

# ASEAN Coalition for Resilience

## IFRC Engagement Strategy with ASEAN

### 2018 - 2025

## 1. Background

Over the past decade, IFRC and ASEAN have engaged in productive and expanding partnerships which align with both the *ASEAN Consolidated Strategic Action Plan 2016-2025* and *IFRC's Strategy 2020*, mainly within the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), in common agendas of DRM, Climate Change, Health, Youth Engagement and Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response during disasters. Through these partnerships, National RCRC Societies (NS') have actively engaged as auxiliary to governments of ASEAN members states, with technical support from IFRC throughout the region.

Recently, the value and potential of this partnership has been recognised by the ASEAN Secretary General<sup>1</sup>:

*'In line with the goal of enhancing ASEAN's resiliency, we looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Engagement between ASEAN and the IFRC which will allow both sides to work closer and in a more coordinated way'*

*H.E. Le Luong Minh, ASEAN Secretary General 2013-2017*

In this context, the enclosed Strategy aligns with the MoU and is centred around strengthening community resilience by focussing on three priority areas - DRM and Climate Change, Health and Care, and Youth. The enclosed document outlines joint areas of collaboration under each priority which will be pursued by both IFRC and ASEAN through programs and partnerships over the coming years. Additionally, both organisations have set the target of mobilising **over 100 million people** under the **ASEAN Coalition for Resilience**<sup>2</sup> which will support resilience activities under the areas outlined in the MoU<sup>3</sup>. Whilst the enclosed Strategy outlines key areas for collaboration, it is envisaged that joint activities will be monitored annually, while the MoU will be reviewed every two years.

The centrality of ASEAN on all regional matters reflects the importance of the organization not only for its member states but also for the region and the wider international community. ASEAN's people-centred vision and the recently adopted '*ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society*' aligns with the RCRC's Fundamental Principles and provides a vision for sustainable development and a prosperous and peaceful community for Southeast Asia. Bridging ASEAN's people centred approach and the IFRC's humanitarian focus on reaching the most vulnerable - protection, gender and inclusion will be considered a cross cutting issue throughout the partnership, bridging ASEAN's people centred approach and the IFRC's humanitarian focus on reaching the most vulnerable.

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<sup>1</sup> Closing Remarks, 31st ASEAN Summit Manila

<sup>2</sup> ASEAN's contribution to the global IFRC led One Billion Coalition for Resilience

<sup>3</sup> MoU mentions disaster management, disaster risk reduction, disaster law, health in emergencies, migration, gender, youth and climate change.

The enclosed Strategy and MoU set the foundation and potential outline for the IFRC-ASEAN partnership over the coming years, programs to ensure that the NS' in the region and their IFRC are key partners for ASEAN and its member states over the coming decade and beyond.

## 2. Shared Agendas

### 2.1. Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change

The Southeast Asia sub-region is among the most prone to disasters. 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 NS' work closely with governments and ASEAN bodies to reduce the impact of climate change and disasters on vulnerable people 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. Based on scientific evidence and practical knowledge, properly applied disaster risk reduction and management supports resilience and economic growth and alleviates societal tensions, limits the likelihood of conflicts and mitigates the impact of hazards on society.

A key area of focus in creating safe and resilient communities, requires integrating protection, gender and social inclusion in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. The Movement will work together with ASEAN members and relevant partners at the regional, national, provincial and community level to mitigate the risk of SGBV, balance the regional social protection equilibrium among affected men and women, address the needs of persons with disabilities and persons on the move.

By 2018, more than half of the region's population in Asia Pacific is expected to live in urban areas. 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. 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 SDG 11 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.

