



South Asia Leadership Forum

7-8 June
2018

Kathmandu, Nepal

Meeting Note

A. Summary

With purpose of discussing key issues of National Societies in South Asia region and explore possibilities for further coordination and collaboration for addressing existing and emerging trends and challenges, South Asia Leadership forum was organized in Kathmandu from 7 to 8 June 2018. The meeting was participated by 24 people including leadership from eight National Societies in South Asia, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) from India and Kuala Lumpur respectively.

Key actions points agreed by the forum are:

- Participate in IFRC Strategy 2030 development process.
- Develop statement for zero tolerance for fraud and corruption.
- Clear commitment for leadership increasing women participation in decision making level and making sure equal representation and participation of women in the regional and statutory meetings.
- Support for youth participation in regional level youth meeting at least once a year.
- Create genuine youth people as leader within the National society.
- More frequent communication among leaderships in South Asia through What's APP or skype group.
- Propose for endorsing Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN) statement: The Needs and Vulnerabilities of Migrants, and the Role of South Asia Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies. Maldivian Red Crescent Society (MRCS), Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) agreed to endorse the statement in the meeting and invited other National Societies to discuss about this within their National Societies and communicate to MRCS Secretary General.
- Consider 2-3 networks that are active, self-sustained and functional in South Asia region.
- Form working group to support the leadership for preparing for statutory meeting.
- Develop short concept note for Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) cooperation with South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- Allocate resource in National Societies so that youths can be able to participate in meeting in Manila.
- Meet on first half on Monday, 11 November 2018 to follow up on action points of South Asia leadership forum/meeting.

B. Agenda wise note

Day-1, Thursday, 7 June 2018

Session 1: Opening Ceremony Chaired by Mr. Sanjeev Thapa, Chairperson, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)

Welcome Remarks - Mr. Dev Ratna Dhakhwa, Secretary General, NRCS

- We have in the meeting are NRCS chairman, IFRC, ICRC and colleagues from National Societies who have working together so closely all the time.
- It is symbolic welcome as we all are family affairs; family of our region.
- It has been almost two decades that we have been doing this type of meeting and taking care of issues; sometime thematically and sometime politically.
- We were the pioneers in this kind of regional concept. The leaders have a lot of roles to play in institutionalization process.
- We have a lot of problems and disasters, but at the same time, we have organizational strength.
- We have experience of major earthquake, hurricanes, floods, landslide, fire, avalanches, epidemics and outbreaks.

- We have worked in many thematic areas such as disaster management, climate change adaptation and health. We have lots of thematic workshops.
- This forum is a type of parliamentarian forum which makes commitment for our National Societies. This is the leadership forum where regional issues and operations are discussed. This is very important forum. Major regional issues and operations will be discussed in this meeting. The National Societies have managed all major types of operations in this region.

Opening Remarks-Mr. Xavier Castellanos, Regional director, Asia Pacific, IFRC

- Privilege to be in this leadership meeting as it provides opportunity to celebrate this type of works- understand what is going in each country but also allow for reflection on why we are doing and how we are doing.
- A total of 1.8 billion people which is 21. % of total population of the world are in Asia Pacific region. Around 36 % of the region is urban which also have consequences. There are a lot of issues in the region such as migration, disaster, security risk, outbreak, security risk, growing inequalities and growing non-communicable disease.
- The works of RCRC are really relevant. They are relevant in today' world as that used to be in the past even though there is huge development in different context.
- Humanitarian needs are increasing and testing National Society's ability to lead and coordinate and bringing voice of community in programme. Our voice is voice of community. It is the role of leadership that have to take in consideration how much need based we are
- Leaderships cultivate needs based in every member of the National society. **It is about understanding of the Fundamental Principles.**
- It is also the responsibility of leadership that we will be able to look and address humanitarian challenges in South Asia country. South Asia region in championing in acknowledging the revolution.
- innovation. Technology revolution. more efficiency bringing humanitarian working merging.
- The leadership is dealing with scrutiny with the privilege. RCRC faced challenges in Ebola Crisis.
- Different medias have brought challenges every day. Social media is out of control sometimes. It is challenging to address issues in the social media.
- RCRC Movement have zero tolerance on fraud and sexual abuse. If single member does anything, it will have implication whole RCRC Movement.
- Failure of leadership within the Federation fragmentation cause inefficiency Movement work. This is the issues of leadership why fragmentations have to be concurred, how it affects one to other member.
- We need to be need based everything we do and how we do.
- RCRC Movement work independently and follow RCRC Fundamental Principles and values.

