



Asia Pacific Migration Network

GENERAL MEETING REPORT, 25 JULY 2019, BANGKOK,
THAILAND



APMN is co-chaired by Maldivian Red Crescent and Australian Red Cross, with transitioning co-chairs to be announced in October 2019.

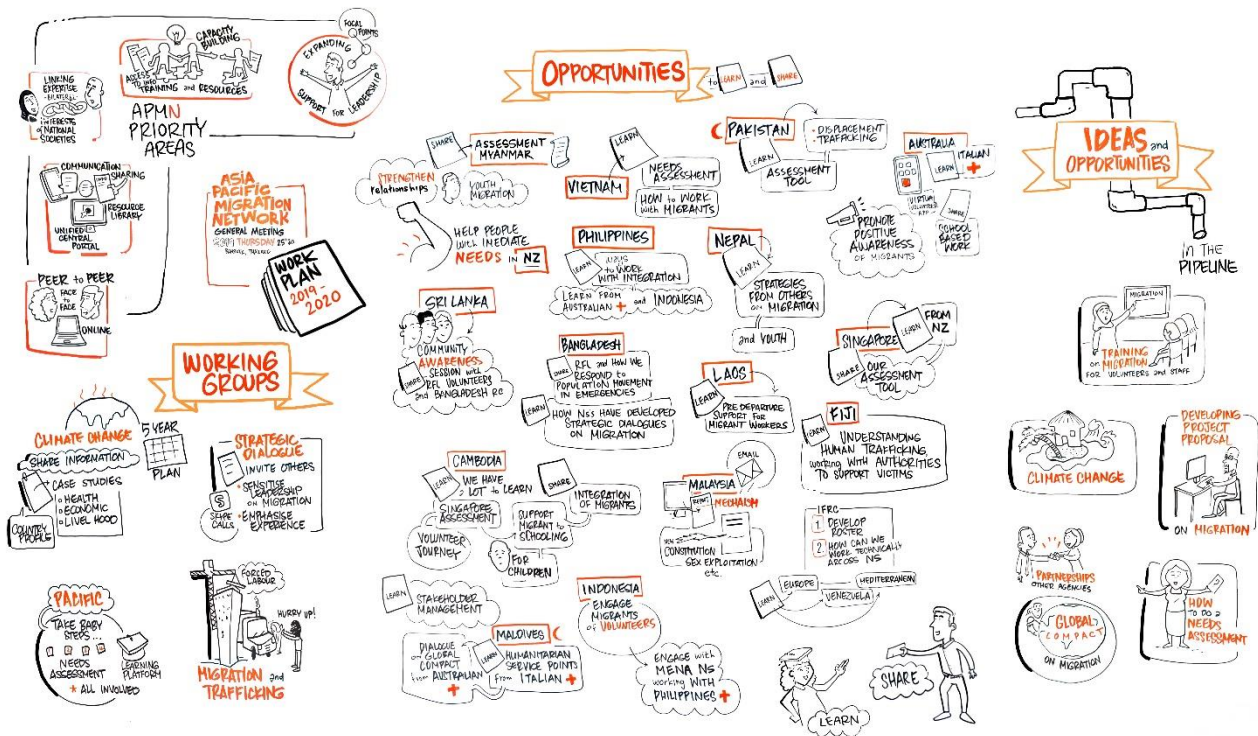
This report was prepared by the APMN Secretariat, August 2019

Please contact apmn@redcross.org.au for any questions.

Artwork by Alex Wisman

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APMN 2019/2020 Work Plan

Introduction

At the Fifth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN), 20 representatives from 17 National Societies, alongside four partner National Societies and representatives from the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), met in Bangkok to progress action on migration across the region. The AGM followed a productive two days of the Regional Migration and Displacement Workshop, coordinated by ICRC, IFRC and APMN.

The APMN currently engages 35 National Societies in the Asia Pacific region, and focuses on understanding migration trends, sharing best practice around addressing the specific vulnerabilities of migrants, undertaking efforts to enable action on migration, developing joint regional responses and sharing resources to develop collective capacity building on migration.

The following National Societies participated in the meeting:

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|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Red Cross Society • Bangladesh Red Crescent Society • Cambodia Red Cross Society • Fiji Red Cross Society • Indonesia Red Cross Society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao Red Cross Society • Malaysia Red Crescent Society • Maldives Red Cross Society • Mongolian Red Cross Society • Myanmar Red Cross Society • Nepal Red Cross Society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand Red Cross Society • Pakistan Red Crescent Society • Philippine Red Cross Society • Singapore Red Cross Society • Sri Lanka Red Cross Society • Viet Nam Red Cross Society |
|--|---|--|

APMN Annual General Meeting: Objectives, Outcomes and New Areas of Interest

Objectives of the APMN: Through Collaboration and Coordination we....

