

Progress of Hanoi Statement and Manila Call for Action by Viet Nam Red Cross

Thanks Mr. Chair,

National Societies Leaders,

Colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to present an overview of the progress of the 17th SEA Leaders Meeting, particularly on two major agenda items (i) **The Hanoi Statement** and (ii) **Progress on Manila Call for Action**.

The Hanoi Statement, contained of three major areas: COVID-19 pandemic; Manila Call for Action progress; and progress of our networks. I will reflect the COVID-19 pandemic and Manila Call for Action, while the network progress will be reported directly from the network Chairs in the following session.

Firstly, the Manila Call for Action (in short: The MC4A) ***“Engage Local Humanitarian Action in a Fast-Changing World”*** outlined the National Societies’

humanitarian priorities over four years in 13 targets and 21 commitments. Although made prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the MC4A included a highly relevant commitment to work in partnership to prepare, prevent and respond locally to pandemics.

A great initiative commissioned by the IFRC toward the mid-term review of progress by seeking data against MC4A indicators from 50 National Societies (38 Asia Pacific and 12 Middle East/Gulf), secondary data and interviews. This review has been strengths-based, highlighting key achievements and high-performing NSs, and also critical gaps which need to be addressed promptly.

Our sincere thanks to all NSs and IFRC staff who have contributed to the review process.

What we have done well over the past 12 months including:

Our greatest challenge in our ***fast-changing world*** is converging and compounding crises. In the second quarter of 2021, Asia Pacific is the epicenter of the

outbreak, with more severely impacting those already facing crises. NSs are at the forefront of COVID-19 operations to provide timely assistance to vulnerable people and rolling out vaccination programs supporting government's effort.

90% of NSs provide for at least a basic insurance scheme for volunteers – 4 NSs established Solidarity Fund providing for a more comprehensive safety net for volunteers. And 15 innovative youth-led projects were implemented under the Southeast Asia Youth Network Call for Proposals.

100 % of IFRC-supported operations are registered on the **GO platform**, allowing National Societies and partners to access interactive data related to each emergency;

100% of NSs are using connectivity tools such as social media (**Facebook, Twitter and You Tube**) in communications.

The pandemic has expedited ***local humanitarian action*** and localized disaster response due to movement restrictions,

while NSs have adapted to new ways of working and providing remote support. National Society Development is emerging as a foremost priority, so that they may fulfil their auxiliary role to governments and transform ways of working to be COVID-19-safe and disaster-ready.

There are many good practices, for example the “**Market Place**” and “**Connecting communities - overcoming challenges**” organized by VNRC.

In terms of “**Cash Readiness**”, 63% of NSs are cash ready or cash capable in which NSs use Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in their operations including Covid-19 pandemic and more NSs are interested in CVA and in the process to be cash ready.

For **Local Humanitarian Action** targets, some good progress has been made in mainstreaming PGI in terms of consistency of language, data collection and training, greater focus is needed in all operations to ensure dignity, access participation and safety for all served.

63% of NSs include migrants, refugees and/or internally displaced people in their COVID-19 Response Plan.

Moving to **Fast Changing World** targets, we are proud of 2 approved and active Early Action Protocol for typhoons (the Philippines) and Heatwave (Viet Nam) and more orientation on FbF is in process.

What we have not done well and will do more till the end of 2022:

Women's Leadership as it is reported that only 20% (out of 50 % target) of the Southeast Asia NSs governance are women while 4 NSs have their female presidents and others have women in Board, SG and Department Heads.

100% of NSs have policies in place on: the prevention of fraud and corruption, and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), to maintain the highest standards of integrity, probity, transparency and accountability to our communities and partners.

While we have seen some progress, work against this target has been delayed by COVID-19. Without significant additional resources, we are unlikely to see all NSs with policies in place in these areas by the end of 2022.

Strong NSs must be better prepared to respond to the increasing numbers of climate disasters, now and after COVID-19. The needs of migrants, refugees and displaced people are increasingly being identified and addressed by NSs. Cash programming is increasingly supporting localized responses and providing greater dignity for impacted populations.

SEA NSs must also keep **engaging** for resilience with diverse communities and stakeholders and maintain their focus on continual improvement, organizational development and building support for humanitarian values.

And secondly, on Hanoi Statement.

Just to remind all of us that we have seven statements as follows:

1. COVID-19 Response focusing on **addressing donor fatigue and ensuring financial sustainability** has seen new approaches in addition to the traditional methods of fundraising from movement partners, UN agencies and the public. These include a new stream of income called *ResponseMalaysia* by the Malaysian Red Crescent, Virtual Volunteer run fundraising and income generation by Philippine Red Cross.
2. In terms of **securing PPE supplies**: all NSs in the region have identified suppliers and have sufficient stocks of PPEs, as well as established agreements to accelerate and facilitate PPE supplies.
3. The **use of technology for COVID-19 interventions** has led to some promising results.
 - In Thailand – the *Phonphai* application which was originally designed for disaster response has been modified to respond to COVID-19 support;

- The Malaysian Red Crescent developed *MyVac* application to mobilize volunteers for COVID-19 vaccination, data collection and digital platform for cash intervention.
- Philippine Red Cross developed online booking for COVID-19 testing; mobile vaccination through the “*Bakuna*” Vaccination Bus; remote collection of saliva for RT-PCR test through partner motorcycle, vehicle for hire and package delivery, among others.
- In Indonesia – PMI has utilized *SIAMO* application to track and record volunteer’s mobilization during COVID-19 operation and regularly monitor volunteers’ health condition

4. Most NSs have continued application of **business continuity plan** (BCP) and processes in response to their dynamic and complex contexts. They are yet to be fully rolled out into NS-wide plans or procedures. Timor-Leste has integrated COVID-19 context in BCP for natural hazards.

5. For protection of staff and volunteers:

All NSs have applied strong measures ensuring all deployed volunteers are insured and protected with PPEs. The Malaysian Red Crescent, the Indonesian Red Cross, the Myanmar Red Cross and Viet Nam RC have set up '*Solidarity Funds*' for their volunteers and staff. PMI uses SIAMO app for personnel's daily health monitoring

6. A wide range of measures for **community reach** have been adopted including: **reaching people** throughout Thailand through *Phonphai*, and regular blood donation drives, humanitarian markets by VNRC, establishing molecular laboratories for testing by Philippine Red Cross, establishing online information centre for plasma convalescent collection and providing MHPSS by PMI, provided management of the dead and distributed food packages for hard-to-reach people in Timor-Leste. Myanmar Red Cross collaborated with partners in provision of

in-kind food assistance and Non-Food Items in context of COVID-19 and Civil Unrest response operations.

7. All NSs have **strengthened their auxiliary role** and are working along with government for prevention, response and vaccinations. VNRC is a member of the National Steering Committee for COVID-19. The Malaysian Red Crescent was appointed to the National Vaccination Task Force of the government. Philippine Red Cross is key partner of the government in the distribution of goods and services. In Indonesia, most branches are appointed as member of local COVID-19 Response Acceleration Task Force. In Timor-Leste, Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste is responsible for three out of five pillars in the government's strategy.

Thank you very much for your attention!