ZURICH

Are Malaysian SMEs Ready for Extreme Heat?

Understanding El Niño, climate risks, and a practical readiness toolkit to help Malaysian SMEs protect their people, assets and income.

Start your readiness journey today!



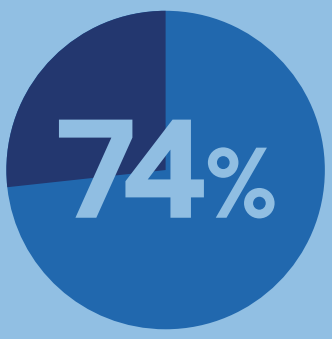
What could El Niño mean for Malaysia?

Climate is changing. So is business risk.

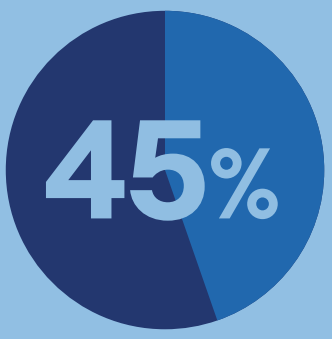
- El Niño is a recurring climate pattern associated with warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific.
- For Malaysia, El Niño periods can contribute to hotter and drier conditions, increasing the likelihood of prolonged heat, reduced rainfall and related impacts such as water stress and haze.
- Extreme heat can affect health, daily activities, productivity and household resilience, particularly when high temperatures persist over longer periods.
- When disasters strike, small and medium businesses often feel it first – from damaged stock and equipment to lost income and safety risks for employees.
- Readiness isn't a nice-to-have anymore. It's a vital part of protecting your business.

Malaysians are already concerned about the heat

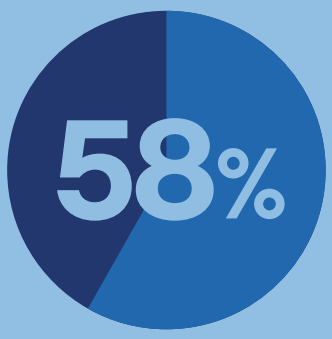
From Zurich Malaysia's Climate Resilience Survey of **1,100 Malaysians**:



are highly concerned about heatwaves



rated their concern at 10 out of 10



say their local communities have already been affected by **severe climate events**

Step 1: Know Your Risks in 5 Minutes

Every business is different. A shop near a river, a café in a high-rise and a factory on a hill face different risk. This quick checklist helps you see where your business is most exposed.

Where Are You Located?

- ☐ Near rivers or low-lying areas? Higher **flood** risk.
- ☐ On or near slopes? Higher **landslide** risk.
- ☐ In a dense, concrete-heavy area? Higher **heat** and **fire** risk.
- ☐ By the coast? **Coastal erosion & sea-level** risk.

How Do You Operate?

- ☐ Rely on a single key supplier?
- ☐ Need continuous power and water?
- ☐ Hold critical stock on-site?

What's Around You?

- ☐ Large trees close to your building?
- ☐ Poor drainage or roads that flood easily?
- ☐ Construction sites nearby?

Who Depends on You?

- ☐ Employees working outdoors or in hot conditions?
- ☐ Customers visiting your premises daily?

Tick the boxes that apply to you.
More ticks = more reasons to plan early.

Step 2: Discover Where You're Most at Risk

Once you know your risks, it's time to look closely at where your business is most vulnerable. Start with these five areas.

People

- Are your staff protected from extreme heat?
- Do they know what to do in an emergency?

Premises & Assets

- Are key equipment and stock stored above flood level?
- Are your wiring and fire systems well maintained?

Operations

- Do you have a simple Business Continuity Plan (BCP)?
- Are there single points of failure (one critical machine, one key person)?

Supply Chain

- Do you have alternative suppliers?
- Are they in safer locations?

Finances

- Do you have enough savings to recover from a major disruption?
- Does your insurance/takaful cover today's asset values and risks?

It's okay if you find gaps. The goal is to spot them early, not to be perfect.

Step 3: Practical Actions You Can Start Now

Turn awareness into action, with practical, business-friendly measures you can start today to protect your people, premises and operations from floods, heatwaves and other disruptions - one practical step at a time.

Keep Your Team Safe in the Heat

- Create a cooling area or shaded rest spot.
- Adjust work hours to avoid the hottest times of day.
- Encourage regular water breaks and breathable clothing.
- Train staff to recognise signs of heat stress.

Reduce Fire & Landslide Risks

- Check and maintain fire extinguishers and smoke detectors.
- Keep escape routes clear and visible.
- Run simple fire drills once a year.
- Watch for cracks or movement in nearby slopes and follow local advisories.

Stay One Step Ahead of Floods

- Elevate key stock and equipment above known flood levels.
- Improve drainage and keep gutters clear.
- Use temporary barriers or sandbags for doors and loading bays.
- Trim trees and secure outdoor items before storm season.

Plan for Water, Power & Supplies

- Store emergency water for essential operations and drinking.
- Identify which equipment needs power the most.
- Consider basic backup solutions (generator, UPS).
- Map your key suppliers and identify alternatives.

Start with one action from each block this month. Small steps add up to big resilience.

Step 4: Turn Protection into a Safety Net

Even with the best plan, some things are beyond your control. Insurance and takaful help you absorb the financial shock when disasters affect your assets and income.

Protect Your Assets

Protection for your premises, machinery, equipment and stock, with coverage for risks like fire and flood.

Protect Your Income

Business interruption coverage to help pay rent, salaries and other expenses while you recover.

Protect Your Liability

Coverage if customers, neighbors or third parties are affected by incidents at your premises.

Ready to Make Your Business More Resilient?

We're here to help you understand your risks, plan ahead and find the right protection. Together, we can help you stay open for business – even when the weather changes.

Z BizGuard – Flexible Protection for SMEs

- **Tailored to Your Business:** Choose the coverage that matches your size and risk.
- **Protect What Matters Most:** Premises, equipment and stock – all under one protection solution.
- **Support When You Need It Most:** Coverage for income losses when insured events disrupt your operations.

To find out how **Z BizGuard** fits into your resilience plan, please contact us at 1-300-888-622 or email us at **callcentre@zurich.com.my**.
For further insights into Zurich Malaysia's climate resilience initiatives, please visit zurich.com.my

PIDM

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