### 2.2. Health and Pandemic Preparedness

Focus for the shared health agenda will centre around the promotion of healthy lifestyles and addressing the maternal and child nutritional status which is persistently low in many ASEAN member states: 17.7 million children are affected by stunting, 5.4 million children are wasted, 21.4 million children under five 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 obese<sup>4</sup>. The incidence of

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<sup>4</sup> ASEAN, UNICEF, Regional Report on Nutrition Security in ASEAN March 2016

non-communicable diseases such as diabetes translates into a high disease burden, especially in populous countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The double burden of malnutrition is impacting on improving health outcomes in the ASEAN countries and needs to be addressed urgently, as is reaching people on the move within ASEAN, to ensure access to health services for all.

Preparedness for epidemics and pandemics is an important component of government efforts in all ASEAN countries. Epidemics are often a symptom of underlying weaknesses in the health system, and water and sanitation infrastructure, and synonymous with poverty and inequity. Risks may be further exacerbated by issues of increasing urbanisation, population movement and – in the Asia Pacific region more noticeably – increasing climate change impacts and ineffective vector control. Beyond the health consequences are significant economic impacts and political and social disruption. The overarching strategic direction of improved epidemic response is, therefore, grounded in strengthening resilience and building capacity at all levels, from individuals and communities to national, regional and global infrastructures; the latter reinforced by the Global Health Security Agenda and International Health Regulations of which ASEAN member states are key partners.

By 2020, in the ASEAN region, the population who are over 65 will number 46 million – 7.8% of the total 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.

### 2.3. Youth

In ASEAN countries, of a total of 630 million people, almost half the population is aged under 30 with 26% of the population aged 15-29<sup>5</sup>. Across the region, young people face common challenges, including unemployment drug abuse and violence, due to insufficient access to education, employment and health care. This is an area where the RCRC movement offers proven approaches to youth engagement, from the local branch youth group to engagement of Ministries of Education within ASEAN member states.

The IFRC Strategy 2020 recognises engagement of young people through RCRC voluntary programmes and services as intrinsic to building and sustaining strong NS' able to deliver relevant services to vulnerable people. Young people are key stakeholders for both IFRC and ASEAN, contributing to a culture of non-violence, peace and social inclusion. SEANS are investing in education, empowerment, and creation of enabling environments – with the IFRC's **Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC)** movement and work with governments throughout the region offering potential for youth engagement to scale.

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<sup>5</sup> ASEAN Statistical Leaflet: Selected Key Indicators 2016

## 3. Strategic Objectives

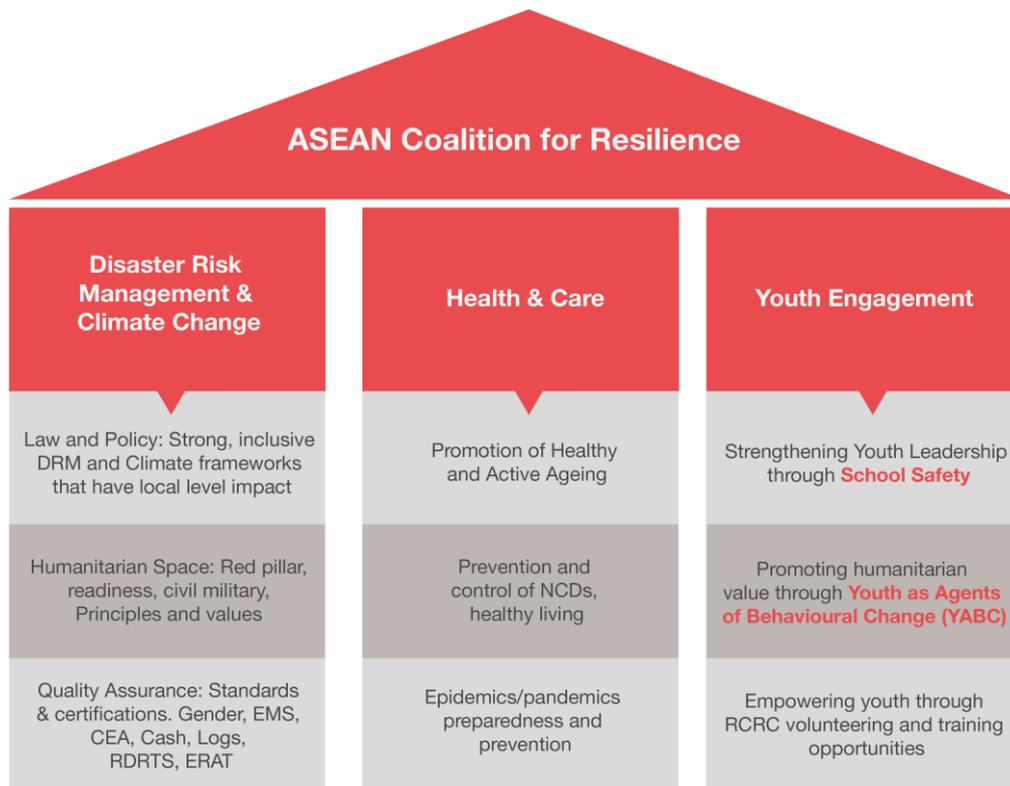
Building on over a decade of cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), NS' and governments, this strategy supports further strengthening the ASEAN partnership within the framework of the **One Billion Coalition for Resilience** to enable 100 million individuals to become more resilient by 2025 by building on and expanding existing cooperation in (i) Disaster Risk Management, (ii) Healthy and safe living and (iii) Youth engagement by:

