

SEA Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI) Network

[Progress report](#) / [South East Asia](#) / September 2021

Introduction

Protection, gender and inclusion in humanitarian action is crucial for impact, accountability and effectiveness within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In practice, it means transparently identifying and meeting the needs of the most at-risk to the impacts of disasters in communities and consistently ensuring that our work is underpinned by human dignity, equitable access to services, community participation and safety.

The approach taken by the Movement is outlined in the forthcoming *IFRC Operational Framework on Protection, Gender and Inclusion 2021- 2025*; the revised *IFRC Minimum Standards on Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Emergencies*, and the 32nd International Conference Resolution “*Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action for prevention and response*” which is binding on all National Societies and calls for greater attention to prevention, response and mitigation of sexual and gender-based violence using National Society programming and services as an entry point.

In 2015, the Southeast Asia Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) Network, which consists of assigned PGI Focal Points from all 11 National Societies in the region, was formed and endorsed by the Leadership of each National Society. As per the endorsed Terms of Reference of the Southeast Asia PGI Network, the members were advised to convene once a year for a face-to-face meeting. A face-to-face meeting has taken place in October 2015, August 2016, August 2017 and July 2018. Each year, the face-to-face meetings have been accompanied by trainings based on existing IFRC training resources to build capacity of focal points and their technical counterparts and increase peer to peer learning among members. Following each of the trainings, members have developed / updated a regional action plan as well as national level plans to further PGI in their National Societies.

The Covid-19 pandemic has halted face-to-face meetings of the Network, but the Network continues to share resources, tools, trainings and advocacy pieces on PGI, and each NS continues to work closely with IFRC to mainstream PGI in emergency response and longterm programming.

Key progress in 2021

- Online meetings and trainings on PGI and the pandemic, including:
 - Mainstreaming PGI into the Covid-19 pandemic response
 - SGBV prevention and response/Child Protection and Covid-19 (launch of IFRC guidance)

Key recommendations

- SEA Leaders to endorse the revitalization of National Society commitments on protection, gender and inclusion:
 - Review and confirmation of National Society PGI Focal Points for the Network
 - Endorsement of a Network Chair to lead the Network, with support from the Secretariat
 - Revise the network ToR

- Support to PGI Focal Points to prioritize mainstreaming of PGI into NS response plans and 2022 (and beyond) programming
- National Society Leaders to support reviewing NS policies and strategies to mainstream PGI and adopt a PSEA policy

Summary plans for 2022

- Training and advocacy for staff in leadership and departmental focal points to address continued organizational knowledge and capacity to mainstream PGI
- Strengthened focus on Youth and PGI/SGBV prevention and response
- Policy and Strategy Development:
 - Review of NS policies and strategies to better mainstream PGI
 - Update existing PGI policies to better reflect new terminology and commitments (e.g. Child Safeguarding Policy)
 - Adopt new PGI policies to align with National Society commitments and goals (e.g. PSEA Policy)
- Continuation of regular online and face-to-face meetings as travel restrictions and funding permits

The Southeast Asia PGI Network aims to re-continue regular online meetings and seek funds to meet face-to-face once travel restrictions are eased. The online meetings will serve to support National Societies and focal points to facilitate peer-to-peer learning, share PGI plans and best practices, provide training support, and continue important advocacy and strategic planning on PGI in emergency response and standalone programming.

The main areas of interest for the Network moving forward are finalization of the SGBV research conducted by Viet Nam and Cambodian Red Cross, advocacy and strengthening of SGBV prevention and response in emergency programming, youth as agents of behavior change for non-discrimination and SGBV prevention/response, as well as continued mainstreaming of PGI and protection principles into the Covid-19 pandemic response.

Contact information

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