- Build an understanding of and sensitise around the need to address vulnerabilities associated with migration and the RCRC approach
- Gather evidence around current migration activities and issues
- Identify and harness expertise within the Movement, especially through supporting peer to peer learning, capacity building and training
- Increase and strengthen in-country activities for migrants and cross border approaches between NS (stand alone and integrated)
- Strengthen partnerships within the Movement and ensure the Asia Pacific context informs global approaches to migration

OBJECTIVES OF 2019 Annual General Meeting

The 2019 APMN AGM aimed to meet the following objectives:

- Strengthen the APMN as a platform for ongoing collaboration and dialogue between Asia Pacific NSs
- Deepen and share understanding of migration issues across the region and work towards practical action
- Learn from one another, form bilateral partnerships and deepen relationships between NS on migration
- Ensure APMN is sustainable through shared leadership
- Identify gaps and opportunities to address humanitarian concerns related to migration
- Build upon the work plan from 2018 General Meeting



2019 APMN AGM OUTCOMES:

A range of outcomes were established to support increased collaboration and coordination between Asia Pacific National Societies and Movement partners on migration, including:

- Work collaboratively with other National Societies, IFRC and ICRC, as well as external partners, to complement existing and develop new activities to support the humanitarian needs of migrants;
- Support the smooth transition of two new co-chairs over the next 12 months;
- Strengthen the role and capacity of the focal point on migration within National Societies and with the APMN;
- Collectively progress our priorities through working groups and communities of practice including: labour migration and trafficking, migration in the Pacific; strategic workshop development on migration, and the role of RCRC responding to climate change and disaster included migration and displacement;
- Utilize knowledge and expertise within the region to undertake more cross-border, bilateral work on migration, and work towards implementing new cross border activities and initiatives;
- Ensure sustainability of the APMN through strengthening shared leadership and ways of working and resourcing;
- Support bi-lateral engagement between NSs on areas of expertise and learnings.

New Areas of interest

Building on the broad range of discussion at the previous two day regional migration workshop and the APMN/IFRC 2019 migration survey for Asia Pacific National Societies, the top five NEW few focus areas identified by APMN representatives were:

1. Build our knowledge and understanding of the **humanitarian impacts of climate change on human mobility** (migration and cross border displacement);
2. Ensure **training on migration** for our staff and volunteers;
3. Understand how to do a **needs assessment on migration** or include migrant communities in existing assessments;
4. **Strengthen partnerships** within the Movement, UN agencies, governments, and civil society on migration;
5. Develop **project proposals to ensure sustainable and strategic support to migrants**



Asia Pacific Migration Annual General Meeting

Welcome and introductions

Aishath Noora, Maldivian Red Crescent and Vicki Mau, Australian Red Cross – APMN co – chairs

The following sections outline the formal sessions of the APMN General Meeting. Noora and Vicki welcomed National Society leadership, APMN focal points and new colleagues to the 2019 AGM and noted the apologies from focal points not able to attend (from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea,

Tonga National Societies). National Society representatives shared some of their key highlights from the two-day regional meeting and what they hoped to take back to their National Society.

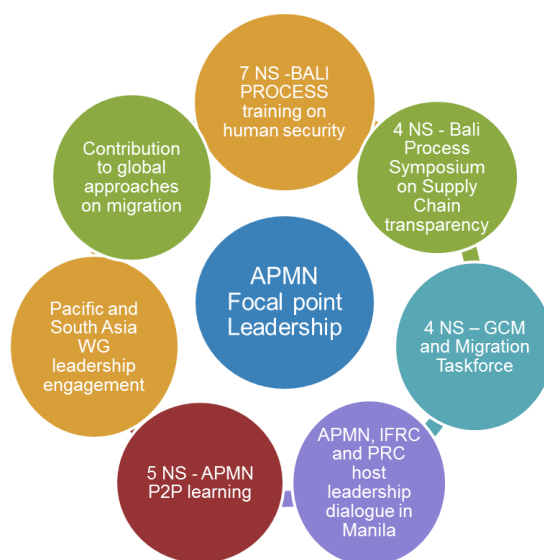
- “Seeing NSs take steps to build knowledge of their context and their NS, learning about what are the gaps and where we are placed to support’
- ‘How much work has been done over the last few years’
- ‘How to be more active and effective as a focal point and through the APMN to foster collaboration’
- ‘There is a big shift in how NSs are talking about migration and climate change’
- ‘It was great to learn from the other NSs. We are Interested in developing migration strategy, we are raising awareness at the moment, but we want to build on this to do more. We need clear guidelines’
- ‘Experience from colleagues, collaboration with government and other stakeholder, enhancing cooperation’
- ‘Continue to influence our leadership on migration’

Co-chairs report and Key Achievements 2018-2019

Aishath Noora and Vicki Mau

The APMN co-chairs shared highlights of the APMN over the last 12 months and how these activities have contributed to the strategic direction, influence and progress of the network. Achievements over the last year include:

- 7 NSs attended the Bali Process training on human security – part funded by the Bali Process
- 4 NSs attended Bali Process Symposium on Supply Chain transparency
- 4 NSs attended Global Compact on Migration and Migration Taskforce meeting in Marrakesh
- APMN, IFRC and Philippine Red Cross coordinated a leadership discussion on migration at the Manila statutory meeting
- 5 NSs participated (in person and on line) in the third annual APMN Peer to Peer learning
- There was strong sub regional leadership engagement on migration and displacement through Pacific and South Asia working groups
- 1 NS attended the APRRN consultation on refugee rights (with IFRC)



Measuring our Progress: 2019 Survey Results

The 2019 migration survey for Asia Pacific National Societies was completed by 31 National Societies across the Asia Pacific, and was the fourth annual survey on migration for the Asia Pacific region. In line with the IFRC Global Migration Strategy of 75% of National Societies have considering or incorporated migration into their strategic planning, we asked the question ‘does your National Society have or intends to have migration and displacement as part of its strategic plans?’

