



# IFRC Asia Pacific

## Migration and Displacement: Framework For Action

Reducing Vulnerability, Enhancing Resilience | 2017 – 2022

## About the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest volunteer-based humanitarian network. With our 190 member National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies worldwide, we are in every community reaching 160.7 million people annually through long-term services and development programmes, as well as 110 million people through disaster response and early recovery programmes. We act before, during and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people. We do so with impartiality as to nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class and political opinions.

Guided by Strategy 2020 – our collective plan of action to tackle the major humanitarian and development challenges of this decade – we are committed to saving lives and changing minds. Our strength lies in our volunteer network, our community-based expertise and our independence and neutrality. We work to improve humanitarian standards, as partners in development, and in response to disasters. We persuade decision-makers to act at all times in the interests of vulnerable people. The result: we enable healthy and safe communities, reduce vulnerabilities, strengthen resilience and foster a culture of peace around the world.

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## Table of contents

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<b>Purpose</b>	<b>3</b>
A Contextual Version of the Global Strategy	3
<b>Background: Global and Regional Dynamics, Trends and Vulnerabilities</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The Approach of The Red Cross Red Crescent to Migration and Displacement</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Asia Pacific National Society Initiatives in Migration and Displacement</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Objectives of the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Framework</b>	<b>14</b>
Strategic Priority One: Sensitisation and Awareness Raising	15
Strategic Priority Two: Mainstreaming Migration Into Existing Programming	16
Strategic Priority Three: Support for Migration Focused Programming	17
Strategic Priority Four: Communications and Humanitarian Diplomacy	19
Strategic Priority Five: Partnerships	20





In engaging in the area of migration, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have the purpose – individually and together with the International Federation and the ICRC – to address the humanitarian concerns of migrants in need throughout their journey. They strive to provide assistance and protection to them, uphold their rights and dignity, empower them in their search for opportunities and sustainable solutions, as well as promote social inclusion and interaction between migrants and host communities.

IFRC Policy on Migration, 2009

## Purpose

The IFRC Asia Pacific Framework for Action provides an overview of the aims and objectives of IFRC support to Asia Pacific National Societies in engaging in the context of migration and displacement, to be achieved over a 6-year timeframe, from 2017 to 2022.

This document provides a contextualised, regional focus for the IFRC Global Migration Strategy 2018 – 2022.

## A Contextual Version of the Global Strategy

On 10 November 2017, the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies endorsed the Global Strategy on Migration and committed to its implementation through the roll-out of its accompanying Road Map.

The **Global Strategy on Migration: Reducing Vulnerability, Enhancing Resilience** articulates National Societies' and the IFRC Secretariat's core strengths and common purpose on migration, setting out aims and objectives to be achieved over a 5-year timeframe from 2018 to 2022.

The overarching goal of the Global Strategy on Migration is:

*At all stages of their journeys, and irrespective of their legal status, migrants find Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies that help them in times of need, enhance their resilience, and advocate for their rights.*

To achieve this goal by 2022, the IFRC has set three Strategic Aims and three Enabling Actions:

### Strategic Aims:

1. Save lives and ensure dignity
2. Enable safe and resilient living
3. Promote social inclusion of migrants

### Enabling Actions:

1. Build strong National Societies;
2. Pursue humanitarian diplomacy and partnerships; and
3. Function effectively as the IFRC.

To enable strategic focus and foster commitment, five main priorities have been identified, which will catalyse progress towards the objectives set:

1. Greater and more consistent IFRC action on migration through increased strategic attention, understanding the vulnerabilities and response to migrants' needs;
2. Stronger IFRC action along migratory trails to reduce the risks that migrants face and address migrants' needs through assistance, protection and advocacy;
3. Greater focus on the most vulnerable and marginalised, ensuring that existing services are accessible and acceptable to migrants of all kinds, and establishment of dedicated programming where necessary;
4. Increased impact of advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy with governments, in particular through strategic use of National Societies' role as humanitarian auxiliaries to public authorities;
5. Strengthened partnerships within the Movement, as well as with external actors.

The accompanying **Road Map** outlines the paths and tactics necessary to achieve the strategic aims and enabling actions identified in the Global Strategy on Migration. The Road Map sets several core targets that will inform the development of specific and regionalised milestones and help keep track of progress. The road map will be implemented by the IFRC Secretariat and National Societies through a collective effort, to be led by the Migration function in the IFRC Secretariat and supported by IFRC regional and liaison offices.

