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

**Southeast PGI Network**

Progress report / South East Asia /October 2023

# Introduction

# 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.

# The online PGI network meeting has been held every quarter; the latest meeting was held on 2 August 2023 and the next meeting will be on 15 November 2023.

# 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;

# Internal

# 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.

# Key progress in 2022

IFRC CCD sought out opportunities for representatives from National Societies to share knowledge and learning about protection, gender and inclusion with and collaborate to develop better ways to promote equality, embrace diversity, understand intersectionality and strengthen participation and access to equal opportunities for those discriminated, neglected or marginalized. In June 2023, IFRC APRO has organized PGI workshop for Asia Pacific national soceities in KL. With IFRC CCD coordinating support, total of 6 PGI focal points from Vietnam (1 person), Thailand (2 persons), Cambodia (2 persons)and Laos (1 person) has successfully joined the event. In addition to revisiting of different PGI topics, the workshop was a platform for discussion on national, regional and global PGI priorities, plans and needs for technical support and to connect with PGI colleagues through a peer-to-peer exchange and to identify best practices to continue and enhance active and participatory PGI coordination in the region. The outcome of the workshop were the reactivation of PGI network which was previously initiated by IFRC CCD to cover southeast and south asia region.

Key recommendations for decision

* The PGI Network has expressed strong interest in seeking financial support for recruiting PGI focal point for each NS. Up to the present, Lao Red Cross and Cambodia Red Cross are only NSs having designated PGI focal points.
* Strong interest in more frequent face-to-face meeting or workshop on PGI related issues to build strong network and better inter-agency collaboration.
* Strong interest in translation of IFRC’s PGI manuals and guidelines into national languages such as PGI Minimum Standards document and training manuals.

Summary plans for 2023

Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI) has been increasingly the focus of attention of the IFRC CCD over the recent years. Several good initiatives have been rolled out and achieved by the national societies in particular (1) mainstreaming PGI in their strategies, plans and services (2) trainings on specialized topics under PGI mainstreaming, and (3) increasing their attention to SGBV prevention and response in conjunction with the research on SGBV completed in Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam, with the support of the IFRC and ASEAN. In addition, PGI has been integrated into all emergency operations and programmes within the national societies; for instance, the translation and application of PGI minimum standards into operations like the case in Viet Nam Floods operation in 2020 and Lao Floods operation in 2018 and many more.

The challenge and opportunity for the NSs in 2023 and beyond will be prioritizing implementation of key recommendations from the SGBV research as well as positioning themselves as strong actors in this thematic area, in partnership with related National authorities (ministries of heath, national committees responsible for human affairs, specialized CSOs, UN Agencies with presence in the countries, etc.). Under this plan, IFRC will provide technical advice and capacity-building support to this process.

Moreover, the PGI network also plan to create an online platform for knowledge sharing aimed at exchange resources on PGI.

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