

# Asia Pacific Migration Network

Progress report / South East Asia Leaders' Meeting / September 2021

## Introduction

The Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN) is a regional network of Asia Pacific Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, established by 17 Asia Pacific National Societies in 2012. The current co-Chairs are the Maldivian Red Crescent and Philippine Red Cross, and the Secretariat is hosted by the Australian Red Cross. The Network is supported by the IFRC and the ICRC. As at mid-2021, 20 Asia Pacific National Societies have formally nominated a Migration focal point to participate in the APMN.

The APMN supports National Societies to strengthen technical and operational capacity on migration, contextualised by local knowledge. The APMN also provides a platform for regional advocacy and communication on the IFRC's and National Societies' role and approach to migration, both internally and externally with partners.

The APMN aims to connect and strengthen the work of its members on migration through the following focus areas, aligned with the IFRC Global Strategy on Migration and the Asia Pacific Framework for Action on Migration and Displacement:

1. Guide and Support Implementation of the IFRC Global Migration Strategy, and develop tools and guidance
2. Knowledge and Experience exchange, and Capacity Strengthening Initiatives
3. Engagement in Policy and Advocacy Initiatives; and Principled Partnerships
4. Guide and Support the Development and Implementation of Movement Policy, Commitments and Resolutions

## Key progress in 2021

### Guide and Support Implementation of the IFRC Global Migration Strategy, and develop tools and guidance

- The APMN co-developed with IFRC *Guidance for Asia Pacific National Societies on Conducting a Migration and Displacement Needs Assessment*. The new Guidance was reviewed by AP NSs, presented to the APMN in an interactive webinar and will be piloted by a number of NSs in the near future.
- The Guidance is also being used by National Societies in other regions including in Africa and Europe

### Knowledge and Experience exchange, and Capacity Strengthening Initiatives

- The APMN progressed work in its key focus areas through quarterly focal point meetings, webinars, working groups, peer to peer learning, and the annual regional meeting.
- In 2021 the sub-regional and thematic working groups continue to meet regularly to share experiences, challenges and information between sister National Societies to strengthen work at the local and national level. The current working groups are focused on:

- Climate Change, Migration and Displacement
  - Labour Migration and Trafficking
  - Migration in the Pacific
- In April, the IFRC launched an e-module on [Understanding and Responding to Trafficking in Persons](#) developed in partnership with the British Red Cross and Australian Red Cross. The introductory course covers topics such as how to recognise trafficking in persons and what steps National Societies can take to prevent and respond to this protection issue. The APMN is hosting a series of discussion sessions to accompany the launch and support Asia Pacific National Society Migration focal points as they undertake the e-module.
  - The annual **APMN Peer to Peer Learning Exchange Programme** is being held in an online format in September and October 2021 and will involve the participation of six National Society representatives including from PMI and the Malaysian Red Crescent Society.

### **Engagement in Policy and Advocacy Initiatives; and Principled Partnerships**

- In March 2021, APMN participated in the [Intergovernmental Asia Pacific Regional Review of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (the GCM) as part of the RCRC Movement delegation, represented by Fathimath Himya, Secretary General of Maldivian Red Crescent and APMN co-Chair. Himya delivered an intervention during a roundtable on *Strengthening evidence-based policymaking, public debate and cooperation for safe, orderly and regular migration* highlighting several National Society examples, including from Cambodia Red Cross and the Philippine Red Cross.
- In preparation for the Regional Review of the GCM, the APMN supported by IFRC, hosted a webinar for migration focal points on *Understanding the GCM and opportunities for National Societies to engage*. National Societies provides updates on their humanitarian diplomacy efforts related to the GCM, including engagement with governments, CSOs and other National Societies, and discussed opportunities for advocacy at the national level. In response to this webinar, an ‘engagement tool’ for National Societies was developed by the APMN referencing the Movement’s approach to migration, the opportunity of GCM, key messages, National Society case studies and practical steps National Societies could take to engage with their governments and other stakeholders. Summaries of ten states’ voluntary submissions on their implementation of the GCM in preparation for the regional review were shared with National Society focal points to inform further discussions on humanitarian diplomacy opportunities.

### **Guide and Support the Development and Implementation of Movement Policy, Commitments and Resolutions**

- In March 2021, the [RCRC Global Migration Lab](#) released a report focusing on the impacts of COVID-19 and related policy measures on migrants’ access to basic services. The report, [Locked down and left out? Why access to basic services for migrants is critical to our COVID-19 response and recovery](#), includes case studies from the Philippine Red Cross and Australian Red Cross. The report was promoted through [Red Talks](#) which featured an interview with a volunteer from the Philippine Red Cross.

### Key recommendations for SEA Leaders

Aligned with the IFRC Migration and Displacement priority areas, the APMN calls on leaders of South East Asian National Societies to:

- Ensure access to essential services by all migrants, irrespective of their legal status, including through search and rescue efforts, and provision of humanitarian assistance to save lives
- Uphold and advocate for the protection of the fundamental rights of migrants
- Inspire urgent action on climate-related migration and displacement
- Ensure inclusion of migrants within National Societies, particularly at decision-making levels

The APMN also welcomes continued support for the APMN from South East Asian National Society leaders including though:

- Nominating a dedicated National Society migration focal point to participate in the APMN
- Supporting migration focal points to participate in activities and represent their National Society within the APMN
- Supporting migration focal points to engage in regional and sub-regional cross-border engagement at the local level with sister National Societies.

### Summary plans for 2022

- Implement the APMN 2022 workplan, to be developed and endorsed at the 2021 APMN Annual Meeting (held online on 28 October 2021)
- Continue to support cross-border engagement between sister National Societies on migration and displacement, and leverage the RCRC network in countries of origin, transit, destination and return to respond to humanitarian needs at key points of vulnerability
- Through the APMN Steering Group (comprised of the APMN co-Chairs, APMN Secretariat, IFRC and ICRC), explore opportunities to support National Societies' engagement in national, regional and global policy fora, including the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in 2022, with advocacy messages aligned with IFRC global advocacy messages and priorities.
- Explore mechanisms to host the second online APMN Peer-to-Peer learning programme for National Society Migration focal points
- In partnership with IFRC, support Asia Pacific National Societies to undertake the new [IFRC e-module on climate-related displacement](#)
- Support implementation of recommendations contained in research published by the RCRC Global Migration Lab

### Contact information

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