The **Aim of the Asia Pacific Regional Framework** is to:

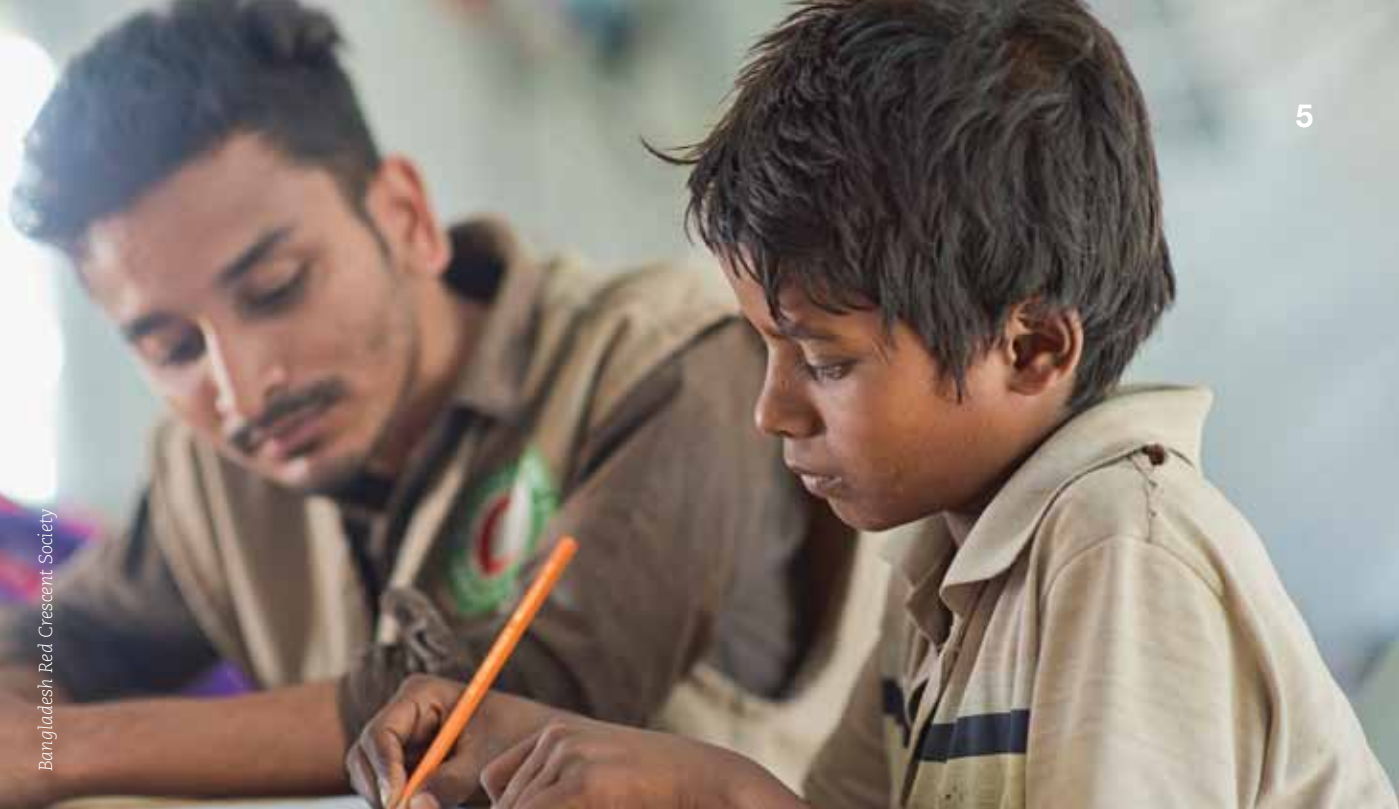
*Support Asia Pacific National Societies to increase and strengthen their humanitarian impact in reaching and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in the context of migration and displacement.*

This aim is not just about meeting humanitarian needs and mitigating risk, but also supporting the resilience of migrants and displaced persons and those affected by migration and displacement by integrating assistance, protection and advocacy.

The following **Five Strategic Priorities** form the basis of the Asia Pacific Regional Framework from 2017-2022:

1. Sensitisation and Awareness Raising
2. Mainstreaming Migration into Existing Programmes
3. Support for Migration Focused Programming
4. Communications and Humanitarian Diplomacy
5. Partnerships





## Background: Global and Regional Dynamics, Trends and Vulnerabilities

### Global Trends

We are living in the age of migration.<sup>1</sup> There are more people on the move today than ever before.

There are an estimated 258 million international migrants across the globe.<sup>2</sup> These people have moved for a variety of reasons – some have chosen to move to new countries to be with family, for employment, for education or quality of life, while others have been forcibly displaced across borders by war, violence, conflict or persecution.<sup>3</sup> In many cases – and as reflected by the approach of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – many migrants move due to “a combination of choices and constraints”.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement uses a deliberately broad description of “migrants” as “people who leave or flee their habitual residence to go to new places to seek opportunities or safer and better prospects.” Migration can be voluntary or involuntary, but most of the time a combination of choices and constraints are involved.” (IFRC Policy on Migration, 2009).