Prioritization of migration
 Over half of NS...51% NS said migration is a medium to high priority in 2019 (31 NS responded)

Of the 31 NSs who responded, we found that:

- 39% NS said that migration and displacement is already considered in their strategic plans.
- 49% said they are currently mainstreaming or working towards including migration into strategic plans

Updates from National Societies on activities and engagements through the APMN

National Societies in the room shared updates and reflection on activities they have engaged in through the APMN over the last year. From participating in training and workshops, leading peer to peer sessions and working groups, engaging leadership and contributing to briefings, and ensuring their expertise and on the ground experience supporting migrants and those affected by migration contributes to the strategic direction and approach of the Movement on migration. A summary of these activities is captured below:

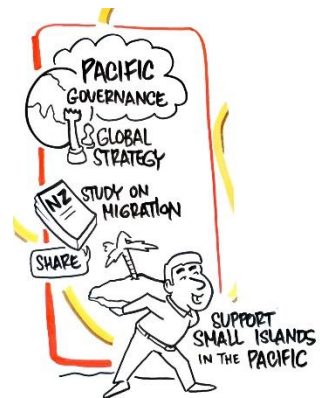
Working groups

Pacific working group *Sneh Kumar, Fiji Red Cross*

Sneh, lead of the Pacific working group with Uvenama Rova (Secretary General of Papua New Guinea Red Cross, absent from meeting) shared an update of the working group's activities for the year. Sneh presented on the key issues of the group, particularly climate change, migration and displacement, labour migration and support for migrant workers and families, and emerging issues such as trafficking.

The group had developed a concept note for a face to face meeting to bring the Pacific together and share approaches, lessons learnt and common challenges to understanding the needs of and how to respond to migration in the region. Over the year members had acknowledged the importance of engaging with IOM, and Sneh noted her engagement with IOM in Fiji at the national level.

Sneh acknowledged Pacific colleagues that were unable to attend the APMN AGM, and thanked them for their support and sending through perspectives on the value of the Pacific working group.



Collaboration in South Asia *Aishath Noora, Maldivian Red Crescent*

Noora represented the South Asia working group at the meeting, and shared the progress the group had made in recent months to develop a letter to South Asia Leaders on the importance of collaboration and coordination between NSs in the region to respond the complex humanitarian needs regarding mixed migration in South Asia.

The letter, drafted by six out of eight South Asia National Societies, looked at existing commitments of leadership including commitments through the Manila Declaration and Global Migration Strategy, and called for progress towards strategic workshops, taking tangible action on commitments, and supporting the focal points. The group acknowledged the need focal points to be empowered, and will now review how the group can evolve to have a thematic intent on strategy to progress work in the region.



Migration and health *Khun Somsri Tantipaibulvut, Thai Red Cross and Soulany Chansy, Laos Red Cross*

Khun Somsri and Soulany shared some highlights from ART network HIV/AIDS awareness cross border project that had been shared through the migration and health working group, including the challenges to getting the project to the next phase, and ensuring irregular migrant workers could assess the testing and treatment services the project aims to provide

Challenges were acknowledged about the group, especially regarding connectivity, and ensuring the right migration and health people were represented in the meetings. A decision to reassess the group or request for IFRC to lead the group moving forward was made to ensure effective linkages with the Global IFRC Migration and Health working group.





Labour migration and understanding the needs of people who have been trafficked *Kamal Yatawara, Sri Lanka Red Cross, and Imam Zafar Sikder Bangladesh Red Crescent Society*

Kamal and Zafar, leads of the labour migration and trafficking working group, provided an update on behalf of the group. Several members had now participated the Bali Process Human Security training and have brought knowledge and relationships from the training back to their National Society.

It was noted the very valued engagement and interest of British Red Cross on trafficking in the Asia Pacific, and the expertise of Australian Red Cross on trafficking. The group looks forward to this ongoing technical support and guidance to bringing the Guidance Note for National Societies on Labour Migration and trafficking to life, and progress activities to build the capacity of members to respond to issues related to trafficking, labour exploitation and ensuring migrant workers have the information they need to keep themselves safe.

Asia Pacific and Middle East Leadership Dialogue on Migration and Displacement, Manila, November 2018

Aishath Noora, Maldivian Red Crescent

Noora updated colleagues on the Asia Pacific and Middle East Leadership Dialogue on Migration and Displacement, Manila, November 2018. She noted the strong 60-70 leaders that attended to discuss the key issues and opportunities of the RCRC Movement in responding to humanitarian needs of migrants. IFRC President Francesco Rocca was in attendance and highlighted the importance of working along the migratory route across the region, and to progress cross border collaboration and partnership between Movement partners. Noora reiterated we must build upon the work we have done in the region, in a strategic way. [You can read more about the Leadership Dialogue on migration from Manila here](#)

APMN Peer to Peer (P2P) Learning

Undram Chinges, Mongolia Red Cross; Su Su Lynn, Myanmar Red Cross; Amanda Aye, New Zealand Red Cross.

Undram, Su Su Lynn and Amanda represented the five National Societies that participated in the peer to peer at Australian Red Cross (Syed Muneeb Ilyas, Pakistan Red Crescent was absent). Colleagues in the room heard about the activities that took place over the two weeks, including training on trafficking, sharing approaches to developing strategies on migration, discussion on humanitarian diplomacy, migration policy, returns, RFL, impacts of climate change and disasters on migration, amongst other key topics.



