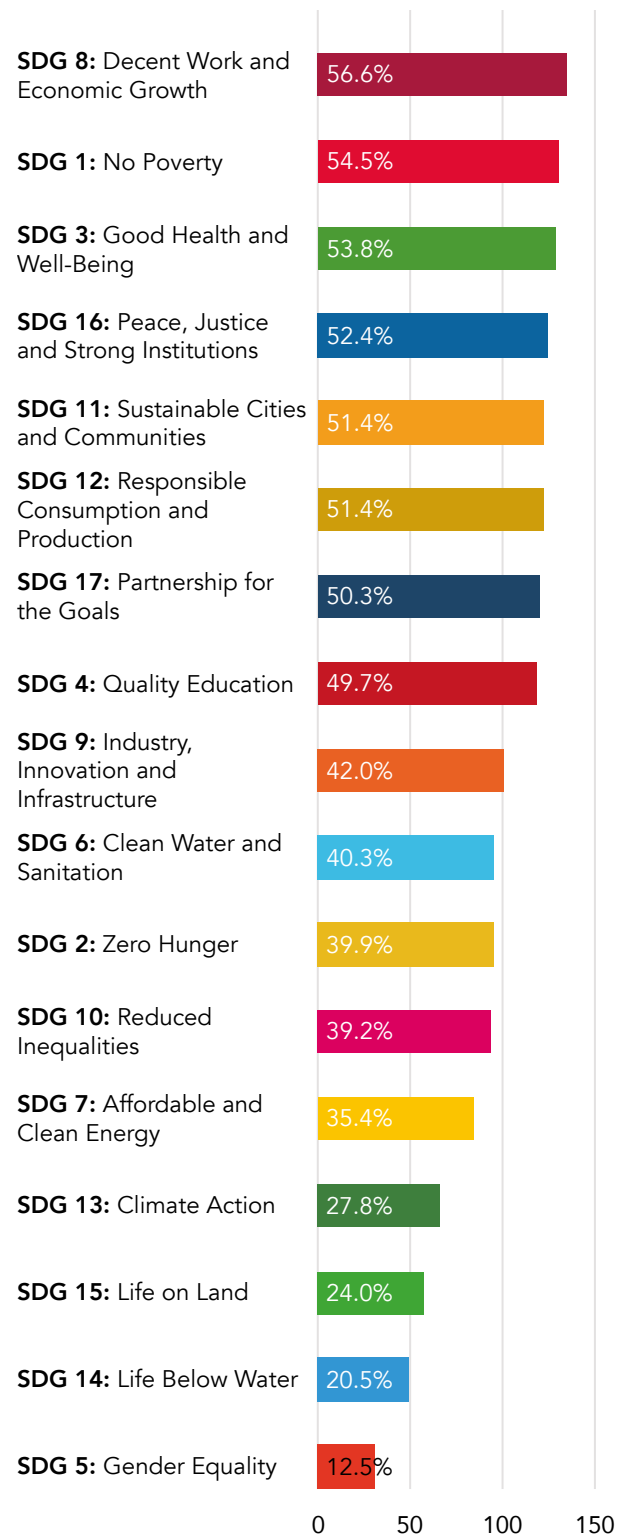
## 3.1 Perception Assessment

### Online Readiness Survey

Before the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted on April 13th, 2023, an online survey was executed to assess the readiness and initial perceptions of residents, stakeholders, and communities in Tapah District Council regarding their knowledge of and implementation of SDGs by the local council.

- The survey aimed to collect valuable insights about the specific relevance of SDGs within the city of Tapah and pinpoint areas that require further attention and emphasis.
- A considerable number of respondents actively engaged in the Preparedness Survey, offering valuable perspectives on the readiness and perspectives of MD Tapah concerning SDGs and the council's initiatives.
- The subsequent chart portrays the findings of an MD Tapah survey that evaluated the significance of SDGs in the Tapah city, ranked in terms of priority. As per the survey:

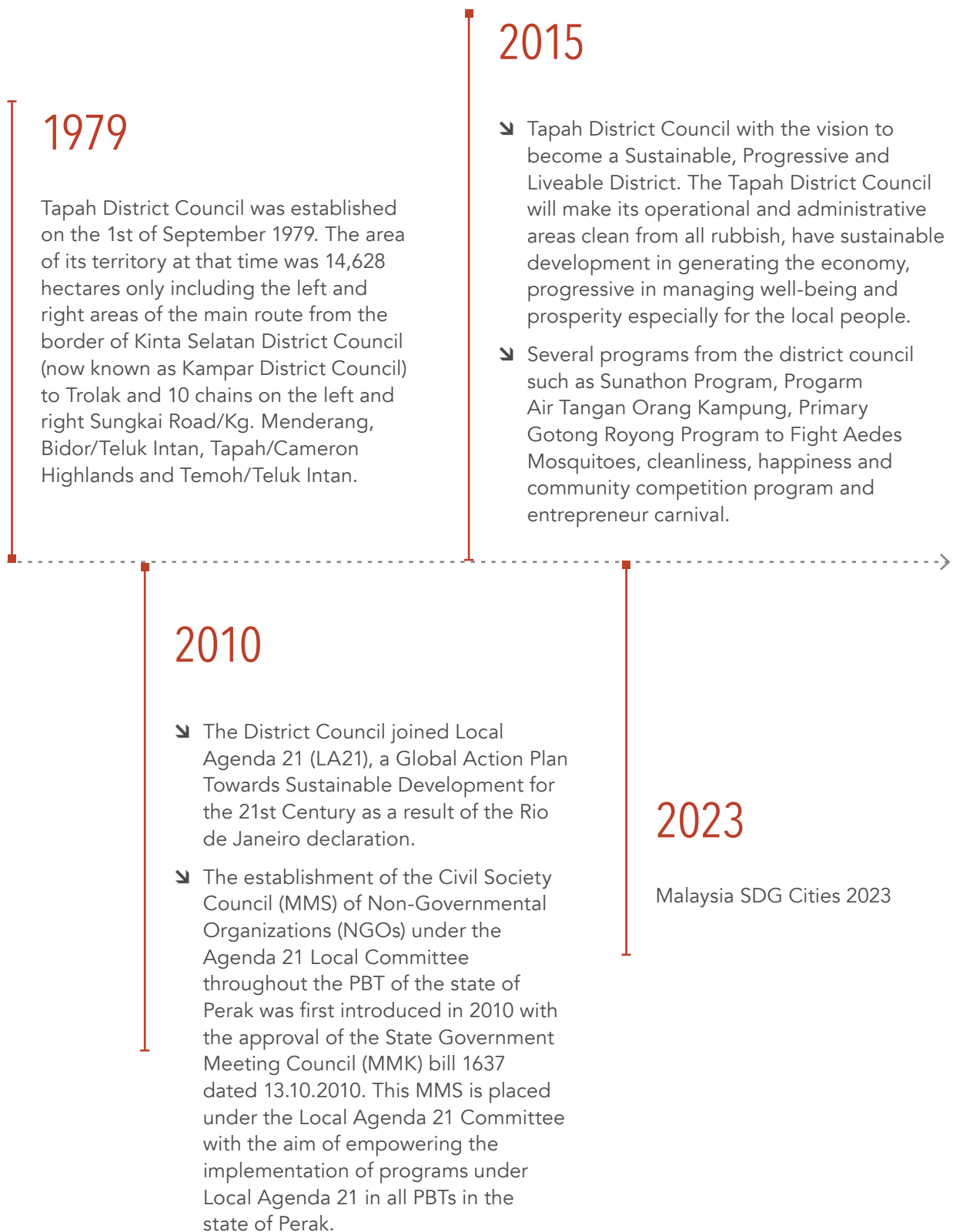
Figure 3.1: Online Readiness Survey



Source: Questionnaire Survey MDT, 2023

## 3.2 Tapah Sustainability Journey

Over the years, the council has been actively engaged in various initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development and improving the overall well-being of the district's residents since its establishment in 1979.



### 3.3 Internal Department Roles and Functions

The alignment between the SDGs and the internal department roles and functions of the MDT was meticulously carried out across its four units and seven departments, with the most aligned SDGs being **SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 16 & SDG 17**.

**Figure 3.2:** Alignment between the SDGs and the internal department roles and functions of the MDT



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, MDT 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 MDT 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, MDT 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 3.3:** Organisation Chart of MDT



Source: Tapah District Council Official Website, 2023

# PART





# 4

## Progress on 17 SDGs by Indicators



In Batang Padang district, there has been a fluctuation in the number of households registered as poor, as evidenced by an increase from 320 households in 2020 to 2,323 households in 2021, followed by a decrease to 1,724 households in 2023. This pattern reflects the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the population of Batang Padang district, with a gradual recovery observed post-pandemic.

Challenges include limitations in the e-Kasih system, dependence on government aid, and limited job opportunities. To combat these challenges, various initiatives have been implemented by MDT. Among them are home improvement assistance, entrepreneurial grants, and collaborative efforts to improve education and career prospects. Local councillors also engage with communities to gather insights into poverty.

Natural disasters, such as frequent flooding and landslides, pose additional challenges in the region. Assistance provided by organizations like Baitulmal and the District Office to affected households. Overall, these combined efforts aim to alleviate poverty, improve economic opportunities, and enhance the well-being of the population in Batang Padang district.



## 1.1

**ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY  
IN TAPAH CITY**


In Malaysia, extreme poverty is defined as a condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and necessities for a minimum standard of living. Extreme poverty also means that the income level from employment is so low that the basic human needs cannot be met.

In Perak, a person or community is considered in extreme poverty in the city when the household monthly income is less than the Poverty Line Income (PLI) of RM1,118 (\$240.38) or RM328 (\$70.52) per capita (2019).

## 1.2

**REDUCE POVERTY BY AT LEAST  
50% IN TAPAH CITY**

Households in the city of Perak that earn an average household income of less than RM2,089 (RM623 per capita) are considered as poor. The data shows that the number of heads of poor households registered with eKasih increased from 320 households in 2020 to 2,323 households in 2021 but had now decreased to 1,724 households in 2023.

Number of head of poor households registered with eKasih in Batang Padang district	
	1,724 (2023)
	2,323 (2021)

Source: DOSM

Gini Coefficient of Batang Padang district that measures the household income inequality gap indicates a value of 0.394. The value is lower than the national level in 2019, which is 0.407, suggesting that Batang Padang District has relatively lower income inequality in the most recent data however, this value was an increase from 2016 with a Gini Coefficient of 0.330.

# 0.394

Gini Coefficient Batang Padang district, 2019

Source: MyLocalStats, 2021

**Incidence of Poverty in Batang Padang district**7.1%  
(2019)7.5%  
(2016)**CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES****(1) Limitations of e-Kasih system**

It is an understatement to determine the number of poor households based on income from the e-Kasih system only because most of the population depends on agriculture for their income. They could not show any proof of their income because the possessions they own are in the form of assets such as livestock. Since there is no payslip present, we are not able to distinguish whether they are farmers who have low income or successful entrepreneurs who own extensive farms.