<sup>2</sup> UNDESA World Migration Report, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> 22.5 million people have been forcibly displaced across borders: <http://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/stories/2017/6/5941561f4/forceddisplacement-worldwide-its-highest-decades.html>

<sup>4</sup> See FN1. For the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, ‘migrants’ include, among others, migrant workers, stateless migrants and migrants deemed irregular by public authorities. It also concerns refugees and people seeking asylum, notwithstanding the fact that they constitute a special category under international law and that international refugee law sets out specific protections and entitlements for those falling within its scope. ‘Movement Call for Action on the Humanitarian Needs of Vulnerable Migrants’, Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 2017.

However, these statistics do not account for all irregular migrants – those without the necessary authorisation or documents to enter, stay or work in a country as required under immigration regulations.<sup>5</sup> Neither do these statistics account for people who migrate within their own country. Recent estimates suggest that there are 740 million migrants who have moved within their own country.<sup>6</sup>

Many more people are impacted by migration daily. Although migration itself is not a new phenomenon, we have recently witnessed dramatic increases in the number of people on the move – between 2000 and 2015, the number of international migrants increased by 41% globally.<sup>7</sup> These trends will not be reversed any time soon. Migration is here to stay.

At the same time, we are also witnessing globally unprecedented levels of forced displacement, both within and across international borders. In 2017, there were an estimated 65.6 million people who had been forcibly displaced – including 40.8 million internally displaced people (IDPs) and 25 million refugees and asylum seekers.<sup>8</sup> In addition, each year an estimated 25 million people are newly displaced by disasters, including those linked to the effects of climate change.<sup>9</sup>

### Migration in the Asia Pacific Region

For many in Asia and the Pacific, migration and its consequences are a daily part of life. An estimated 88 million international migrants are in the Asia Pacific region – 80 million in Asia and 8 million in the Pacific.<sup>10</sup> At the same time, an estimated 40% of all migrants across the globe originate from the Asia Pacific region. Hundreds of millions more are on the move within their own countries.<sup>11</sup>

The Asia Pacific region comprises major countries of origin, transit and destination for migrant workers – and in some instances, all three simultaneously.<sup>12</sup> Migratory routes and decisions made about movement in and from the region are diverse, dynamic and complex: people are moving for work, for family unity, for opportunity, people are

<sup>5</sup> Providing accurate figures for irregular migration is notoriously difficult, however, recent estimates suggest that the number of irregular migrants worldwide is in the tens of millions.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>6</sup> There are an estimated 232 million international migrants and 740 million internal migrants in the world. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013) Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by destination and origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013). UNDP (2009) Human Development Report 2009 - Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-2009>

<sup>7</sup> Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/01/244-millioninternational-migrants-living-abroad-worldwide-new-un-statistics-reveal>

<sup>8</sup> See UNHCR's Statistical Yearbook and 2015 Global Trends: <http://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>

<sup>9</sup> IDMC, Global Estimates 2015: People displaced by disasters (July 2015).

<sup>10</sup> One in every three migrants in the world resides in the Asia Pacific region. As well as comprising major countries of destination, the Asia Pacific region is also an important region of origin for migrants. In 2017, more than 40% of all migrants (or 106 million people) originated from Asia.

<sup>11</sup> An estimated 126 million internal migrants in China and 307 million classified as migrants in India alone: Internal Migration, Poverty and Development in Asia: <https://www.odi.org/publications/4633-internal-migration-asia-2015>

<sup>12</sup> Countries like India and China have become countries of origin, transit and destination simultaneously: <https://www.iom.int/asia-andpacific>



moving temporarily and people are moving more permanently. Increasingly, a large proportion of movement is within the region.<sup>13</sup> The largest category of migrants in Asia and the Pacific are temporary labour migrants.<sup>14</sup> These people often fill critical, yet undesirable jobs, and many low-paid occupations are highly gendered.<sup>15</sup>

The Asia Pacific region also contains the largest number of irregular migrants in the world – an acutely vulnerable group with particular protection needs.<sup>16</sup> Most irregular migration occurs between neighbouring countries and particularly along major migration pathways in the South East Asia subregion. Some irregular migrants utilise people smugglers, creating concerns linked to organised crime networks. Human trafficking is of rising concern across the region along with associated forms of exploitation, including forced labour, debt bondage and other slavery-like practices. There are also significant populations of migrants who are stateless, or at an increased risk of statelessness, in the region.<sup>17</sup>

### Displacement in the Asia Pacific Region

The Asia Pacific region also experiences high levels of forced displacement. The region accounts for one in every six displaced people across the globe – with the region hosting at least 4 million asylum seekers and refugees, and more than 2 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs).<sup>18</sup>

Many millions more are displaced by disasters, environmental degradation and the effects of climate change within the region, every year. On average, more than 80% of all newly displaced people from disasters are in the Asia Pacific region – an estimated 20 million people per year.