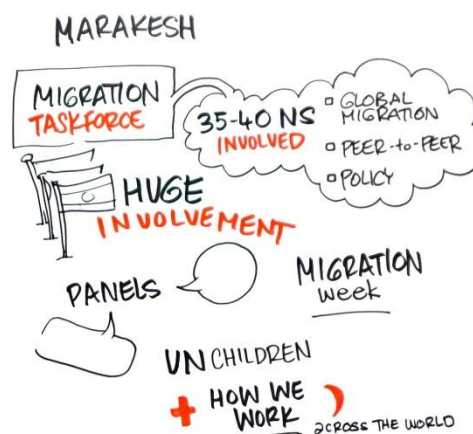
The participants shared how the peer learning has impacted their work since returning to their National Societies, through engaging leadership on migration in strategic plans, and the positive relationships between the sister National Societies to provide support and advice to one another. [You can read more about the Peer to peer learning hosted by Australian Red Cross here.](#)

APMN at the Global Compact on Migration and IFRC Global Migration Taskforce

Vicki Mau, Aishath Noora, Mike Mabugnon, Sneh Kumar

Vicki, Mike, Noora and Sneh shared highlights from their attendance at the extraordinary IFRC Migration Taskforce, which was held in Marrakesh in December 2018 alongside the meeting to adopt the Global Compact on Migration and Global Forum on Migration and Development.

Mike recalled his intervention at the Youth session and the links made between volunteers and Red Cross youth using social media; Sneh acknowledged how important - from a humanitarian point of view – it was that climate change was front and centre of a migration meeting; Noora noted how impressive it was to see all the work across the region of Red Cross and Red Crescent NSs and other agencies; and Vicki shared how incredible it was to have the Movement there and the collective global impact of the RCRC to influence the humanitarian inputs on migration at the meeting.



Bali Process engagement through the Trafficking in Person Working group

Workshop on Enhancing Human Security

Michalle Angielo Mabugnon, Philippines Red Cross, Kamal Yatawara, Sri Lanka Red Cross, Su Su Lynn, Myanmar Red Cross; Anne Tampubolon, Indonesian Red Cross

Engagement through the [Bali Process Trafficking in Persons working group](#) has become an important avenue for NS migration focal points to build knowledge and capacity relating to human security issues such as trafficking. Over the last 12 months, seven NSs have attended the workshop, which is held every six months on Jeju Island, South Korea. Participants shared some of their highlights from the training.

- Anne shared the importance of having RCRC NSs there to highlight the humanitarian needs of people who have been impacted by trafficking.
- Mike said it was an opportunity to highlight our Fundamental Principles and how RCRC NSs use the principals to frame our response to sensitive and complex humanitarian issues.
- Kamal noted the city share methodology was an absolute highlight. It was also valuable to build good rapport with other representative that attended the training.
- Su Su Lynn explained that for her, the workshop was about networking with civil society and government representatives: *“We learnt about issues, and sharing contacts was important, especially in regards to trafficking cases with other countries. It was good to learn about law in the context. I also attend training (with Anne from PMI) on crisis management and the secondary impacts crisis has to increase instances of trafficking. Coordination is the most important thing.”*



Symposium on Supply Chain Transparency

Michalle Angelo Mabugnon, Philippine Red Cross, and Kamal Yatawara, Sri Lanka Red Cross

Mike and Kamal informed colleagues about their attendance at the Symposium on Supply Chain [Transparency](#) which they attended with colleague from IFRC, Bangladesh Red Crescent and Australia Red Cross. Held in Jakarta in June 2019, the Symposium provided an opportunity for representatives from government business, civil society and National Societies to come together and share practise and approaches to Symposium's themes of worker protection and ethical recruitment amongst other areas. Australian Red Cross presented on their Support for Trafficking People Program, while Philippines Red Cross shared their work on educating and empowering migrant workers through preventative measures.

Report back from Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) engagement and value

Michalle Angelo Mabugnon

In August 2018, Mike (representing the APMN) joined Helen Brunt, IFRC Senior Migration Officer at the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) Consultations on Refugee Rights. At the meeting, Mike highlighted PRCS migration activities in communities. Although there were mostly small CSOs at meeting, some were interested in partnering with NSs, and it was interesting to reflect on how much work is going on in the region to support migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Other key highlights included:

- Understanding the specific protection and legal differences between people who are statelessness and refugees;
- The importance of having lived experience included within a meeting,
- Having services to translate documents;

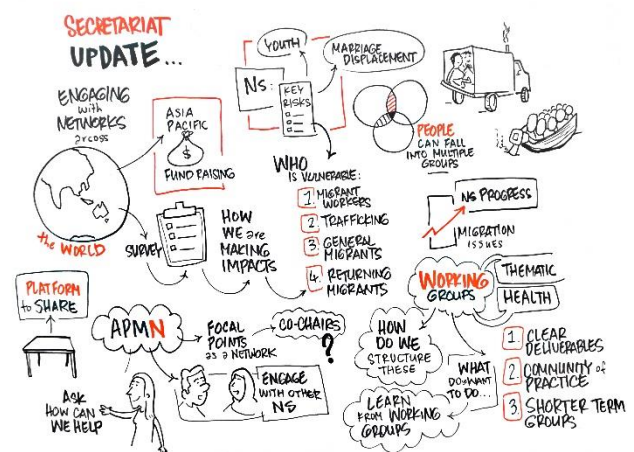
Secretariat update: A year in review and additional survey results

Jess Van Son, APMN Secretariat

Jess provided a brief update on the APMN Secretariat activities over the last 12 months, including progressing the APMN work plan, working closely with IFRC and ICRC colleagues, exploring strategic ways to ensure the sustainability of the network, strengthening engagements and support with focal points, providing regional input and perspectives in regional and global policy documents, ensuring effective follow up and ongoing support of APMN activities, and engaging National Societies on the GCM and Bali Process. Other key activities of APMN Secretariat:

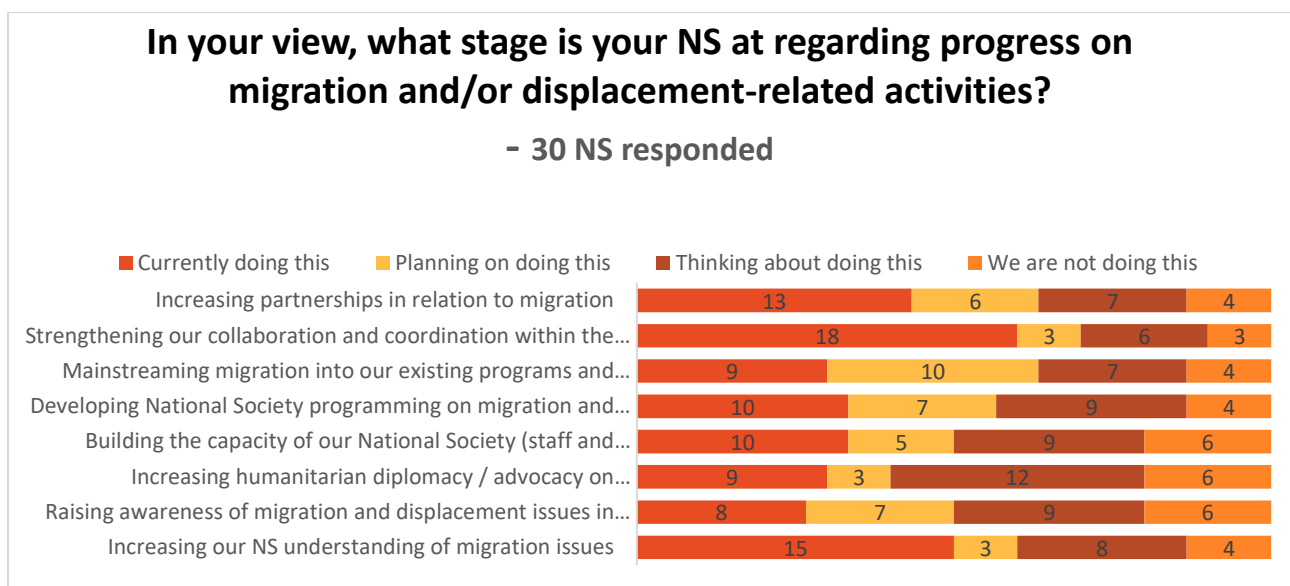
- Contributions to Manila meeting preparations
- Visit to Korea RC and presenting on the APMN
- Engagement with other RCRC Networks (PGI, PERCO, ART, ATN, Sahel, MENA)
- Exploring opportunities to develop a communication platform for the APMN
- Working group support – particularly progressing the South Asia and Pacific working group

Jess acknowledged the incredible contribution of focal points to the work of the APMN, particularly through one on one engagements, skype meetings and working groups, contributing research and reports, engaging leadership, and sharing the incredible breadth of NS migration activities with colleagues across the region.



Survey Results Feedback from NS:

The following information outlines some of the key finding and responses from the 31 National Societies that participating in the 2019 APMN/IFRC regional migration survey in July 2019.



This was a new question in the 2019 survey, which asked NSs to rate their NS progress on migration activities. Over half of the NSs that responded shared they are currently increasing their understanding of migration issues, with a further 11 NSs thinking about do this. The APMN and IFRC will support NS to better understand and assess migration issues in their country, in line with the Global Migration Strategy and regional Framework on migration. 18 NS shared they were actively strengthening collaboration and coordination within the Movement on migration.

A third of NSs that responded the survey shared they were developing programming on migration and increasing humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy on migration to raise awareness of vulnerabilities, with the same amount interested in building capacity of their NS on migration.

Are the particular migrant groups at risk in your country?

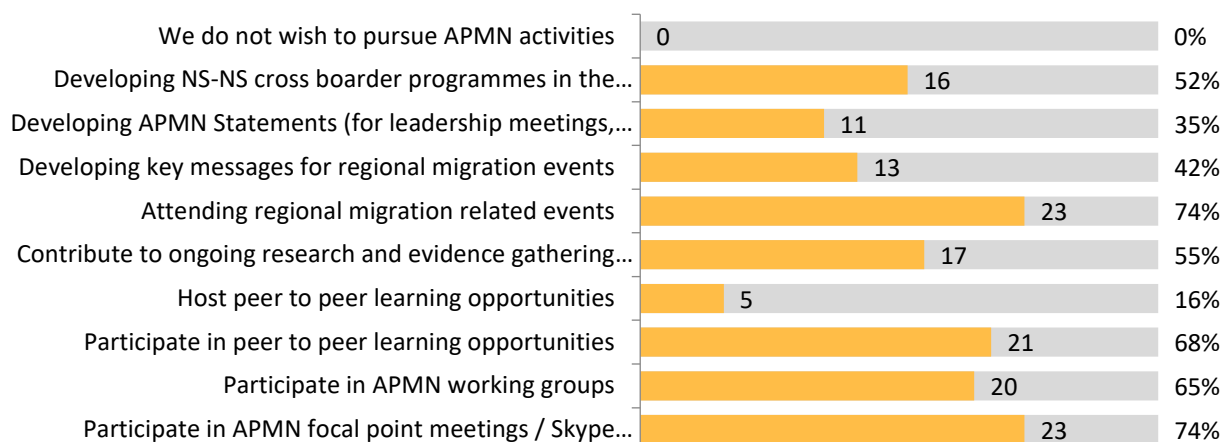
Consistent to previous years, migrant workers was identified as one of the most vulnerable groups of migrants by NSs. In the survey, a number of NSs also raised concerns about the increasing in returning migrant workers either being deported back to their country of origin, without family networks or support services available to support themselves on return, and at times without relevant papers to access health care and other services.

