

21st Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leaders Meeting

5-6 September 2024

Session 6 Overview

Session Title Climate Resilience and the Community Resilience Network	
Presenter(s) and National Society(s)	Chair(s) and National Society(s)
(Mr/Mrs/Ms xxxxx) Philippine Red Cross	(Mr/Mrs/Ms xxxxx) CVTL

Key Objectives of the Session
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognize the importance of climate and community resilience and its network within the Southeast Asia Region• Highlight successful examples of community resilience initiatives in Southeast Asia Region• Strengthen coordination and communication among Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies for a unified response to climate change• Explore current and future strategies for developing community networks and resources to support resilience during extreme weather events

Background and Current Issues - Key Insights & Contextual Factors

The Climate and Environmental Charter for Humanitarian Organizations, developed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other humanitarian organizations, outlines a framework for addressing the escalating impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on vulnerable communities. The Charter, which was launched in 2021, urges humanitarian organizations, including Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, to integrate climate and environmental considerations into their work to enhance resilience and reduce the risks posed by climate-related disasters.


In line with this, the Phnom Penh Statement from the 20th Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leaders Meeting acknowledges the critical importance of advancing the Climate and Environmental Charter commitments. The statement emphasizes the need for collective commitments and goals to be adopted by the Southeast Asia National Societies, with the aim of endorsing these at the 21st SEA RCRC Leaders Meeting in Indonesia in 2024. This reflects a regional commitment to not only uphold the principles of the Charter but to actively collaborate towards more ambitious climate action across Southeast Asia.

National Society Perspectives

In the face of increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters, Southeast Asia remains one of the world's most disaster-prone regions, facing threats from earthquakes, floods, landslides, and typhoons. This complex humanitarian landscape necessitates building strategic partnerships to enhance regional resilience. The Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies must be prepared to strengthen the region's readiness and emergency response capacity. Within the SEA RCRC National Societies actions, "community resilience" encompasses an integrated approach to disaster management, health, and organizational development, including youth engagement. As Southeast Asia strives to build more resilient communities, it is essential to discuss ongoing efforts, strengthen coordination, and explore new strategies among National Societies. This session serves as a platform to recognize achievements, highlight best practices, and foster a unified response to the region's growing needs.

While most National Societies have signed the Climate and Environmental Charter, many have not yet set specific targets. The Thai Red Cross Society and Cambodian Red Cross Society have successfully established targets, serving as best practice examples for others. Additionally, the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) and Philippines Red Cross have developed comprehensive climate policies and strategies, which can be leveraged to guide broader efforts across the ASEAN region in adopting similar policies.

Simultaneously, the Southeast Asia Community Safety and Resilience Network (SEA CSR) is a collaborative initiative within the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies of Southeast Asia that focuses on enhancing community safety, resilience, and disaster preparedness across Southeast Asia. The network is comprised of the National Societies from the Southeast Asia region and serves as a platform for these societies to share knowledge, best practices, and resources related to disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation, and overall community resilience. The SEA CSR Network aligns closely with the objectives of the Climate and Environmental Charter for Humanitarian Organizations. The network's focus on building community resilience naturally dovetails with the Charter's particularly in their support of the implementation of climate resilience



initiatives in local communities, the exchange knowledge and best practices related to climate action and environmental sustainability, and the provision of technical support, facilitating partnerships, and fostering regional cooperation on climate-related issues. Beyond this, the SEA CSR Network also plays a role in regional advocacy efforts, pushing for stronger climate policies and commitments at the ASEAN level and beyond.