In later case, it is found that they are registered under e-Kasih and benefited from it since they fulfil the requirements and there is no proof to prove their eligibility. However, there are also cases of mistargeted in Tapah city. The councillors mentioned there are people yet to receive any aids from the Federal government because they are unaware about the needs to register in the e-Kasih system.

**(2) Dependence on the Government assistance**

Most people in Batang Padang district own a piece of land that contribute to their income. However, the poor mentality to depend on the government assistances perpetuate their poverty status.

**(3) Low job opportunities in Tapah city**

Most of the population in Tapah district get their income from businesses due to low job opportunities especially for disabled people. Some people have difficulties to maintain their businesses. Low job opportunities also have led to less skilled manpower in Tapah district as they choose to find jobs outside from Tapah for instances Ipoh and Teluk Intan.

## INITIATIVES FOR POVERTY ERADICATION PROGRAM IN BATANG PADANG DISTRICT

### Initiatives done by Tapah District Council

#### (1) Home improvement assistances for B40

A prerequisite for qualification under this program is that applicants must have their names registered in the eKasih system. In 2023, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) has granted approval for 19 out of the 24 applications received by MDT, allocating a total of RM15,000 for these houses. These approved houses have been successfully completed, while the remaining 5 houses are still awaiting finalization.

#### (2) Entrepreneurial grants

MDT establishes a joint venture with Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat to provide grant for entrepreneurs. RM3,000 are given to each applicants depending on necessities of entrepreneurs to sustain their businesses.

#### (3) Collaboration between Government agencies to combat low job opportunities in Batang Padang district

The District Education Office (Pejabat Pendidikan Daerah or PPD), the Human Resources Development Corporation (HRD Corp), and the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) have joined forces to engage in a collaborative effort aimed at addressing education, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and career prospects within the Batang Padang district. As a result of their collaboration, they have decided to organize career development initiatives within the local villages, working closely with the communities.

### Initiatives done by the councilors

#### (1) Town hall with communities

As part of the action plans derived from the Focus Group Discussion in Tapah District to address poverty, the council members are tasked with arranging a town hall meeting with the local communities. The primary objective is to directly collect information from the residents about the profiling of poor individuals living within their specific zones.

## 1.5

## BUILD RESILIENCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DISASTERS

Frequent flooding is a common natural disaster in the Batang Padang district, particularly in the FELDA region, such as Sungkai. These floods tend to happen approximately three times a year, affecting around 60 households. Assistance for flood victims often comes from organizations such as Baitulmal and the District Office. Additionally, the District Office has established a state disaster fund, known as "Tabung Bencana Negeri," to provide support to those in need during such calamities.

On the other hand, landslides pose a significant challenge in the indigenous villages of the area. Whenever landslides occur, the main roads leading to these villages become impassable, cutting off access. However, food aid still reaches the affected areas, typically managed by the District Office.





Tapah city, serving as both a settlement area and a transit hub, remained unaffected during a national egg shortage recently due to LTK, a major local egg producer and distributor. To combat malnutrition among indigenous communities, a community feeding program was initiated, offering three daily meals prepared voluntarily by local households. The agricultural landscape in Batang Padang district has witnessed fluctuating production levels between 2019 and 2021, with varying trends among different producers. Agriculture is the primary economic source in Tapah city, emphasizing the adoption of modern machinery for resilient practices.

Challenges in Tapah city are skin diseases and asthma among agricultural workers, low rubber prices affecting plantation management, and exploitative trade practices with land ownership disputes among immigrant farmers. Environmental contamination and crop damage from nearby industries, as well as the proximity of large pig farms to public facilities, further add to the city's challenges. Despite its historical role as an administrative center, the city maintains substantial purchasing power, shaping its sociocultural dynamics.





## 2.1

### UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD

While many districts faced an egg shortage, Tapah city was an exception due to the presence of a major company called LTK. This company both produces and distributes eggs within and outside the city. During that period, the State provides a short term subsidy to the manufacturers in ensuring that the population has access to eggs.

## 2.2

### END ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION

FGD findings found that there are malnutrition cases among indigenous peoples. In addressing this issue, community feeding programs were initiated to ensure that the malnourished children eat three meals daily by adopting houses to voluntarily cook for them. The malnourished children are required to visit these houses during mealtimes.

## 2.3

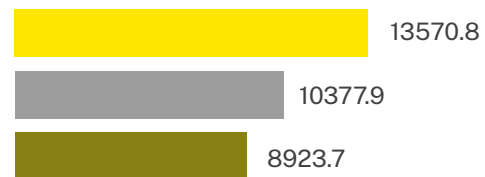
### DOUBLE THE PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOME OF SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS

The total production of agricultures in Batang Padang district for different types of producers fluctuate throughout the years between 2019 and 2021. A decrease in total production of main vegetables and spices was observed from 2019 to 2021. But, the total production of cash crops, fruits and industrial crops increased in 2021, following a decrease in 2020 as compared to 2019. In contrast, the total production of main herbs also decreased in 2021, following an increase in 2020 as compared to 2019.

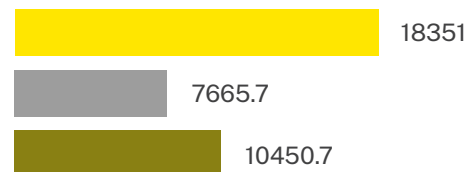
Agriculture yields are either being distributed to the whole country such as eggs and guavas or exported to countries like Singapore such as ducks. There are also yields both exported and imported such as palm oil.

Production of agricultures in Batang Padang District, 2019-2021

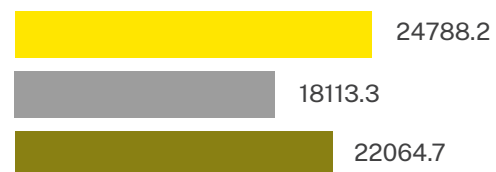
#### Production of main vegetables



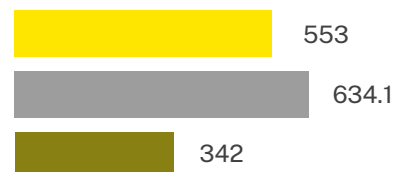
#### Production of cash crops



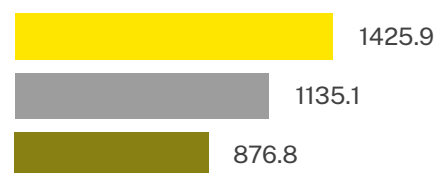
#### Production of main fruits



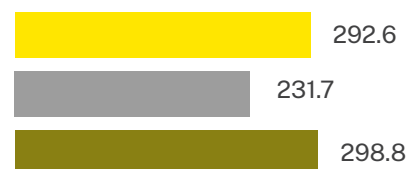
#### Production of main herbs



#### Production of spices



#### Production of industrial crops



2019 2020 2021

Source: DOSM

SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
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## CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

### (1) Skin Diseases Among Farm Workers

Both local and immigrant workers in the agriculture sector are susceptible to skin diseases and asthma due to their working conditions. Consequently, farm owners struggle to find and retain workers, which can potentially affect the overall production of crops throughout the year.

### (2) Low rubber prices

The farm owners are facing economic challenges as rubber prices remain exceptionally low. This financial strain makes it unsustainable for them to manage rubber plantations effectively, leading to instances where these plantations are left unattended and without proper maintenance.

### (3) Exploitative Trade Practices and Land Ownership Disputes Among Immigrant Farmers

There is an isolated issue wherein immigrant farmers sell their bulk produce to buyers at a lower price. Subsequently, these buyers resell the goods to consumers at significantly higher rates. This issue also highlights disputes related to land ownership among immigrant communities.

## 2.4

### SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Agriculture serves as the primary economic source in Tapah city. Strategies to promote resilient agricultural practices include the adoption of modern machinery in oil palm plantations for efficient fruit harvesting.

## CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

### (1) Environmental contamination and crop damage

Pollutants and hazardous chemicals released by nearby industries have had a detrimental impact on crops, leading to their destruction. Emissions from livestock farms also contribute to the death of palm oil trees. This environmental contamination

poses significant challenges to agriculture in the affected areas, threatening the livelihoods of farmers and the sustainability of crop production.

### (2) Close Proximity of Pig Farms to Public Facilities in Tapah City

Pig farms in Tapah city rank among the largest in Malaysia, and several are situated in close proximity to public facilities like schools. This situation has raised concerns within the community because of foul odors emanating from these farms. The coexistence of these farms near public amenities has become a significant issue, triggering discussions about potential environmental and health implications for the residents.

## 2.C

### ENSURE STABLE FOOD COMMODITY MARKETS AND TIMELY ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Tapah city has been designated as a settlement area with some residents living here while commuting to work elsewhere. It also functions as a transit city for travellers journeying from the northern to the southern regions of Malaysia. Understanding the city's historical context, it has served as an administrative city, which has resulted in comparatively higher living costs in contrast to neighboring areas like Bidor and Kampar. Despite the relatively higher prices of goods within Tapah city and some of the populations might prefer travelling to nearby districts to buy cheaper goods, its residents exhibit considerable purchasing power. These historical factors have profoundly influenced the sociocultural dynamics that define Tapah district today.



In Batang Padang district for 2021, maternal mortality exceeded targets, neonatal mortality increased slightly, and under-5 mortality improved. COVID-19 Brought-in-Dead cases persisted, and malaria cases were linked to monkeys and human activity. Cardiovascular diseases remained a leading cause of premature death, with an increase in 2021, while cancer and chronic respiratory diseases decreased. Tapah City actively participated in health initiatives but faced challenges in tracking treatments for rural populations and addressing drug addiction. Road accidents remained problematic, and healthcare accessibility was an issue. River pollution and low community health awareness were concerns. Smuggled cigarettes posed health risks in rural areas. Immunization programs in Tapah district achieved over 95% completion with the help of general practitioners, NGOs, and a UNICEF-provided mobile clinic.



3.1

REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE

123.0


Maternal Mortality Ratio, 2021  
\*Per 100,000 live births


Source: MyLocal Stats DOSM, 2021

Maternal mortality ratio in Batang Padang district is 123.0 per 100,000 live births in 2021, higher than the target (70 per 100,00 live births).

3.2

END ALL PREVENTABLE DEATHS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE

Neonatal Mortality Rate	
	6.8 (2021)
	6.0 (2020) *Per 1,000 live births

Under 5 y/o Mortality Rate	
	8.6 (2021)
	9.5 (2020) *Per 1,000 live births

Source: MyLocal Stats DOSM, 2021

Neonatal mortality rate in Batang Padang district is 6.8 per 1,000 live births in 2021, essentially lower than SDG 3.2 targets (12 per live births). However, the rate increased by 0.8 per 1,000 live births as compared to 2020.