Congratulatory Remarks- Mr. Paul Keen, Regional Cooperation Advisor for Asia Pacific, ICRC

- South Asia, the importance is incredible. Future could be South Asia, if you focus in the unity and work **together.**
- Leadership is very important. There are many types of leadership. We have doctors, members from military, key parliamentarians, and members from civil society and government

NRCS Chairman: Closing of remarks of opening ceremony

- NRCS is delighted to have all leadership in the forum.
- South Asia National Societies have both opportunity and challenges. We share many disasters and climate change.
- We need to work together to address the challenges.
- Nepal is passing through changes with promulgation of new constitution, from monarchy to republic to federal state. The NRCS auxiliary government. NRCS has also amended its constitution just before. Agenda of this forum are relevant to all of us. We identify issues, discuss and draw way forward.

Review of the outcome of the statutory meetings of 2017 and implications from the South Asia National Societies perspective. Key trends & feedback from Governing Board

BDRCS

Key Decisions from General Assembly 2017

- Reinforced action of the Role of Women in the RCRC Development (GA/17/25)
- Revision of the Constitution of the IFRC
- Planned review of IFRC-wide disaster preparedness and emergency response policies, Development of a Federation-wide fraud and corruption prevention policy (GA/17/05)

Update from IFRC Governing Board

- Adopts Governing Board Priorities for the period of 2018-2021
- Effective governing board: we need have very strong governing board. They have to have strong secretariat, as soon as the governing board make decision, the secretariat has to implement the decisions.
- Strong National Societies relevant and Strong Secretariat: In many countries, we do not have strong National Society because of decision reasons. NRCS and SRC are strong national; society. If we know each other, we can help each other during the time of need
- Transformation of the IFRC's role in Humanitarian Crises: Crises have been changing. Different NS have different crisis. We are talking about resilience. we have to find out new crises and trend. We need to have group so that we can do virtual meeting in every 4 months. If we do not have good communication how can we tell what is happening in South Asia. We need to have frequent communication. We need to assign somebody who will coordinate if something has happened.
- Define Strategy 2030 and its implementation: NS has to key role in this strategy., every NS has different Problem, strength, and weakness. We live behind if we cannot involve in the strategy development process.
- Setting the process of developing Strategy 2030; We need to encourage women participation in the governing board. also the young force. We need to look after them as well. If we do not share our voice how can we know that what is our need. We need to have joint voice. We need to have at least one representative in board.
- Extension of the contract of the Secretary General
- Approves the Concept Note, draft agenda and overall budget for the 10th European Regional Conference and 10th Asia and Pacific Regional Conference

Discussion on the key trends and implication to and from the South Asian National Societies.

Proposed key trends

Migration; Youth and youth network; Education as an additional focus; Women in the RCRC development in South

MRCS

- Governing board is interested on voice of the National Societies. Regular face to face or virtual meetings have to be organized to discuss on issues and collaboration in South Asia. Skype or WhatsApp can be used for virtual meetings.
- Volunteer mobilization: There is changing trend of volunteer mobilization. Young people's interest is not same as before. We need to discuss how to react to the change and be relevant to our country. We should have youth engagement. Only presentation of youths in governing board is not enough; we need to find way to incorporate youth's voice in our works. There are emerging trends across the globe. There are many things that we can collaborate in South Asia region. We need to create trusting environment for sharing things.

Women in the RCRC Development in South:

- In the Maldives, there is not issues of staff representation and education. But in case of leadership, there is something that impede the women to reach in the decision making process. To be true reflection of community representation in our work, the least thing

that need to be done in women participation in the decision making level. In the MRCS, skilled women are encouraged to apply for the position.

