

CONCEPT NOTE

Documentation of School Safety Initiatives in SEA / **Bangkok** / January 2017

This document outlines the proposed steps to implement a documentation process focusing on school safety in ASEAN countries as well as Timor Leste.

Background

Asia is one of the disaster prone areas in the world and there is evidence that children are always among those most affected by disasters. A school can either protect children in a disaster or put them at risk. There are up to 400,000 schools in the ASEAN region – making these schools safer will protect millions of children who are otherwise vulnerable when an emergency happens.

Investing in Comprehensive School Safety has been a priority in Asia since 2006 with the launch of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) global campaign on Safer Schools. In May 2013, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) endorsed the ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative (ASSI) to be one of the flagship projects of ASEAN in the areas of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. It is a multi-stakeholder initiative, which endeavours to make schools safer by applying and maintaining common standards to school buildings and facilities, conducting teacher and student trainings, school management and planning for disasters. In April 2016, ACDM launched its work programme for 2016-2020 which includes school safety as a key element.

At the same time, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from Southeast Asia have been implementing a wide range of school-based activities in areas such as disaster risk reduction, first aid, hygiene promotion, health promotion, road safety, water and sanitation and youth empowerment. The activities are run through their Disaster Management and Health programmes, with youths and volunteers at the forefront of implementation. IFRC has echoed such commitment by being an active member of global and regional networks on school safety such as the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (GAD3RES) and the Asia-Pacific Coalition for School Safety (APCSS).

In 2015, under the leadership of the ASEAN Secretariat, a consultative process was conducted among ASEAN Member States and key partners (including IFRC and National Societies) to harmonize approaches and tools related to school safety, which culminated with the organization of the 1st ASEAN Conference on School Safety in December 2015. In April 2016, ASEAN launched its school disaster management guidelines.

During consultations, various stakeholders highlighted the potential role of the Red Cross Red Crescent to scale up and expand school safety initiatives throughout Southeast Asia. They recognized the key added values of the National Societies, such as their network of Youth and Volunteers (in many cases already formally established in schools) and their specific relationship with National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) and Ministries of Education (MoEs). Furthermore, the partners highlighted the need for IFRC to enhance the documentation or mapping of the existing NS interventions in schools, in order to promote best practices and foster stronger coalitions in countries.

Objectives

To enhance the positioning of National Societies related to school safety with their government counterparts (NDMO and MoE) and other key partners, through the mapping of their activities in schools, based on the Comprehensive School Safety Framework.

To support regional advocacy initiatives promoting RCRC contribution, approaches and tools on school safety, targeting in particular the ASEAN Safe School Initiative (ASSI) and the Asia Pacific Coalition on School Safety (APCSS).

Expected outputs

For each NS, a concise document (max 10 pages) will present key information about the NS engagement in school safety to date such as:

- Number of schools reached, geographic location and types of intervention
- Number of children reached
- The NS approach to school safety (including framework, policies, guidelines and tools)
- The NS partnership with government (national and local) and other organizations
- Some stories from headmasters, teachers, children, volunteers
- Some quotes from NS leaders and opinion-makers

Based on the request from NS, the documents will be translated in local language as well.

Methodologies

Due to the “comprehensive” nature of school safety, this documentation will require a multi-stakeholder engagement within NSs. After getting approval from the NS governance, various departments will need to be interviewed, such as Disaster Management, Health, WatSan, First Aid, Social Welfare, Organizational Development, etc. The data collection will also include some success stories from branches and potentially key informant interview with partners, such as NDMO, MoE and active INGOs in the countries.

The documentation process will be led by the Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN). The Network committed in August 2015 during its annual meeting to take a more proactive role in contributing to school safety. Although not the subject matter expert within the NS, it is hoped that the youth departments can act as “knowledge broker” among various colleagues to ensure a comprehensive reporting.

Proposed steps

Below are the proposed steps for the documentation, along with the roles and responsibilities of key actors as well as tentative timeframe.

Step	What	Who	When
1	Preparation step. Development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collection tools (questionnaire, FGD questions, etc.) - Guidance note for NS 	IFRC/BKK (CSR and NSD units) Preparatory meeting in Bangkok with 2-3 members of SEAYN?	July-August 2016
2	Launch of the documentation process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation at annual SEAYN meeting for feedback as well as identification of stakeholders in each NS - Technical feedback from DM and health directors (by email) - Official communication to NS leadership for approval 	IFRC/BKK (CSR and NSD units) SEAYN Chair DM/Health Directors from NSs	September 2016 (annual meeting in KL on 5-9 September) October – December 2016
3	Data collection in the countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within NS - With partners 	SEAYN members within their NS Technical support as required from IFRC/BKK	January-February 2017
4	Data analysis / additional data collection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review meeting in Bangkok - Identification of additional information needed - Selection of persons to be interviewed / field visits for collection of stories, as relevant 	IFRC/BKK (CSR and NSD units)	February -March 2017
5	Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First draft for each country - Language editing - NS review and endorsement - Graphic design - Printing - Translation in local language 	First draft from SEAYN members. Other steps from IFRC/BKK	March - June 2017

Budget

A provision of 10,000 CHF was made in the budget of the Regional Resilience Initiative to support costs related to the documentation process.

How we work

Strategy 2020 voices the collective determination of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to move forward in tackling the major challenges that confront humanity in the next decade. Informed by the needs and vulnerabilities of the diverse communities with whom we work, as well as the basic rights and freedoms to which all are entitled, this strategy seeks to benefit all who look to Red Cross Red Crescent to help to build a more humane, dignified, and peaceful world.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



Over the next ten years, the collective focus of the IFRC will be on achieving the following strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises
2. Enable healthy and safe living
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace

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