NSs have continued to identify trafficking or people at risk of trafficking, irregular migrants, and people displaced or migrating in the context of climate change and disasters as key vulnerable groups over the last two years. This priority has also been reflected in the Guidance Notes for NSs that has been developed for NS on labour migration and trafficking, and disasters and displacement in a changing climate. Other groups of concern included international students, people migrating to marry (marriage migrants), migrants in detention, and underage and unaccompanied migrants were also identified as groups of concern.

According to your NS, are there particular groups at risk in your country? 30 NS responded

- Migrant workers 68%
- People who have been or at risk of trafficking 45%
- Irregular migrants 42%
- People migrating or displaced in the context of climate change and disasters 35%
- Retuning migrants or refugees 29%

What APMN activities is your NS interested in pursuing?

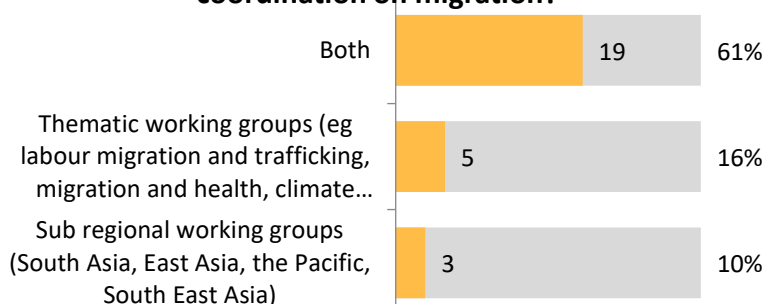


Attending migration events, participating in working groups, peer to peer and skype meetings continue to be value activities for APMN focal points which they would like to take forward. There was also an increase in NS identifying 'evidence and data' and the development of 'cross border partnerships' as key activities to progress of the APMN. The network will work alongside Movement partners to priorities and support NSs regarding these activities and opportunities. Undertaking a needs and vulnerability assessment of migration was a key theme that also came up through the survey, which again aligns with the Global Migration Strategy.

Comments from focal points

- *'We would like to learn what others are experiencing, so far, our situation is very unique'.*
- *'Receiving updates and regional trends from the APMN is important'*
- *'Our Director General is very supportive and wishes to pursue this further'.*
- *'We require assistance to further expand our services in migration'*

Q22. Please indicate which APMN working group structure you think would be most effective to progress collaboration and coordination on migration?



Although there have been challenges with connectivity and prioritizing time to work on activities of working groups, feedback from focal points was clear; having both thematics and region based groups is important for the APMN.

The APMN Secretariat, with support of, IFRC and Partner NSs will provide guidance and technical support to progress existing and develop new working groups and communities of practice as recommended by APMN members at the General Meeting.

Comments from focal points

- *“Both will be beneficial as either of them should be able to address issues relative to the work in the area of migration”*

Of the 29 NS that responded to the question “Can you suggest other ways the APMN could support you and your NS in migration? 16 NS suggested ways in which the APMN could strengthen and target its support to migration focal points and NS.

Comments from focal points

- *“Ensure the participation of other NS within the region” – how do we connect and engage other NS? What can be the role of NS leadership who are supporting of APMN??*
- *De-sensitizing migration “In some situation, we can include issues of migration and displacement without using the word "migration". We can put it under RFL, Community Engagement, Volunteerism” – understand the sensitivities*
- *10 NS shared the technical guidance, training and support on migration for staff and volunteers, engaging beyond the focal point “technical support to regular staffs who are working on this issue , because they have huge knowledge to share with platform, they have logical idea which could be best for community”*
- *“Appropriate MoUs to work closely with other stakeholders e.g. IOM, UN etc. “*
- *“Being as a 'resource centre', support National Society for, any kind of assistance in regards to the migration and displacement”*
- *Support NS to develop and implement “small projects and peer to peer engagement similar to the Global Portfolio on Migration” within NS or among sub-region or similar context to deliver services to migrants, to exchange our knowledge, experiences within sub-region and share best studies to other regions. Also small NS-NS project/programme to exchange staffs/volunteers to share experience if they are in same context and similar level in the field of migration/displacement”*
- *“To pursue the leadership in developing the organization strategy for the migration”*

APMN co-chair nominations

As part of the formal proceedings, nominations took place for APMN co-chairs. Both Maldivian Red Crescent and Australian Red Cross shared they would be stepping down over the next 12 months and warmly welcomed the nomination of new co-chairs to join Australia and Maldives, and transition together towards the next APMN AGM.

Attendees acknowledged and thanked Noora and Vicki for their continuous commitment and support to the APMN and its National Societies to progress strategic and impactful work for the benefits of migration in the Asia Pacific, and around the world. Attendees at the meeting endorsed the nomination of Philippines Red Cross and Singapore Red Cross as the next co-chairs of the APMN, and the four NSs agreed to transition planning over the next 12 months pending conversations with National Society leadership. Australian Red Cross noted they will continue to support the Secretariat role.

The APMN Secretariat will work closely with the current and emerging co-chairs to embed these new priority areas and strategic direction of the network.

