International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**Asia Pacific Migration Network**

Progress report / South East Asia Leaders’ Meeting / September 2022

# 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 Philippine Red Cross and the Maldivian Red Crescent, and the Secretariat is hosted by the Australian Red Cross. The Network is supported by the IFRC and the ICRC. As at mid-2022, 27 Asia Pacific National Societies, including 10 South East Asia 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 2022

1. **Celebrating 10 years of peer-to-peer support through the Asia Pacific Migration Network**

To celebrate its 10 year anniversary and the contributions of National Societies, IFRC and ICRC throughout this time, the APMN developed a report, [Celebrating 10 years of APMN](https://www.redcross.org.au/globalassets/corporatecms-migration/migration-support/apmn_10-year-report_web.pdf) highlighting the history, key activities and achievements of the APMN over the decade. With the support of the ICRC, the APMN also developed a [short video](https://www.redcross.org.au/migration/asia-pacific-migration-network/), including National Society representatives from Philippine Red Cross, Cambodia Red Cross and PMI and held a webinar to hear from APMN focal points about the work and impact of the network.

1. **Knowledge and Experience exchange, and Capacity Strengthening Initiatives**

The APMN contributed to the annual RCRC Regional Workshop on *Strengthening Humanitarian Action with and for Migrants*, which was followed by the APMN Annual Meeting, held online in October 2021. Workshop sessions included:

* + Implementing recommendations of the Global RCRC Migration Lab
	+ Maximising Asia Pacific participation in RCRC Migration and Displacement platforms, and
	+ Regional consultation on the Council of Delegates Resolution towards a Movement Strategy on Migration.
* The APMN held discussions on its key focus areas through quarterly focal point meetings.
* The APMN hosted a series of discussion sessions attended by 15 participants from 9 different National Societies to support APMN focal points as they undertake the IFRC e-module on [*Understanding and Responding to Trafficking in Persons*](https://trafficking-response.org/resources/understanding-and-responding-to-trafficking-in-persons/) developed collaboratively by the British Red Cross and Australian Red Cross.
* The annual **APMN Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchange Programme** was held in an online format in September and October 2021 and involved the participation of six National Society representatives including from PMI and the Malaysian Red Crescent Society.
* In June 2022, the **first cross-regional networks meeting of RCRC migration networks** was held, including co-chairs from PERCO, Sahel+, the Central Africa Migration Network, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Migration Network and the APMN**.** Outcomes of the meeting included agreements on ensuring sustainability of networks, regular cross-regional meetings, ensuring the Global Movement Strategy on Migration reflects regional and local trends, concerns and priorities and creating more visibility of regional RCRC migration networks.
1. **Engagement in Policy and Advocacy Initiatives; and Principled Partnerships**

In the lead up to the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), the APMN held two briefing and discussion sessions for APMN focal points on *Understanding the GCM**and opportunities to engage government prior to the IMRF.* The sessions includeda recap on the GCM, its relevance and importance to National Societies, reiteration of the Movement’s humanitarian priorities for the GCM as well as IFRC key messages in preparation for the IMRF. National Societies also shared updates on their engagements prior to the IMRF with their respective governments and other relevant stakeholders.

1. **Guide and Support the Development and Implementation of Movement Policy, Commitments and Resolutions**
* The APMN held a consultation with APMN focal points on the development of a global Movement Strategy on Migration with participants highlighting the importance of ensuring the Strategy reflects regional and local priorities and considerations.
* The [Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab](https://www.redcross.org.au/globalmigrationlab/) is currently undertaking research involving 15 National Societies, including Sri Lanka, Australia and the Maldives, exploring migrants’ trust in humanitarian action. The research seeks to understand migrants’ perspectives and perceptions of humanitarian assistance and protection and to better understand who migrants trust (and why) along their journeys. The report will be released in December 2022 and the APMN will work with National Societies to harness its findings and implement its recommendations.

**Key recommendations for SEA Leaders**

Aligned with the IFRC Asia Pacific 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 Southeast Asian National Society leaders including though:

* Expressing interest to co-chair the APMN and/or provided the APMN Secretariat function.
* Supporting NS migration focal points to participate in activities and represent their National Society within the APMN.
* Supporting NS migration focal points to engage in regional and sub-regional cross-border engagement at the local level with sister National Societies.

**Summary plans for 2023**

* Continue to implement the APMN 2022 workplan, developed and endorsed at the 2021 APMN Annual Meeting and implement the APMN 2023 workplan to be developed and endorsed at the next APMN Annual General Meeting (likely to be held in the first quarter of 2023).
* 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.
* Hold the APMN Peer-to-Peer learning programme for National Society Migration focal points in person if possible or alternatively develop a third online peer-to-peer programme.
* Support development of the Movement Migration Strategy through regional input and consultations.
* Support implementation of recommendations contained in the trust research published by the RCRC Global Migration Lab.
* Progress transition of the APMN Secretariat function from the Australian Red Cross to another Asia Pacific National Society through peer-to-peer support and capacity strengthening as required.

# Contact information

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*IFRC Secretariat support to the network*

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