

IFRC engagement strategy with ASEAN

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1. Background

1.1. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in South East Asia (SEANS) are auxiliaries to their governments¹. All SEANS have Red Cross and Red Crescent laws or decrees and are recognized and appreciated by their Governments who are member states to ASEAN². SEANS are working together with National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) and line Ministries. They are key providers of disaster risk management, health and water and sanitation and promote social inclusion, peace and stability. SEANS are working with communities, and multiply their impact with the support of volunteers and youth. The IFRC, the international organization in which SEANS, together with all other NS around the globe (altogether 190 member NS) are united, has established relationships with ASEAN bodies and organs. The IFRC has been engaging in disaster risk management training and research, participates together with the SEANS in simulation exercises, has an agreed work plan with the AHA Centre, supports ERAT trainings and is connecting to priority programmes of AADMER. The IFRC and SEANS also participate in and contribute to several priority areas of sectoral ASEAN strategies and in a number of working groups of ASEAN member states (youth, climate change, health, social inclusion, among others).

1.2. As ASEAN celebrates the 50th Anniversary of its foundation, ASEAN integration as well as the building of a common community and identity have made great progress. The centrality and the leading role of ASEAN on all regional matters reflects the importance of this regional organization not only for its member states but also for its partners and the whole international community.

1.3. Although much emphasis and progress have been placed on the economic integration and growth pillar, ASEAN's people-centred vision provides a strong foundation to achieve sustainable development and a prosperous and peaceful community for Southeast Asia's nations. Such a people-centred vision is complementary to the global agendas and IFRC's spirit of 'everyone counts' in the "spirit of equality cooperation and inclusiveness", as well as strengthening "regional and international partnership in the implementation process" of these agendas.

1.4. While many of current activities of the IFRC and SEANS are anchored in the socio-cultural community, it is evident that they are also contributing to stability and economic concerns:

¹ All SEANS are recognised by their State through Red Cross and Red Crescent laws or decrees

² Timor-Leste membership to ASEAN is under consideration. While the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society is also an active member of the IFRC, this Strategy only refers to the 10 National Societies of ASEAN Member States

ASEAN Pillar: Political & Security Community

IFRC potential contributions

Healthy and safe living: prevention and control of communicable diseases, promotion of healthy ageing, Harm reduction, disaster response, international disaster response laws, civil-military relations in disaster response, emergency health, climate change, epidemics control and pandemics preparedness all contribute indirectly to stability at national and regional levels.

ASEAN Pillar: Economic Community

IFRC potential contributions

Disasters and crisis - Save lives, protect livelihoods and strengthen recovery: Road Safety and injury prevention, school safety, livelihoods, community resilience, disaster risk reduction, emergency health, epidemics control and pandemic preparedness, cross border support and south-south cooperation all contribute to reducing the impact of disasters and crisis on economic development and gains.

ASEAN Pillar: Socio-Cultural Community

IFRC potential contributions

Social inclusion and culture of non-violence and peace: Youth as agents of behavioural change, disaster risk reduction and recovery, migration, violence prevention, school preparedness and prevention education, protection and social inclusion, community mobilization are direct contributions to the ASEAN sectoral strategies and work programmes.

2. Strategic intent

This strategy is building on the foundation of several years of cooperation with ASEAN bodies, the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and the dialogue between SEANS and their governments and IFRC. It aims at enhancing collective influence in building resilient communities in Southeast Asia by strengthening our existing cooperation on Disaster Risk Management and deepening and widening the collaboration across ASEAN strategic priorities where the Red Cross Red Crescent has a recognized role and value contribution.