### The Strength and Contribution of Migrants

For many, migration within and from the Asia Pacific region can be an empowering process, enabling migrants to fulfil their ambitions and aspirations, and for migrant workers to meet the financial needs of their families. Many migrants in and from the Asia Pacific region drive diversity, innovation, entrepreneurship and contribute to strong multi-dimensional and contemporary societies. The positive contribution of migration has been recognised and emphasised repeatedly, including in the *United*

<sup>13</sup> UNESCAP, Asia Pacific Migration Report, 2015.

<sup>14</sup> UN ESCAP, Asia Pacific Migration Report 2015.

<sup>15</sup> Most of the region's international migrants take temporary, low-skill or low-status jobs - the "3D" jobs that are dirty, dangerous or demeaning, such as construction work for men and domestic work for women: <http://www.news.com.au/finance/business/breakingnews/asia-pacifics-migrants-and-remittances/news-story/dd324c3db73c137accd368ef25f048c3>.

<sup>16</sup> IOM, Asia Pacific: <https://www.iom.int/asia-and-pacific> and the European Network on Statelessness (2016) 'The double plight of stateless migrants': <https://www.statelessness.eu/blog/double-plight-stateless-migrants>

<sup>17</sup> UNHCR, Asia and the Pacific: <http://www.unhcr.org/asia-and-the-pacific.html>

<sup>18</sup> UNHCR, Asia and the Pacific: <http://www.unhcr.org/asia-and-the-pacific.html>

Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>19</sup> the IFRC Policy on Migration,<sup>20</sup> and in the recent report of the UN Secretary General on 'Making Migration work for all':

*Migration is an engine of economic growth, innovation and sustainable development. It allows millions of people to seek new opportunities each year, creating and strengthening bonds between countries and societies.*<sup>21</sup>

### Humanitarian Concerns in the Asia Pacific Region

However, despite these benefits, many migrants in and from the region have considerable humanitarian needs. These needs are related to abuse, violence (including sexual and gender-based violence), exploitation, discrimination, xenophobia and social isolation. Migrants – especially irregular migrants – may also face formal and informal barriers to accessing basic services, including health and care, education, adequate housing and livelihoods. Migrants may become vulnerable through lost family and community links and support structures. Irregular migrants face the fear and reality of arrest and detention, along with barriers to protection and justice.

Displaced people in the region also often face acute and immediate protection and assistance needs. These needs often include shelter, healthcare, safe water and sanitation, food, nutrition, essential non-food items, the restoration of lost family and community links (RFL), and psychosocial needs. Beyond immediate needs, displaced people also often require critical support to recover and realise sustainable, durable solutions: whether return, local integration or resettlement. The needs of those in situations of protracted displacement is of increasing concern across the Asia Pacific region – both in camp and non-camp settings – and where the needs of displaced people and host communities are intrinsically inter-linked.

Humanitarian concerns and vulnerabilities for migrants and displaced people are often further heightened for specific groups, including irregular or undocumented migrants, those at an increased risk of statelessness, peoples from minority social or ethnic groups, women, children (including unaccompanied and separated children), elderly migrants and people living with disabilities. The vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced people are also further influenced by a variety of factors, including the availability of services, national legal and policy frameworks and community attitudes.

<sup>19</sup> The Sustainable Development Goals (2015), contained 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' (see UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1)

<sup>20</sup> IFRC (2009) Policy on Migration

<sup>21</sup> Report of the United Nations' Secretary General (2017): 'Making migration work for all'

## Migration and Displacement on the Global Agenda

We are also in an age of promise. Migration has never been higher on the international agenda and in international discourse.<sup>22</sup> In September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. The Declaration includes a commitment from States to negotiate a Global Compact on Migration and a Global Compact for Refugees by 2018. This commitment provides a critical opportunity to enhance national, regional and global respect for and protection of the humanitarian needs and rights of migrants and displaced people across the Asia Pacific region. Alongside the increasing global focus on migration, at the regional level there are several active bilateral, regional and inter-regional cooperation arrangements and dialogues that address migration and displacement. These include initiatives led by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) alongside the Bali Process, the Colombo Process and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

<sup>22</sup> Global commitments and frameworks relating to migration, mobility and displacement include the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Humanitarian Summit, the Paris Agreement (COP 21) and the 2008 World Health Assembly Resolution on the Health of Migrants. The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) continues to bring together countries to advance cooperation on mutually-reinforcing links between migration and development.