- It is embarrassing when less number of women and youths are found in the statutory meeting. Women should be at decision making level. MRCS also has only one woman in 11-member governing board. We need at least 33% women representation at decision making level.
- We should not dilute the women participation by the bunch of diversity and inclusion
- We need to discuss seriously on how we can bring revolution.
- We need to carry out baseline of National Societies to understand the situation women at decision making level.

NRCS

- It is a trend and way of developing National Societies. The context is changeling. If we list the activities we have been doing, they are really huge.
- Trend and strategies are changing. Many changes were started from BDRCS. Likewise, we learned how to run National Society effectively from Sri Lankan Red Cross.
- We work in different thematic activities and trend such as climate change and global warming.
- National Societies have different challenges including fraud, corruption issues and accountability issues.
- We are taking care of issues related with gender, youth, child and disability with national policy. In case of Nepal, we are mixing of gender and inclusion together.

PRCS

- We need to grab opportunity of being South Asia representative in IFRC governing board. We need to discuss how National Society can involve in the strategy development process.
- **Migration:** We have been facing migration issues - temporarily displaced people (TDP) since 2008.
- PRCS has huge youth network. PRCS has been working for increasing the number of volunteers up to 5 million.
- PRCS is working towards zero tolerance towards fraud and corruption, and maintaining international standard in transparency and accountability.
- We need to focus more on self-sustaining of our programme. We are more dependent on support from the IFRC and Movement partners. The funding is shrinking. We need to discuss how we can sustain our programmes and services. Which are the areas, who can raise fund, and how to mobilization?
- We can work together for image building of our National Societies.
- Pakistan is the 7th Country in the world affected by climate change. Started climate change adaptation programme with the support of German Red Cross. Cash transfer programme has been a good tool for delivering services.
- We need to discuss how we can make the leadership forum more practical and increase cooperation. Peer to peer learning and surge capacity could be useful.

SRCS

- Self-sustained Red Cross: Self sustainable branches, division and units. SRCS branches are able to handle small scale disasters. If National Society is staid, the IFRC in sustained. Federation has to support National Societies through policy and resource mobilization. Youth are taking their responsibility in disaster management. SRCS has branch disaster response team (BDRT), national disaster response team (NDRT), and regional disaster response team (RDRT).
- The IFRC can help National Societies to uplift the National Society's skill and knowledge.
- Need to involve multinational company in humanitarian activities.

Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 3 billion people in India. • The IRCS has 700 branches and presence in 35 out of 36 states in India. • Developed 13th strategic plan incorporating input from the branches and volunteers. • Branches are autonomous. • Focusing for fund raising. In India, 2% of corporate income has to be donated to non-government organization (NGO). So IRC is targeting to those corporates as one of the sources of fund.
Bhutan Red Cross Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender inclusion is one of the most important things that the management have to do. 50% female participation has been encouraged in the branch election. • Bhutan Red Cross Society has female as master trainer.
ARCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARCS has been facing conflict. The country is under control of different armed groups. • ARCS is much engaged in day to day job. • Education as an additional focus: Emotion and impartiality are compromised. Level of female education is limited. Gender and diversity inclusion of different types of religious and ethnical groups is very difficult in Afghanistan. • It is big challenge to include disability people in service delivery team in ARCS where there is suicidal attack.

Prevent Fraud and Corruption:

- May be have joint statement or by each National Society
- Good to have joint statement. Action plan and timeline and standard format to be followed. Minimum level of practice and implementation plan.
- There are different types of corruptions.
- Let us draw general guideline so that we can sincerely follow it.
- It is leadership's responsibility to deal with this. We must have absolutely zero tolerance to the fraud and corruption.
- IFRC Delhi is happy to support in this regard. The IFRC has developed 3 trainings in fraud and corruption which are learning platform. National Societies are encouraged to tell to their staff and volunteer to do the training.
- We need to take each and every case of fraud and corruption.
- It is matter of survivability RCRC. There will decrease in support for RCRC if such things happen.
- With the cooperation of IFRC, the ARCS has been working in assessment of internal audit for increasing the transparency. ARCS signed law of independent 3 years ago. Recently, ARCS worked in the human body transportation.
- Federation is happy to create training for leadership for integrity risk but this kind of training can be tailor-made in countries. Because context of one country to other is different.
- Second level is training for the governing board of the National Societies. Third level: Supporting by other National Societies through sharing good practices and failures.