3. Critical trends of common concern

3.1. Climate Change and Disasters

The Southeast Asia sub-region is among the most prone to disasters. Such disasters often result in significant displacement and fatalities. From 2004 to 2014, an estimated 191 million people in ASEAN were displaced temporarily by natural disasters and an additional 193 million people were affected by disasters. Climate extremes and climate change are key drivers of vulnerability and cause higher frequency and intensity disasters. The IFRC and National Societies seek to reduce the impact of climate

change and extreme weather events on vulnerable people around the world and throughout ASEAN. We do this through better understanding rising risks; promoting climate change adaptation that reflects the needs of the most vulnerable; supporting integrated risk management approaches that bridge humanitarian, disaster risk reduction and development sectors; and respecting the role of the environment and ecosystems in fostering healthy and resilient communities. Based on scientific evidence and practical knowledge, properly applied disaster risk reduction and management supports resilience and economic growth. Accordingly, this can alleviate societal tensions, limit the likelihood of conflicts and mitigate the impact of hazards on society.

3.2. Urban development and Slums

By 2018, more than half of the region's population in Asia Pacific is expected to live in urban areas. Rural to urban migration is one of the major factors behind rapid urbanization in the Southeast Asia region³. The rise in slums and informal settlements, to cater for these urban flows, has already manifested itself across nearly all the major urban centres in Southeast Asia. These demographic changes require decision makers and humanitarian and development practitioners to work in a different way. Red Cross and Red Crescent are committed to scaling up initiatives to strengthen Urban Resilience and encourage joint work with multi-stakeholders at local, national and regional levels in line with the One Billion Coalition for Resilience and as a contribution to the Sendai Framework on DRR, Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the SDGs, in particular SDG 11 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.

3.3. Health

Critical issues are the improvement of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCD), the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the maternal and child nutritional status: an average of 31.5% of children under 5 years of age are affected by stunting (17.7 million children), and are more susceptible to illness, facing greater threats to their survival in their early years. Also of grave concern are the 5.4 million children who are wasted, facing a nine times greater risk of dying⁴. In addition, some 38% of children under five (21.4 million) and an estimated 36% of pregnant women are affected by anaemia. On the other hand, an estimated 4.5 million children under five are currently overweight or obese⁵.

While the incidence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes is comparable to the global average, this situation translates into a high disease burden, especially in populous countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam: according to the World Diabetes Federation, there were 10 million cases of diabetes in Indonesia alone in 2015.

³ See also (United Nations Economic and Social Commission in Asia-Pacific, United Nations Habitat, The State of Asian and Pacific Cities 2015: Urban transformations: Shifting from quantity to quality (Bangkok, 2015)

⁴ ASEAN/UNICEF/WHO (2016). Regional Report on Nutrition Security in ASEAN, Volume 2. Bangkok; UNICEF

⁵ ASEAN, UNICEF, Regional Report on Nutrition Security in ASEAN – Volume 1, Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, March 2016

Preparedness for epidemics and pandemics is an important component of government efforts in all ASEAN countries, and IFRC and SEANS can play a crucial role. The road fatality rate per 100,000 population in Malaysia and Thailand is about 5 times greater than in Singapore.

By 2020, in ASEAN region, population who are over 65 will number 46 million – 7.8% of ASEAN population, which is comparable to the world’s average, although wide disparity between different countries. The application of the Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) programme and the healthy aging approach of the IFRC will be key components for engagement.

3.4. Youth

In ASEAN countries, out of a population of 630 million, almost half the population is aged under 30; more specifically, 26% of the population is aged 15-29⁶. While ASEAN’s youth population promote economic development, young people are facing exposure to a series of challenges (including drug abuse and violence) due to insufficient access to education, employment and health care.

The IFRC Strategy 2020 recognises engagement of young people through RCRC voluntary programmes and services as intrinsic to building and sustaining strong National Societies able to deliver relevant services to vulnerable people. Young people are important stakeholders in the innovation portfolio contributing to a culture of non-violence and peace and social inclusion. SEANS are investing in education, empowerment, and creation of enabling environments for young people as agents of behavioural change for themselves and for their communities.

3.5. Protection, Gender and Inclusion

Despite the steady progress by many ASEAN States to strengthen national law and policy frameworks for addressing gender equality and specifically the issue of sexual and gender based violence (called Violence Against Women or VAW in ASEAN policy documents), much remains to be done to ensure that all people are protected from the scourge of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in disasters and to prevent it from occurring.