Meanwhile, under 5 years old mortality ratio in Batang Padang district is 8.6 per 1,000 live births in 2021, which is lower compared to 2020. Both years are essentially lower than the target (25 per 1,000 live births).



Photo by Nicholas Ng on Unsplash

3.3

FIGHT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Even though pandemic COVID-19 has ended, brought in dead (BID) cases due to COVID-19 continue to exist albeit lower as compared to when the pandemic happened.

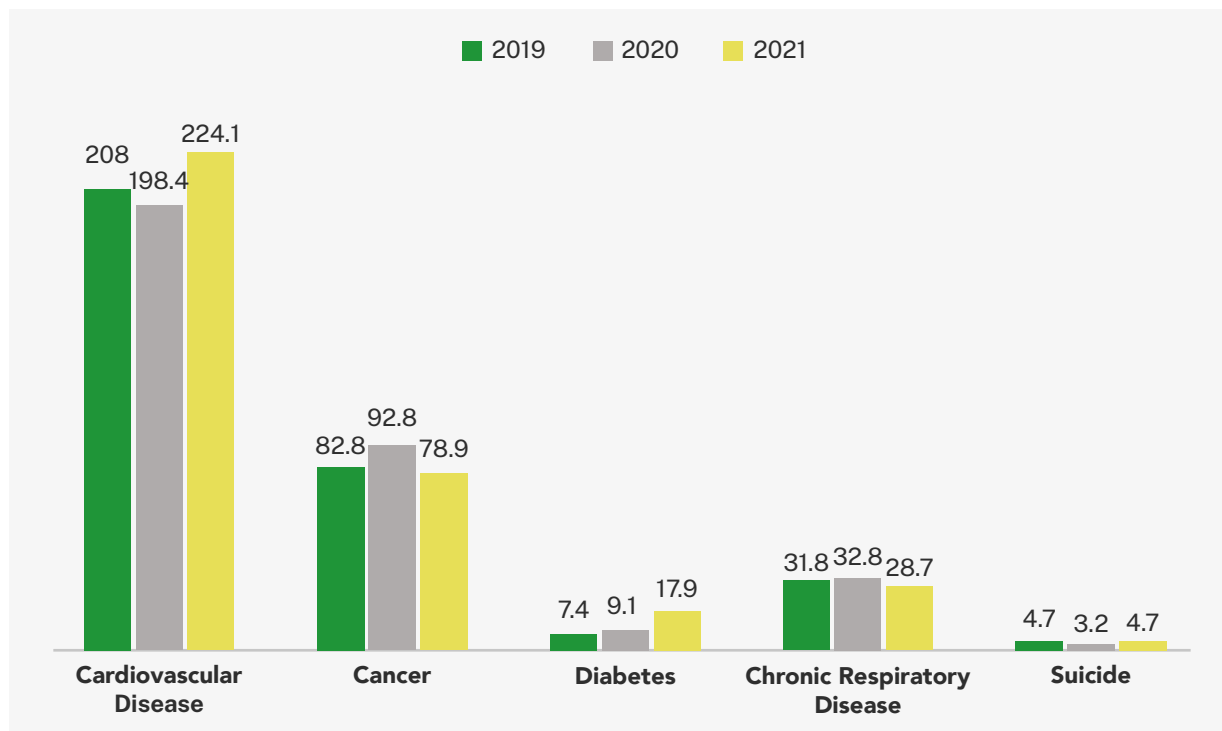
There are also malaria cases which are mainly caused by monkeys and human carriers (usually, brought by immigrants).



### 3.4

## REDUCE MORTALITY FROM NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH

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



Source: MyLocal Stats DOSM, 2021

Cardiovascular diseases are the main cause of premature mortality of NCDs in Batang Padang district, next is cancer. This trend is also observed at the national level. In comparison to 2020, premature mortality rates of cardiovascular diseases increase in 2021 but cancer and chronic respiratory diseases decrease in 2021. An upward trend in premature mortality rates of diabetes from 2019 to 2021, suggesting that it is more likely for cardiovascular diseases to remain the main challenge in the communities and increase the probability of higher premature mortality rates of cardiovascular diseases in upcoming years. Meanwhile, premature mortality rates of suicide increases in 2021, equal to in 2019 despite the rates decreasing in 2020.

Tapah city is very near to amazing hiking places and Taman Malaysia Tapah is such place that promote for a healthy lifestyle. The city is also committed to champion policies and new agendas related to healthy city, such as:

### PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- National Health Screening Initiatives (NHSI) – Health screening in Tapah city is organized under KOSPEN, KOSPEN-PLUS, KOSPEN-WOW initiatives. Following treatments after health screening are guaranteed for non-vulnerable population but for vulnerable population, it is a challenge to keep track their whereabouts. They keep moving places hence they might not receive treatments accordingly.
- Komuniti Sihat Pembina Negara (KOSPEN) Tapah - Actively organize programs through KOSPEN+ and KOSPEN-WOW to conduct activities and build supportive environments in preventing and reducing the occurrence of NCDs as well as related risk factors especially workplaces.

## 3.5

**PREVENT AND TREAT  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Number of Drug Addicts in Batang Padang district, 2019-2021

2019	119
2020	146
2021	95

Source: MyLocal Stats DOSM, 2021

According to data from DOSM, number of drug addicts in Batang Padang district are significantly reduced in three years.

FGD findings found that 253 people were registered, arrested and charged with drug abuse. Addicts are made up of local people and youth with the drug of choice being methamphetamine. Minor cases for psychoactive substances like mushroom vape are not uncommon however expensive. Substance distribution comes from outside the city and there is no hotspot area since they are mobile in the city.

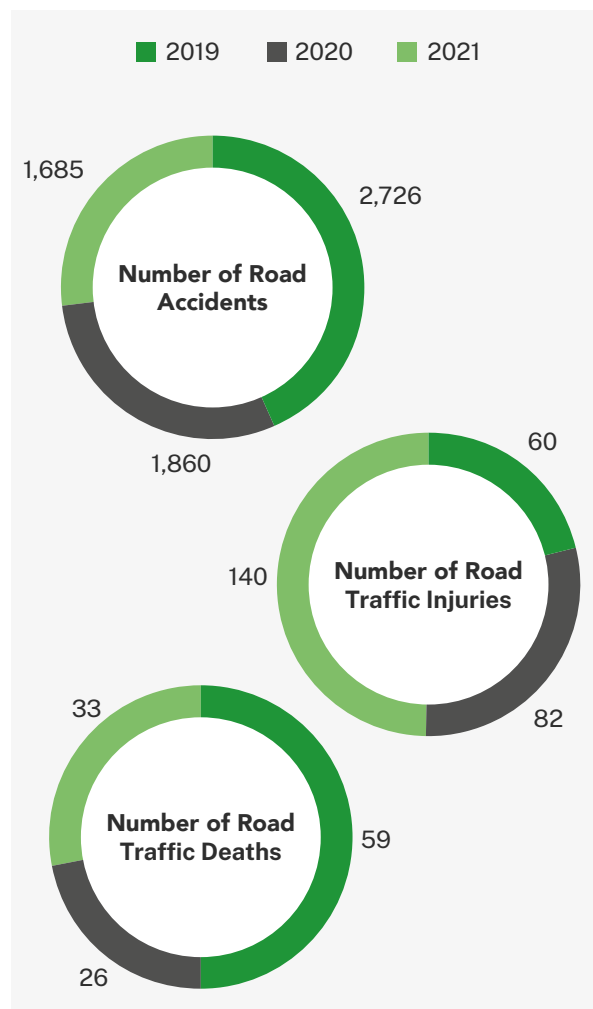
**PROGRAMS/PROJECTS**

- i. Drug Awareness and Prevention Program among youth. This program is collaboration between AADK, KBS and PPD to fight drug addicts among youth.

## 3.6

**REDUCE ROAD  
INJURIES AND DEATH**

Number of injuries and deaths from road accidents in Batang Padang district, 2019-2021



Source: MyLocal Stats DOSM, 2021

Number of road accidents decrease but number of road traffic deaths relatively higher than number of injuries caused by road accidents in these three years, 2019-2021. It suggests road accidents that happened in Batang Padang district are somewhat high impact even though road accidents are declining in number. FGD findings found that accidents occur frequently on North-South Expressway between Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh as well as Jalan Tapah-Cameron Highlands (Federal Route 59), especially during the peak seasons like school holidays and weekends. Accidents in Batang district might be due to hilly, windy and narrow roads.



Photo by Nastya Dulhiier on Unsplash



### 3.8

## ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)

There is two public hospital in Batang Padang district, known as Hospital Tapah (located in the city) and Hospital Slim River. Both hospitals are a minor specialist and a non-specialist hospital, respectively. Batang Padang district also has 26 clinics; comprised of 7 Klinik Kesihatan and 19 Klinik Desa.

Measurement of UHC is not yet been done at district level, only available at the national level.

### CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

#### (1) Challenges of Healthcare Services and Facilities in Tapah City

Accessibility to healthcare facilities in the city does not seem to be a significant issue due to the presence of numerous public health clinics. However, when it comes to critical cases and most pregnancy-related situations, patients are often referred to Hospital Teluk Intan, which is located 30 kilometers away from Tapah City. This is because Hospital Tapah does not have specialists consequently, patients have to incur additional expenses for specialized care, and there is no convenient public transportation available.

The participants in the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) believes that Hospital Tapah should be designated as a minor specialist hospital, given its extensive coverage of the population. The coverage includes areas such as Sungkai, although it is closer to Hospital Slim River. The estimated annual patient volume at Hospital Tapah is approximately 18,000 people, which is comparable to the volume of patients in Hospital Slim River. Furthermore, Hospital Tapah continues to operate with outdated infrastructure and only has five functional ambulances, which is insufficient given the population it serves. There is also a shortage of healthcare workers when compared to the total population coverage. Lack of facilities in Hospital Tapah causing residents choose to go Hospital Slim River and Hospital Teluk Intan, instead. Likewise, the lack of logistics for those who live far away.

#### (2) Barriers to Healthcare Access in Rural Native Villages

In total, there are 18 rural clinics in native villages but most of indigenous peoples still consider local herbal medicines to health facilities and choose not to get health treatment there.

### PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN TAPAH CITY

- A mobile clinic is available to cater specifically to outpatient cases.
- A system is in place where specialists from Hospital Teluk Intan visit Hospital Tapah on scheduled dates to provide healthcare services.

### 3.9

## REDUCE ILLNESSES AND DEATH FROM HAZARDOUS AND CHEMICALS POLLUTION

The native population is disproportionately affected by river pollution since they rely on it for their daily water needs. The majority of these residents reside at the base of the mountain. Both upstream and downstream sections of the river suffer from contamination due to agricultural pesticide runoff, potentially leading to neurological disorders in children. A child has lost their life to sepsis resulting from the consumption of contaminated water.

### CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

#### (1) Limited Community Health Awareness

Awareness among the local community regarding the importance of clean water and supply for good health remains alarmingly low.

#### (2) River Pollution from Waste Disposal

The improper disposal of feces and waste, particularly by native communities, has contributed to bacterial contamination of the river.

SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
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3.A

IMPLEMENT THE WHO  
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON  
TOBACCO CONTROL

CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

(1)

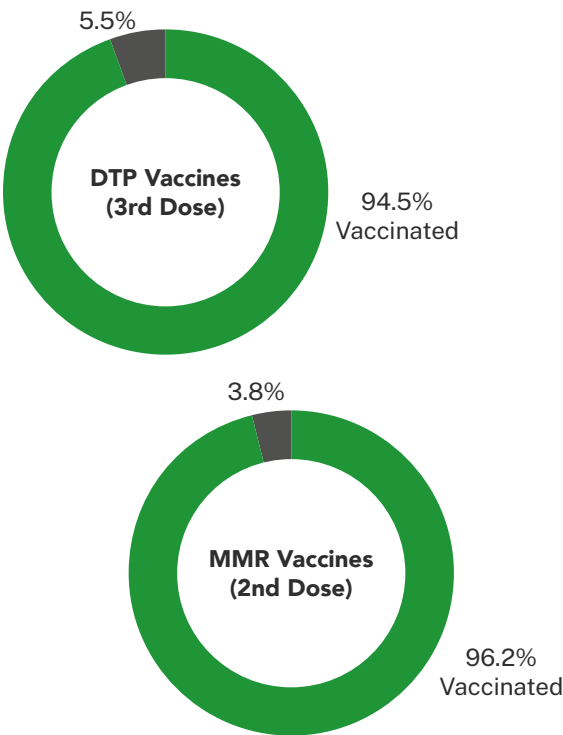
Persistent Issue of Smuggled Cigarettes  
in Rural Areas

It is noteworthy that the federal government has taken steps to raise tobacco prices in order to deter tobacco consumption. However, a pressing concern emerges in rural regions where the prevalence of smuggled cigarettes remains high and difficult to regulate. This influx of illicit tobacco products not only undermines anti-smoking initiatives but also presents a heightened health hazard to the population.

3.B

SUPPORT RESEARCH,  
DEVELOPMENT AND UNIVERSAL  
ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE  
VACCINES AND MEDICINES

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



The national immunization programme in Tapah district for third dose Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (DTP) and second dose Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccines have covered almost the entire population.

More than 95% have completed their national immunization programs with minor anti-vaccines cases. Even immunocal vaccine that is not part of the program is also being received well. These successes are contribution of general practitioner, non-governmental organizations that frequently organize outreach programs and 1 mobile clinic that is provided by UNICEF.



Photo by Mathurin NAPOLY / matnapo on Unsplash






In Batang Padang district, there are a total of 66 primary schools and 16 secondary schools, including 1 Sekolah Agama Bantuan Kerajaan (SABK), 1 Sekolah Menengah Sains Tapah (SEMESTA), and 1 Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) FELDA Trolak. The district faces the challenge of student dropouts, particularly among native communities, due to family issues, economic constraints, health problems, and cultural beliefs. Various interventions, including counseling and motivational programs, aim to combat this issue. Promoting Kolej Komuniti (Community College) among locals is hindered by misconceptions about fees and facilities, while participation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is limited due to short-term benefit perceptions. UiTM Tapah offers a pioneer project where students compete for business funding and integrates entrepreneurship into its courses. Efforts to address literacy and numeracy issues among natives include programs like Sekolah RIMBA and KEDAP, targeting students and illiterate parents, respectively. Despite challenges, schools in Batang Padang district provide essential services and have adapted infrastructure for special needs students, with a 2% increase in 2021 compared to 2020.



4.1

FREE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Number of students by gender in primary and secondary schools in Batang Padang district, 2021			
			
66 Primary Schools	5,577	5,271	10,848
16 Secondary Schools	4,086	4,203	8,289
Post Secondary School	50	117	167

Source: MyLocal Stats DOSM, 2021

In total, there are 66 primary schools in Batang Padang district, comprised of:

- 36 Sekolah Kebangsaan;
- 18 Sekolah Kebangsaan Jenis Cina; and
- 12 Sekolah Kebangsaan Jenis Tamil

Besides 16 secondary schools, there are also:

- 1 Sekolah Agama Bantuan Kerajaan (SABK);
- 1 Sekolah Menengah Sains Tapah (SEMESTA); and
- 1 Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) FELDA Trolak

CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

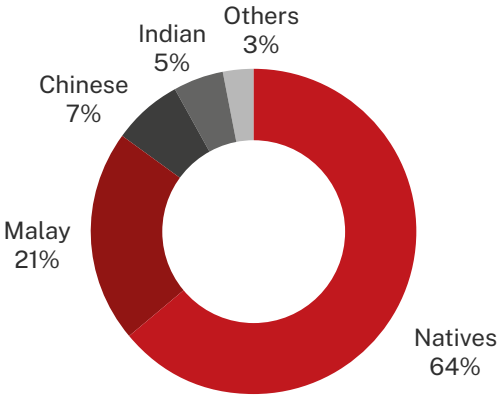
(1) Student dropouts in Batang Padang district

Major of student dropouts in Batang Padang district are among natives, which mostly from:

- Sekolah Kebangsaan Batu 14,
- Sekolah Kebangsaan Batu 7,
- Sekolah Kebangsaan Jena,
- Sekolah Kebangsaan Gedo,
- Sekolah Kebangsaan Tapah.

Students are considered dropouts from school when they did not come to schools for 10 consecutive days. Recent data in 2023 shows there are altogether 807 students dropouts in Batang Padang district with majority of them are natives.

Number of dropout students in Batang Padang district, 2023



Factors that contribute to student dropouts are:

- **Family problems:** Some parents do not actively ensure their children attend school, as teachers have observed students remaining at home with eyes glued on their phones during house visits.
- **Economic constraints:** Economic difficulties, exacerbated by factors like parental divorce, often compel students to seek part-time work for pocket money.
- **Health Challenges:** Health-related issues may disrupt a student's education.
- **Cultural Beliefs:** Among native communities, cultural beliefs, such as the need to pay fines if leaving the house after the passing of a tribal leader (Tuk Batin), hinder regular school attendance.

INITIATIVES FOR INTERVENTIONS

- (1) Counselling to both students and parents
- (2) House visits
- (3) Letter
- (4) Motivational speech
- (5) Back to School program
- (6) Second chance is also given to those who might miss taking Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia certificates.

## 4.2

### EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

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

37	Pre-schools (Taska)	69	Students
35	Private kindergartens	1,293	Students

Source: MyLocal Stats DOSM, 2021

Batang Padang district has a fair share of number of pre-schools and private kindergartens.

## 4.3

### EQUAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE TECHNICAL, VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Technical, vocational and higher education in Batang Padang district:

- Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Tapah; and
- Kolej Komuniti Cawangan Tapah

#### CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

#### (1) Challenges in promoting Kolej Komuniti among local communities

A lack of awareness persists regarding the presence of Kolej Komuniti in Tapah city, despite extensive promotional efforts. Concerns primarily revolve around the term 'college,' which often implies private institutions with potentially high fees. While Kolej Komuniti is intended for local residents since the curriculum is tailored to local needs, only 10% of enrolled students are from the locals. The rest are immigrants. It is also a challenge to attract students enrolling in Kolej Komuniti because accommodation facilities are not available for students.

In August 2023, there are 43 students enrolled, while the college has a capacity to accommodate up to 90 students.

#### ENROLMENT IN KOLEJ KOMUNITI

- The fees are RM200/semester
- One-off financial assistance, totalling RM5,400
- After completion from Kolej Komuniti, the students may further their studies for Diploma certificate in universities
- Students intake on August every year
- Kolej Komuniti Tapah branch focus on architecture.

#### (2) Less participation in TVET

Less participation rate because many individuals tend to only see short term benefits and do not focus on the potential long term gains. Parents often view Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as a pathway solely for acquiring practical skills and not as an opportunity for further academic studies. Additionally, there is a misconception that TVET is primarily designed for individuals with disabilities. In fact, disabled individuals have their own education streamline, which is Pendidikan Khas Integrasi (PKI).

Apart from GiatMARA, among schools offer TVET in Batang Padang district are:

- Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Trolak (study field focus on machineries)
- Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Sri Tapah (study field focus on culinary)

## 4.3

### INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH RELEVANT SKILLS FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS

UiTM has an impressive employability rate, ranging from approximately 80-100%. In line with this, every course offered at UiTM includes components of the entrepreneurship curriculum. Furthermore, the university has initiated a recent pioneer project where students compete for university funds to kickstart their businesses. Each winning team receives guidance from two dedicated lecturers who serve as mentors throughout the venture.



4.6

UNIVERSAL LITERACY  
AND NUMERACY

Level of proficiency in functional literacy and numeracy skills are lower in native population. Few programs have been organized to address these issues among children and adults.

PROGRAMS

- (1) Sekolah RIMBA
- Sekolah RIMBA is implemented in schools with predominantly indigenous student populations, focusing on native students who face challenges in reading, writing, and mathematics, commonly referred to as the Program 3M (Membaca, Menulis, Mengira).
- (2) KEDAP (Kelas Dewasa Ibu Bapa Orang Asli dan Penan)
- KEDAP is designed for illiterate parents experiencing difficulties in reading, writing, and counting. It involves them to return schools in reacquiring these essential skills.

4.A

BUILD AND UPGRADE INCLUSIVE  
AND SAFE SCHOOLS

Proportion of schools offering basic services, 2021	
Electricity	100.0%
Internet for pedagogical purposes	100.0%
Computer for pedagogical purposes	97.5%

Proportion of schools offering accesses to		
Basic drinking water	95.6%	
Single-sex washing facility	100.0%	
Washing facility	100.0%	
Adapted infrastructure and materials	8.8% (2020)	11.8% (2021)

Source: MyLocal Stats DOSM, 2021

The data above shows that schools in Batang Padang district offer great basic services and access to basic facilities. Adapted infrastructure and materials to special students also has a 2% increase in 2021, as compared to 2020.