Session 3: Migration

Introduction of regional paper on migration Feedback from Bali Process Way forward & concrete action points.

MRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 40% of the population of Maldives are labor migrants. • We need to make strategies on how our regular programme integrate migration issues. • How can we include voice of migrants in our services? • MRCS started working with migrant population naturally as they were left behind during disasters. • In 2007, there was flu outbreak in Maldives and it was crucial to make service accessible to migrant population. • MRCS has labour migrant conference right after the annual general meeting. • MRCS has been working for raising awareness about human trafficking as well
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BDRCS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration is common in South Asia. Sometimes, it is not legal and they go to jail. BDRCS has been supporting them through restoring family link (RFL) service for such people. • There are around 1.1 million refugees in Bangladesh. The BDRS has been disseminating awareness programme about the illegal migration among the migrants and citizens. BDRS have bilateral MoU with Malaysian Red Crescent Society the activities.
AFRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many people migrated from Afghanistan to neighboring countries. There are only few migrants from Kargistan and other countries in Afghanistan. However, there are many internally displaced people in Afghanistan. • We need to discuss the following issues and draw way forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How can we forecast the capacity of the migrants and get their capacity in work? ➤ How practical to hire volunteer from migrant to work with them. ➤ How can find ways for the migrants, they get support.
NRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Bali process was organized by the law enforcers. But we need to discuss how it is linked with our humanitarian works. • NRCS has been involving in the population movement since the beginning. NRCS worked with Tibetan Refugee and Bhutanese settlement movement. • NRCS has also been working to disseminate awareness on girls trafficking. • Made population movement policy and guidelines. • NRCS has been coordinating 'Right to migration project'. Four organizations having expertise in migration have been working in the project. The migration project has not only been disseminating awareness but also working for advocacy of migrants. • In an average 18 young people migrate from Nepal to other countries.
PRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to check Government policy and work accordingly. • At the moment, it has been difficult for PRCS to managed IDPs. • The PRCS developing criteria to work with these people. • The PRCS has been working with International Rescue Committee to engage IDPS in livelihood activities. We PRCS have plan to expand to these activities.
SRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sri Lanka is transient point for illegal migration. • SRCS has been coordinating with other agencies to work in migration.
IRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRCS has been working in RFL and tracing. • Volunteers visit jail and fill form for exchanging message within the country as well as outside the country. • Working in migration is largely affected by government policy.
IFRC (country clusters office, South Asia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration is complex topic. But it is important to understand need and vulnerability of the migrants. • Vulnerability is dependent on context. • Need to consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ how to reach out to the migrants through partnership with different organizations. ○ How we can include migrants in programme as volunteers, staff and leadership role.

Session 4: Youth

Presentation by South Asia Youth Network (SAYN), NRCS

Vision and Mission of SAYN

Vision: Provide a dynamic, well-coordinated network for South Asian RCRC youth to be the agent of positive change.

Mission: Utilize the South Asia Youth Network to improve communication, resource mobilization, and enhance service delivery in our aspirations for positive change.

Principles: South Asia Youth Network activities are guided by the fundamental principles of the International Movement; Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality.

Issues in South Asia that SAYN would like to address

- Poverty
- Hunger
- Lack of education
- Political issues
- Gender Inequality
- Lack of resources for youth
- Lack of coordination between youth and political leader
- Lack of collaboration with other agencies, profession, and community

SAYN plan 2018

- Preparing for the 3rd Asia Pacific Youth Summit in November 2018.
- Developing advocacy campaigns
- Working on enhancement of youth-led National Society activities
- Brain-storming on use of technology and innovation to promote partnership and new ideas amongst youth for promoting Red Cross Red Crescent principles and values.

National Society leadership support for youth

- Ensure youth participation at the 3rd Asia Pacific Youth Summit and the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Manila in November.
- Ensure youth engagement in decision-making process, in development and implementation of National Society activities.
- Provide technical support to SAYN.