Gender equality, socially inclusive disaster risk management, and gender-age-diversity factors are key considerations in the work of IFRC and its member SEANS. Further to this, in humanitarian action, IFRC emphasizes the need to ensure that community members enjoy protection from sexual exploitation and abuse by those mandated to help and supports increased focus on actions that mitigate and address sexual and gender-based violence.

IFRC is presently working with ASEAN to influence new policy making and practices to prevent and address SGBV in Disasters through research and humanitarian policy advocacy. The work stream is referred to as the ‘Unseen Unheard’ SGBV research work.

The provision of services targeting people with disabilities remains an area that needs significant attention to increased resilience for all. Progressing in this area through specific collaboration between IFRC membership and ASEAN will serve to achieve greater results. On the same line of thinking, ASEAN

⁶ ASEAN Statistical Leaflet: Selected Key Indicators 2016

region aging population is growing and the implementation of initiatives on aging for resilience will guarantee that all ages in society will have equal access to services and opportunities for resilience.

3.6. People on the Move

Globally, there are more people on the move than ever before, with recent estimates at 1 billion people on the move (both within their own country and across international borders) – in other words one in every seven persons is a migrant. In ASEAN, migration is a significant and critical dynamic. The ASEAN region includes major countries of origin (Philippines, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam) and major countries of destination (Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Brunei). Of the approximately 20 million migrants originating in Southeast Asia, almost 6.9 million have moved within the region, up from 1.5 million in 1990⁷ with the remainder moving mainly to East Asia and the Gulf countries. Movement within the Southeast Asia region mainly involves temporary and/or undocumented migrants, with most employed in low- and semi-skilled work in the informal sector⁸. The region has also recently experienced crises resulting from large-scale flows of migrants and refugees, including both internal displacement and complex cross-border flows.

ASEAN has recognized the critical importance of migrants, including labour migrants, to growth and development in the region. ASEAN has also taken steps to promote the protection of migrant workers, alongside initiatives towards free movement of skilled labour under the ASEAN Economic Community blueprint. ASEAN Community Vision 2025, which is reinforcing the SDGs, has multiple migration and mobility elements across the three blueprints. However, there is a need to increase the protection of migrant workers, refugees and irregular migrants, including addressing forced labour and human trafficking.