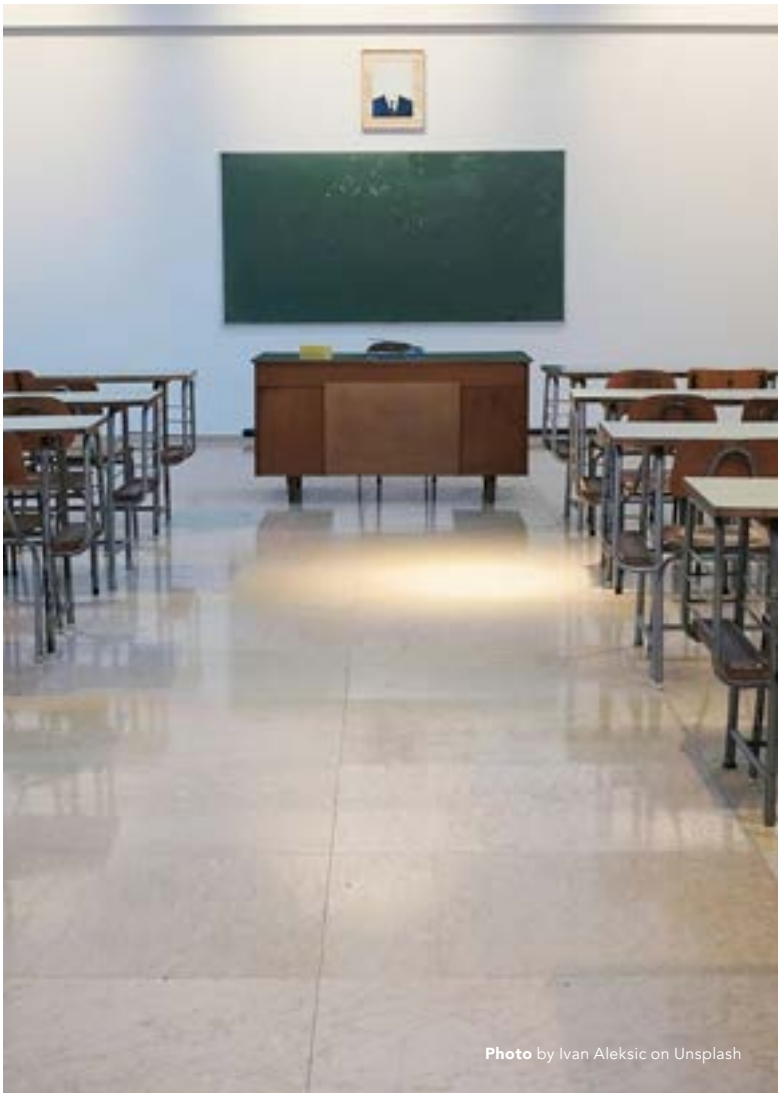


Photo by Ivan Aleksic on Unsplash





SDG 5 in Tapah addresses significant issues including the lack of support for neglected elderly individuals, notably caretaker services, and a higher percentage of women compared to men within the local administrative area (PBT). Healthcare access remains limited in Tapah due to inadequate clinics relative to the population size and accessibility concerns. To assist single women/mothers, an increased presence of childcare centers cross departments is necessary. Additionally, challenges persist concerning the distinction between religious and public schools, indicating a need for focused attention on gender equality, healthcare provision, childcare support, and education alignment to effectively advance SDG 5.



SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
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SDG 5 in Tapah is currently in the initial stages, and further participation is required. There is a need for localized data to assess the progress of SDG 5 and its targets within the administrative boundary. Additional information will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the specific challenges and opportunities related to gender equality and women's empowerment in Tapah, facilitating targeted efforts to achieve SDG 5 effectively.



Photo by Nandhu Kumar on Unsplash

## 5.1

### END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

In relation to discrimination against women and children, there appears to be a lack of noteworthy concerns or assertions in Tapah. The local community seems content with the current state of affairs and does not raise significant issues related to this matter.

## 5.4

### VALUE UNPAID CARE AND PROMOTE SHARED DOMESTIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- ➔ In the initial phase of SDG 5 awareness in Tapah, there is a noticeable absence of essential facilities aimed at promoting gender equality. Notably, there is a distinct lack of caretaker amenities, particularly catering to the elderly population.
- ➔ To assist single women/mothers, an increased presence of affordable childcare centers across departments is necessary to support women in pursuing careers in Tapah.

## 5.5

### ENSURE FULL PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING

#### Women Participation and Opportunities in Leadership

**Tapah District Council:** In the context of gender equality, it can be observed that in MD Tapah, there is a higher presence of women staff compared to men staff. Although specific data is not available to substantiate this observation, it suggests a potential trend towards greater gender representation within the organization. This emphasis on inclusivity aligns with the principles of SDG 5, which aims to promote gender equality and empower women in all spheres of life.

**Villages in Tapah:** In the villages, the implementation of women's representation in decision-making is already in effect, with the objective of ensuring that each village includes a 30 percent participation of women in such processes.

## 5.6

### END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

#### Sexual and reproductive health services

Hospitals/clinics teaching sexual and reproductive workshops and classes are still lacking in urban areas, as well as rural. In addition, facilities and services in Tapah are still inadequately equipped to provide the kind of education required.



The Malaysian government ensures subsidized access to clean piped water for all residents, including Batang Padang district, where most households have piped water. However, challenges persist, with some areas lacking access due to high costs, particularly in indigenous and plantation areas. Additionally, Tapah city residents often complain about muddy drinking water due to clogged filters. Efforts to address these issues include installing water filtration systems in schools and mandating rainwater harvesting systems in new housing schemes.





SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
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## 6.1

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

# 99.4%

Households in Batang Padang district have access to piped water in the house, 2019

The government of Malaysia provides subsidies for water supply as it is considered a basic necessity. Hence, access to clean piped water is ensured for all residents of Perak State. In Batang Padang district, almost all households have access to piped water in the house.

### CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

#### (1) Lack in water accessibility

During FGD, it is found that there are two health clinics that do not have access to water supply, which are;

- Klinik Kesihatan Batu 17
- Klinik Kesihatan Batu 6

Access to water is also lacking in neighbourhood where indigenous population live and plantation areas. This limitation arises because of high costs associated with connecting these areas to the primary water drainage system, in addition to ensure the housing areas remain unaffected. Moreover, water becomes cloudy when the area floods.

#### (2) Poor quality of drinking water

A noteworthy observation made by a Coway supervisor in Tapah city is that customers frequently express dissatisfaction with the quality of their drinking water, often complaining about it being muddy. This issue often arises because the water filters tend to become easily clogged.

### INITIATIVES TO ENSURE WATER ACCESS

Both Sekolah Kebangsaan Batu 7 and Sekolah Kebangsaan Batu 14 are equipped with external water filtration systems that source water from a mountain reservoir. However, the availability of this water relies on weather conditions and the current environmental circumstances.

## 6.2

## ACCESS TO ADEQUATE AND EQUITABLE SANITATION AND HYGIENE FOR ALL

# 100.0%

Households in Batang Padang district using safely managed sanitation services, 2019

Equitable access to sanitation and hygiene facilities is guaranteed for all residents of Perak State including Batang Padang District, ensuring that everyone has equal opportunities to maintain proper sanitation practices and hygiene standard.

## 6.3

## IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SAFE REUSE

### HOUSING SCHEME IN MDT

New housing scheme under MDT mentions that every applications of each new unit of housing areas, shop lots, warehouses and plantations must be equipped with rainwater harvesting system, which is also known as SPAH. This is one of the requirements that must be fulfilled for the application to be successful.



By 2019, electricity access had been achieved for all households in Batang Padang district. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are installing generators and solar lighting in plantations, primarily in areas lacking conventional electricity infrastructure. Additionally, a private company, Ranhill Solar 1 Sdn Bhd, has launched a large-scale solar photovoltaic (LSSPV) project in Ladang Bikam, Bidor, with the energy produced being sold to Tenaga Nasional Berhad. However, the precise extent of energy distribution to local residents remains uncertain.



SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
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## 7.1

## UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO MODERN ENERGY

100.0%

Households in Batang Padang district have access to electricity supply, 2019

The recent data in 2019 shows that access to electricity supply is guaranteed in every households in Batang Padang district.

Efforts are being made to lower and subsidise electrical use for vulnerable and poor residents in Tapah.

## 7.2

## INCREASE GLOBAL PERCENTAGE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

The use of renewable energy has been put into practise in Batang Padang district, as follows:

(1) **Generators and Solar Lighting in Plantations**

Generators and solar lighting systems are being installed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) within plantations, particularly in regions lacking electricity infrastructure. These efforts aim to improve access to reliable lighting and power.

(2) **Photovoltaic Solar Farm**

A private company named Ranhill Solar 1 Sdn Bhd has executed a large scale solar photovoltaic (LSSPV) project in Ladang Bikam, Bidor. The energy generated is sold to Tenaga Nasional Berhad, but the amount of energy supplied to local residents from this source remains uncertain.





## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG 8, focusing on promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, along with decent work for all, has significant relevance to the challenges faced in Tapah. This global goal seeks to ensure that economies grow in a way that benefits everyone, provides adequate employment opportunities, and upholds workers' rights. Now, considering Tapah's context, several challenges hinder the alignment with SDG 8. In essence, addressing these challenges in Tapah would require aligning strategies with SDG 8 objectives. This would involve enhancing infrastructure, promoting local industries, bridging skill gaps, improving labor rights, and investing in tourism-related ventures, all in line with the principles of inclusive economic growth and decent work outlined in SDG 8.



SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	7SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
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8.2

DIVERSIFY, INNOVATE AND UPGRADE FOR ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY

Establishment by Economic Sectors

The analysis of establishment distribution in Tapah reveals a diverse economic landscape. Among the total of 66 establishments, the majority lie within the services sector with 1168 establishments, indicating a strong presence in this domain. Manufacturing follows closely with 59 establishments, showcasing a robust industrial foundation.

However, the agriculture, mining, and quarrying sector demonstrates relatively limited representation, accounting for just 6 establishments. The construction sector, on the other hand, occupies a significant share, consisting of 134 establishments.

This distribution highlights Tapah's notable emphasis on services and manufacturing, while also suggesting potential opportunities for growth and development in the agriculture and mining sectors.

Number of establishments in Tapah, 2021	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	66
Mining and quarrying	6
Manufacturing	59
Construction	137
Services	1,168

Economic Challenges in Tapah

The prevailing trend of rural youth seeking employment outside urban areas is a nationwide concern, affecting Tapah as well. Despite Tapah's immense economic potential, its growth rate remains sluggish. Financial services, including banking and ATMs, are severely limited, with only one bank present in nearby Bidor.

Batang Padang district lacks substantial investment from major players despite its high-impact potential. Approximately 20% of the fishing sector relies on mining activities, leading to land status issues. Fisheries in Tapah are primarily centered around urban fishing and aquaculture.

8.5

FULL EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK WITH EQUAL PAY

The labor market analysis reveals a labor force of 40,000 individuals, with 38,200 currently employed. Unemployment stands at 1,800, while 18,700 individuals remain outside the labor force.

The labor force participation rate for Tapah stands at 68.1%, while the national average for Malaysia is higher at 85%. This indicates that a smaller proportion of the local population is actively engaged in the labor force compared to the national average.. However, the unemployment rate for the local area matches the national average at 4.4%, suggesting a similar level of joblessness relative to the country as a whole.