Reflections on SAYN presentation

NRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth engagement has been popular issues.• Youth Red Cross is parallel organization in NRCS. But there is no clear-cut route for upgrading from youth Red Cross to leadership role in NRCS.• Youths have different type of projects. NRCS is trying to incorporate youth issues in the NRCS constitution. Whatever resolutions that youth Red Cross pass through their youth national forum are taken in to the NRCS main conference.• Youth committees are comprising of teachers and youths in schools, colleges and communities. While there is Junior/youth committee at central level of NRCS.
PRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This platform (SAYN) can be used to implement plan and raising voice from community to management level.
MDRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of the governance layers comprise of youth representation in MDRCS.• Youth voice is captured during decision making by leadership.
ARCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth are the future.• ARCS is giving lots of important to youths.
BDRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are 55,000 trained volunteers in BRCS.• They love to work. We meet every year with them.• We can create regional cooperation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDRCS will be sending youth representative in the upcoming youth conference being held in Manila.
IRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millions of youths are engaged through Red Cross in different programmes such as immunization, water and sanitation. They are the key messengers of programme in the community. • They are working with ICRC in model village. • Youths meet and share their good practices, culture and experiences during national conference.
Xavier, IFRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youths have asked for genuine space. • Youth voice needs to be included in decision making . • One of the leader was to mentor the youth was. • If we give the space for the right to make mistake and celebrate those mistake. • We will start regional conference with youth events. • 3rd Asian Youth summit and second the day regional conference. • The youth is in every single working group. • The organization with lot of priority. • We can commit not only support but also provide space for youth to bring their arts and think different way. • We give the opportunity to bring many youths in Red Cross.

Day -2, Friday,8 June 2018

Session 5: Regional Cooperation

5.1. Discussion/exploration of other Red Cross networks; (by NRCS)

South Asian RCRC Networks

- South Asia RCRC Leadership Forum
- South Asia Youth Network
- Former SARHANA
- Operational staff are in touch in some fields: DM, Health, WASH, OD, Communication, Finance, RFL, IHL/Legal,
- Some South Asia meetings could not happen regularly due to IFRC restructuring

South Asia National Society in Asia Pacific Networks

- Asia Pacific (AP) Migration Network
- AP Fund Raising network
- AP Disaster Management Working Group
- AP Legal Network

Points discussed in the meeting

- Instead of having thematic groups, it would be great if we can have subjective groups.
- It would be overwhelming to participate in many thematic groups.
- Only few working groups are active. We need to identify 1-2 groups/network which are really important and sustain them rather than reviving and forming many groups.
- The leadership group should be taken as policy level forum and working group should be formed to assist the leadership.
- There is need of a group which coordinates with all other groups and follows up implementation of decisions from all types of groups.
- Each working group needs resource.
- Therefore, Leadership has to take ownership to sustain the group.
- We need to be clear on what we want to achieve. Then it will be useful to discuss how we can achieve it.

5.2. Cooperation with SAARC (by NRCS)

Key points from presentation

Common objectives of RCRC Movement and SAARC

- Welfare of the people and to improve their quality of life;
- Social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity;

cooperate with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.

Possible areas of cooperation with SAARC:

- Environment, Natural Disasters
- Social Affairs
- Poverty Alleviation

SAARC has MOU/partnership with following organizations which are also the partners/ potential partners of RCRC

- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)

SAARC Apex Body

The organization seeking recognition should be a regional apex body with a minimum of four constituent units at the national level.

RCRC can work as SAARC Apex Body

SAARC recognized bodies that works in humanitarian field.

- South Asia Association of National Scout Organization (SAANSO)

SAARC Treaties that can affect work of RCRC is South Asia

- SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters
- Agreement on Establishing The SAARC Food Bank
- SAARC Social Charter

SAARC Social Charter 2004

- Promotes socio economic and cultural developments, Upholds Human Rights
- Inclusion of disadvantaged marginalized and vulnerable persons in social development
- Poverty alleviation, health, education, shelter, safe drinking water and sanitation
- Promotion and wellbeing of women, children
- Migration, violence, vulnerability to disasters to be effectively managed

Identification

- Personnel involved in the assistance operation shall be permitted to wear uniforms with distinctive identification while performing official duties. This means RCRC apron can be used during assistance operation in South Asia if the RCRC has agreement and collaboration with SAARC.
- There are avenues of cooperation and collaboration between SAARC and the RCRC Movement. Need for further work out.