## The Approach of The Red Cross Red Crescent to Migration and Displacement

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Working with and for migrants and displaced people is one of the long-standing traditions of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement ('the Movement').<sup>23</sup>

The approach of the Movement is strictly humanitarian, in keeping with our Fundamental Principles. Red Cross Red Crescent action is undertaken on the basis of the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced people, irrespective of their legal status.

Since 2009, a series of specific steps and commitments have been taken to further reinforce the work of the IFRC and its National Societies with and for migrants and displaced people at the local, national, regional and global levels.

<sup>23</sup> IFRC (2009) Policy on Migration



## Migration and Displacement: Global Red Cross Red Crescent Policy and Commitments

IFRC Policy on Migration (2009)<sup>24</sup>

Movement Policy on Internal Displacement (2009)<sup>25</sup>

31st International Conference: Resolution 3, Migration: Ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion (2011)<sup>26</sup>

Council of Delegates Movement statement on migration: Ensuring Collective Action to Protect and Respond to the Needs and Vulnerabilities of Migrants (2015)<sup>27</sup>

IFRC Global Strategy on Migration 2018-2022 (2017)

Council of Delegates, Movement Call for Action on the Humanitarian Needs of Vulnerable Migrants (2017)

### The IFRC Policy on Migration (2009)

*Each National Society and the International Federation shall take into account and adopt the following approach on migration:*

1. Focus on the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants
2. Include migrants in humanitarian programming
3. Support the aspirations of migrants
4. Recognise the rights of migrants
5. Link assistance, protection and humanitarian advocacy for migrants
6. Build partnerships for migrants
7. Work along the migratory trails
8. Assist migrant in return
9. Respond to the displacement of populations
10. Alleviate migratory pressures on communities of origin

*National Societies and the International Federation have a responsibility to ensure that their activities and programmes are carried out in compliance with this policy; that all staff and volunteers are aware of the rationale and content, and that all relevant governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental partners are adequately informed about it.*

<sup>24</sup> IFRC Policy on Migration (2009): <http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Governance/Policies/migration-policy-en.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> Movement Policy on Internal Displacement, Council of Delegates, Nairobi (2009)

<sup>26</sup> 31st International Conference 2011: Resolution 3 – Migration, Resolution, Migration: Ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion.

<sup>27</sup> Available at: [http://rcrcconference.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/03/CoD15-R7-migration\\_EN.pdf](http://rcrcconference.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/03/CoD15-R7-migration_EN.pdf)



## Asia Pacific National Society Initiatives in Migration and Displacement

In the Asia Pacific region,<sup>28</sup> the mandate and commitment of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the context of migration and displacement is expressed in a diverse range of National Society activities and programmes spanning assistance, protection and humanitarian diplomacy.<sup>29</sup>

The activities of Asia Pacific National Societies are in countries of origin, transit, destination and upon return. The work of National Societies is with and for migrants and displaced people, as well as people affected by migration and displacement, including families staying behind, and host communities.

<sup>28</sup> The Asia Pacific region includes 39 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies: Afghan Red Crescent Society; Australian Red Cross; Bangladesh Red Crescent Society; Bhutan Red Cross Society; Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society; Cambodian Red Cross Society; Red Cross Society of China; Cook Islands Red Cross; Fiji Red Cross Society; Indian Red Cross Society; Indonesian Red Cross Society; Japanese Red Cross Society; Kiribati Red Cross Society; Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; The Republic of Korea National Red Cross; Lao Red Cross; Malaysian Red Crescent Society; Maldivian Red Crescent; Marshall Islands Red Cross Society (in formation); Micronesia Red Cross; Mongolian Red Cross Society; Myanmar Red Cross Society; Nepal Red Cross Society; New Zealand Red Cross; Pakistan Red Crescent; Palau Red Cross Society; Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society; Philippine Red Cross; Samoa Red Cross Society; Singapore Red Cross Society; The Solomon Islands Red Cross; The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society; The Thai Red Cross Society; Timor-Leste Red Cross Society; Tonga Red Cross Society; Tuvalu Red Cross Society; Vanuatu Red Cross Society and Viet Nam Red Cross Society.

<sup>29</sup> For a detailed overview of the work of Asia Pacific National Societies in the context of migration and displacement, please see: Red Cross Red Crescent Asia Pacific Migration Network: *Asia Pacific National Societies Activities in the Field of Migration April 2017*

Asia Pacific National Societies' work in the context of migration and displacement also draws on the

Movement's "deliberately broad" approach to migration – and includes work with and for migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers, irregular migrants, stateless migrants, people who have been trafficked and internally displaced people (IDPs).

