International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

INTEGRATED PROGRAMMING

Regional delegation briefing / South-East Asia / February 2013

# Contributing to longer term impact

The regional delegation is developing an integrated approach to support programming of the 11 national societies of SE Asia. Resilience is the catalyst to what is a more linked up and holistic approach to support. Broadly there are three strands to this integrated approach: 1) national society capacity building particularly in terms of youth and volunteers; 2) tools and approaches that support sustainable efforts to enhance community resilience; & 3) promoting a stronger role of the Red Cross Red Crescent – via effective humanitarian diplomacy – in the changing field of disaster management within ASEAN.

To deliver this support to the national societies the regional delegation works through IFRC offices in six countries: Cambodia; Indonesia; Myanmar; Philippines; Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. The regional delegation has a direct relationship with the five national societies without IFRC country representation: Brunei; Laos, Malaysia; Singapore; and Thailand.

We also partner with international RCRC actors, including partner national societies & ICRC. This approach seeks to build on work that has already contributed to longer term improvement, as evidenced from:

* Strengthened relationships with national society leaders and managers
* The facilitation of greater membership responsibility via contributions of resources and expertise from the region’s national societies to their International Federation
* Consistent and coordinated quality support to RCRC partners with an interest in SE Asia
* Leading support to the development of national society relations with ASEAN
* More examples of joint learning, knowledge exchange & aligned programming
* Being a present and informed supporter of national society change and development
* Consistent representation of the IFRC and its national societies in the vibrant humanitarian hub of Bangkok on issues such as migration, urbanisation and climate change adaptation.
* The provision of requested technical support to all 11 national societies;
* A strengthened institutional memory via the increased capturing and sharing of knowledge, good practice and lessons learnt;
* A leadership role in supporting national society development agendas

# Partnerships

Relations with the region’s 11 national societies are central. April 2012 marked a significant milestone with the visit of the national society leadership collective to the Bangkok office. This event added sentiment and substance to what is a more mature partnership between the national societies and their secretariat office. The nature of the IFRC presence in SE Asia will continue to evolve so that it adapts to the environment and remains a relevant supporter of the national societies. The strength of the relationship with the leaders will steer this voyage of change.

Significant work has been devoted to developing another key partnership: that of more codified national society relationships with ASEAN. A cooperation framework is awaiting signature. This will cement what are already excellent operational relations with a stronger strategic base in terms of disaster management and pandemic preparedness.

New ways of working and partnership are also illustrated in the growing link with national societies and (IFRC secretariat) to the Australian Volunteers for International Development programme. Australian Red Cross is a core partner of this Australian government initiative. One example has been the support provided by a branch development volunteer in Timor –Leste Red Cross (Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste).[[1]](#footnote-1)

The global road safety partnership (GRSP) is well established in the regional delegation and this relationship is blossoming under the umbrella of the 2011 UN decade of action on road safety. The issue continues to gain traction with several national societies. Long term partnership continues with American Red Cross and French Red Cross that has transitioned from a tsunami recovery focus to a broader relationship (for example including risk reduction and branch level advocacy).

Relations remain very good with ICRC. These have been tested in crisis (internal conflict in Myanmar & typhoon Bopha relief operation in Philippines in 2012). Links with ICRC regionally are evolved to a more substantive relationship of joint approaches in contingency planning, capacity building, increased awareness of the emblem & safer access & regional/global advocacy initiatives.

# Longer term view

All of the above has been progressing within a four-year planning framework.[[2]](#footnote-2) This has challenged the regional delegation to review assumptions, analyse more closely the (rapidly) changing humanitarian landscape, and position IFRC secretariat support to host national societies (and their partners) more appropriately. The overall direction is positive; there is a shift to empower and better link up regional networks (including the evolving leadership forum), to improve knowledge management and reporting (ie capturing and telling more of what is an excellent Red Cross Red Crescent story in SE Asia)[[3]](#footnote-3), and a more coherent and stronger presence on the international scene on key issues as evidenced by common pledges.

# Looking ahead

Codifying national society relations with ASEAN remains a priority. As indicated above, the regional delegation is best positioned to support the evolution of this relationship & has been empowered by the host national societies to play this role.

The regional delegation team continues to evolve with the community safety and resilience unit the catalyst for change. Progress continues in integrating regional programming anchored to the SE Asia community resilience and safety framework. Most recently, recruitments have bolstered capacity in community health, beneficiary communications, migration, gender & M&E.

# Remaining relevant

The regional delegation (and IFRC in general) is addressing the challenge of remaining relevant to national societies. At country level, there is growing capacity, strengthening ambition and more importance placed on self-reliance (as well as intra-regional self-help). The regional delegation has to adapt to remain a key partner so that gaps between how a national society ***wants*** to work with the IFRC secretariat and how the IFRC secretariat ***could*** work with a national society are avoided.

South-East Asia regional delegation will continue to support National Societies in their efforts to move from Project Approach to Programme Approach through continued promotion of an integrated approach and provision of necessary technical skills/tools/consultations/facilitations necessary for the process to be successful.

In line with the changing minds agenda, the regional office will continue to represent all member national societies at appropriate regional, zonal, and global forums hosted in Bangkok: the world’s third largest humanitarian hub after New York and Geneva.

# A time of great opportunity

# Instead of looking at new areas of work, the regional office is looking to continue *building on, enhancing and adapting* what national societies have already been doing. There will be a focus on national society priorities and *what communities can do for themselves and how to strengthen their capacities*. This approach will use indigenous knowledge, rather than only concentrating on their vulnerability to disasters or needs during an emergency. The regional team will continue to analyze and review what has worked to develop more systematic and holistic approaches and operational tools.

# Contact information

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1. For more information on Australian Volunteers for International Development please click go to <http://www.ausaidvolunteers.gov.au/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. To access all South-East Asia LTPF 2012 – 2015 please click [SEA LTPF 2012-2015](http://www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/appeals/?ac=&at=861&c=&co=&dt=1&f=&re=SP351&t=&ti=&zo). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. To access online library of the SEARD Community Safety and Resilience Unit please go to [Online CSRU Library](https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia/) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)