



Kathy Mueller/IFRC

MANILA CALL FOR ACTION

Engaging Local Humanitarian Action in a Fast-Changing World

Guidance for Asia Pacific National Societies on the Migration and Displacement Outcomes and Commitments





What is the Manila Call for Action

A set of 21 commitments and 13 targets that National Societies will address between 2018-2022 to meet the current and future humanitarian needs of people across the Asia Pacific

What commitments did National Societies make to support migrants, displaced populations and host communities?

Commitment 10.

Address the needs of those impacted by protracted crises and displacement, including refugees, Internally Displaced People and host communities

Commitment 21.

Strengthen our capacity to protect people and their environment to address migration and displacement in the context of climate change and disasters

What is our target?

By 2022, 75 percent of National Societies integrate migration and displacement in their strategic plans, and undertake a needs assessments on migration

What steps can my National Societies take to help reach this target?

1

Complete a migration and displacement needs assessment

2

Include migration and displacement in National Society Strategic Plans

3

Build National Society capacity on migration and displacement

What is the Manila Call for Action?

The Manila Call for Action is a set of 21 commitments and 13 targets that leaders of Asia Pacific National Societies¹ agreed to at the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference, which was held in Manila, the Philippines in November 2018².

The Manila Call for Action is aimed at revitalising the work of National Societies and outlines humanitarian issues and priorities that we all must try to address now and into the future. This includes everything from how our volunteers support people at the local level, to how we use information to raise awareness of the needs of vulnerable groups to authorities.

What did National Societies commit to regarding migrants, displaced populations, their families and host communities?

There are two commitments relevant to migration and displacement in the Manila Call for Action:

Commitment 10.

Address the needs of those impacted by protracted crises and displacement, including refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and host communities, by promoting self-reliance and social cohesion, building trust with various stakeholders and strengthening branches as local actors.

What does this mean?

We need to support communities who have been impacted by disaster and crises over a long period of time, including refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the communities that support them. We can do this by supporting communities to feel safe, to have their basic needs met, but also to be able to support themselves – in other words to be independent and not reliant on our support. To do this, we should focus on supporting local Red Cross and Red Crescent branches, including in border regions. We should also work with different partners and focus on building trust between communities.

¹ And Middle East and Gulf National Societies

² The 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference was the regional Statutory Meeting of Asia Pacific, Middle East and Gulf National Societies. The meeting served as a platform to implement outcomes from the 2017 Statutory Meetings and to set the strategic direction for the 2018-2022 period.

Commitment 21.

Increase advocacy and address the needs of migrants, refugees, displaced people and host communities, including in the context of climate change and throughout the migratory journey, and by strengthening our capacities to take urgent and forward-looking action.

What does this mean?

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have an important role to support communities affected by migration and displacement along migratory routes – in countries of origin, transit and destination. We need to increase our ability to both address the needs of migrants, refugees and IDPs as well as use our voice to raise awareness and advocate with and for migrants and displaced communities. This combination of action and advocacy is a responsibility we all share.

When should we address these issues by and how will we do it?

The Manila Call for Action contains a specific target to achieve these commitments:

Target* I. At least 75 per cent of National Societies integrate the needs of migrants, refugees and displaced people in their strategic planning processes; including through specific needs assessments and the development of migration policies and strategies where relevant.

This target is aligned with and reinforces the IFRC Global Migration Strategy 2017-2022, which sets out a similar global ambition.



Alex Wynter/International Federation

What steps can my National Society take to achieve this target?

1. Complete a migration and displacement needs assessment –

As a first step, National Societies can undertake a national migration needs assessment. An assessment:

- Can help National Societies understand the situation and needs for migrants, refugees and IDPs in their country and in countries along relevant migratory routes.
- Can help National Societies to understand the role of the authorities and other actors.
- Will help National Societies to have a clear idea of where they can best support and advocate for migrants and displaced communities,
- Can help National Societies to identify where they can best strengthen their capacity.

Support is available for undertaking a national migration assessment. In the Asia Pacific, this support can come from the IFRC migration and displacement team, as well as from sister National Societies – including through the Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN)³. Guidance on migration needs assessments is also under development and will be shared soon.

2. Include migration and displacement in National Society Strategic Plans –

National Societies may host a strategic dialogue or workshop on migration and displacement with leadership, staff and volunteers to reflect on their strategic approach to migration and displacement. This is an opportunity to bring people together from across the National Society - for example from leadership, Health, Disaster Management, RFL, PGI, Youth and Volunteering. This may also be an opportunity to invite Movement Partners and external partners. A strategic dialogue/workshop can be based on the Strategic Plan of the National Society, and a migration and displacement assessment. Specific outcomes may be a commitment to develop a National Society Plan of Action on migration and displacement, or to develop a migration policy and strategy.

Global IFRC guidance on hosting a strategic dialogue/workshop is available⁴. In the Asia Pacific, this support can come from the IFRC migration and displacement team, as well as from sister National Societies – including through the APMN.

³ The Asia Pacific Migration Network is the network of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the region, established by 17 National Societies in Bangkok in December 2012 to explore critical issues, develop actions, and contribute to a growing body of knowledge for the benefit of migrants. Current co-chairs include Philippines Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Maldivian Red Crescent and Australian Red Cross. Australian Red Cross also hosts the APMN Secretariat.

⁴ Available upon request



3. Build National Society capacity on migration and displacement –

To support current and future activities, National Societies may conduct a training for their staff and volunteers on the Red Cross and Red Crescent approach to migration and displacement. The training will assist staff and volunteers to have an understanding of the situation and needs for migrants and displaced communities, as well as the principled humanitarian approach of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

A short online introduction to migration and displacement is available in [English](#) and [Arabic](#). A MOOC focused on children on the move is available [here](#). For many National Societies it will be most effective to have an in-person training, contextualized for the specific situation and needs. In the Asia Pacific, this support can come from the IFRC migration and displacement team, as well as from sister National Societies – including through the APMN.

****The IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office is Secretariat for the Manila Call for Action objectives and will be requiring National Societies to report their progress against each commitment and target. Annual reporting is planned for 2020-22.***

For further information and support, please contact:

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