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

**Southeast Asia Protection, Gender and Inclusion Network**

Progress report / South East Asia /October 2022

# Introduction

Mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) into 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 those most vulnerable to the effects of disasters and climate change in communities, and consistently ensuring human dignity, equitable access to services, community participation and beneficiary safety (including from sexual and gender-based violence) underpins all work.

The approach taken by IFRC and its member National Societies for inclusive, accountable, and effective programming is outlined in the ***IFRC Strategic Framework on Protection, Gender and Inclusion 2021 – 2025****.* The[***IFRC Minimum Standards for PGI in Emergencies***](http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Photos/Secretariat/201505/Gender%20Diversity%20MSCs%20Emergency%20Programming%20HR3.pdf)**,** endorsed by and committed to implementation by all National Societies in 2018,provides guidance by sector on programming centered on the dignity, access, participation and safety of all people. Additionally, the 32nd International Conference Resolution on “Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action for prevention and response” is a binding resolution for all National Societies and calls for greater attention to prevention, response and mitigation of sexual and gender-based violence.

The aim of the Southeast Asia PGI Network is to strengthen protection, gender and inclusion outcomes through enhanced cooperation, coordination, and knowledge building among Southeast Asia National Societies.

The objectives of the Network are the following:

* To provide a framework to facilitate cooperation and support (peer-to peer and from the Bangkok Country Cluster Delegation) amongst Southeast Asia National Societies;
* To strengthen the Southeast Asia RCRC National Societies and the Federation’s knowledge and delivery of mainstreaming and stand-alone PGI programming;
* To assist with the integration of protection, gender and inclusion into RCRC National Society policies and programs;
* To provide a platform for updates, discussion, trainings, planning and collaboration on protection, gender and inclusion;
* To advocate regularly for PGI work and update leadership on the progress;
* To promote PGI initiatives and engage with other actors as well as establish linkages with other networks;
* To provide a platform to share challenges and best practices, as well as map and categorize issues in order to address systemic problems in a strategic manner.
* To provide a platform to provide secretariat and peer-to-peer support to meet organizational, regional, and international commitments on PGI.

# Key progress in 2022

Key progress for the SEA PGI Network in 2022 includes:

* Southeast Asia Leaders endorsed PGI Network and re-endorsed PGI focal points
* New Network Terms of Reference developed and endorsed by the Network, with updated objectives, roles, and responsibilities to provide a more clear strategy for the Network
* Quarter 1 Meeting held in March 2022 with updates shared by IFRC and attending NSs
* Launch of the research report “*We Need to Do Better: Child Protection and Climate-Related Disasters in Southeast Asia”* by the IFRC and Child Protection AoR
* Quarter 2 Meeting held in July 2022 for Network sharing with updates shared by IFRC and attending NSs, including PGI in plans for 2023
* Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 Meetings to be held in October and December, respectively
* Potential face-to-face meeting before the end of the year with AP Regional PGI Networks
* Ongoing Secretariat support to National Societies for PGI mainstreaming support into operations and activities, including trainings and one-on-one support

**Key recommendations for decision**

* Prioritize face-to-face meeting of the Network in early 2023
* Election of Chair and Co-Chair for the Network with National Society Leadership endorsement
* Maintain IFRC Secretariat support to the Network
* Continue providing support to PGI Focal Points to prioritize mainstreaming of PGI into NS response plans for 2023 (and beyond).

**Summary plans for 2023**

* Conduct first face-to-face meeting in Quarter 1 or 2 of 2023
* Provide in-depth training on Child Safeguarding and how to use the Risk Analysis Tool to conduct a risk assessment for all future DREFs and Emergency Appeals
* Continuation of regular online and face-to-face meetings as travel restrictions and funding permits
* Policy and Strategy Development:
* Continued review of NS policies and strategies to better mainstream PGI into emergency response
* Peer-to-peer and Secretariat support to ensure strong PGI approaches in sectoral programming, including CVA
* Continued support to NSs to update existing PGI policies to better reflect new terminology and commitments
* Adopt new PGI policies to align with National Society commitments and goals (e.g. PSEA Policy)

# Contact information

*IFRC Secretariat support to the network*

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