

snapshot

## Regional Initiative

# Migration in Southeast Asia

### Introduction

Welcome to the second edition of the migration snapshot, which provides an update on the migration activities of the Southeast Asia Regional Delegation and National Societies in the region.

Movement coordination on migration remains a priority and IFRC is working closely with ICRC and National Societies in the region to ensure the sharing of information and to facilitate peer-to-peer learning. National Societies in Southeast Asia are also encouraged to share and learn from regional and global migration operations, in particular the Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN) and the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO).

Updates on regional coordination efforts are included in this snapshot, along with news of National Society migra-

tion activities with a particular focus on the Brunei Red Crescent and the Philippines Red Cross as they continue to develop programmes to address the specific needs of female labor migrants in the region.

At a global level, the [32<sup>nd</sup> International Conference](#) is also imminent and will provide an opportunity for those present to address the humanitarian challenges faced by migration, both in Europe and around the world. To support this, the Southeast Asia Regional Delegation has produced a short briefing paper on migration in the region, which will be shared with participants of the conference.

Finally, thank you for all of your migration support in 2015 and we look forward to working together in 2016.

Anne E LECLERC, Head,  
**IFRC Southeast Asia Regional Delegation.**



#Protecthumanity

## Rights of Migrants in Action: call for civil society partners

In October 2015 the IFRC Southeast Asia Regional Delegation hosted an information session on the Rights of Migrants in Action project, funded by DEVCO. Held in Bangkok, the one-day event brought together a range of partners to share information on the project and to encourage and support civil society organisations to submit project proposals.

The event was opened by Anne E. Leclerc, Head of IFRC Southeast Asia Regional Delegation and Jenni Lundmark, Attaché (Cooperation), from the Delegation of the European Union to Thailand. The speakers emphasized the importance of the project for the region and addressed the need for increased collaboration amongst local and civil society actors when addressing the challenges related to migration.

Over 22 representatives from a variety of civil society organisations, regional networks and UN agencies attended the event, which was split into two sessions. The morning session focused on briefing participants on the Rights of Migrants in Action project. Co-funded by the European Union, the 45 month project seeks to promote and protect the human rights of migrants in targeted countries, migration corridors and regions through globally coordinated civil society action, with a specific focus on migrant domestic workers and victims of human trafficking.

In the afternoon participants were invited to attend a capacity building session on project planning and proposal writing. The IFRC has now officially launched the call for proposals and is actively seeking civil society organisations to implement specific activities related to the project.

Research experts also attended the event, including those from Mahidol University, Thailand as IFRC continues to also explore potential academic partnerships to support the project and the independent evaluation committee (IEC).

The Thai Red Cross Society has also accepted an observer role within the IEC, to help facilitate an effective and transparent assessment process and to share knowledge of the local humanitarian space and operational environment. For further information on the event and its outcomes please visit the [Online Library of IFRC Southeast Asia Regional Delegation](#).

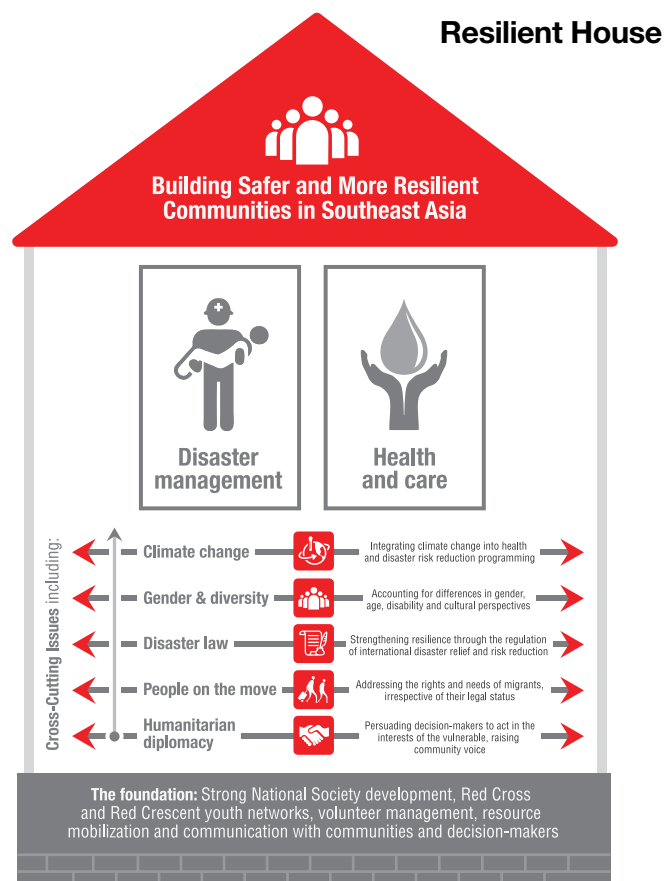
## Mainstreaming migration into the resilience agenda

