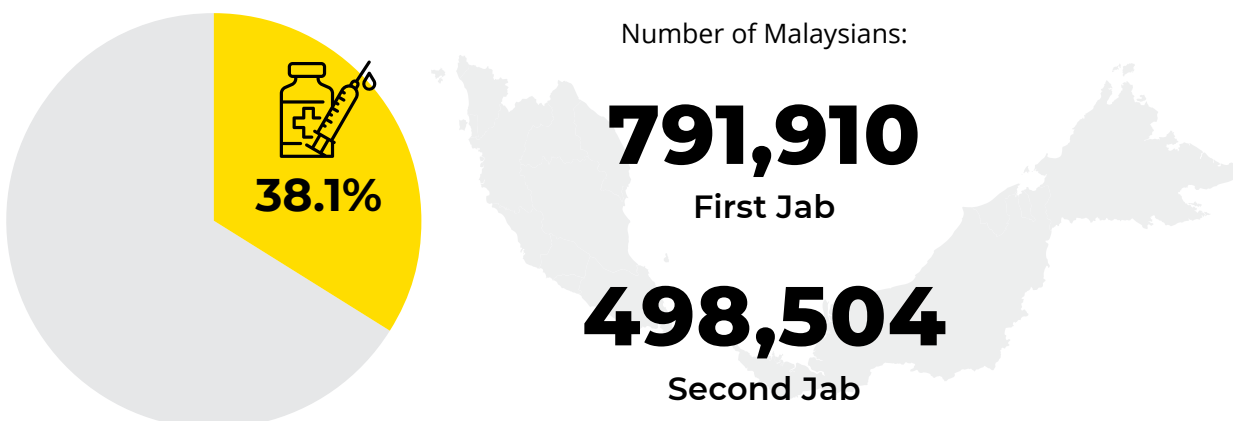


# INTRODUCTION TO THE 10 STRATEGIES TO SAVE JOBS AND REVIVE THE ECONOMY

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At the time of writing, on the 24th of April, 2021, 791,910 and 498,504 Malaysians have received their first and second COVID-19 vaccine jabs respectively. At the same time, only 9.25 million or 38.1% of the target population have registered to be vaccinated. While these numbers will be outdated by the time you read this, the underlying concern will still remain – which is that our **vaccination rollout and vaccine registration are not progressing as fast as one would like**, especially if the target is to reach some level of herd immunity by the end of 2021.



At the same time, even though the number of COVID-19 positive cases has decreased from a high of 5,728 on the 30th of January, 2021, they remained persistently above the 1,000 a day level in March and the numbers are going up again at the end of April with 2,690 cases reported on the 25th of April, 2021.

The impact of both of these trends – the slow registration and vaccination rate, coupled with the continued presence of COVID-19 clusters in the community and workplaces – means that the ongoing challenges to managing and containing the virus and finding ways to reopen the economy safely and responsibly have to be undertaken in a more strategic and well thought through manner. What we have now is “business-as-usual” on the part of the government, which is basically doing the same things (more or less) as what was done when the pandemic first broke out in the 2nd wave in March 2020 – ad hoc testing and tracing policies, ever changing SOPs based less on scientific rationale and more on human intuition, and no coherent plan on how to revive, restore and reshape various sectors of the economy.

Adding into this worrying and volatile mix are ongoing political uncertainties and the real possibility of the start of a 4th wave, especially after the Hari Raya holidays, which may lead to an MCO 3.0 that would surely be devastating to many individuals and businesses, especially those in the B40 category as well as SMEs.

In view of these shortcomings of the government of the day, we at REFSA would like to provide **a template or a guide on how a responsible and responsive government should respond to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis by introducing 10 strategies on how to save jobs and revive the economy**. These strategies are not meant to be exhaustive or comprehensive. Rather, they are meant to point us towards a path forward on how to think about planning and implementing our government policies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will be releasing these strategies step by step so that a more thorough discussion can be had for each strategy via social media engagement on the part of REFSA and the authors of these individual strategies. As conditions on the ground change, each of these strategies must be updated and refined.

Preparedness is key because if **“we fail to prepare, we prepare to fail”**. By preparing well and having a comprehensive plan to combat this pandemic, we will be able to **“build Malaysia back better”**.

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