In countries of origin, Asia Pacific National Societies provide pre-departure counselling, information and awareness raising sessions and up to date and reliable information on the risks of migration. This take a variety of formats including radio programmes, community information and education, the development of web-based platforms and social media messaging. This work is centred on enhancing the resilience of migrants and preparing them for any unintended humanitarian consequences of their journey, or their stay in a country of destination.

In countries of destination, National Societies provide immediate reception and assistance support to both migrants and displaced people: spanning shelter, safe water and sanitation, emergency and longer-term health and care, protection of the most at risk, and psychosocial support. On an ongoing basis, National Societies provide significant social inclusion and cohesion support including livelihoods support, language training, arts and sports initiatives, programmes for youth. Many National Societies also undertake humanitarian diplomacy initiatives to influence decisions makers to act in favour of the migrants and displaced people most at risk.

Many of the initiatives of Asia Pacific National Societies are centred on supporting migrants and displaced people to overcome barriers to achieve their potential and equally to address risks and challenges in the context of migration and displacement.



## Objectives of the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Framework

The IFRC Asia Pacific Framework for Action provides an overview of the aims and objectives of IFRC support to Asia Pacific National Societies in engaging in the context of migration and displacement, to be achieved over a 6-year timeframe, from 2017 to 2022.

This document provides a contextualised, regional focus for the *IFRC Global Migration Strategy*.

The aim of the Regional Framework is to ensure that by 2022, Asia Pacific National Societies increase and strengthen their humanitarian impact in reaching and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in the context of migration and displacement. As captured in the title, “*Reducing Vulnerability, Enhancing Resilience*”, this aim is not just about meeting humanitarian needs and mitigating risk, but also supporting the resilience of migrants and those affected by migration by integrating assistance, protection and advocacy.

In this context, the Regional Framework sets out five strategic priorities in the context of migration and displacement, for the period 2017-2022:

1. Sensitisation and Awareness Raising
2. Mainstreaming Migration into Existing Programmes
3. Support for Migration Focused Programmes
4. Communications and Humanitarian Diplomacy
5. Partnerships



## Strategic Priority One: Sensitisation and Awareness Raising

In the Asia Pacific region, while some National Societies have a long tradition of and strategic focus on working with and for vulnerable migrants and displaced people, others have not yet undertaken significant work in this area.

For some National Societies, the reluctance to work in the context of migration and displacement is not based on an absence of need, but is driven in part through a lack of awareness and understanding of the mandate, commitments and strength of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in migration and displacement. For some Asia Pacific National Societies, this reluctance is compounded where migration is a sensitive subject of politics.

From 2017-2022, the IFRC will focus on ensuring that all National Societies in the Asia Pacific region have a clear and confident understanding of the mandate, commitments and strengths of Red Cross Red Crescent activities in the context of migration and displacement.

The IFRC will support Asia Pacific National Societies to understand:

1. The existing mandate and commitments to work with and for vulnerable migrants and displaced people. This mandate and commitment is centred on our Fundamental Principles and expressed in a series of Movement policy and guidance documents, including: *the IFRC Policy on Migration (2009)*; *the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement (2009)*; *Resolution 3 on Migration (2011)* and *the Global Migration Strategy (2017)*.
2. The existing initiatives of National Societies working in the context of migration and displacement, focusing on the strengths of National Societies activities, alongside lessons learned and shared challenges.

From 2017 to 2022, the IFRC will work towards this strategic priority through:

1. Ongoing strategic dialogue with Asia Pacific National Societies, including engagement with the leadership and opinion leaders of the National Society, technical and operational experts as well as staff and volunteers.
2. The creation of an Asia Pacific training programme on the work of the Movement in Migration and Displacement, including the links between migration and other cross-cutting areas: health; disaster reduction and response; shelter, water and sanitation; protection, gender and inclusion; and community engagement and accountability.
3. Sharing strong, relevant and inspiring practices from National Societies from across the globe in working with and for migrants. This will take a variety of forms, including through the **IFRC Smart Practices that Enhance the Resilience of Migrants** database.

By 2022: The IFRC Secretariat will support all 39 National Societies in the Asia Pacific region, all staff and colleagues in the IFRC Asia Pacific Secretariat and all Partner National Societies engaged in the Asia Pacific region to clearly and confidently understand the mandate, commitments and strengths of Red Cross Red Crescent initiatives in the context of migration and displacement.

## Strategic Priority Two: Mainstreaming Migration Into Existing Programming

The IFRC recognises that for many Asia Pacific National Societies, the most effective approach to working in the context of migration and displacement will be mainstreaming migration and displacement into existing programming. This will be a critical step to ensure that work in the context of migration and displacement aligns with the existing strengths, resources, capacity and strategic interests of National Societies.

