



The 18th Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting

16 – 17 September 2021

BANGKOK STATEMENT

We, the Leaders of the Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, including Presidents and Secretaries General of: Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society, Cambodian Red Cross, Indonesian Red Cross, Lao Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent Society, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Philippine Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Thai Red Cross Society, Timor-Leste Red Cross, and Viet Nam Red Cross Society, attending the 18th Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting, held virtually on 16 – 17 September 2021;

Expressing appreciation to the Thai Red Cross Society for hosting the 18th Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting;

Welcoming the attendance of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and noting with appreciation the key-note speeches of the IFRC President and Secretary General and the ICRC Director General;

Reinforcing the spirit of mutual cooperation and solidarity within our Southeast Asia National Society network and with our International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) partners;

Acknowledging the complex and inter-connected challenges that our sub- region is facing in relation to COVID-19, disasters, climate change and complex crises, including migration and displacement, which exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and the crucial role that National Societies play in preparing for and responding to their humanitarian impacts;

Recalling the 17th Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting particularly in relation to COVID-19 Response and Cooperation, the Manila call for Action progress, and collaborating as a Southeast Asia Network;

Emphasising the importance of shared learning, collaboration and capitalising on opportunities in relation to COVID - 19 response and recovery in Southeast Asia, including pandemic preparedness, leadership, advocating for and supporting equitable access to vaccines for all, preventing a resurgence of COVID-19 throughout our sub- region, and building back better from the pandemic;

Expressing solidarity with Myanmar Red Cross Society as they respond to complex humanitarian situation;

Reaffirming our National Societies' focus on integrity and accountability, volunteering, and women in leadership within our National Societies;

Underlining the important role that Southeast Asia National Societies can play in inter-agency, whole-government, and whole-of-society coordination, including working closely with inter-governmental organisations like ASEAN, and closely coordinating with civil society and promoting localization;



Welcoming the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society as Chair of the Southeast Asia Leaders' group and host to the 19th Annual Leaders Meeting in 2022 followed by Cambodian Red Cross in 2023.

We, the Leaders of the Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Societies will:

Responding to and Recovering from COVID-19:

Commit to sharing knowledge and applying lessons learned from responding to COVID-19 to strengthen community surveillance and pandemic preparedness in our region and within our National Societies with the support from the Centre of Excellence for Pandemic Preparedness (CoEPP) and Movement partners.

Build on National Society strengths and achievements in Southeast Asia during the COVID-19 response including the considerable efforts of its volunteers, reaching the most vulnerable in our communities, providing mental health and psychosocial support, intensive and broad testing, support for vaccination rollout and innovative use of digitalisation.

Commit to developing our own COVID-19 resilient recovery plans, with support from Movement partners to address long-term health and social impacts and restore normal health and social functions.

Commit to reaching all vulnerable people including those displaced, with COVID-19 vaccines, as a key to ending the pandemic and leave no-one behind as well as encourage the efforts of Thai Red Cross Society with the development of the ChulaCOV-19 vaccine as a future potential for the region.

Work with Movement partners to scale up advocacy and engagement with potential partners including governments, pharmaceuticals and relevant international organisations in equitable access to and sharing vaccines with National Societies and the transfer of vaccines production technology to other countries and firms, especially in the developing countries.

Prepare our communities to be more resilient to recover from COVID-19 on top of other vulnerabilities and withstand multiple shocks from health, climate and disaster related events.

Work with each other and Movement partners, to strengthen National Society capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to public health emergencies, remain agile in our ways of working, scale up regional cooperation and partnership, focus on our "value added" and capitalise on this crisis to demonstrate the critical role that our National Societies and Movement play, at all levels, as we build back better from COVID-19.

National Society Sustainability

Invest in transformative action on financial sustainability through diversifying domestic partnerships, innovative financing mechanisms, strengthening our core capacities and services, increasing use of digital modalities as well as strengthening financial accountability.

Learn from shared knowledge and build on innovative techniques used by some Southeast Asia National Societies during COVID-19, such as fundraising through social media, online crowdfunding platforms and hybrid events.



Scale up regional peer-to-peer support and cooperation with Movement partners, for financial sustainability, mindful that reputation and accountability across the network is vital and further strengthen collaboration among Southeast Asia National Societies including building strong network of partners and donors in the region.

