

What else can be done?

- Conduct mapping exercises to identify whether gender and diversity is being considered a cross-cutting issue; evaluate if it is being effectively mainstreamed in all areas of Red Cross Red Crescent programs.
- Assign a Gender and Diversity Focal Point or Representative who can co-ordinate and facilitate gender and diversity work within the National Society.
- Advocate and communicate about the importance of promoting gender and diversity-related work at a community to national level.
- Conduct a gender audit to identify whether gender and diversity is being represented and respected at all levels? If not, try to discuss ways to change this.
- Engage with youth and volunteers to adopt gender and diversity approaches within all aspects of their work.



Singapore Red Cross conducts first aid training courses for people who look after elderly friends, relatives and neighbours. Credit: Singapore Red Cross

Current collaboration and partners

The IFRC builds partnerships within the global Red Cross Red Crescent network, as well as with external organizations. Current collaboration and partnerships in the region of Southeast Asia are highlighted below. Further opportunities are being explored on an on-going basis.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Canadian Red Cross with support of the Canadian Government, French Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Philippine Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Asia-Pacific Migration Network

External

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA), Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), European Union, UN Women



Gender and Diversity

Background

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world’s largest humanitarian and development network, with millions of volunteers in 189 member National Societies. With a mandate to prevent and alleviate human suffering without discrimination and to protect human dignity, gender and diversity are fundamental aspects of Red Cross Red Crescent activities worldwide.

From disaster management to health programming, the Red Cross Red Crescent recognizes that men and women have different capacities, strengths, needs and vulnerabilities, which can impact resilience to disasters and crises. The IFRC is guided in its work on gender and diversity through the following:

The Fundamental Principle of Impartiality: The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs,

class or political opinions. It endeavors to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Strategy 2020: Strategy 2020 strives for equality within the organization and its work, by “ensuring that there is no gender-based or other discrimination in our policies and practices, and enabling greater participation by vulnerable people.”

IFRC Strategic Framework on Gender and Diversity Issues 2013-2020: Provides strategic direction to the IFRC and its member National Societies by encouraging and promoting gender equality and respect for diversity.



For further information, please contact:

Ms. Christina Haneef,
Southeast Asia Regional Gender and Diversity Officer
Southeast Asia Regional Delegation
E-mail: christina.haneef@ifrc.org
Phone: +66 2661 8201 (Ext: 104)

For further information on gender and diversity in Asia and the Pacific, please contact:

Ms. May Maloney
Asia Pacific Gender and Diversity Advisor
Asia Pacific Zone Office
Email: may.maloney@ifrc.org
Phone: +60 3 9207 5819

Follow us:



‘Sex’ refers to the biological differences between men and women.

‘Gender’ refers to the social differences between men and women.

‘Diversity’ refers to the understanding of differences between people and respecting those differences. These differences can be physical or social and can include: gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, HIV status, socio-economic status, religion, nationality and ethnic origin.

‘Gender and diversity equality’

refers to both men and women having the freedom to make choices, to progress and to develop, without being restricted by the roles or expectations placed on them because of their ‘gender’. Men and women do not have to be the same, but they should have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities.

Above: The Myanmar Red Cross conducts training on what to do before and during a disaster, with a focus on fire prevention. Credit: Mandy George / IFRC

Mainstreaming gender and diversity

Gender and diversity is an essential part of IFRC programming. It allows National Societies to ensure their effectiveness and reach in helping those most vulnerable. Gender and diversity is currently being mainstreamed through the following areas:

Disaster risk reduction, disaster management, climate change and resilience

- Building regional capacity and collaboration for community resilience through a gender-and diversity-sensitive approach to disaster risk reduction.
- A ‘resilience house model’ was developed to guide National Societies in Southeast Asia as they develop their programs; the model places National Societies and youth development as the foundation; disaster management and health as the pillars; and gender as a cross cutting issue.
- Commitment towards the ‘One Billion Coalition’ which aims to mobilise one billion people to create safer and more resilient communities by 2025. This campaign will reach out to all communities, inclusive of age, gender and diversity.
- A regional “Climate Change Master Training of Trainers” was organized in September 2014 to support mainstreaming of gender and diversity into ‘climate smart’ project activities in Southeast Asia.
- The inclusion of gender, age, disability and cultural perspectives in disaster risk policies and practices, is in support of the commitments of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
- Ensuring a gender and diversity approach in all stages of the disaster management cycle. Capacity building on gender and diversity was conducted for professionals from National Disaster Management Offices of ASEAN member states, as part of the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Program in April 2015.

Migration

- Advocating for the increased assistance, empowerment and protection of migrant rights, particularly in gender-sensitive approaches to labor migration and anti-trafficking between Asia Pacific and the Middle East North Africa regions.
- Strengthening humanitarian services available to migrants, specifically female domestic workers, before their departure and upon arrival along with key partners in the humanitarian field as well as government.

- Organizing a series of migration-related events under the Red Cross Red Crescent Doha Dialogue on Migration. These bring together stakeholders to address relevant labor laws, policies and programs to protect the rights and interests of migrants with a specific focus on female labor migration.

Violence Prevention

- Violence prevention, mitigation and response is being addressed as part of IFRC’s work on migration, particularly with regards to reducing vulnerabilities of labor migrants, especially female migrants.
- IFRC is working to harness the capacity of the youth to become leaders and advocates for violence prevention in their National Societies and communities. This is being achieved through training in the program, Youth as Agents of Behavioral Change, as well as through the Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Youth Network.
- A number of National Societies in Southeast Asia are implementing the Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) approach to community health programming. This approach has been developed to include modules on ‘violence prevention’ and ‘healthy lifestyle.’ These modules will further contribute to ensure the most at-risk groups are reached.

“Empower women and girls and enlist the support of men and boys to promote a culture of non-violence and peace”

IFRC Eliminating health inequities: Every woman and every child counts (2011)

“Building on women’s knowledge and experience creates opportunities for the whole community”

The Gender Advantage: Women on the front line of climate change. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) 2014

“...when gender equality is actively promoted, it can positively transform and enhance individual lives as well as societies as a whole”

IFRC Strategic Framework on Gender and Diversity Issues 2013- 2020



Maria Redubla Liporada smiles as she serves her neighbours rice cakes. Maria is a mother of two, and through the Red Cross livelihood conditional cash support programme, she was able to turn her of love of cooking into a small business to support her family. Credit: Cheryl Gaglac / IFRC