From 2017 to 2022, the IFRC will support National Societies in the following:

- **Needs Assessment:** Support to National Societies to undertake assessments of need in the context of migration and displacement, for example, through Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA) or Community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA). This will also include the development and 'pilot' testing of new assessment tools, to be replicated across the region. The IFRC will support National Societies to assess how, where and which other stakeholders are addressing the needs of migrants and displaced people; where gaps exist; and where the National Society can work aligned with existing strategic interest, resources and capacity.
- **Identification of Programming:** Building on an assessment and understanding of the humanitarian needs of migrants and displaced people, the IFRC will support National Societies to identify specific existing programme areas where migration and displacement could be effectively mainstreamed. A major initial area of focus for integration will be in the Health and Care activities of Asia Pacific National Societies. Further areas for integration support include Asia Pacific National Societies' work across disaster management programming, education, livelihoods, shelter and settlements, social inclusion and Restoring Family Links (in coordination with ICRC).
- **Implementation:** The IFRC will ensure expert technical advice and support for the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes and activities that integrate migration and displacement. This will also include the identification of sustainable funding opportunities. The IFRC support will ensure the identification and sharing of good practices, lessons learned and challenges in integrating migrants into existing programmes, from National Societies in the region, outside the region and from external partners. The IFRC will support National Societies to focus on age, gender, disability and other factors that can further increase the vulnerability of migrants.

- **Inspiration:** The IFRC will support National Societies to share their experiences of integrating migrants into existing programmes and activities, both within and beyond the Asia Pacific region. This will include not only exchange of good practices, but also lessons learned and challenges faced.

Support will take a variety of forms: including direct support from the IFRC Secretariat technical and leadership teams; the deployment of surge or longer-term support, and peer-to-peer exchange and cooperation, both within and outside the region.

By 2022: The IFRC will work to ensure that 75% of National Societies undertake migration sensitive needs assessments and integrate migration into their strategic planning and programmes.

### Strategic Priority Three: Support for Migration Focused Programming

The IFRC will support Asia Pacific National Societies to create or strengthen activities and programmes that provide support and assistance specifically in the context of migration and displacement. This will occur both in emergency and non-emergency (longer-term programming) contexts.

#### Migration and Displacement in Emergency Contexts

In the context of migration and displacement crises, the IFRC will support National Societies to implement strong and effective operational responses, in line with migration and displacement principles, policies, practices and commitments.

In the context of migration and displacement crises, the IFRC will support:

1. **Contextual Analysis:** The IFRC will support ongoing monitoring and analysis of current and emerging migration and displacement trends in the region. This will include cross-border and internal displacement crises, and will aim to facilitate enhanced cooperation and dialogue among affected National Societies.
2. **Operational Support:** The IFRC will support National Societies before, during and after a migration and displacement crisis. Prior to a crisis, this will include technical support on preparedness, setting minimum standards, contingency planning, capacity strengthening, and risk/capacity assessments. Where a response operation is launched, the IFRC will ensure expert technical advice to the National Society, on both operational and strategic issues, including humanitarian diplomacy. At all times this support will be based on relevant Movement policies and guidelines, and good practices from within and outside the region. The IFRC will ensure effective support, including the deployment of expert technical migration/displacement surge or longer-term support for operations.

3. **Lessons Learned:** After a migration and displacement crisis (or at the mid-term point), the IFRC will ensure that technical support is available to ensure that lessons learned, challenges and successes are captured and shared within the region and beyond. This may be in the form of IFRC-facilitated workshops, bringing together operational staff and volunteers with colleagues from IFRC, ICRC and National Headquarters.

By 2022, all migration and displacement crises operations in the Asia Pacific region will have the full support of IFRC technical and leadership teams, and will be implemented in line with all relevant Movement migration and displacement policies and guidance, and good practices.

### Migration and Displacement in Longer-Term Programming

The IFRC will support National Societies to develop strong, effective and sustainable activities and programmes with and for migrants and displaced people in longer-term programming.

The IFRC will support:

1. **Needs Assessment:** The IFRC will support National Societies to identify migrants and displaced people at risk, including through the VCA and CBHFA processes. The IFRC will support National Societies to assess how, where and which other stakeholders are addressing the needs of migrants; where gaps exist; and where addressing those gaps aligns with the strategic interests, resources and capacities of the National Society.
2. **Identification of Programming:** Building on an assessment and understanding of the needs of people in the context of migration and displacement, the IFRC will support National Societies to identify and develop specific programme and activity areas that focus on migration and displacement.
3. **Implementation:** The IFRC will ensure expert technical advice and support for the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation of and learning from programmes and activities that focus on migration and displacement. This will be combined with ensuring the identification and sharing of good practices, lessons learned and challenges in programmes and activities that directly target migrants at risk. The IFRC will support National Societies to focus on age, gender, disability and other factors that can further increase the vulnerability of migrants and displaced people.
4. **Inspiration:** The IFRC will support National Societies to share their direct experiences of programmes and activities that focus on migration and displacement, both within and beyond the Asia Pacific region. This will include not only good practices, but also lessons learned and challenges faced.

