**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

**Southeast Community Safety and Resilience Forum**

Progress report / South East Asia /October 2022

# Introduction

The Community Safety and Resilience Forum (the CSRF), originating from a history of exchange and collaboration among the Southeast Asia National Societies in the area of disaster management and health programmes, was formally established in 2014 and becomes an annual gathering of Heads or Managers of Disaster Management, Health and Organizational Development / Youth Technical Working Groups. The forum is comprised of three Regional Technical Working Groups (RTWG), namely Disaster Management Technical Working Group, Health Technical Working Group and Organizational Development and Youth Technical Working Group.

The purpose of the forum is to enhance regional integration, coordination, communication and cooperation between SEA RCRC members. It is tasked to translate the results of the strategic policy and direction, and decisions of the Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent leaders into operational actions to promote the establishment of safer and resilient communities, through the annual gathering of Heads or Managers in the Technical Working Groups of Disaster Management, Health and Organizational Development/ Youth.

The last CSRF meeting was hosted by Malaysian Red Crescent Society in 2017 which saw the participation of 32 representatives (Disaster Management, Health, OD and Youth) from 11 National Societies in the Southeast Asian Region – Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent, Cambodian Red Cross, Indonesian Red Cross, Lao Red Cross, Malaysia Red Crescent, Myanmar Red Cross, Philippines Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, Timor-Leste Red Cross and Viet Nam Red Cross.

It was agreed in SEA Leaders Meeting in 2021 on reviving the CSRF.

# Key progress in 2022

An informal survey was initiated in September 2022 and will continue to collect input from SEA NS on the design and way forward of the CSRF.

All the interviewed National Societies re-affirmed reviving the CSRF and provided following input:

* Focus on enhance regional coordination, collaboration, and co-learning particularly on disaster management and health
* Take emerging risks into consideration, such as climate disasters and public health emergencies
* Be more focused on prioritized regional agenda, while escorting recent global and regional agenda including but not limited to the IFRC Strategy 2030 and Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022
* Be more action-oriented to promote collaboration at operation and programming level. Also focus on translating policies into streamlined and integrated CSR programmes, while acknowledging the strategic development of other regional RC networks.

**Key recommendations for decision**

To achieve the above, the forum calls on leaders of SEA National Societies to:

* Nominate representatives to form the preparation committee of the next CSRF meeting, which aims to be held in March 2023
* Support CSR focal points to represent their National Societies and participate in the forum
* Support the sustainability of the forum for regional collaboration and co-learning

**Summary plans for 2023**

* Conduct the next virtual CSRF meeting in March 2023
* Review and refocus the CSRF at the meeting for its long-term sustainability, and develop and endorse a regional action plan to be reviewed in the CSRF every year

# Contact information

**Hj. Hakim Bin Hj. Hamzah**

Secretary General

Malaysian Red Crescent Society

Email: secgen@redcrescent.org.my

*IFRC Secretariat support to the network*

**Eleanor Lam**

Programme Coordinator

Country Cluster for Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam

Email : eleanor.lam@ifrc.org