

Regional Resilience Knowledge Hub



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IFRC's Resilience Library in Southeast Asia

In Southeast Asia, one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world, countries have learnt over the years to reduce risks and enhance the resilience of communities facing a wide range of hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and extreme weather events. In this context, all stakeholders recognise the importance of an effective sharing of expertise and knowledge within and across countries and organizations.

Since 2012, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has increasingly focused on such knowledge sharing within the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as well as with its external partners at multiple levels. IFRC Bangkok Office has hosted an online resource library aimed at encouraging mutual learning and collaboration between National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Southeast Asia. The library has the key objectives of:

- Encouraging and facilitating peer-to-peer learning of National Societies in and beyond the region

- Helping National Societies retain institutional memory
- Sharing information and knowledge that optimises collaboration among National Societies, national and regional authorities, and other technical partners

The Resilience Library is a knowledge and information management initiative that connects practitioners and resources. The library showcases resources on disaster risk reduction, as well as health and cross-cutting issues including climate change, communication and advocacy, disaster law, gender and diversity, migration, youth and volunteering and national society development.

A visionary, popular and wide-ranging resource hub

A visionary resource hub

The original Resilience Library was hosted on Google Sites. However, the current platform, launched in September 2016, has facilitated more knowledge management and sharing, capitalised on institutional knowledge of disaster risk reduction and community resilience, as well as other relevant cross-cutting issues. Importantly, the new library has features which allow for the following:

- Providing the National Societies to upload resources which makes for a more participatory platform
- Highlighting contextualised information on the resources and key partners which increases utility for the National Societies who are the main users
- Instantly translating texts which allows summary sharing of resources from one National Society to another
- Rating and ranking the contents which enables a constructive critical commenting on the resources to better guide users
- Facilitating practitioners' sharing of knowledge and experience through group discussion
- Sharing the contents via social media options which enables wider dissemination of the resources to multiple audiences



A popular and widely accessed resource hub

Since its launch in 2012, the Resilience Library has seen a steady rise in the number of users accessing the resources. **Compared to 2014, the library today has twice the number of users, and more than 3 times the number of pageviews.** As well as being a popular resource hub in the Southeast Asia region, the library has been accessed from outside the region including Canada, India, Pakistan, Switzerland, Australia, Russia, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Independent external consultants recently described the Resilience Library as “**an example of best practice**”.

The library links IFRC's global expertise (particularly its global tools) with the IFRC's main website, thus linking global and local-level knowledge together. **This approach has proved particularly successful in the area of gender and diversity** and greatly enhances the working of the IFRC's established Southeast Asia Regional Gender and Diversity Network in which all eleven Southeast Asian National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies engage in information sharing and peer-to-peer support.

As part of its commitment to supporting ASEAN disaster risk reduction initiatives, IFRC provides a key role in hosting the [ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative \(ASSI\)](#) web page. It also hosts the 9th Asia Pacific Conference of IFRC, and contributes to facilitating reporting of progress against the [Beijing Call for Innovation](#) for the mid-term report 2016 for National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in Asia Pacific.



Resilience Library is a very resourceful platform.

National Societies Survey Findings 2015

A wide-ranging resource hub for multiple users

The library has a strong capacity development dimension and contributes to capacity-building of the National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies staff and volunteers in relevant thematic areas by providing them access to an open knowledge management hub.

A good example of how the Resilience Library plays an important role in supporting National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in Southeast Asia to ‘come together’ and share learning is richly illustrated through the hosting of the [Regional Community Safety and Resilience Forum](#). As a peer-to-peer learning and sharing of resources for the Regional Community Safety and Resilience Forum, the Resilience Library is used as a regional tool for sharing the contingency planning and standard operating procedures; disseminating disaster law; facilitating learning on planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting; as well as encouraging resource mobilisation and more effective communication through case studies development.

IFRC’s potential as a ‘resource host’ was also acknowledged by ASEAN stakeholders in contributing to the 8th strategic priority (“*LEAD*”) of the *ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency*

Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2016-2020 focusing on knowledge management.

Potential knowledge and information management partnerships also exist with academic groups and universities as well as collaborating with organizations that have expertise in analysing big data. For Movement partners, the IFRC Resilience Library could readily serve to promote common standards in tools, thus avoiding duplication of resources.

The Regional Resilience Initiative and the Resilience Library

The Resilience Library is supported by the Regional Resilience Initiative (RRI), which aims to contribute to reducing the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable communities in Southeast Asia and is supported by the Canadian Government and the Canadian Red Cross. The initiative focuses on the eleven Red Cross/Red Crescent (RCRC) Societies in the region: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Viet Nam, and Timor Lesté.

The resilience library can be accessed at:
www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/





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Towards the future

The Resilience Library has enormous potential to increase the profiles of ASEAN National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies by harnessing their collective and individual expertise. This will make them more visible and increase their accessibility to national, sub-regional and regional authorities, private sector and other partners, ensuring that they become a 'partner of choice.'

Future challenges related to the sustainability of the library relate to increasing the ownership of the National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies for both provision of content and improved utility. Increasingly, it is envisioned that they will be empowered - through training and coaching initiatives - to take a more proactive role in contributing relevant events and resource materials, with IFRC continuing to provide technical support and overall quality assurance for the platform. To improve utility, and move beyond the library's 'repository' function, IFRC will foster discussion

around themes and tools related to enhancing peer-to-peer and institutional learning.

In 2016, IFRC started internal discussions to potentially widen the scope of the platform to the entire Asia Pacific region, while also linking it with the newly-established [Asia Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Community Resilience \(DRR-CORE\) Reference Centre](#) hosted by the Korean Red Cross, which will also increasingly take a key role in knowledge and information management.

Finally, the IFRC remains available to discuss with ASEAN counterpart on ways to further enhance knowledge management in the region, through the working group on Knowledge Management co-chaired by Indonesia, Viet Nam and Singapore as well as in collaboration with the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) Centre and other key development partners.



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