- a) Supporting **effective, responsive, climate-smart and socially inclusive disaster risk management** mechanisms supported by legal frameworks and developing protection and social inclusion standards that apply for vulnerable groups;
- b) Enabling **health and care** through prevention and control of NCDs, promotion of active and healthy ageing, nutrition in emergencies and engagement in epidemic preparedness and control;
- c) Further expanding joint **youth engagement** initiatives, strengthening youth leadership through **School Safety**, engaging **Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC)** and increasing collaboration on IFRC-ASEAN training and capacity building opportunities.

### Integrating PGI

Protection, gender and inclusion is a cross-cutting priority for both organisations. IFRC will ensure that all partnerships and joint collaboration with ASEAN will align with the *Movement's Gender and Diversity Strategy (2013-2020)*, making use of existing tools and approaches, including, but not limited to the (i) *The Minimum Standard Commitments on Gender and Diversity Programming during Emergencies*, and (ii) International Conference Resolution 3 on SGBV: Joint action prevention and response.

IFRC will continue to foster closer partnerships with the ASEAN Committee for Women (ACW), the ASEAN Commission for the Protection of Women's and Children's Rights (ACWC) and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to ensure protection, gender and social inclusion remain a strategic focus. IFRC also supports ASEAN's significant progress in this area, building on the 2012 Yogyakarta Declaration.



## 4. Priority Areas for Engagement

### ASEAN Coalition for Resilience

The **ASEAN Coalition for Resilience** will be launched at the signing of the MoU as a direct contribution toward the 1BC global initiative to mobilise 1 billion people in resilience initiatives by 2025. The **ASEAN Coalition for Resilience** will include mobilisation of civil society, private sector, academia, NGOs and governments and regional organisations, with the shared goal of engaging 100 million people in ASEAN through joint initiatives strengthening community resilience by 2025.