Efforts to mainstream migration in the resilience agenda continue to gain momentum in Southeast Asia and the issue featured prominently in the recent Regional Community Safety and Resilience Forum.

Held in Jakarta from 4 - 6 August 2015, the forum included a presentation by IFRC on the intersections of resilience and migration and the challenges and opportunities National Societies face within the Asian context. This included making the links between community resilience and the driving forces behind the high levels of migration in the region, specifically displacement by disasters, climate induced migration and labor migration.

Attended by Southeast Asia National Societies and IFRC and hosted by Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), the forum offers an important opportunity for partners in the region to share experiences and to develop joint approaches to resilience programming.

One important aspect of this has been the model of a 'resilient house', which demonstrates the key components needed to build safer and more resilient communities in Southeast Asia, and the cross cutting issues that must be considered and integrated. Reflecting the growing recognition of the inter sections between migration and resilience, addressing the vulnerabilities of migrants is now included as a cross cutting issue in the 'resilient house' model.



## Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN)

The APMN is a regional network established by 17 National Societies in December 2012. It was created to explore regional issues, build regional understanding, information sharing and peer to peer capacity development around issues relating to migration, develop joint actions and contribute to a growing body of knowledge for the benefit of migrants

Recently the APMN completed a Foundation Paper titled 'Migration Issues in the Asia Pacific Region' which is now available in full text and overview format, and has been broken down into sections including key findings and case studies. Please contact the Secretariat at [apmn@redcross.org.au](mailto:apmn@redcross.org.au) if you would like a copy of these papers.

The APMN is now undertaking a mapping project of information, key programs, services and initiatives currently adopted by NS, the IFRC and the ICRC, which aim to address the needs, protect the rights and encourage humanitarian assistance to all migrants along the migration trail, particularly in relation to highly vulnerable groups. We look forward to sharing this information with the Network when it is complete.

Last month, Australian co-chair of APMN Vicki Mau, attended the Annual General meeting of the European Migration Network Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO). Over the course of the visit, the APMN also attended a joint meeting between American Migration Network and PERCO, highlighting the importance and value of regional networks coming together to collaborate and share ways of working, to better support and assist National Societies in the area of migration.

With the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Conference fast approaching, the APMN has been consulting with ICRC, IFRC and the working group to develop a regional Pledge between National Societies in the region, to work collaboratively as an Asia Pacific regional network within and beyond the Movement, and increase engagement with states, to ensure all migrants have greater access to essential humanitarian services and protections. The co-chairs of the APMN look forward to furthering discussions with National Society colleagues at the International Conference on regional migration concerns, challenges and opportunities.

## Housemaids and nannies targeted for basic first aid training in Brunei

*The Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent is reaching out to housemaids and nannies, many of whom are female migrant workers, with a targeted basic first aid course focused on how to respond to emergencies and minor accidents in the home.*



*The one-day course, entitled Basic First Aid for Housemaids, has already trained at least 100 housemaids and nannies in Brunei Darussalam, the majority of whom are expatriate workers. 83% of domestic workers worldwide are female and Asia Pacific is the largest employer of domestic workers<sup>1</sup>.*

*"First aid training for housemaids and nannies is an excellent example of how National Societies can work together with female labor migrants in Southeast Asia. Through the provision of vital, life-saving skills, the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent is supporting housemaids and nannies to play an important role in keeping families and communities safe" said Sheikh Kadir Abdullah, Secretary General of Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent.*

*Designed by the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent, the course is carried out by qualified Red Crescent trainers and teaches participants how to respond to medical emergencies relating to heart attacks, asthma, hypertension and diabetes. Trainers also teach the housemaids and nannies the basic first aid skills needed to respond to minor accidents such as burns, electric shocks, children choking and cuts and bruises.*

## Gender and diversity training examines the needs and capacities of migrants in Southeast Asia

A regional gender and diversity training of trainers (ToT) was held in Bangkok in October 2015 and included a session focused on 'Dignity, access, participation and safety of migrants'.