68.1 Labour Force Participation Rate, 2020	4.4% Unemployment Rate, 2020
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While the unemployment rates align, the discrepancy in labor force participation rates indicates a potential area for improvement. This suggests that efforts could be directed towards increasing the engagement of the local population in the labor force, bringing it closer to the national norm. This data also suggests that the remaining unemployment rate could be based on the businesses and local producers that do not register in order to obtain further government assistance.

Employment Issues in Tapah

Tapah faces significant hurdles in terms of basic infrastructure inadequacies and a lack of investment. Small industries and industry players encounter difficulties, with economic benefits from Tanjung Malim not effectively reaching Tapah. A mismatch in job opportunities is evident; for instance, Kolej Komuniti Tapah offers architecture courses, while Proton City requires more engineers.

The rise in job opportunities in Tapah is not harmonized with the skillsets of local fresh graduates, posing a mismatch problem. Additionally, the absence of hotels in Tapah negatively impacts tourism, given its role as a transit city. This scarcity of facilities hampers tourist experiences. Improvements are needed in tourism-related facilities across various locations.





Tapah grapples with fundamental infrastructure shortcomings and limited investment, hindering small industries, youth employment, and economic integration with Tanjung Malim. Despite considerable potential, its growth rate is sluggish, while inadequate financial services and a dearth of major investments affect Batang Padang district. Moreover, a mismatch in job opportunities for graduates and tourism facilities underscores the need for comprehensive improvements in various sectors.



SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
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## 9.1

## DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

The identified infrastructure and utilities in Tapah encompass drainage, telecommunications, electricity, billing, piped natural gas, solid waste, and water supply.

- (1) **Drainage** presents challenges in various aspects: ensuring comprehensive coverage for inhabited regions, managing flooding in naturally low-lying urban areas and increased surface runoff in elevated non-flood-prone zones, addressing remote areas without efficient drainage systems, and handling proximity to shallow and winding downstream rivers due to upstream land clearing activities.
- (2) **Telecommunications** reveals a mix of technologies in use. High-Speed Broadband (HSBB) or Unifi constitutes a small portion, indicating potential room for expansion. Streamyx enjoys a higher adoption rate, possibly due to its established presence. While 4G connectivity stands at 60%, implying moderate accessibility, the widespread availability of 2G/3G at 98% reflects a solid foundation. Both cellular phones and fixed lines demonstrate near-universal reach at 98%. This data showcases a diverse landscape with varying degrees of connectivity, highlighting opportunities for further HSBB penetration and continued improvement in 4G accessibility.
- (3) **Electricity Coverage** of Tenaga Nasional Berhad extends to 98% of areas, excluding indigenous villages due to challenges in supplying electricity to remote interior regions and indigenous settlements situated far from the power source, emphasizing the necessity for innovative solutions to bridge this gap and ensure equitable access to electricity for all communities.

# 1,724 KM

Road Length in Batang Padang, 2021

# 60%

4G coverage in Batang Padang

# 98%

4G coverage in Batang Padang

# <5%

High-speed broadband

# 98%

Streamyx

# 98%

TNB electricity coverage except Orang Asli settlement

- (4) **Sanitation Service:** The utilization of connected service remains notably lower at 31.5%, while non-connected service adoption stands at 68.5%. This contrast suggests a potential gap in the accessibility or adoption of more advanced and efficient sanitation infrastructure. Addressing this imbalance could involve efforts to enhance awareness, affordability, and the overall implementation of connected sanitation systems to ensure more widespread and equitable access to improved sanitation facilities.

10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



In 2016, 51.4% of households were in the low-income category (B40), while 36.7% were middle-income (M40), and 12.1% were high-income (T20), reflecting economic diversity in Tapah. This data highlights income disparities, especially among the indigenous community, where assistance targets 79 Orang Asli settlements to enhance earnings. Tapah promotes economic equality by establishing markets and kiosks, particularly for the Orang Asli, addressing socio economic needs.





## 10.1 REDUCE INCOME INEQUALITIES

Monthly household gross income in Batang Padang, 2019		
51.4%	36.7%	12.1%
B40	M40	T20
Median	RM4,067	
Mean	5,637	

In 2016, the majority of households fell into the low-income category (B40), constituting 51.4% of the population. This suggests a significant proportion of the population may face financial challenges. Middle-income households (M40) made up 36.7%, reflecting a considerable portion of residents that enjoy a moderate level of financial stability. High-income households (T20) constituted 12.1%, indicating a smaller yet notable segment of the population with comparatively greater economic prosperity.

This distribution reflects the economic diversity within Tapah and provides a basis for understanding income disparities and potential socioeconomic development needs in the region.

Tapah hosts an indigenous community, warranting attention to income disparities; furthermore, support is extended to households across the 79 settlements of Orang Asli villages in the study area to uplift their earnings.

In Tapah, the effort to mitigate inequalities involves facilitating markets and kiosks for the community to engage in urban businesses, with a particular focus on addressing the needs of the Orang Asli population within the region.



Photo by Irfan G. on Unsplash



## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



While basic city infrastructures and amenities were provided, certain aspects of sustainable city namely affordable housing and public amenities such as green space and public space are limited in Tapah Area, lack of affordable housing and non inclusive public transport station, high frequency of solid waste from tourism areas and residential areas. These aspects need further improvement however efforts are limited due to financial constraints and lack of human resources to solve the issues.



11.1

SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Overall, Batang Padang District has 784.61 hectares (31.28%) of planned housing land. Meanwhile, unplanned residential land use is as wide as 1,723.11 hectares (68.71%). Total land use existing housing is 2,507.72 hectares ie as many as 33,003 house units.

Proportion of households in Tapah, 2019	
19.30% Total Affordable Housing Provided	16.20% Total Committed Affordable Housing Provided

There are currently 19.30% of affordable housing in the Batang Padang District provided and also 16.20% total committed affordable housing provided (in the process of construction).

According to the proportion of households in Tapah, 82.0% of the houses are owned, which is due to the affordable housing provided as well as many private residences built on their own property.

82.0% Owned	56.2% Rent	2.4% Quarters
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CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- (1) **Lack of affordable housing**  
The lack of affordable and low-cost housing compared to the poverty rate in Tapah. which is 7.1%
- (2) **Financial Issues**  
High affordable housing market rates. Demand for affordable and low-cost homes is high but there is no allocation from the state and federal governments.
- (3) **Unplanned development**  
The existence of small-scale and detached housing developments making it difficult to provide public facilities, infrastructure and utilities.
- (4) **Demand for Orang Asli Housing**  
High demand for affordable houses.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/ INITIATIVES

Rumah Perakku Project

11.2

AFFORDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEM

The land area utilized for transportation is 2,896.28 hectares, or 1.61% of the total area of Batang Padang. In Batang Padang, public transportation consists of 8 main bus stations with 16 buses running every half hour under the Perkhidmatan Bas Berhenti-henti (SBST). Moreover, Batang Padang also consist of 1 KTM stations which are KTM Tapah with a frequency every half hour per day. Unfortunately, there is no bus service from Tapah KTM station to Tapah town/town.

8	Bus Station of Perkhidmatan Bas Berhenti-henti (SBST) (frequency of buses every half hour per day)
1	KTM Station (frequency of train every half hour per day)
16	Number of Buses Perkhidmatan Bas Berhenti-henti (SBST) (frequency of buses every one hour per day)

Source: Batang Padang District Local Plan 2035

CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- (1) **Access to Public Areas**  
Access to public transport is difficult in public areas especially clinics and hospitals
- (2) **Inclusivity Issues**  
The KTM station is not friendly for the disabled and the elderly because it does not have an elevator, making it difficult for them to access the train
- (3) **Low Demand for Public Transportation**  
Due to lower community demand for buses, the number of buses offered was lowered in order to prevent losses. Moreover, there is no bus service between Tapah KTM station and Tapah town/town.



## 11.4

### PROTECT THE WORLD CULTURE AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Tapah is a city in the south of Perak State which is famous throughout the country especially to pilgrims from outside and inside the country visiting Cameron Highlands. This is because of its position on the foothills of the Titiwangsa Range makes it a crossroad linking the road to the resort area.

highway North South. Among the most important historical remains in Batang Padang/ Tapah is Tapah Town and Bidor Town that has been established since the early 1900s. Bandar Tapah has building conservation inheritance Category 1, 2 and 3 such as rows old shop buildings that need to be restored and preserved to enhance the image and facade of the center Tapah City. The city of Bidor has a Category 2 heritage building conservation and 3 such as rows of old shops that need to be restored and preserved to improve the design image of Bidor City.

#### CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

##### (1) Limited Place-Making Initiatives

According to FGD findings, other areas apart from Tapah, also require place-making initiatives but very limited efforts have been made. For example, shops and government buildings.

Even though Tapah Town and Bidor have initiative on heritage building conservation, there is no development control for maintaining the facade and design looks of old buildings and shops.

#### PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/ INITIATIVES

- (1) Initiative on abandoned house to be turned into a Tapah art and heritage house

## 11.6

### REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

#### Urban Air Pollution

Moderate (51-100)

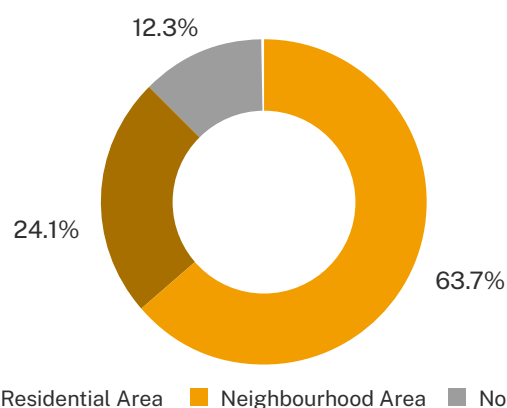
Source: DOSM 2021

As of now, there is no monitoring station in the Tapah area. The air quality level is monitored through the monitoring station in Pegoh, Tasek and Tanjung Malim.

Based on the air quality status in the Environmental Quality Report from the Department of Environment, the IPU reading in Tapah is at Moderate level (51-100). Readings in Tapah influenced by the industrial activities and also agriculture.

#### Solid waste management

Proportion of household in Tapah has access to garbage collection facility, 2019



Source: DOSM 2021

Tapah District Council uses Act 672 where concession companies such as Alam Flora Sdn. Bhd., SWM Environment Sdn. Bhd., and Alam Sekitar Idaman Sdn. Bhd carries out garbage collection in residential areas, neighborhood areas and commercial areas with 63.7% from Tapah area specifically at residential has access to garbage collection while 12.3% do not have access to the garbage collection facility due to non-taxed areas.

Lorry compactor collects waste three times per week in residential areas and daily for commercial areas. However, waste management problems arise in village areas because lorry compactors could not enter the area to pick up the wastes due to the road width and also due to non-taxed area's issues. Therefore, the residents toss waste into the river and in the forest although MDT has already taken initiative by providing big bins in each entrance of the village.

SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
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11.7

PROVIDE ACCESS TO SAFE AND INCLUSIVE GREEN AND PUBLIC SPACE

Batang Padang District has 97.98 hectares of open land. The majority of the open land consists of:

- (1) Urban Park (38.98 hectares),
- (2) Neighborhood Field (29.99 hectares),
- (3) Local Park (1.82 hectares), and
- (4) Playground (76.15 hectares).
- (5) Game Lot (13.23 hectares)

0.05% = 97.98 he

Land dedicated to Open Space and Recreational

Source: Batang Padang District Local Plan 2035

CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- (1) **Limited Land**  
Batang Padang still lacks open spaces for public use such as playgrounds and recreational parks due to lack of land especially in Bidor.
- (2) **Not Inclusive**  
Existing open space and recreation especially in Tapah town do not fulfil guideline requirements and planning standards, and they're not inclusive to all, including the elderly and disabled.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- (1) 'Kebun Kejiranan Hijau / Pertanian Bandar' Project
- (2) Program for elderly



Photo by Alfred on Unsplash





As Tapah is famous for its tourism activities, somehow it also contributes to tourism waste that is not well managed especially in the chalet areas even though MDT has provided special trash bins in some places. Furthermore, although Tapah also well known with agriculture activities as well as poultry farming that contribute to water and air pollution.

On positive notes, Tapah has organized several programs to reduce the generation and disposal of garbage, especially in community areas, such as Solid Waste Management System (SPSP) from the Ministry of Health to the Orang Asli and also E-Waste Campaign.



SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
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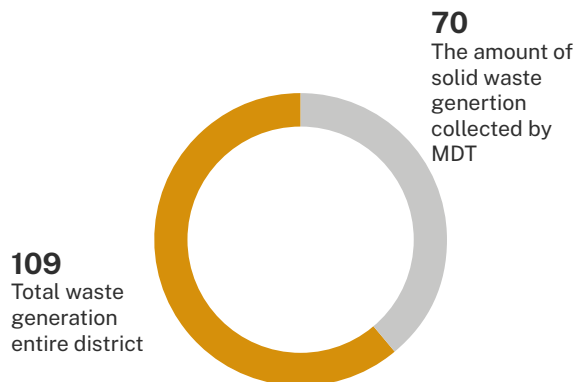
## 12.5

**RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE****Tapah District Council Landfill**

100  
hectare

Source: Batang Padang District Local Plan 2035

Tapah only have 1 landfills, know as Tapah District Council Landfill with an area of 100 hectares. Landfills in tapah still use the disposal method still conventional (open landfill ) by embankment, hoarding and burying open but still under control.

**Weight of waste produced (Metric tonnes/daily)**

Source: Batang Padang District Local Plan, 2035

The average solid waste generated by the entire Batang Padang including Tapah is 109 tones per day. Furthermore, the amount of solid waste generation that collected by the Tapah District Council is 70 tons per day. The remaining tons from the total waste generation is collected by private company especially in Kampung Tradisi areas and also industrial area.

**CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES**

- (1) **Insufficient Landfill**  
The existing landfill is still sufficient to accommodate the waste but the site need to upgrade to sanitary landfill because the existing system contributes to pollution.
- (2) **Hazardous Waste**  
**Specific data on hazardous waste, such as e-waste and factory chemical waste, is**

lacking in Tapah. However, there are cases of chemical waste dumping from factories into rivers and seas have been reported, leading to pollution.

**(3) Waste Management Efficiency At Non-Taxed Areas**

Despite the fact that MDT has taken the initiative to provide large garbage containers at every entrance to the tax-free zone, people there still throw garbage such as old furniture, food from stalls, plastic and bottles on roadsides and rivers. As a result, the interior spaces, particularly the recreational areas, become polluted.

**PROGRAMS/PROJECTS**

- (1) MDT and District Office have already provided trash cans in tourist areas
- (2) Solid Waste Management System (SPSP) from the Ministry of Health to the natives

## 12.5

**SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE WASTE MANAGEMENT****Total amount of solid waste generated (kg) in Tapah**

The average solid waste generated by the entire Batang Padang including Tapah is 109 tones per day. However, data on the amount of solid waste produced in the last 5 years is needed to analyze trends in solid waste management and community awareness of recycling practices in reducing waste from the source.

Garbage data generated in tourist areas also needs to be analyzed because there is an issue of uncontrolled garbage generation in the area by the tourists themselves. This has led to cases of dengue and malaria (information from KKM Tapah)

**Total weight (kg) of recycle items collected in Tapah**

Recycling data by year (2018-2021) is needed to make a comparison with solid waste generated data by year by residents in Tapah.

## CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- (1) **Lack of Recycle Centre for Community**  
Although MDT held a recycling program within 2 months in one year, the practice of recycling among the community in Tapah is still lacking due to the lack of recycling places that allow the community to send their recyclables at any time.
- (2) **No Enforcement Of Segregation At Source**  
Even though Tapah have a several campaigns for waste management and recycling, as well as E-Waste Campaign, there is a lack of regulation for segregation at the source, such as from households and restaurants, resulting in excessive trash generated to landfills. Moreover, FGD found that waste is also piled up on the roadsides in non-commercial areas due to a lack of trash bins.
- (3) **Readiness and Behaviour of Tapah Residents**  
With several campaigns about recycling and waste management in Tapah, the community still lacks awareness by throwing rubbish all over the area and not practicing recycling. This is likely due to the lack of a program such as Trash To Cash that provides remuneration to the community that collects and donates their recyclables.

## PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- (1) E-Waste Campaign
- (2) Recycling program (2 months a year)



Photo by Bernard Hermant on Unsplash





Although Tapah has experienced several disasters such as floods and landslides in several areas such as Tapah Road and Bidor, Tapah still lacks emphasis and future planning on disaster risk in their Local Plan. In terms of low-carbon, there is still no carbon emission measurement and study carried out. They also no longer have a Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Action Plan and a Low Carbon Tapah Roadmap.

On positive notes, Tapah already has several initiatives or programs related to climate action, especially in an effort to achieve a low-carbon city with the community, such as bicycle lane to encourage the reduction of vehicle use to reduce carbon but there is no promotion and campaign yet. In addition, Tapah also already have several initiative for disaster such as Disaster Sirens and also Disaster Simulator at community level.

SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
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### 13.1

## STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE AND ADAPTIVE CAPACITY TO CLIMATE RELATED DISASTERS

Geo-disaster areas in Batang Padang District are divided into 2 types of risk, namely:

- (1) Landslide risk area
- (2) Flood hotspot areas

### CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

#### (1) Disaster Action Plan

MDT does not have a Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Action Plan even though there have been several disasters such as floods and landslides happened in Tapah.

#### (2) Illegal Logging

Several cases of landslides, including the most recent one in Tapah Road, are caused by tree felling activities that act as soil grabbers. The felling of the tree caused ground movement and spring water flow.

Landslides also occur in Orang Asli areas due to illegal logging by developers and forest encroachment by Orang Asli themselves to make gardens.

#### (3) Drainage System

Besides to the unusually heavy rainfall, one of the elements contributing to flooding is a clogged drainage system and the unlawful removal of trees that serve as flood mitigation.

#### (4) Development and Old Infrastructure

In addition to the inefficient drainage system, flooding in Tapah also occurs due to the existing bridge in Tapah being relatively old and low in addition to the development surface factor.

### PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- (1) Disaster sirens are already in some areas such as Latar Kijang and Bidor
- (2) There are already disaster simulation exercises at the community level although not comprehensive
- (3) JPS has upgraded and maintained the drainage system
- (4) JKR has upgraded the road to reduce flooding

### 13.2

## INTEGRATE CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES INTO POLICIES AND PLANNING

Based on the Local Plan of Batang Padang District, there is no measurement or data for carbon emission in Tapah.

### CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

#### (1) Tapah Challenges to be A Low Carbon City

MDT has not conducted a carbon audit/ measurement, making it difficult to figure out the level of carbon emission in Tapah

But MDT thinks that there is a need to establish a low carbon area and the potential area so far is Tapah Town.

### PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- (1) Tapah already has a bicycle lane to encourage the reduction of vehicle use to reduce carbon but there is no promotion and campaign yet

### 13.3

## BUILD KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY TO MEET CLIMATE CHANGE

Although Tapah does not have specific data, studies and policies on disasters and carbon, they have several initiatives for climate action as stated in SDG 13.1 and SDG 13.2.





SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
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Tapah is facing significant river pollution resulting from industrial and farming effluents. This pollution is primarily attributed to the discharge of waste materials from industrial and agricultural activities into the local water bodies. The consequences of this pollution are detrimental to both the environment and the community. Effective measures are urgently needed to address this issue and mitigate its impact.

On positive notes, Tapah has initiated a program aimed at improving river quality by releasing fish into the water. This effort seeks to boost the local fish population and enhance the overall health of the river ecosystem.





Photo by Josh Hild on Unsplash

## 14.1 REDUCE MARINE POLLUTION

The Batang Padang district has 5 river water quality monitoring stations. The locations of water quality monitoring stations are located at;

- (1) Chenderiang River at Simpang Tiga Chenderiang
- (2) Batang Padang River at Jambatan Pekan Tapah
- (3) Bidor River at Jambatan Bandar Bidor
- (4) Sungkai dRiver at Jambatan Sg. Sungkai (Plaza Tol Sungkai)
- (5) Klah River at Lebu Raya Utara-Selatan (Km:358.4)

< 50 = Very Polluted

Water Quality Index

According to the current index readings, Bidor River and Chenderiang River are the river which is contaminated and does not meet the target of the Standard Class II, National Water Quality Standard (NWQS) that is at 3 mg/L. For Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) reading, the highest reading is 12 mg/L in. Bidor River and Chenderiang River became likely stemming from chicken and pig farming.

Based on the National Water Quality Standard (NWQS), Bidor River most often posted readings that exceed the Class IIB standard (0.3mg/L) compared to other rivers. For Ammoniacal Nitrogen (NH<sub>3</sub>-N), the highest reading is 2.01

mg/L which is in Sungai Bidor. It is caused by the use of fertilisers in agriculture and the outflow of sewage (area farming, settlement, and industrial effluents).

## CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

### (1) Pollution From Residential Areas

The pollution of the river is caused by waste from residential areas. This is also due to lack of awareness among the residents and enforcement in waste management communities in Tapah.

### (2) Industrial Effluent

In Tapah, there is an instance of discharging industry waste into the river, such as chemical waste, which impairs the river's water quality.

### (3) Agriculture and Farming Effluent

It is due by agricultural fertiliser usage and sewage discharge (area farming, settlement, and industrial effluents). Waste/sewage from traditional chicken and pig farms causes odor pollution, rivers and many flies.

## PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- (1) A program to release fish into the river for the purpose of increasing the number of fish in the river





Tapah is well-known for its agriculture activities, however it also has rich and abundant forest reserves. More than 60 percent of the land use area in Tapah district is covered by forests including Permanent Reserve Forest, Watershed Forest, Land Protected Forest and also Central Forest Spine (CFS). Tapah is home to abundant and diverse forests, showcasing the region's rich natural biodiversity and ecological significance. Unfortunately, forests in Tapah are facing a decline, primarily due to illegal logging activities and ongoing development projects.