**(i) Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change**

Focus	Key deliverables	Strategy
<p>Law and Policy: Strong, inclusive DRM and Climate frameworks that have local level impact</p>	<p>Continuation of ASEAN Disaster Law Research and Information Platform using Peer to Peer learning; Tools to support implementation of priority Area 3 of AADMER Workplan (Governance); Gender sensitive and climate smart response mechanisms; Technical support for joint partnerships on promoting protection, gender and social inclusion during preparedness, response and recovery including for displaced populations</p>	<p>Targeted technical support to strengthen partnerships between ASEAN member states and NS' for effective DRM policy and practice including localization of aid</p>
<p>Humanitarian Space: Red pillar, readiness, civil military, principles and values</p>	<p>Continuation of joint programs including training for disaster preparedness and response from community to regional level; Civil partnership to promote strengthened coordination for civil military approaches including humanitarian principles and values</p>	<p>Establishment of Red Pillar role in One ASEAN One Response</p>
<p>Quality Assurance, Standards &amp; certifications</p>	<p>As appropriate, introduce and integrate appropriate RC approaches and tools into ASEAN mechanisms (RDRT, NDRT, ERU, PASSA, Minimum Standard Commitments for Gender and Diversity Programming during Emergencies)</p>	<p>To position RCRC movement as key partner for quality and expert technical support for ASEAN</p>

**(ii) Health and Care**

Focus	Key deliverables	Strategy
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 RCRC volunteers’ capacity 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; Indonesia member partnership with UNICEF; Meaningful participation at ASEAN Conference on NCDs; Partnership for capacity building of RCRC staff and volunteers and partners in Emergencies including Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF – E)	NSs supported and equipped with evidence-based key messages and knowledge on healthy living and capacity building of RCRC staff, national partners and community volunteers on Nutrition in Emergencies to position the movement as key joint responders within the nationally led response
Epidemics and Pandemic Preparedness	Guidelines for preparedness, response and advocacy, global health security; Community based surveillance; epidemic control for volunteers	Positioning the movement, as appropriate based on country level context, as key national partners in strengthening community resilience for epidemic preparedness and response

**(iii) Youth Engagement**

Focus	Key deliverables	Strategy
Strengthening Youth Leadership through School Safety	Technical support to strengthen and expand existing school safety programs and implementation at national level (building on existing mapping and guidelines and in collaboration with MoE and key stakeholders). Improve overall school safety standards in ASEAN countries by increasing child protection awareness and policy implementation. Promote continued collaboration between Red Cross Red Crescent Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN) and ASEAN youth programs.	Further develop School Safety programs in each of the 10 ASEAN member states as an entry point to scalable mobilization of youth throughout the region.
Promoting humanitarian value through Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC)	Youth as Agents of Behavioral Change (YABC) expansion across ASEAN to promote social inclusion, culture of non-violence and peace and mutual understanding and awareness.	To position the Movement as a key partner for ASEAN for the mobilization of youth for resilience building activities at the national level.
Empowering youth through RCRC volunteering and training opportunities	Increased volunteering opportunities and training for young people to contribute to building safe, adaptive and resilient communities, including Youth School Safety (YSS) program, Youth Empowerment in Community program (YEC), Youth Engagement through Sport and skill based trainings (first aid, road safety, healthy living, harm reduction and voluntary blood donation)	Increased collaboration with ASEAN regarding training and capacity building opportunities for youth throughout the region

## 5. Resourcing and Partnerships

The enclosed shared goals and strategic objectives will require IFRC collaboration at all levels for development of partnerships and programs in close coordination with ASEAN counterparts and in line with the ASEAN strategic and operational plans for the region and each context. Some of these have already been developed and require resourcing, others are yet to be developed. The **ASEAN Coalition on Resilience** will be an additional resource mobilisation support vehicle to link programs to partners, including the private sector, under the global 1BC initiative. A separate joint Resource Mobilisation Plan for the ASEAN Coalition on Resilience, will be developed, detailing mobilisation of both financial and non-financial resources. Resources mobilised will include: people (staff, volunteers, youth, technical experts); PNS’ (including those from ASEAN dialogue partners); Research, training events and academia.

For NS’ working as partners to ASEAN member states, the partnership also offers support to: policy and operational dialogue with national authorities leading on ASEAN matters, such as NDMO, MoFA, MoH, MoE; facilitates positioning as partner of choice for the contribution at country level; and ensures agreed and effective IFRC representation for NS with ASEAN Secretariat and other bodies.



*Fig. 1 Students participating in the Cambodian Red Cross School Safety Program*