

Southeast Asia

Protection, Gender and Inclusion Network

Terms of Reference

1. Organizational Context and Background

Mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) into humanitarian actions 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*](#), 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 through National Society programming and services as an entry points.

The Southeast Asia PGI Network was first developed in 2015 and consists of 11 National Societies located in the sub-geographic region of Southeast Asia: Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent, Cambodia Red Cross, Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste, Lao Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent, Myanmar Red Cross, Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), Philippines Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, and Viet Nam Red Cross.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1 Aim

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

2.2 Objectives

2.2.1: To provide a framework to facilitate cooperation and support (peer-to peer and from the Bangkok Country Cluster Delegation) amongst Southeast Asia National Societies;

2.2.2: To strengthen the Southeast Asia RCRC National Societies and the Federation’s knowledge and delivery of mainstreaming and stand-alone PGI programming;

- 2.2.3:** To assist with the integration of protection, gender and inclusion into RCRC National Society policies and programs;
- 2.2.4:** To provide a platform for updates, discussion, trainings, planning and collaboration on protection, gender and inclusion;
- 2.2.5:** To advocate regularly for PGI work and update leadership on the progress;
- 2.2.6:** To promote PGI initiatives and engage with other actors as well as establish linkages with other networks;
- 2.2.7:** 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.
- 2.2.8** To provide a platform to provide secretariat and peer-to-peer support to meet organizational, regional, and international commitments on PGI.

3. Organization

3.1 Membership

The membership of the Southeast Asia PGI Network is comprised of RCRC National Society PGI Focal Points, whom are appointed and endorsed by their National Society leadership.

IFRC Secretariat support is provided by the Senior PGI Officer for the Bangkok Country Cluster Delegation, and other relevant IFRC colleagues may also attend as technical support if invited by the network, including but not limited to: the Regional PGI Coordinator, Program Officers in the region supporting PGI work, partner National Society staff, and the Heads of Offices in Southeast Asia.

Network meetings, both in-person and online, should be attended by each National Society focal point. Minimum eligibility and designated roles and responsibilities of the focal points are detailed in Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 respectively. Invitations may be extended to other relevant colleagues within the IFRC or National Society, other Movement partners, and/or external participants. All invitations should be confirmed by the Network Chair.

3.1.1: Minimum Eligibility for Focal Points

- Red Cross Red Crescent experience
- Passion for and commitment to implementing PGI work
- Availability to attend meetings regularly
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Position within the National Society which allows them to communicate and work closely with leadership
- Nomination and authorization by their respective NSs to engage with the PGI Network

3.1.2: Roles and Responsibilities

- Regular attendance of Network meetings online and in-person
- Active participation in meetings
- Preparation of materials, as necessary, for communication on NS updates, etc.

- Liaison between IFRC and National Society work under the umbrella of PGI, including but not limited to: SGBV prevention and response, child safeguarding and protection, PSEA, and disability inclusion; as well as mainstreaming across sectors, such as WASH, CEA, DRM, CVA, Health, etc.
- Regular and ad hoc support to PGI initiatives, programs and operations

3.2 Network Chair and Co-Chair

The Southeast Asia PGI Network Chair and Co-Chair will be PGI focal points of the membership National Societies. It is recommended that the Network Chair and Co-Chair rotate yearly, starting in alphabetical order, to give all National Societies an opportunity to lead the Network, with the option to opt out as necessary. Network Chairs have the option to self-nominate or may be nominated by the IFRC Secretariat with consensus from the National Society membership. The Senior PGI Officer in the Bangkok Country Cluster Delegation may provide secretariat support to the Network Chairs and can function as an interim facilitator, as necessary.

The Network Chair and Co-Chair are responsible for:

- Calling and setting the agenda for the bi-annual in-person meetings and quarterly teleconferences
- Preparing content and facilitating meetings both online and in-person
- Ensuring the Network remains active and in communication throughout the year
- Sharing important updates and information with Network members, as necessary
- Ensuring representation of the Southeast Asia PGI Network at relevant regional meetings and forums

The Senior PGI Officer based in the Bangkok Country Delegation, and the primary IFRC Secretariat focal point for the Network, may assist with these tasks as necessary.

3.3 Bi-annual general meeting and teleconferencing

The Southeast Asia PGI Network will meet both online and in-person. Dependent upon funding and any relevant travel restrictions, the Network members will meet in-person once every two years to share updates, discuss challenges and best practices, and identify solutions to further promote and institutionalize PGI work in their respective National Societies and the broader RCRC Movement. Based on interest from the Network members, the IFRC secretariat may provide a relevant training component to complement the Network meeting.

The agenda of the bi-annual meeting will take into consideration items proposed by all members. Items to add to the agenda should be sent to the Network Chairs for review and compilation.

In addition to the bi-annual in-person meeting, the Network Chairs shall organize a teleconference once every quarter. The purpose of the teleconference will be to share relevant updates on PGI

work and to discuss successes and challenges and possible solutions related to PGI mainstreaming/programming and to the integration of PGI into RCRC NS policies, tools and strategies.

4. Finance and Funding

The cost of participation in quarterly online meetings and the bi-annual in-person meetings of the Southeast Asia PGI Network shall be covered by the national society member. The IFRC Secretariat will provide support where possible through its Bangkok Country Cluster Delegation and other Delegations in Southeast Asia.

Review of ToR

The Terms of reference of the Southeast PGI Network is to be reviewed and agreed upon bi-annually by members of the Network.

Contact Information

For further information, please contact:

PGI Network chair/co-chair:

IFRC secretariat:

Runjini Raman at Runjini.Raman@ifrc.org

Senior Officer; Protection, Gender and Inclusion

IFRC Bangkok Country Cluster Delegation