International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Regional Resilience Initiative

Mid-Term Retreat

concept note

**Background**

The *Regional Resilience Initiative (RRI), s*upported by the Canadian Government and Canadian Red Cross,seeks to further contribute to reducing the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable communities in Southeast Asia. It focuses on the 11 Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in the region (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam and Timor Leste) with objective to enhance their skills and capacities in order that they can advocate more strongly at a national and regional level for the needs of communities in disaster risk reduction. This is complemented by the strengthening of regional partnerships, both within our networks and with key partners such as the ASEAN secretariat and other bodies.

The 4-year initiative was designed to enhance ongoing programmes and strategies of the IFRC Southeast Asia Regional Delegation, based on the dialogue with the targeted NSs, as part of regular Leaders Meetings and Community Safety and Resilience Forum (CSRF) Meetings. It is also fully in line with the IFRC Southeast Asia Long-Term Planning Framework (2012-2015)[[1]](#footnote-1) as well as the draft 2016 Operational Plan under endorsement.

The implementation of the RRI started in March 2014 and the partners have agreed that – after almost 2 years of implementation – it was time to organize a retreat to review achievements to date and identify factors of success as well as challenges, in order to guide the next 2 years of duration of the initiative. Furthermore, the retreat will be an opportunity to reflect upon the changing environment post-2015 and will allow strategic discussions around needs and strategies in SEA in the coming years.

**Objectives**

* To review the past implementation and identify challenges, key successes and opportunities in order to ensure outcomes are reached in a most effective and efficient manner by the end of the RRI early 2018 (including the no-cost extension under formalization).
* To reflect on the strategies of the RRI and analyze opportunities for continued engagement beyond 2017 based on the current and expected gains under the initiative.

**Participants**

**Canadian Red Cross** :

* Ms. Deborah Cote, Program Manager Asia, International Operations
* Ms. Carla Taylor, DRM Advisor, International Operations
* Mr. Nathan Huculak, Senior Manager, Communications and Public Engagement   
  Public Affairs and Government Relations

**SEA National Societies**:

* Mr Doan Van Thai, Vice-President cum Secretary-General, Vietnam Red Cross
* Amb. Thongphachanh Sonenasinh, Vice President, Lao Red Cross (TBC)
* Ms. Pavinee Yuprasert, Head of Relief Division, Relief and Community Health Bureau, Thai Red Cross
* Mr Mujtahiddin, Staff from the Disaster Management Division, Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI)
* Mr Saiful Izan Bin Nordin, Manager for International humanitarian Law, Legal and International Relations, Chair of the SEA Regional Gender and Diversity Network, Malaysian Red Crescent
* Ms Shwe Cin Myint, Director for Humanitarian Values and Communication Department, International Relations Department, Myanmar Red Cross Society
* Ms Elcy Debildos, Philippines Red Cross, Deputy-Chair of the Southeast Asia Youth Network

**IFRC Asia-Pacific Region:** (TBC)

**IFRC Bangkok Country Cluster Support Team** : Ms. Anne E. Leclerc, Mr. Sanjeev Kafley, Mr. Herve Gazeau, Ms. Lucia Cipullo, Ms. Katherine Bundra-Roux, Ms. Kate Jean Smith, Ms. Christina Haneef, Ms. Warongrong Tatrakom, Ms. Angeline Tandiono, Ms. Kum Ju Ho, Ms. Suchada Meteekunaporn, Mr. Pakdee Teerasakdapong, Ms Elena Nyanenkova

**IFRC Jakarta Country Cluster Support Team**: Mr Giorgio Ferrario

**IFRC Country offices (Myanmar and Philippines):** Mr Kari Isomaa and Mr Udaya Kumar Regmi

**Date and Venue**

The retreat will last 3 working days, from 3-5 February 2016

The retreat will be held in Thailand:

* Outside of Bangkok at [Sampran Riverside](http://www.sampranriverside.com/) on 3-4 February 2016
* In Bangkok at [Column Hotel](http://www.columnbangkok.com/) on 5 February 2016

**Agenda**

# The retreat will be organized as follows:

* All participants will depart from Bangkok to the retreat venue on Tuesday 2 February in the afternoon. A welcome dinner will be provided upon arrival, providing the venue for opening remarks and introductions.
* The first two days (3-4 February 2016) with the full participants will review past achievements, identify factors and successes and challenges, which will result in strategic as well as technical recommendations for the RRI implementation in the coming 2 years
* Participants will come back to Bangkok in the evening of the Thursday 4 February 2016
* The third day (in Bangkok with a smaller group and self-facilitated) will see a strategic discussion around the evolving environment and opportunities for continued engagement post 2017. This will also include discussions to further detail a potential IFRC-CRC joint proposal to be presented to DFATD based on the strategic analyses of the previous days.

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| **Date** | **Session** | **Objective** | **Activity** | **Methodology** |
| **Wednesday 3 February 2016** | Morning | Gain a mutual understanding of the main achievements of the project | Review / Telling the story   * What has happened? * What has changed? | Participatory mapping, testimonies, Most Significant Change, etc.  By the Facilitator |
| Afternoon | Propose recommendations (3/4) for each theme and based on key questions[[2]](#footnote-2). | Theme 1: Regional Cooperation (90mn)  Theme 2: DRR Advocacy (90mn) | Each theme starts with a 10-15mn introduction by the theme lead.  This is followed by 45mn of group discussions and a 30mn plenary to consolidate and agree on recommendations, all managed by the facilitator |
| **Thursday 4 February 2016** | Morning | Propose recommendations (3/4) for each theme and based on key questions. | Theme 3: Beneficiary / Community engagement and accountability (90mn)  Theme 4: Social Inclusion (including Gender and Diversity[[3]](#footnote-3), Youths, People on the Move, etc. – 90mn) |
| Afternoon | Propose recommendations (3/4) for each theme and based on key questions.  Prioritize all previous recommendations and wrap up the retreat | RRI Management (90mn), including PMER as well as donor relations and visibility  Prioritization and ranking exercise  Closing session and travel back to Bangkok | Like previous themes, the session will be introduced by the RRI managers (IFRC and CRC), then sub-groups will discuss specific issues and propose recommendations to the plenary.  By the facilitator |
| **Friday 5 February 2016 (IFRC and CRC only)** | Morning | Analyze the opportunities for a new IFRC-CRC regional proposal based on previous 2-day discussions | Brainstorming around the changing environment and the opportunities for continued engagement beyond 2017  Presentation from CRC on DFATD requirements for RRI extension or new proposal | (structured) Brainstorming  Presentation |
| Afternoon | Identify priorities (future outcomes) of such a new initiative  Agree on next steps for proposal development | Ranking exercise (issues, ability to influence, positioning…) to identify key priorities for future engagement  Identification of next steps for engagement with DFATD | Participatory ranking exercise  Plan of action |

**Facilitation**

The two first days of the retreat will be facilitated by Mr Gerard Witham, from Australian Red Cross, with technical inputs from IFRC and CRC colleagues. The third day will be managed by IFRC and CRC colleagues.

**Funding**

CRC will fund all costs related to the retreat as part of its share of the RRI budget.

**Contact information**

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact:

**Mr. Hervé Gazeau, DRR Manager**

IFRC / Bangkok

**Ms Deborah Cote, Program Manager Asia**

CRC / Ottawa

1. <https://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual12/SP351_LTPF12.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See annex 1 for themes and key questions [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Diversity includes issues such as people living with disabilities, elderly, ethnic minorities, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)