Discussion and way forward

Discussion

Action points

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCRC have already agreed many things with SAARC principally. • It is good time to discuss how we can work together with SAARC strategically. • If there is any particular agenda, we can develop further and carry out action-oriented discussion with the SAARC secretary. • NRCS has experience of working with SAARC in disaster management and emergency health. However, institutionalization of the cooperation is important. • RCRC can start collaboration with SAARC in disaster management and we can go further in other programme gradually. • National Societies can have humanitarian diplomacy programme with SAARC and strengthen their auxiliary role to government. • National Societies need to discuss how can they can position ourselves in front of SAARC. • Some members of the leadership forum need to develop concept note to cooperate with SAARC and present in the meeting in Manila this year. • We can also have mutual support agreement with SAARC. We may come up with concrete idea from Manilla meeting. • Government has been working with SAARC and National Society is auxiliary to government. National Societies need to discuss about the consequences of direct coordination with SAARC. | <p>Develop concept note for collaborating with SAARC.</p> |
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Session 6: Disaster & Crisis Management

Learning from recent operations in increasingly complex contexts

NRCS

Operation challenges

- After nearly two decades, newly elected local government bodies are also in place at local level. The engagement with local government increase their expectations and priorities.
- Limited capacities and effective system to respond disasters at local level
- Balance between needs and priorities
- Fulfillment of increased priorities because of very low economic condition of the beneficiaries
- Maintaining timeline and compatibility with changing Govt policies and guidelines, Smooth transition of ERO
- Retention of skilled and experienced HR
- Challenges to enact comprehensive disaster management legislation and appropriate institutional setups at all level of government.
- Country has endorsed DRRM Act-2017, NRCS is updating national disaster management strategic framework and policy in line with act which may require large amount of financial resources
- DRR is being mainstreamed into development planning process, however its proper implementation has been a major challenge due to resource constraints and limited technical expertise in conjunction with the broader frame of
- There is dire need of high-tech equipment's and capacity development programs to operationalize. In this scenario, there is a huge challenge to gather resources for financing and operationalizing medium
- Balanced use of technology and indigenous knowledge and skills.
- Establishment effective and uniform disaster information system.

Way forward

- In line with comprehensive DRRM Act and its widen approach from relief / rescue centric to risk reduction and ultimately a disaster resilient nation.
- NRCS will strengthen disaster management governance system from central to local levels and will initiate activities to better understand the disaster risk and its sustainable management

- DRR, climate change adaptation, information management, gender and social inclusion issues will be further streamlined in development planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in an integrated way.
- To achieve the goal of resilient communities and nations, NRCS together with IFRC and PNS will promote and involve other sector in DRR and response initiatives.
- Continues implementation of NRCS 7th Development Plan and other priorities.

SRCS

- SRCS is using drone for assessment of damage.

BDRS

Challenges of population movement operation:

- Huge number of people are staying in camps. It will be very difficult to manage living in camps during rainy season
- Large number of population is in camps drawing attention of humanitarian aid and attention. Because of this, local minorities and vulnerable are left behind.

PRCS

- Every disaster has different dynamics. It always varies. PRCS has been managing TDP since 2008. PRCS has programme for the TDP.
- They are scattered and tribal area.
- Accessibility has been challenging to reach out to those people.
- Other organizations are not allowed, but PRCS has access to some areas.
- PRCS is working on how to work with government strategic plan.
- TDPs are more than the host families in the areas which can affect the host families.
- Contingency planning for monsoon is being developed
- PRCS has been implementing Integrated programme since 2007.

Reflections

- Cooperation between IFRC and ICRC: One Movement plan/civil militants plan.
- Main focus is in domestic challenges in the normal time and emergency.
- One plan gives more learning not only disaster response but also for programme in normal time in future.
- Financial sustainability needs more strategic attention.
- A lot be done by National Societies in cash transfer programme.