4. Strategic Objectives

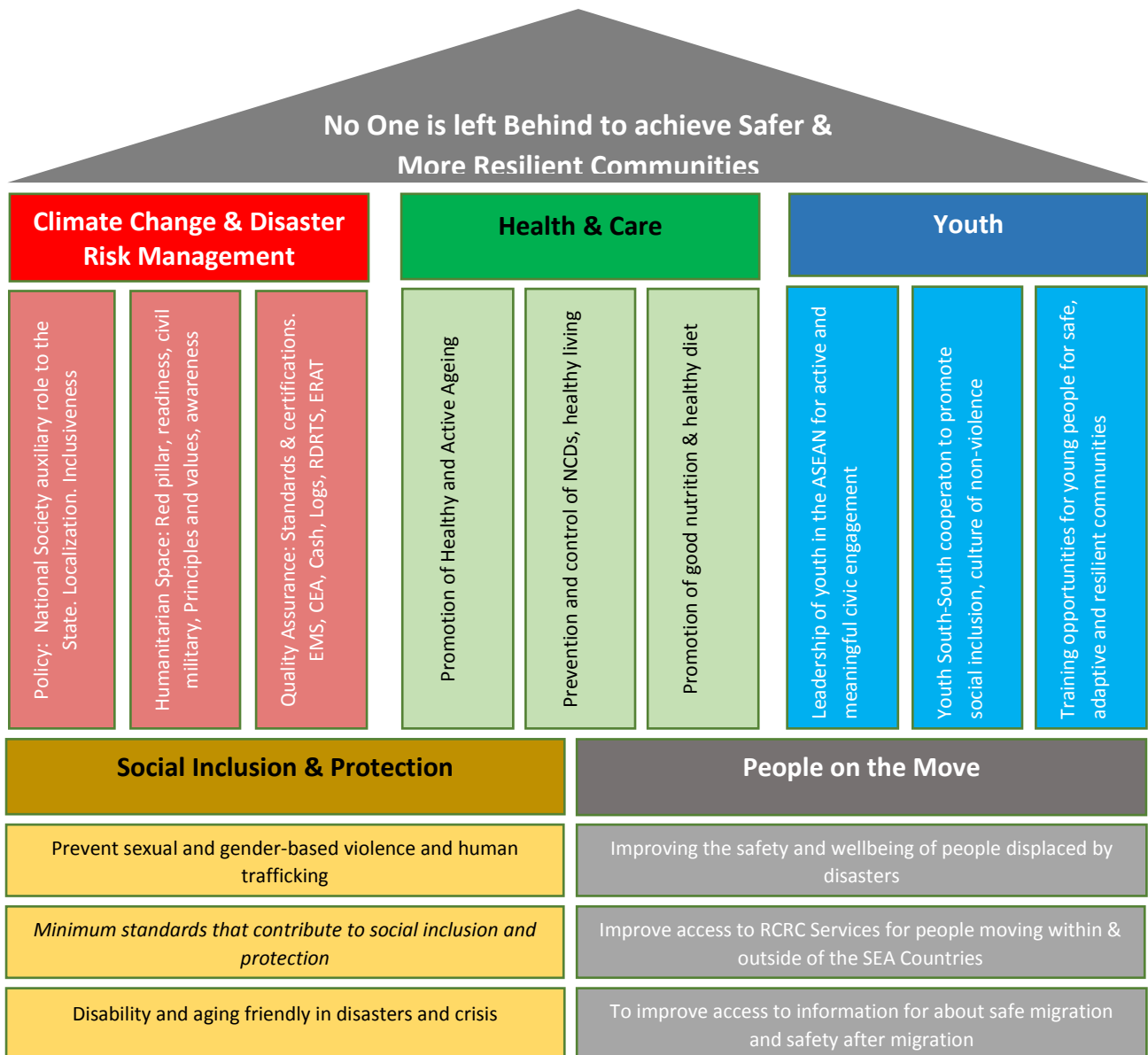
In the context of the **One Billion Coalition for Resilience**, strengthen cooperation in building a more resilient ASEAN community and ensure that **no one is left behind – and everyone counts**:

- a) Contributing to the design of **effective, responsive, climate-smart and socially inclusive disaster risk management** mechanisms supported by legal frameworks
- b) Catalyse **youth engagement**, youth as agents of behavioural change and cross-border solidarity
- c) Developing **protection and social inclusion** standards that apply for all vulnerable groups' wellbeing across ASEAN
- d) Enabling **healthy and safe living** through prevention and control of NCDs, promotion of active and healthy ageing and proactively engaging in epidemic preparedness and control
- e) Enhancing capacities to deliver humanitarian services to **people on the move** with a special attention to promoting their dignity

⁷ (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, Trends in International Migrant Stock: the 2015 Revision)

⁸ East Asia Forum, 'ASEAN Labouring under Outdated Migration Policies' (2014)

5. Priority Areas of Engagement



A. Disaster Risk Management

Preparing for, responding to and strengthening resilience in the face of disasters in Southeast Asia remains a key priority for ASEAN member states, National Societies and IFRC. As reflected by ASEAN in its AADMER Work programme 2016-2020 - *One ASEAN One Response* - and for IFRC and National Societies, through its Asia Pacific Disaster Management Strategy 2016-2020, joined up and well-coordinated work is essential to contribute to safer and more resilient communities.

IFRC engagement in Disaster Risk Management will be anchored across the eight priority areas of the AADMER Work Programme 2016 – 2020, and are essential to *“building a resilient ASEAN community to reduce disaster losses and collectively respond to disasters.”* Through their community rootedness, National Societies play a unique and important convening role in their domestic contexts to bridge the

policy and practice divide and ensure that socially vulnerable groups, be they women, men, boys or girls, migrants or those residing in informal settlements are better prepared and resilient in times of disaster, including through climate change adaptation and mitigation approaches.

Socially inclusive **Disaster Risk Management** includes targeted actions to promote women's roles in disaster risk reduction, supporting local branches to ensure a gender and diversity sensitive analysis of risk and hazard including through engagement of persons with disability organisations and women's networks. Within **Disaster Risk Management**, IFRC has invested in research to understand the real protection risks of sexual and gender-based violence after disasters, which has contributed to new knowledge and information in the humanitarian community on this particular issue which rises after disasters. SGBV is the leading cause of death and disability for adult women, outstripping malaria and communicable diseases.

<i>Policy - Enabling Humanitarian environment / Institutionalization of AADMER</i>		
Focus	Key deliverables	Tactics
Effective and inclusive DRM governance frameworks	Mapping of governance frameworks	NS equipped to contribute to DRM governance frameworks Repository of information and peer knowledge sharing Engagement with targeted ASEAN forums and government bodies (foreign affairs, NDMOs, Health, Education)
Gender-sensitive and climate smart response mechanisms, including for displaced people	Minimum standards in DRM	NS contribute to policy revision and are partners of choice to implement minimum standards
<i>Humanitarian space – Ensuring principled humanitarian action / Institutionalization of AADMER</i>		
Focus	Key deliverables	Tactics
Position RCRC as key partner in Disaster risk management and localization of aid	Mapping of NS roles and responsibilities in disaster management and crises	NS supported as key partners/auxiliaries in relevant national platforms (DRR, NAP, civil-military relations) NS strengthening at HQ/ branch levels (certification) Trainings / dissemination of RCRC principles and rules
Proactively engage in epidemic/pandemic preparedness and control	Guidelines for preparedness, response and advocacy, global health security project (Indonesia)	NS supported as key partner in relevant platform Repository for knowledge and early warning Community based surveillance, epidemic control for volunteers
<i>Quality in operations – Disseminating humanitarian standards / Institutionalization of AADMER</i>		
Focus	Key deliverables	Tactics
Quality assurance, standards and certification	Country research on sexual and gender-based violence Mainstream RCRC tools facilitation, OCAC/BOCA, community engagement and accountability, regional surge capacity, cash transfer programming	Dialogue, trainings and coordinated response mechanisms / surge capacities Guidelines for national and local certification in DRM
Enhanced contribution and leading role in school safety, cash programming and Forecast-based Financing (FbF)	Guidelines to strengthen national and local capacities, advocacy and influence in school safety, cash transfer programming and FbF.	Launch of the 1BC at national and regional/ASEAN level as at partnership platform for school safety, cash programming and FbF

B. Health and Care

Focus	Key deliverables	Tactics
Promotion of Healthy and Active Ageing	Joint technical guidance on healthy and active ageing adapted to ASEAN countries’ context based on the IFRC technical resources and expertise in this area	Healthy and Active Ageing strategy and joint statement for AMS and leading the way for the region; Support in building Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers’ capacity and level of preparedness on Healthy & Active ageing
Prevention and control of NCDs, healthy living	Joint technical guidance on healthy living, NCD prevention and nutrition adapted to ASEAN countries’ context based on the IFRC technical resources and expertise in this area; Technical collaboration for development & implementation of national NCD multi-sectoral strategies.	NSs supported and equipped with evidence-based key messages and knowledge on healthy living, NCD prevention and youth engagement through community based health and first aid approaches; Meaningful participation at ASEAN Conference on NCDs.
Promotion of good nutrition & healthy diet	Technical assistance for developing community-led nutrition & food security projects in pockets of extreme vulnerabilities. A joint regional workshop for NSs to equip with evidence-based key messages and knowledge on Nutrition in Emergencies including Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF – E)	Pilot interventions in two AMS to develop community-led nutrition & food security in pockets of extreme vulnerabilities. Partnership for capacity building of Red Cross Red Crescent local staffs and community based volunteers on Nutrition in Emergencies including Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF – E);