Enhancing APMN Collaboration and Coordination

Activity to establish NS - NS migration collaboration, through identifying expertise and developing shared learning opportunities between National Societies, in line with the IFRC Global Strategy on Migration.



A key APMN priority established at the 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was to link interest, expertise, activities, and learning between NSs, to foster bilateral relationships and develop new peer to peer opportunities on migration and displacement

In the afternoon of the APMN, we progressed this through an activity to linking areas of expertise with areas of capacity building and learning, of Asia Pacific National Societies and Movement Partners, under the Strategic Aims and Enabling Actions of the IFRC Global Migration Strategy.

Each NS came prepared with examples of activities they would like to share, and learn re: protection, assistance and social cohesion, which enabled us to link specific activities on interest, and highlight the expertise in the room as a means to build shared leadership, foster cross NS engagement on specific skills, knowledge, tools, programs or activities.

This provided a web of opportunity for bilateral engagement, and participants came out with soft commitments to follow up with sister National Societies, IFRC and ICRC.

The IFRC Global Migration Strategy was adopted by 190 National Societies in 2017. The overarching goal of the strategy is:

'At all stages of their journeys, and irrespective of their legal status, migrants find the IFRC ready to respond to their needs, enhance their resilience, and advocate for their rights'.



You can read the specific areas that National Societies wanted to [share and learn here](#).

NEXT STEPS: The APMN Secretariat will link the NSs and Movement partners on areas they identified they would like to progress. These opportunities could be encouraged as ideas for 'an in country peer to peer learning' through the APMN.

APMN Sustainability, Effectiveness and Connectivity

In the second part of the afternoon, we heard interventions on the importance of the Network, reviewed the role of the focal point, discussed sustainability of the APMN post-2020, strategized new working groups, and agreed to an APMN Pledge for the Statutory meeting. We asked ourselves questions such as: Do we need to change how we work to be more effective in the future. What is working well? What should we stop doing, start doing, continue doing?

Re-establishing ways of ways of working: APMN working group or communities of practise?

Members discussed the opportunities and challenges of the working groups and decided on new ways of connecting through communities of practise to meet aims and objectives of groups. The following groups were taken forward for the 2019/2020 period.

Thematic group: Labour migration and trafficking working group

Led by Kamal Yatawara from Sri Lanka Red Cross and supported by Valeria Ragni from Italian Red Cross, members shared perspectives on what they thought were the key contributions of the working group could make to the regions response and capacity development relating to trafficking and labour migration. They highlighted the following points:



- It is a forum to share information with each other
- Progress meetings even if the group is small, as communication is easier, for the people that can make the calls and update each other on the developments in their own NS
- It's useful to get feedback on proposals
- We need to learn and understand what other working groups from other organisations are doing on the same topic, for example, the Bali process.

Members agreed they would like to receive technical support, specifically on how to map other stakeholders working on trafficking issues in their country, or in the region; developing or adapting training at different levels (including staff and volunteers); and learning from other networks (such as the Action for Trafficked Network).

Thematic group: Exchanging experiences and lessons learnt from strategic dialogues on migration (formally South Asia working group)



Led by Noora Aishath and Saagar Shrestha (via skype), member noted the working Group model had been beneficial for the focal points of the South Asia NSs, as it had provided a platform to share experiences, listen and provide moral support and inspire each other, giving additional momentum to take forward activities relating to migration. However, it was also recognized that the group needed a focus moving forward.

It was decided that the South Asia working group will focus on a thematic area- exchanging experiences and learning from strategic dialogues. Four countries in the sub-region are considering to hold strategic dialogues- Sri Lanka, Nepal, and a

joint dialogue between Bangladesh and Maldives. The working group decided to open the group to other NSs beyond the sub-region for those who have or are planning to hold similar dialogues.

Objectives for the: Exchanging experiences and lessons learnt from strategic dialogues on migration” thematic group:

1. How do we sensitize leadership on migration situations and humanitarian issues relating to migration
2. To pilot and learn from strategic dialogues, including a bilateral RC to RC dialogue
3. Sharing and learning from the experiences from the four countries in taking forward the dialogues
4. Using the platform to share the best practices and lessons learned with the global platform.



Sub regional group: Pacific working group on migration

Led by Sneh from Fiji Red Cross and joined by Zeke Simperingham from IFRC APRO, members of the Pacific working group in attendance discussed the challenges faced by the group around connectivity and the differences in understanding and responding to the needs of migrants by Pacific National Societies. A suggestion was made to focus on supporting one or two Pacific National Societies whom are already engaged on migration with leadership and interested to understand the other stakeholders working on or supporting migrants in their country, and continue (through the working group) to engage on issues of climate change and disaster induced migration and displacement, and supporting labour migrants and families left behind in the Pacific.

Thematic group: Climate change and disaster induced migration and displacement

After the development of the *Disasters & displacement in a changing climate: the role of AP NSs* (IFRC, 2018) and subsequent sessions on climate change, migration and displacement during the 2 day migration workshop prior to the AGM, there was a strong recommendation for a thematic working group to be formed to on migration and climate change. The key objectives identified by the group were:

- Build our knowledge and understanding of the humanitarian impacts of climate change, particularly those that lead to migration and cross border displacement;
- Raise awareness about the impacts of climate change on human mobility (displacement, forced migration, planned relocation);
- Ensure migrants are included disaster preparedness activities, assessments, and have information available to them in local languages.