The session examined gender and diversity in migration, particularly the feminisation of migration in Asia, as well as the specific risks and opportunities faced by female migrants. Participants were encouraged to discuss the stages of the migrant journey and the risks migrants face during disasters as well as their capacity.

The training also examined the concrete actions IFRC and National Societies could take to better involve migrants in humanitarian programming and to advocate to governments for increased protection. Twenty-five participants attended from 10 National Societies in Southeast Asia, as well as representatives from five partner National Societies in the region and IFRC representatives from the Pacific and Indonesia. To access the migration PowerPoint please visit the ['Gender and Diversity for Resilience Resource Library'](#).

## Advocating for first aid training for domestic migrant workers in Malaysia

The International Labor Organization (ILO) and Ministry of Human Resources of Malaysia (MOHR) held a consultation titled 'Towards Happier Homes' in October 2015. The consultation was organized using open space technology, which allows participants to define topics for discussion, as opposed to having a pre-fixed agenda. Representatives from the IFRC Southeast Asia Regional Delegation and the [Malaysian Red Crescent](#) attended the consultation and used the open agenda format to influence the debate to include a focus on first aid training for migrant workers. As the majority of female migrants in Malaysia are employed as domestic help, caring for children or the elderly, the topic of first aid training was particularly pertinent and provided an opportunity for the Red Cross Red Crescent to demonstrate how National Societies in Southeast Asia can support migration initiatives.

Following on from the consultation, the ILO, together with the MOHR, will be developing guidelines and tips for employers of migrant domestic helpers. Inputs from the consultation, including those put forward by IFRC and Malaysian Red Crescent, will be used to inform the guidelines and to support future efforts to improve policies and regulations in relation to migrant domestic workers.

## A lifeline for Filipino migrant workers

The [Philippines Red Cross](#) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to work together to protect the rights of all migrant workers, with a focus on women household service workers. Specifically, the MOU will focus on joint collaborative activities to enhance the delivery of necessary and essential services to Filipino migrant workers and their families. This will include the establishment of an international call center, named lifeline, which migrant workers can use to contact their families, agencies, and governments in case of emergencies.



## Progress report on migration for the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Conference

The Movement has a long-standing commitment to work with governments, host populations and migrant communities to meet the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants. This [commitment](#) was formally elaborated in the International Federation's Migration Policy in 2009 and recalled by States in Resolution 3 adopted at the 31<sup>st</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 2011.

A [progress report](#) on the implementation of this Resolution has now been released, covering the period 2011-2015. While the report notes positive progress on the issue of migration, stating that the four-year life of Resolution 3 on Migration has seen the Movement better comprehend the issue, it also reflects on the need for the response to intensify in order to realize the intent of the Resolution.

Importantly, the Movement is credited with having strengthened collaborative ways of working through regional approaches within the report. This is particularly pertinent within Southeast Asia, where IFRC has worked with National Societies to coordinate regional platforms to address the challenges of migration. This has included the [Doha Dialogue on Migration](#) and the resulting regional think-tank on interfaith and intercultural dialogue held in [Yangon](#) and the Manila Conference on [Labour Migration](#).

## Protect Humanity Stop Indifference

As the 32<sup>nd</sup> [International Conference](#) of the Red Cross and Red Crescent draws closer, the [global migration campaign](#) is gathering momentum, with supporters being encouraged to join the campaign by signing the online petition. If you have not already done so, please visit the [website](#) and add your own voice to our collective call to make the responsibility to #ProtectHumanity a universal one.

This call will be presented at the International Conference in Geneva in December 2015, where high-level representatives from 196 States (State Parties to the Geneva Convention) will be present.

The International Conference will also bring together partners and key stakeholders for a series of side events including an Italian Red Cross Society hosted event entitled: Migration: an emergency approach or a commonplace phenomenon?

## Migration planning for 2016

As a major area of focus for IFRC, migration features heavily in the Operation Plan for 2016. To reflect the multi-faceted nature of IFRC migration approaches, the Operation Plan 2016 features migration both as a standalone area of focus and also as a cross cutting component, with close links to resilience, health, social inclusion and youth.