C. Youth

IFRC recognizes the importance of building the capacity of youth as key agents for social change and economic development. The 8th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY VIII) in August 2016 endorsed ASEAN Youth Work Plan 2016-2020 and its Sub-Goals connects with following 5 key areas: 1/ Youth entrepreneurship, 2/ Youth employability, 3/ People-to-people exchange, 4/ Youth participation/volunteering, and 5/ Youth competencies and resilience.

Linked to this, IFRC focus areas and contribution include:

- a. Leadership of youth in ASEAN for active and meaningful civic engagement
- b. Youth networking across ASEAN region to promote social inclusion, culture of non-violence and peace, and to build mutual understanding, awareness and appreciation of an ASEAN community
- c. Volunteering opportunities and training for young people to contribute to building safe, adaptive and resilient communities

<i>Youth leadership through humanitarian education and civic engagement</i>		
Focus	Key deliverables	Tactics

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Youth empowerment and leadership	Training platform and toolkits – Youth as Agents of Behavioral Change	Youth are equipped to foster civic engagement through skill-based and humanitarian value-based education Engagement with governments for RCRC access to school co-curricular and extra-curricular activities
<i>Youth networking through intensified youth-led programmes and initiatives</i>		
Focus	Key deliverables	Tactics
Enabling greater youth networking and engagement through programme delivery and awareness-raising campaigns	SEAYN (Southeast Asia Youth Network), Youth-led programmes	Connect SEAYN with ASEAN youth Youth led awareness-raising campaigns
<i>Youth Resilience through training and volunteering</i>		
Focus	Key deliverables	Tactics
Providing and promoting volunteering and training opportunities for youth	Youth School Safety (YSS) programme, Youth Empowerment in Community programme (YEC), skill based trainings (first aid, road safety, healthy living, harm reduction, voluntary blood donation, support to migrants and displaced persons, etc.)	Multiply opportunities for trainings and providing certificates, sharing ideas and facilitating youth-led advocacy; connect youth-led activities with relevant Ministries

D. Protection, Gender and Inclusion

Much of the work of National Societies and IFRC builds inclusive communities and a culture of non-violence and peace. Our services in emergency and non-emergency contexts reach all, especially the most vulnerable. Our words and actions serve to break down barriers of exclusion and marginalization.

The IFRC must ensure that its assistance work is complemented by vital protection functions. Our operations must “do no harm” and take full account and engage with gender considerations, as well as conditions of fragility: youth, disability, migratory status. Valuable work is also being done in fighting the “silent disaster” of sexual and gender based violence which is all too prominent, especially in emergency contexts.

In the specific focus area of Child Protection, developing training, tools and advocacy materials, and carrying out evaluations related to all aspects of protecting children on the move, as well as Child Friendly Spaces in emergency settings. Ensuring continued implementation of the International Conference Resolution (2015) on ‘Sexual and gender-based violence and providing support to National Societies to develop policies on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and to implement projects to protect adolescents on the move. Continuing support to the implementation of the Movement-wide Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion, and ensuring that IFRC and National Society disaster response and development programmes and operations are disability-inclusive.

<i>Prevent sexual and gender-based violence</i>		
Focus	Key deliverables	Tactics
Develop policies and practices on Gender Based violence in disasters	In-country research and evidence gathering across ASEAN Technical guidance	NS supported and equipped with evidence-based key messages and common engagement plan within ASEAN