Support will take a variety of forms, including targeted support from the IFRC Secretariat technical and leadership teams, the deployment of surge or longer-term



support, and peer-to-peer exchanges and cooperation, both within the region and outside the region.

By 2022: The IFRC will ensure that Asia Pacific National Societies working in contexts and with communities of migrants and displaced people at risk have the support available to develop strong, effective and sustainable migration- and displacement-centred programmes and activities.

## Strategic Priority Four: Communications and Humanitarian Diplomacy

The IFRC will support Asia Pacific National Societies in communications and humanitarian diplomacy in the context of migration and displacement. This support will complement the IFRC *Migration Communications and Advocacy Framework* (2017).

### Communications

The IFRC will support Asia Pacific National Societies to clearly and confidently communicate their individual and collective successes and strengths working in the context of migration and displacement. Communications will be grounded in the trusted and vital role of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the context of migration and displacement.

The IFRC will also support National Societies in communicating and highlighting the strengths and contributions of migrants. The IFRC will coordinate and support communications campaigns at the local, national, regional and global levels. Campaigns will be based on balanced and informed communication outputs and will draw on the unique position of the Movement to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable migrants, irrespective of their legal status. This will take the form of both traditional and innovative communications platforms and strategies.

By 2022: The IFRC will support effective individual and collective communications in the Asia Pacific region that demonstrate the strong, trusted and vital role of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in working with and for migrants and displaced people. Communications will also focus on utilising the Movement's collective voice to promote the strength and dignity of migrants and displaced people, and to combat negative public and political discourse.

### Humanitarian Diplomacy

The IFRC will support National Societies to engage in effective humanitarian diplomacy that positively influences decision-makers in favour of the needs of those affected by migration and displacement. The IFRC will support humanitarian diplomacy that is evidence-based, and that draws on the wealth of local and global experience of the Red Cross Red Crescent.

The IFRC will support Asia Pacific National Societies through coordinating and supporting humanitarian diplomacy and engagement in national, regional and global humanitarian policy forums that focus on the migration and displacement, including: *the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; the Global Compact for Refugees, and the Platform on Disaster Displacement.*

By 2022, the IFRC will support Asia Pacific National Societies to undertake increasingly effective humanitarian diplomacy on migration and displacement. The IFRC will ensure effective representation of Asia Pacific National Societies in key regional and global humanitarian policy forums relevant to migration and displacement.

## Strategic Priority Five: Partnerships

The IFRC will support Asia Pacific National Societies to develop internal and external partnerships that support and expand the impact and reach of National Society initiatives in the context of migration and displacement.

### Red Cross Red Crescent Partnerships

The IFRC will support National Societies to access effective peer-to-peer support. This will be encouraged within and outside the Asia Pacific region, and will include enhancing cooperation between National Societies along migratory routes, including within and beyond the Asia Pacific region.

For the Asia Pacific region, an important forum for peer-to-peer support, information and knowledge sharing is the Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN). The APMN provides an exciting and significant opportunity for information exchange among National Societies, and the development and sharing of technical expertise and capacity. The IFRC will support and build on the strengths of the APMN, including through support to the members of the Network, the Secretariat of the Network and to the Co-Chairs of the APMN.

The IFRC will support and encourage a coordinated Movement approach to migration and displacement, including through regular cooperation and coordination with colleagues in the ICRC. This will include the coordination of technical advice and operational support to National Societies in partnership with the ICRC, particularly in areas of ICRC expertise, including Restoring Family Links (RFL), activities for detained migrants, and protection-related aspects of migration and displacement.

## External Partnerships

The IFRC will support external, strategic and operational partnerships that enhance National Society migration and displacement activities and programmes, in line with Red Cross Red Crescent policies and principles.

This will include supporting collaboration and building partnerships with relevant partners from international organisations, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organization (ILO), non-governmental and civil society organisations, academia, and the private sector.

Partnerships with civil society organisations in the context of migration and displacement may also draw on the convening power of Asia Pacific National Societies and the IFRC. This work will build upon the achievements of the Rights of Migrants in Action project.

By 2022: The IFRC Secretariat will support effective Red Cross Red Crescent and external partnerships that facilitate and expand effective National Society activities, programmes and strategic foci in the context of migration and displacement.

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## The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

**Humanity** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

**Impartiality** It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

**Neutrality** In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

**Independence** The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

**Voluntary service** It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

**Unity** There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

**Universality** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

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