

Singapore Red Cross Society

Working towards School Safety



Singapore Red Cross Society is a humanitarian organisation, dedicated to relieving human suffering, protecting lives and dignity, and responding to emergencies since its establishment in 1949. Singapore Red Cross provides its services through a network of 12,649 volunteers of which, 10,656 are youth members.



In 1952, Singapore Red Cross Society was recognized as one of the nine “uniformed groups” in primary and secondary schools, organizing extra-curricular activities for children and youth. The activities are guided by the 7 Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement based on the imperative for humanitarian action. The activities include essential life saving skills,



blood donation awareness, local community service and overseas humanitarian projects. The activities are also in line with the 21st Century Competency Framework and Students Outcomes of the Ministry of Education.

In addition to the uniformed groups covering 79 schools in the country, the Singapore Red Cross youth engagement programme also includes 14 post-secondary institutions and communities to offer youth volunteers a seamless transition as they progress from student life into adulthood. In 2017 around 5,000 youths participated in such activities.

Singapore Red Cross Society engagement in school safety mostly focuses on School Disaster Management and Risk and Resilience Education. However, small-scale of school retrofitting activities are also included where needed. Beyond the schools, youth members and children are empowered to lead risk reduction and resilience campaigns and other activities in their wider communities.



Outreach



Schools

93

Number of schools reached



Children

Primary: 1,681 total (900 girls and 781 boys)
Secondary: 2,476 total (1,476 girls and 1,000 boys)
High school: 900 total (Estimate 580 girls and 320 boys)



Red Cross Youth

93

units were established (in 38 primary schools, 41 secondary schools and in 14 high schools)



School emergency boxes

Launch of School Emergency boxes where each school received 1 unit box containing First Aid bags, safety vest, etc.



Training and simulation exercise

An opportunity for youth to develop skills and knowledge to equip them to respond to an emergency.

1

Safe Learning Facilities

School retrofitting

2

School Disaster Management

Training and simulation exercises on Search and Rescue First Aid trainings

3

Risk Reduction and Resilience Education

Dissemination of awareness raising materials
Training / awareness raising for teachers
Organization of campaigns and competitions



Disaster Risk Reduction promotion

Dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on Disaster Risk Reduction in primary schools.



Disaster Management exercise

The teachers and students taking part in Disaster Management standby exercise to prepare for any emergencies.



First Aid training

Red Cross youth participating in the Annual National First Aid Competition.



Campaigns and competitions

Red Cross Youth participating in a sports competition and promoting health and wellness service.

" We never expected such great results from the First Aid Championship and it was way better than we hoped for. This entire experience was really fulfilling. We were able to see ourselves and each other improve over time, and to come together as a team."

Chirin Soh Chen Chi, a fellow teammate from Raffles Girls School



Challenges

- 🔍 Liaison with parents, teachers and students is needed to discuss participation of students in Red Cross Youth clubs.

- 🔍 Stakeholder engagement, notably with parents, will require a concerted effort to share the work of the Singapore Red Cross Society beyond that of the youth only. By having a greater awareness and appreciation of Red cross's work, parents are more inclined to allow their children to join Red Cross Youth club.

- 🔍 Sustainability of training youth leaders presents a challenge after students graduate from high school.



Ways forward

- ➔ Meetings and closer engagement with teachers and parents through our events and showcasing First Aid skills.

- ➔ Ensure parents' participation through school visits and meeting with Singapore Red Cross staff to collect feedback and views to better shape the learning experience of Red Cross Youth.

- ➔ Develop pathways for Red Cross youth members to participate in activities once they have left school, for example, through initiating Corporate Social Responsibility projects in their workplace or volunteering with Singapore Red Cross Society.

Contact Details



Mr. Benjamin William
 Secretary General
 15 Penang Lane
 Red Cross House
 Singapore 238486
 mail: benjamin.william@redcross.sg
 Tel: + 65 6664 0538
 www.redcross.sg

Marwan Jilani
 Head of Country Cluster Support Team
 IFRC Bangkok
 marwan.jilani@ifrc.org
 www.ifrc.org