<i>Minimum standards that contribute to social inclusion and protection</i>		
Focus	Key deliverables	Tactics
Minimum standards on protection and social inclusion, community engagement and accountability	Increased knowledge and analysis underpinning minimum standards	NS supported and equipped with evidence-based key messages to implement and advocate for minimum standards on protection. Implement and promote minimum standards on gender and diversity Offer expert trainings on operationalization and realization of commitments during emergencies
<i>Disability and ageing-friendly in disasters and crisis</i>		
Focus	Key deliverables	Tactics
Continuing support to the implementation of the Movement-wide Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion and aging inclusion	Disaster response and recovery initiatives are disability and aging inclusive	NS supported with the knowledge and skills to implement more inclusive programming in disasters and crisis

E. People on the Move

National Societies and their volunteers, through their advocacy work and services, play a vital role in protecting women, children, youth, disabled persons and vulnerable migrants. Likewise, valuable work is also being done in fighting sexual and gender based violence.

Greater progress should be made across ASEAN countries through scaling up support to ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable people, including through the implementation of the Minimum Standard Commitments to Gender and Diversity in Emergency Programming or through a community of practitioners tackling social inclusion issues.

This also applies to people on the move. On average, one person is displaced by conflict, violence or disaster every second across the globe. In ASEAN, an estimated 191 million people have been displaced by disasters between 2004 and 2014. In line with the commitment of the IFRC and National Societies to work with all people on the move, based purely on humanitarian need and irrespective of their legal status, and strengthened by global and regional IFRC strategies on migration, SEANS and the IFRC can focus and enhance our work to address the needs of communities at risk of and affected by displacement in the context of disasters and climate change.

<i>Protection, safety and wellbeing of people displaced by disaster</i>		
Focus	Key deliverables	Tactics
Improving the safety and wellbeing of people displaced by disasters	Mapping of cross border movement and branch to branch communications	NS supported and equipped with evidence-based materials and key messages on people crossing borders and ‘hotspots’ SOP on disaster management incorporating displaced people
<i>Increase actions to provide safety for people who are displaced across borders</i>		
Focus	Key deliverables	Tactics
Tailor made SOP on protection of IDPs and of	Increased knowledge and capacities on early assessments and analysis to	NS local branches trained equipped and with SOP to provide services to IDPs.

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people displaced due to disasters and crisis	trigger actions at cross humanitarian actions at border levels. Define core services to support displaced people across borders	NS working with SEA government authorities on joint SOPs to facilitate humanitarian services at cross border level
<i>Access and space for humanitarian services</i>		
Focus	Key deliverables	Tactics
Improve access to Red Cross Red Crescent Services for people moving within and outside of the Southeast Asian Countries and within the region (and improve the wellbeing of children and families left behind)	Build capacities of NSs to provide basic services to migrant workers, returned migrant workers	NS supported and equipped with evidence-based key messages to implement services for people on the move and advocate for minimum standards on protection

6. Resourcing and Partnership

The body of work to continue programmes under the priority areas and strategic objectives is related to SEANS strategic and operational plans with support from IFRC available resources in the widest sense through:

- People - staff, volunteers, youth, technical experts;
- Partner National Societies - in relation with governments that are ASEAN dialogue partners,
- Reference centres – Disaster resilience in AP, Climate Centre, Disaster Preparedness, Livelihoods, first aid, psycho-social support, road safety, nuclear and technological disasters... – as well as global and regional technical networks (migration, youth, gender, cash, civil-military relations...);
- Partnership engagement on ASEAN priority issues and humanitarian dialogue with ASEAN governments;
- A regional IFRC/ASEAN Memorandum of Understanding (under discussion).
- A renewed work plan with AHA

Resourcing the engagement strategy with ASEAN will require specific provision in country and regional plan and budget bolstered by strong partner engagement approach. Crucial areas will need to be considered and properly resourced from both domestic and international funding opportunities:

- SEANS/IFRC participation to strategic dialogues (critically influential/decision-making level);
- Joint trainings that contribute to ASEAN development and standards in strategic areas of cooperation;
- Development of evidence-based research/materials and technical guidelines;
- Youth participation and leadership; operational plans and fund-raising plans will be prioritised for the strategic objectives of this strategy;
- Regional coordination, information sharing and relationships development with ASEAN bodies