Resources such as the Climate Centre: <https://www.climatecentre.org/> and Climate training toolkit were discussed, as well as opportunities to engage with other RCRC departments within NSs and the Movement to understand the current and future trends anticipated on climate induced migration, and complementary actions to respond to the specific protection needs of people impacted by climate change



Ensuring the Sustainability of the APMN: What does this look like?

A key priority as the APMN continues to progress towards action is to ensure more National Societies and focal points can participate in trainings, workshops, capacity building opportunities and work towards cross border partnerships, projects and activities. The suggestion for an 'APMN Migration Solidarity Fund' was pitched to members at the meeting, a concept adapted from European Migration Network PERCO.

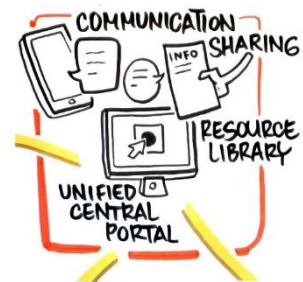
The voluntary fund could involve contributions from Asia Pacific NSs, Partner NSs, ICRC, IFRC or other sources to progress cross border/bilateral engagement between NSs. The fund could support NS to participate in APMN including:

- Peer to peer learning or capacity building on migration (building off learning and sharing activity)
- Attendance at Movement trainings and workshops on migration
- APMN AGM and regional migration workshop
- Support for a cross border activity proposed by NS or working group project or proposal (including research)

The APMN secretariat will develop a draft of the fund for feedback from APMN members.

Communication platform

As recommended by focal points at the last two APMN AGMs, the APMN Secretariat advised members of the progress to develop a communication and collaboration platform for the APMN. The ICRC Communities of Practice page was recommended and ICRC has advised they would be honoured to host the APMN here. A small group of members provided feedback on how the page could be used, and it was decided to move forward and develop the page with a number of NS to test and trial the page. The facebook page, skype, whatsapp and email were all noted as important tools for connectivity for the APMN, however moving towards innovative communication methods should remain a key focus.



Role of the APMN Focal Point: Building Capacity of National Societies and Engaging Leadership

Building on a key priority from the 2018 APMN work plan and feedback given through the 2019 APMN survey on migration, members reiterated the importance of building the capacity of the focal point and their National Society on migration, strengthening the relationship between the focal point and their National Society leadership, and continuing to formalise the role of the focal points. The following key considerations were raised through discussions:

- Importance of maintaining good communication with leadership, reporting the APMN activities to leadership;
- Importance of forwarding information to provincial branches;
- Importance of engaging leadership on regional and statutory meetings and conferences related to migration, and external opportunities (i.e. through the Global Compact on Migration, Bali Process etc)
- Importance of raising interest on what is working through using evidence, guidance notes and reports shared through APMN, IFRC and ICRC; summarising and keeping information clear and simple for leadership.



Some of the challenges identified with being a focal point included:

- That migration not yet a priority for the NS;
- The network needs to be more formalised;
- There is limited time and competing work;
- Sharing information is hard when the board and senior management is not on board;
- We need more than one person to support engagement within the country and participation in the APMN.
- Balancing opportunities presented by increasing knowledge and understanding of the RCRC role on migration with existing priorities when migration is not yet formally acknowledged in organisation strategies and plans

Next Steps: APMN focal point and the Secretariat agreed to progress the following next steps to strengthen the role of the focal point:

- **APMN Secretariat** to re-circulate the Focal point nomination form to NSs given changes with staff, working groups and activities as recognition of the role of the focal point with leadership with Terms of Reference (ToR);
- **APMN Secretariat** to continue providing training and capacity building opportunities for focal points
- Based on the ToR, **APMN Focal Points** to develop some simple communication around the role of the focal point within your NS:
 - FP as the added value to existing role and organisation
 - FP as the ambassador on migration and sharing of knowledge with their NS and the APMN
- If appropriate, **APMN focal points** to enquire with NS leadership about having a potential % of time allocated each week to work on APMN activities and contribute to the network. (e.g. for 0.5 or 1 day:
- **APMN focal points** to reach out to colleagues interested in migration to form a small 'community of practice' to support engagement and dissemination of learnings, and to support the focal point to represent the NS through the APMN working groups, events, training and activities.
- **APMN Secretariat and Focal Points** to keep IFRC and ICRC delegations informed of activities, challenges and opportunities regarding migration.
- **IFRC and ICRC to work with NS** to find an appropriate solution to the increasing knowledge and engagement on migration, and how that corresponds with existing work and strategies of ICRC/IFRC/NSs

Closing: The International Conference, APMN Pledge, and Strategy 2030

In closing of the AGM, National Societies received an update from the IFRC Asia Pacific Migration and Displacement Coordinator, Zeke Simperingham on migration at the Statutory Meetings, including the 'spotlight session on migration'. Strategy 2030 will also be adopted at the statutory meetings, with migration and climate change being two of five key humanitarian challenges identified over the next 10 years for the IFRC.

National Societies agreed to develop an APMN pledge between Asia Pacific National Societies for endorsement at the statutory meetings, as a means to raise profile of the network, build collaboration across the region on migration, and progress leadership support and sustainability of the APMNs long term objectives. A suggestion to host a government, civil society and National Society joint meeting next year with the focus on bringing lived experience to the forefront of conversations was also acknowledged by the group.

The breadth of migration activities in the Asia Pacific is both a result of the collective efforts of the Movement, but also the incredible work of Asia Pacific National Societies. The engagement and participation of attendees at the AGM was inspiring, and the meeting provided a great opportunity to connect with Partner National Societies in the region and draw on the support and strategic guidance from ICRC and IFRC.