The Tapah District Council has begun implementing a programme to replant trees, particularly in the several areas, in an effort to protect and sustain the forest in Tapah. The Tapah community, in collaboration with the Tapah District Council, has also launched a community garden effort in their neighbourhood.

SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
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## 15.1

## CONSERVE AND RESTORE TERRESTRIAL AND FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEM


Batang Padang consist of several type of forest as well as Permanent Reserve Forest with total of 59,845.38 hectares, Watershed Forest with 69,227.53 hectares, Land Protected Forest in total of 34,352.25 hectares and also Central Forest Spine with total of 3,349.10 hectares.

59,845.38 he	Permanent Reserve Forest
69,227.53 he	Watershed Forest
34,352.25 he	Land Protected Forest
3,349.10 he	Central Forest Spine (CFS)

## 15.2

## END DEFORESTATION AND RESTORE DEGRADED LAND

The area of Permanent Reserve Forest in Batang Padang shows a significant decrease in 2021 which is only 68,564.13 hectares left compared to 2016 with an area of 77,627.07 hectares. This probably is due to illegal logging for development.

Total Area Permanent Reserve Forest	
	77,627.07 he (2016)
	68,564.13 he (2021)

Source: Perak Forestry Department

## CITY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- Illegal Activity By Communities**  
There is a community of indigenous people who are encroaching on the forest to build plantations illegally.
- Illegal Loggings**  
Illegal logging in areas that are not allowed for logging purposes, especially in Chikus Forest Reserve and Bukit Tapah Forest Reserve

## PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- A program to plant 100 million trees in 5 years Program
- Addition of Forest Reserve in Additional Tapah Forest Reserve

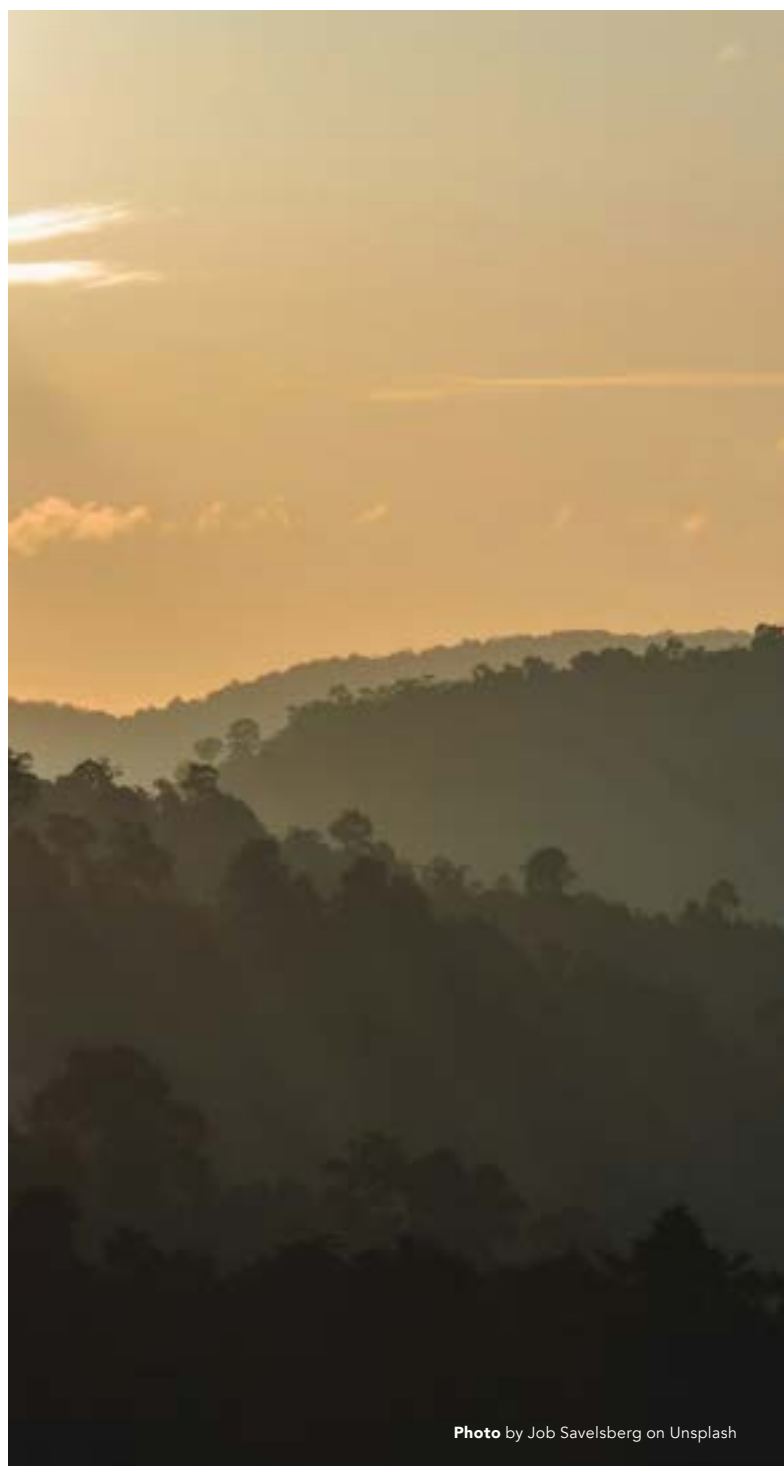


Photo by Job Savelsberg on Unsplash





Tapah's safety facilities, including police stations, huts, and fire stations, assure peace in the area; community police, awareness campaigns, and patrols further enhance security. This contributes to SDG 16 by promoting peace, safety, and strong institutions, evident in crime reduction and anti-corruption efforts within Tapah.

SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
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## 16.1 REDUCE VIOLENT EVERYWHERE

### Safety Facilities

The existing safety facilities in Tapah, including 6 police stations, 4 police huts, and 2 fire stations, are deemed adequate to ensure peace and security in both Tapah and Batang Padang areas.

The presence of community police and ongoing awareness campaigns by the police and fire departments further contribute to safety for the communities. This is reinforced by active police patrols, which are aggressively conducted in the area.

### Public Safety

The data reveals a positive crime reduction trend in Batang Padang, highlighted by a 12.7% Crime Index decrease, implying effective measures. Notably, violent crimes dropped 18.9% and property-related crimes 10.3%, signifying successful law enforcement tactics. The lower crime rates suggest improved security, possibly due to collaborative community and law enforcement efforts. Moreover, child involvement in crime decreased from 12 to 11, indicating enhanced preventive actions. Noteworthy is the reduction in drug addicts from 146 to 95, showcasing effective responses to the issue.

## 16.2 SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY


### Organisational Anti-Corruption Plan


Tapah has also conducted periodic awareness programs and implemented an internal departmental oath. The Organisational Anti-Corruption Plan (OACP) for 2023 - 2025 underscores Tapah's dedication to curbing corruption and fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and integrity through robust governance practices.

6	4	2
Police stations	Police huts	Fire stations

Source: Batang Padang District Local Plan, 2035

Crime Index	
117 (2021)	134 (2020)
Violent Crime	
30 (2021)	37 (2020)
Property Crime	
87 (2021)	97 (2020)

Number of children involved in crime in Batang Padang, 2021	
	12 (2020)
	11 (2021)

Number of drug addicts in Batang Padang	
	146 (2020)
	95 (2021)

Source: My local Stats Batang Padang, 2021

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their significance for local authorities in Tapah is still in the early stages. While the Department of Planning has incorporated the SDGs into the local plan, their understanding of these goals remains unclear. On the other hand, some departments are still unfamiliar with the SDGs as it is a relatively new concept.

Looking towards the future, it is crucial to emphasize the significance of Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17): Partnerships for the Goals in Tapah. Strengthening partnerships among various stakeholders is essential for the successful implementation of the SDGs and achieving sustainable development in the district.





Telecommunication equipment and services

Utilizing Batang Padang district data as a proxy due to the unavailability of Tapah-specific data, the percentage of households owning telecommunication equipment and services indicates a notable increase.

The subscription of home internet rose from 23.8% in 2014 to 76.1% in 2019, showcasing a significant growth in internet accessibility. Similarly, mobile phone ownership saw a marginal rise from 95.9% in 2014 to 96.7% in 2019, indicating near-saturation. The adoption of pay TV channels also increased from 69.8% in 2014 to 83.4% in 2019, suggesting a rising trend in home entertainment services.

Percentage of households owned telecommunication equipment and services

Subscription of internet at home	
23.8% (2014)	76.1% (2020)
Mobile Phone	
95.9% (2014)	96.7% (2020)
Pay TV channel	
69.8% (2014)	83.4% (2020)

Source: Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia, Department of Statistics Malaysia



Photo by John Schnobrich on Unsplash



# 5 Introduction

## 5.1 Next Steps for PBT

In Tapah, the upcoming stages in the local authorities' journey towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are outlined as follows:

Phase 2: Emphasizing SDGs within Tapah, key focal points will be identified. Ongoing consultations with stakeholders will play a pivotal role in shaping the SDG roadmap for the town. All participants from the workshop, encompassing both attendees and those unable to join, along with newly recognized stakeholders, will be encouraged to contribute to this process.

Phase 3: The focus will shift towards expediting the creation of the SDG Roadmap report tailored to Tapah. This stage entails a comprehensive evaluation of each SDG, proposing strategies to expedite progress, and establishing metrics to gauge accomplishments.

These initiatives showcase a proactive stance in integrating SDGs into Tapah's developmental planning. Involving diverse stakeholders and adopting a systematic roadmap will steer the town towards efficient implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, ultimately fostering sustainable development and enhancing residents' quality of life.

Looking ahead, advancing SDG implementation in Tapah entails a collaborative and participatory approach. Engaging stakeholders across multiple sectors, including governmental bodies, private enterprises, civil society organizations, and local community members, will be pivotal in propelling progress and ensuring the triumph of SDG endeavors.

Furthermore, data collection for all 17 SDGs will be conducted to enrich the analysis and comprehension of current statuses and advancements for each objective in Tapah. This data collection process will yield valuable insights, enabling well-informed decision-making concerning specific actions required for SDG realization within the town.

This report is prepared for:  
**Majlis Daerah Tapah**



This report is prepared by:  
**Urbanice Malaysia**



**URBANICE**  
MALAYSIA

### **Tapah Voluntary Local Review 2023**

**Coordinator:**

TPr Ts Norliza Hashim  
Dr Azmizam Abdul Rashid

**Author:**

Mohd Syafiq Subri  
Muhammad Khilal  
Mardiana Mohd Salleh  
Foo Wen Fang  
Nur Nuha Ismail

**Design and Layout:**

KGM Design Unit

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