



10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference

The Manila Declaration Engage Local Humanitarian Action in a Fast-Changing World

We, the leaders of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Asia Pacific region, gathered in Manila for the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference, from 11 to 14 November 2018,

Recalling and building on the Beijing Call for Innovation adopted at the 9th Asia Pacific Regional Conference in 2014.

Recalling and building on the Baghdad Declaration of 2018.

Recalling Resolution 1 adopted by the Council of Delegates in 2017 concerning Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC).

Endorsing the Manila Youth Commitments 2018, “#YouthAtTheCentre”.

Asserting a vision and commitment by 2030 of a culture of volunteering, a culture of prevention, and a culture of engagement and collaboration.

Commit collectively and individually to implement the Manila Call to Engage Local Humanitarian Action in a Fast-Changing World of the 10th Asia Pacific Conference.

Rationale for Engage Local Humanitarian Action in a Fast-Changing World

Asia Pacific stretches from the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea to the furthest outreaches of the Pacific Ocean and is home to almost two-thirds of the world’s population. It is a dynamic, diverse and fast-changing region with strong economic growth. The region drives global innovation and opportunities. At the same time, the region is prone to catastrophic disasters, due to extreme weather events, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The devastating impacts of climate change are a reality across the region and projected to be an increasing threat. The region is also affected by some of the world’s most complex and protracted conflicts. These disasters and crises destroy lives and livelihoods, and lead to millions of people leaving their homes as migrants and refugees. Health is a major concern across the region, with high risk and prevalence of non-communicable diseases and epidemics.

In today’s world, trust constitutes one of the most important assets for organizations to obtain the support required for any work in society. For humanitarian institutions, this represents the most important condition to guarantee the access to the most vulnerable people in the world independently of their status and living conditions, and for the Red Cross and Red Crescent to accomplish its humanitarian mandate. To foster this trust, we must ensure that we reflect the diversity of our communities. This requires an active and diverse participation, and representation of youth, women and people with disabilities.

We commit, collectively and individually, to implement the following recommendations of the 10th Asia Pacific conference under the theme of “*Engage Local Humanitarian Action in a Fast-Changing World*”:

Women’s Leadership

We are committed to achieve greater female representation at the leadership and governance levels, both at the international and National Society levels.



Engaging

1. Recognize the importance and urgency of local community resilience and commit to enhanced measures in mobilizing resources, applying technical tools and sharing experience.
2. Join the 1BC initiative and advocate for effective collaboration and partnership in programme development implementation in both urban and rural sectors at various levels of society.
3. Enhance the skills and capacities of volunteers and engage their talents through technology and social media.
4. Ensure a diverse representation of volunteers in leadership and governance.
5. Develop a formal partnership framework and mechanisms for both Movement and external partners that enhance localization of aid and National Society sustainability.
6. Establish a community of practice with the business community for optimizing income-generating activities and social entrepreneurship.
7. Develop sustainable and relevant connectivity technologies to reduce the gap created by the digital divide.

Local Humanitarian Action

8. Encourage National Societies to adopt cash programming as an important tool to maintain dignity for affected populations.
9. Integrate protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) into our policies and strategic guidance and include people with disabilities in National Societies' membership and programmes.
10. Address the needs of those impacted by protracted crises and displacement, including refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities, by promoting self-reliance and social cohesion, building trust with various stakeholders and strengthening branches as local actors.
11. Work more effectively in an inspiring, ambitious and inclusive manner, which enhances Movement-wide gains, while utilizing the best-placed Movement component for a common humanitarian goal.

Fast-changing world

12. Work in partnership with communities and other organizations to: prepare, prevent and respond to outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics at a local level.
13. Invest in forecast-based financing and community-based surveillance systems, linked to proper monitoring and alert mechanisms.
14. Increase our investment in innovative approaches and technologies, while revitalizing volunteerism and youth mobilization in urban settings.
15. Strengthen our engagement in urban coalitions and multi-stakeholder partnerships to become partners of choice and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our work in highly complex urbanized areas.
16. Engage with the Safer Schools Alliance, with a focus on introducing risk awareness coupled with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and humanitarian values in schools.
17. Provide safe access for students to attend schools, in all settings, ensuring the inclusion of all groups, with a focus on the socially and economically marginalized.

General commitments

18. Adopt a community-centred approach that focuses on strengthening engagement with partners, branches and communities.
19. Decentralize management and resources allocation by National Societies, in line with localization.



20. Strengthen the culture of humanitarian principles and understanding, while upholding zero tolerance for fraud, corruption, sexual harassment and exploitation, to maintain the highest standards of integrity, probity, transparency and accountability to our communities and partners.
21. Strengthen our capacities to take urgent action to protect people and their environment to address migration and displacement in the context of climate change, one of the defining humanitarian challenges of our times.
22. Increase advocacy and address the needs of migrants, refugees, displaced people and host communities, including in the context of climate change and throughout the migratory journey, and by strengthening our capacities to take urgent and forward-looking action.

Targets:

- a. At least 50 percent of the elected and appointed leadership of the National Societies and IFRC governance are women.
- b. At least of 70 percent of National Societies join the One Billion Coalition initiative by 2022.
- c. At least 50 percent of National Societies have a diverse representation of volunteers in leadership and governance with a particular focus on youth
- d. Establish a community of practice for income-generating activities and social entrepreneurship
- e. The IFRC and all National Societies develop mechanisms and tools to attract and retain volunteers.
- f. 100 percent of National Societies use appropriate connectivity tools considering their national and local context.
- g. At least 60 percent of all National Societies are “cash ready.”
- h. 100 percent of National Societies and the IFRC roll out the Protection, Gender and Inclusion Minimum Standards in their operations.
- i. At least 75 percent of National Societies integrate the needs of migrants, refugees and displaced people in their strategic planning processes, through specific needs assessments and the development of migration policies and strategies where relevant
- j. At least 50 percent of National Societies introduce forecast-based financing and community-based surveillance systems.
- k. At least 50 percent of National Societies engage with the Safer Schools Alliance.
- l. 100 percent of National Societies have policies in place on: integrity and the prevention of fraud and corruption sexual exploitation and abuse, to maintain the highest standards of integrity, probity, transparency and accountability to our communities and partners.
- m. At least 80 percent of Asia Pacific National Societies incorporate youth representatives, elected or appointed by youth, at a decision-making level.

The leadership of the Asia Pacific region wishes to express their warmest thanks and appreciation to the Philippine Red Cross staff and volunteers for their warm hospitality and excellent organization of the 10th Asia Pacific Conference, as well as Movement partners for their engagement and support. The leadership of the Asia Pacific region would also like to offer its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for its continued and invaluable support towards humanitarian causes.