Acknowledge the reports from the Asia Pacific Fundraising Network and Southeast Asia fundraising network.

Mobilising youth and volunteers

Prioritise youth leadership and engagement in National Societies activities and facilitate the dynamic and inspiring work of the Southeast Asia Youth Network particularly in the areas of youth leadership, youth engagement, communication and knowledge sharing.

Support youth-led action in climate change, health including COVID-19, disaster resilience and fundraising and strengthen volunteer safety mechanisms and mental health support to volunteers.

Engage youth across Southeast Asia National Societies in proposing innovative ideas and strategies in responding to pressing humanitarian challenges in the region and globally.

Commit to strengthening our policies and frameworks to include youth and volunteering.

Acknowledge the *Southeast Asia Youth Network COVID-19 Report* and update report.

Progress on the Outcome of the 17th Annual Southeast Asia Network Leadership Meeting, the Hanoi Statement, and Follow up on Movement’s regional and global commitments

Acknowledge the progress on commitments made in the Hanoi Statement despite the compounding effects of COVID-19, particularly in areas of leveraging the auxiliary role to work with governments in COVID-19 prevention, response, and vaccinations, business continuity plan for continued operations, protection of staff and volunteers, securing PPE supplies, and use of technology for COVID-19 interventions.

Note the Southeast Asia mid- term review of the Manila Call for Action and acknowledge notable Southeast Asia progress and achievements in volunteer insurance, active participation in national and local resilience coalitions and digitalisation.

Look forward, as a follow up to the Movement regional and global commitments the National Societies, to working together with ICRC, IFRC and the Joint Statutes Commission in strengthening the Statutory and constitutional base, including policies and procedures pertaining to integrity and accountability.

Commit to scaling up action, including through policy development and implementation on women in leadership, compliance, youth and volunteering and protection, gender and inclusion.

Acknowledge notable achievements of Malaysia Red Crescent and Thai Red Cross Societies on statutory revision, compliance procedures and strengthening volunteer procedures.

Southeast Asia National Society Networks



Acknowledge the reports, progress, lessons learned and 2022 plans of the relevant National Society networks in the region, including the Asia Pacific Fundraising Network (APFN), Southeast Asia fundraising localisation initiative, the Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN), the Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN), the Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent HIV/AIDS Network (ART), the Southeast Asia Community Safety and Resilience Forum and the Southeast Asia Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI) Network.

Acknowledge the presentation on the Southeast Asia Network of Responders and note that further information will be circulated to be discussed during the 19th Southeast Asia Leaders Meeting.

Commit to revitalise certain networks and to nominate and facilitate National Society focal points particularly in the PGI and CSR networks, noting that Malaysia Red Crescent and Vietnam Red Cross will move the CSR network activities into online format.

2022 Statutory meetings

Commit to collaborating in preparation, including through online meetings in the lead up to the 23rd Session of the IFRC General Assembly and the Council of Delegates in 2022.

Take note of the new gender equity requirement for IFRC Governing Board Nominations.

Request IFRC to provide further information to the Southeast Asia National Societies on the Governing Board positions and nomination process.

Cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre

Reinforce the importance of engagement with ASEAN and expect the signing of the MoU between the ASEAN Secretariat and the IFRC this year covering disaster management, disaster risk reduction, disaster law, health in emergencies, disaster relief and emergency response, gender, youth and climate change.

Note the COVID-19 operational support from the AHA Centre to RCRC and resolve to engage more with ASEAN on health-disaster-climate change nexus in support of vulnerable people in the region.

Bangkok Statement endorsed by the following signatories from Southeast Asia National Societies
17 September 2021.

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Mr. Haji Muhammad Suhaimi Haji Ibrahim
President,
Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society

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Ms. Chantinie Pum,
Secretary General
Cambodian Red Cross

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Mr. Sudirman Said

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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phouthone Muongpak



Secretary General
Indonesian Red Cross

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Her Highness Dato' Seri DiRaja Tan Sri Tunku
Puteri Intan Safinaz Binti Almarhum Sultan
Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, Tunku Temenggong Kedah
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Prof. Dr. Htin Zaw Soe
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Mr. Richard J. Gordon
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