

# A life-saving donation

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Pledging to donate your organs or tissues is a noble and potentially life-saving act. Unfortunately though, the number of patients who need organ transplants is increasing, but the number of pledgers who want to donate after death remains low.

According to the National Transplant Resource Centre, there

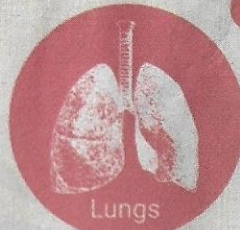
are **517,758** registered organ donors in Malaysia, representing only **1.58%** of the total Malaysian population.



## Organ & Tissues which can be donated In Malaysia are:

### 1 Organ Transplantation

- > Organs are usually obtained from certified brain-dead donors.
- > Such donors will remain on life support machines until their organs are harvested.
- > The organs are then immediately sent and transplanted into the organ recipient.



Lungs

Survival Rate  
3 years: 68%

The transplant surgery must be carried out within the following time frame:

- Heart: 4 to 6 Hours
- Lung: 4 to 6 hours
- Liver: 8 to 12 hours
- Kidney: 24 hours



One organ donor can save 8 lives



One tissue donor can save up to 50 lives.



### TYPES OF DONORS

#### Living

- > Can only donate one kidney or part of their liver.
- > Two types:

1. Donors related to the patient (Living related)
2. Donors not related to the patient (Non-living related)

#### Cadaveric

- > This is a pledged organ donor who has died.
- > Their organs must be in good condition to be donated.
- > Two types:

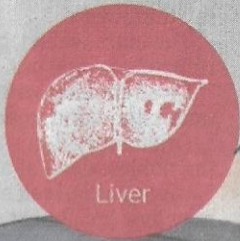
#### 1. Donors who have been declared brain dead

- > Usually passed away at the hospital.
- > The brain is no longer functioning

- > Patient will die naturally once taken off life support machines
- > Both organs and tissues can be harvested

#### 2. Donors who have been declared dead

- > Passed away anywhere
- > Heart has stopped beating permanently
- > Only tissues can be harvested (and only the corneas if death occurs outside a hospital)



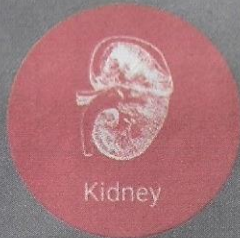
Liver

Survival Rate  
1 year: 80-85%  
5 years: 70-75%



Heart

Survival Rate  
1 year: 83%  
5 years: 63%  
Back to work: 83%



Kidney

Survival Rate  
1 year: 85-90%  
5 years: > 75%  
10 years: 60% Recipients can return to work and have

a normal life.



Eyes  
(Corneas)

- > Used to replace a damaged cornea and restore the patient's eyesight.
- > Can be stored for up to 2 weeks.



Heart  
Valve

- > Used to replace a damaged or defective heart valve.
- > Can be stored for up to 10 years.



Skin

- > Used to accelerate the healing process, especially in burn patients.
- > Can be stored for up to 2-5 years.



Bones

- > Used to replace damaged or defective bones, as well as in bone cancer.
- > Can be stored for up to 5-7 years.

## 2 Tissue Transplantation

Aside from organs, tissues such as the cornea, skin, bone and heart valves, can also be donated.

## Q&A

### Is organ donation legal in Malaysia?

Yes. But for living organ donations, the Health Ministry only allows close blood relatives to donate to the patient. This includes first degree relatives like your parents, full siblings and children, and second degree relatives like your grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and half-siblings. You may also donate to your legal spouse (husband/wife).

### Can I sell my organs in Malaysia?

No, buying and selling organs or tissues is illegal in Malaysia.

### How many people are waiting for organ transplants in Malaysia?

There are 10,442 people, including those in the final stages of organ failure, currently on the waiting list for organ transplants.











### Who is eligible to become a donor?

Anyone can sign up to be an organ and tissue donor, except for those suffering from infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, and syphilis.

For those aged less than 18 years, written permission from their parents is required.

All organ donors are advised to inform their family members about their wish to donate their organs after they die. This will help ease the process as families still need to give consent for organ and tissue donation after a person's death.

### Number of deceased donors, per million of population (as of 2021)

	<b>United States</b>	41.88		<b>Thailand</b>	2.71
	<b>Spain</b>	40.20		<b>Japan</b>	0.62
	<b>France</b>	24.68		<b>India</b>	0.25
	<b>South Korea</b>	8.56		<b>Malaysia</b>	0.20
	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	3.00		<b>Philippines</b>	0.02

Source: International Registry on Organ Donation and Transplantation. [www.irodat.org](http://www.irodat.org). Retrieved Sept 14, 2022

### Religious views

Generally, all religions recognize that organ donation is a noble practice. No religion prevents its followers from performing this noble act. In Malaysia, the National Fatwa Council in June 1970 declared that organ donation and transplantation is permitted (harus), provided there is no other alternative that can save the life of the patient. It strongly prohibits the act of organ donation for business purposes. Transplantation as a treatment method is allowed if it does not harm the organ recipient or donor (if the donor is still alive). Islam also requires that organ donation is done in good faith with the intention of helping others and for the sake of Allah.



Malaysians can now easily pledge to be organ donors on MySejahtera.