Session 7: Urban DRR and relevant Issues

British Red Cross

The Trend: Urbanisation

- By 2018, more than half of Asia-Pacific's population is expected to live in urban areas, making it the biggest challenge facing the region's governments and cities. The number of people living in towns and cities is greater than those living in rural areas for the first time in history.
- Between 1980 and 2010, Asia-Pacific's cities grew by one billion people. The urban population in the region is expected to reach 3.2 billion by 2050. In China and India alone, the number of people living in cities is expected to grow by 696 million.
- Despite wealth gains, the region is still home to the world's largest urban slum population and largest concentration of people living below the poverty line.
- According to the World Bank, 758 million people in Asia live below the US\$1.25 poverty line. Asia also has 60 percent of the world's total slum population.
- Though low-income households may experience income increases, they also face higher costs of living as land values rise and urban sites occupied by poor communities come under development pressure.

- Inequalities within cities are therefore persistent and widespread as urban poor continue to lack access to adequate shelter, water, sanitation, health, and even a legally defined address.

Asia Pacific Roadmap

- Leveraging auxiliary role at municipal level
- Amplifying the voices and needs of vulnerable urban residents (tackling urban issues with RC FPs)
- Maximising partnerships and engaging in coalitions to ensure RC positioning and influencing
- Organisational capacity and structure to respond to new urban challenges (refugees/IDPs, social inclusion, conflict, climate)
- Harnessing urban volunteers and using technology to extend network
- Tools to engage, advocate, influence, and ensure impact at city level

Points discussed

- Maldives is urbanizing rapidly.
- It has been a huge challenge for services delivery during emergency situation.
- How we really motivate volunteers and engage is totally different. Urbanization also about the technological changes. There are many problems to work in urban. There is less time to coach children on social aspects. It is difficult to reach out vulnerable people in urban with our programme such as first aid.
- It has to be in government agenda to address the issue.
- We need to see where we can fill in the critical gap.
- There is no management and planning of cities and not following the building code. Water scarcity and hygiene promotion have always been the problem in urban area.
- Ambulance service and school safety can be another filled that RC can work.
- NRCS has VCA tool adopted for urban area.
- We can increase our effectiveness by forming groups and bring together physical or virtually.
- We need to consider how the world is changing and challenging. How we can organize ourselves in this situation. How to analyse the city context and Network based approach?
- Urban disaster competition is extremely high.
- We have so many actors. Following local government and national rules if they are different for the Red Cross

Session 7: Towards Asia Pacific Conference

Asia Pacific 10th Regional Conference, Manila, 11 – 14 November 2018

Theme: Engaging local humanitarian action in a fast-changing world

Engaging: How we work with volunteers, communities and partners to enhance resilience, our commitment of 1BC.

Local humanitarian action: Links our commitments from the Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain for greater localization in resilience building, readiness, response and recovery.

Fast changing-world: Links the Beijing Call for Innovation and our collective capacity to adjust to the rapid-transforming environment.

C. Closing session

- Work on Strategy 2030.
- Zero tolerance for corruption, and development of statement and clear action point;
- Increase women participation in decision making level.
- Youth representatives should meet at least once a year.
- Create space for youths as leaders within the National Society.

- Use of what's up, skype and other means for frequent communication and virtual meeting of leadership in South Asia.
- MRCS, ARCS, BDRCS, PRCS agreed to endorse APMN statement (the Needs and Vulnerabilities of Migrants and role of South Asia National Societies) and invited other National Societies for discussion about issues within their National Society.
- Secretary General of MRCS is coordinating the APMN process.
- Need to do further analysis on migration issues and create the space for migrants within National Society.
- Consider only 2-3 Network that are active and self-sustain.
- Form working group to support leadership for preparation of statutory meeting.
- Half day follow up meeting in Manilla.
- Develop concept note RCRC cooperation with SAARC.
- DRR can be one of the area for collaboration with SAARC.
- Zero tolerance on fraud and corruption, gender and diversity, role of youth, communication are key issues to be discussed more and followed in South Asia National Societies.
- MRCS is in the process of developing strategic plan. The meeting has been useful to discuss in the burning issues.
- South Asia National Societies have loud voice in genuine issues.
- Regional office has been acting as secretariat for the Asia leadership forum. Institutional memory should in the Secretariat. Over the time, people faces have changed, however, the spirit of the forum has not changed.
- We have commitment on the different issues: accountability issues, gender and disability participation, PMER, information/knowledge management.