Follow up activities for the Doha Dialogue will also form a key part of the 2016 strategy and these are embedded within one of the four strategies for implementation titled “Influence others as a leading strategic partner in humanitarian action and community resilience.”

This work stream includes targeted support to National Societies to implement the agreed outcomes of the Doha Dialogue, Yangon regional think-tank on interfaith and intercultural dialogue and the Manila conference. This work will be carried out simultaneously at national and regional levels with a regional conference on migration also scheduled. The conference will provide an opportunity for IFRC and National Societies to exchange experiences and identify and develop a common strategic approach.

## International Migrants Day

18<sup>th</sup> December 2015 will mark International Migrants Day. This global awareness day provides an opportunity for National Societies to highlight the needs of vulnerable migrants and to advocate for their safe and humane treatment.

National Societies are encouraged to utilize the collective power of their staff and volunteer networks by using **#ProtectHumanity** in social media posts, to foster solidarity and empathy for vulnerable migrants, and to call for their protection as a matter of collective responsibility. Using the campaign creative toolkit and resources available on [FedNet](#), National Societies can also adapt the look & feel of their social media platforms for the day, to reflect the messages of the campaign.


Partnering with other key migration actors in your country such as IOM or migrant networks is also encouraged. The IFRC Southeast Asia Delegation will be supporting the [IOM International Migrant Day campaign](#), with staff and volunteers encouraged to come together and remember the refugees and migrants who have tragically lost their lives this year. IOM is inviting the international community to hold the first global Candlelight Vigil to commemorate the lives that have been lost or have disappeared while trying to reach safe harbour after arduous journeys across seas and deserts this year. To help activate the campaign in the region, National Societies can engage with IOM in their countries to unite around the campaigns important event.

The IFRC Southeast Asia Delegation is available to support National Society initiatives and would welcome news of any activities planned around the day.


## New Migration Resources

To support National Societies in the region to develop and promote their migration approach and to advocate on key issues of concern a series of [communications tools](#) are being created by the Southeast Asia delegation. These include infographics and a migration guide for National Societies, examining how migration can be mainstreamed into National Society programmes at a national, local and regional level. The migration guide for National Societies is currently in draft form as seek further discussion and inputs from National Societies in the region.

# MIGRATION AND RESILIENCE IN ASIA PACIFIC

**IN 2013**  **59.4 MILLION** migrants in Asia Pacific

accounting for roughly **ONE QUARTER** the world's total migrant population

Every day  **120,000 PEOPLE** migrate to cities in Asia Pacific

SOURCE: UNDESA/POPDIVISION

## HOW CAN MIGRATION AFFECT RESILIENCE?



**SOCIAL CHALLENGES**  
 such as cultural or language barriers



**FEAR OF DISCRIMINATION**  
 and exclusion or even violence



**LOW AWARENESS**  
 social services, networks and legal protections



**UNSAFE CONDITIONS**  
 at home and at work

## HOW CAN MIGRATION CONTRIBUTE TO RESILIENCE?



**SKILLS TRANSFER**  
 between host and home communities



**REMITTANCES**  
 to home country, providing a crucial source of income for families



**ECONOMIC SUPPORT**  
 in their host country. Migrants contribute to productivity, economic growth and human development



**SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**  
 migrants help to create socially and culturally diverse communities

### ADVOCACY

Through their auxiliary role to authorities, National Societies advocate on migration issues with people at all level of government

### PUBLIC AWARENESS

Education and awareness information is shared amongst host and migrant communities to promote a culture of peace and non-violence

### ASSISTANCE


Assistance to migrants is integrated into on-going humanitarian programmes including disaster preparedness and response and first aid and emergency health

### PROTECTION

Protection activities aim to protect lives, human well-being and secure respect for individuals

**RED CROSS  
 RED CRESCENT  
 BUILDS RESILIENCE  
 OF MIGRANTS BY**

#ProtectHumanity

 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



For further information, please contact:

**Anne E. LECLERC**  
 Head, IFRC South-East Asia Regional Delegation  
 Anne.Leclerc@ifrc.org

**Elena NYANENKOVA**  
 Senior Migration Officer,  
 IFRC South-East Asia Regional Delegation  
 Elena.nyanenkova@ifrc.org

Follow us:

