



Ha Noi Call for Action

OCTOBER 2025

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Showcasing a quarter of growth, innovation, and impact. This Quarterly Bulletin encapsulates our journey, milestones achieved, & aspirations for a brighter, more sustainable future.

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WHERE ARE WE NOW?



THE HA NOI CALL FOR ACTION STARTS HERE: **BASELINE ASSESSED, GAPS IN SIGHT, AND A SHARED PUSH FOR PROGRESS UNDERWAY**

9 Commitments Tracked

SNAPSHOT ON PROGRESS

This quarter's snapshot captures the baseline at the launch of the Ha Noi Call for Action. These highlights reflect emerging trends and key gaps across commitments. A Dashboard of progress is found at the end of the Bulletin, representing a curated snapshot of progress.

Data on volunteering highlights critical gaps in protection and representation. Only 12% of the region's volunteers are insured against accidents. While 67% of National Societies (NS) collect some diversity data, just 15% disaggregate by age, gender, or disability. Youth engagement is supported by strong policy foundations—78% of NSs have a youth strategy and 89% report youth-led activities—yet only 59% include youth representation on governing boards.

Progress on climate readiness is moderate: 63% of NSs have adopted climate strategies and signed the Climate and Environment Charter, though only 24% have implementation plans. Disaster preparedness is stronger, with 93% reporting response plans, though only a third have fully mobilized resources.

All NSs report audited financial statements, though scope and stage vary. Awareness of the Seville Agreement 2.0 is increasing, with 52% trained or briefed, yet overall understanding remains limited. Gender parity remains a challenge, with 30% of NSs reporting equal governance representation and 44% in management.

IN THE LAST QUARTER

- 31 National Societies have completed baseline self-assessments
- 2 National Societies have submitted a validated HC4A workplan
- Webinars conducted on 8 Commitments; final webinars will take place in the next Quarter.
- HC4A microsite in development to track progress and share profiles
- East Asia Leaders Meeting integrated HC4A priorities in its agenda
- Potential development of AP Donor Advisory Group.

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society & Climate Smart Agriculture



Farmers in Kurunegala district, Central Province are being helped to adapt to changing climate conditions with mid-season planting of legumes like mung beans and black-eyed beans, which add protein to the diet and boost income.

“Through the Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP), farmers received sugargraze seeds, which ensured a consistent supply of cattle feed throughout the year.”



Key Actions Taken

To help farmers cope with less predictable rains and harsher dry seasons, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has been embedding climate-smart agriculture (CSA) into its work for the past five years. This experience now contributes to progress under the Ha Noi Call for Action's Climate Ready commitment, by amplifying a locally-led approach that protects food security, diversifies livelihoods, and strengthens resilience.

Since December 2023, SLRCS has:



15,000 supported families through awareness sessions, field demonstrations & community workshops to adopt practices such as crop diversification, soil improvement, and small-scale irrigation.



47 minor irrigation tanks were rehabilitated across four cascades, including the restoration of key tank components such as tree girdle, kattakaduwa (interceptor), and silt traps.



5 rural pipelines were extended, improving safe water access for around **1,500** families.



11 water filtration units were installed in nine schools and two hospitals, benefiting close to **9,500** students and **200** patients. 5,000-liter rainwater harvesting tanks provided to **15** schools, supporting over **2,000** students.



2,500 Students reached through Disaster Risk Awareness Sessions through school-based activities and interactive exercises. Supported the development of **15** GN-level disaster preparedness plans and two divisional-level plans, raising awareness among **1,500** community members and **200** officers.



Carried out weather forecasting (9-day, 1-month, and 3-month outlooks) and co-developed district-level Agro-met advisories, shared via social media and seasonal meetings, benefiting over **20,000** farmers.



1,500 Farmers reached with awareness on rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge



Facilitated the preparation of provincial adaptation plans in all nine provinces.



Encouraged livelihood diversification through provision of sprinkler systems, poultry coops, and community hatcheries, helping households reduce reliance on a single income source.



Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) as the Civil Society Organization (CSO) in the project in Kurunegala district, mobilized the community to plan a community-managed drinking water infrastructure project

Approach & Innovation

The decision by SLRCS to engage directly in climate-smart agriculture represents an important innovation within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -few National Societies move beyond distributing food or cash to focus on farming practices themselves.

SLRCS adopted a community-centered resilience strategy that integrates farming, water, health, and school engagement. Farmers were supported through awareness sessions, field demonstrations, and community workshops to adopt simple, manageable practices such as crop rotation, small-scale irrigation, and soil improvement, suitable at household level, enabling farmers to better cope with changing rain patterns and drying seasons. Complementing this, investments in water infrastructure and school water facilities helped ensure that farming improvements were matched by access to clean water and better health outcomes.

The programme also encouraged livelihood diversification by introducing poultry coops, hatcheries, and sprinkler systems so households could base their security on multiple income streams - not just crop yields. This integration brought comprehensive benefits to communities. Finally, by working through partnerships with government, UNDP, and farmer groups, SLRCS helped build an enabling environment for these activities to outlast the project lifecycle. The combination of agriculture-led innovation, multisector integration, and local ownership positions this as a compelling model for other National Societies.

By demonstrating that National Societies can address climate risks through farming practices themselves, while also strengthening water, health, and livelihoods, SLRCS provides a practical model that advances the Ha Noi Call for Action's Climate Ready commitment.



Community-managed manual rain gauges in the Kadawala cascade

Peer Learning Reflections

The experience of SLRCS demonstrates that being Climate Ready does not need to be limited to the familiar areas of disaster preparedness such as flood control or early warning systems. By focusing on farming practices themselves, SLRCS has shown that National Societies can also strengthen resilience through the everyday choices households make about crops, water use, and livelihoods.

This perspective encourages a wider understanding of climate action. Climate readiness can be seen not only as protection against climate risks, but also as a way to:

- bolster food security,
- improve nutrition, and
- support livelihoods.

For example, in Kurunegala, farmers were able to shift to chili pepper cultivation that uses less water while also providing a stronger source of income.

By integrating agriculture with water, health, and education, SLRCS highlights how climate programmes can strengthen multiple aspects of community wellbeing at the same time.

The key reflection is that the Climate Ready commitment can be advanced not only through traditional risk reduction, but also through approaches that strengthen daily life - ensuring communities are healthier, more secure, and better able to adapt as climate pressures grow.



Establishment of Hot chili pepper varieties (which is locally known as Kochchi/ Nay Miris), in commercial scale had been given as an option, due to its ability to withstand drought and pest attacks.

East Asia 5+ Leaders' Forum – Aligning Agendas to Advance Commitments



The 2025 East Asia 5+ Leaders' Forum, held in Macau, offers a timely example of how sub-regional forums can serve as strategic enablers for the Ha Noi Call for Action (HC4A) commitments. While not explicitly framed around the HC4A, the meeting agenda closely mirrored its nine commitments - creating a natural entry point for shared reflection, collaborative planning, mapping progress, and exchange across National Societies. The discussion served to showcase how the HC4A commitments remain active and are driving tangible progress, including advancements in gender and diversity indicators across the NSs of East Asia.

This approach demonstrates how agenda-setting itself can be a lever for progress. By anchoring discussions in themes aligned with the commitments, the meeting created a space where priority issues could surface organically, allowing leaders to reflect on collective direction without requiring a separate process.

What This Enables



Strategic Coherence

Frames regional dialogue around shared priorities, helping translate commitments into practical direction.



Peer Influence

Enables cross-pollination of approaches and encourages accountability through leadership dialogue.



Momentum for Action

When commitments are embedded in strategic conversations, they become part of the leadership narrative - reinforcing relevance and urgency.

Looking Ahead

With four additional sub-regional Senior Leaders Meetings planned in the coming months, there is an opportunity to apply a similar approach: using the HC4A commitments as a structuring lens for agenda design.

This allows for contextual adaptation, momentum building, and progress tracking while maintaining a consistent thread across regions.

Takeway for Others

Strategic alignment doesn't always require new initiatives. Often, it's about shaping existing spaces with greater intent—embedding shared commitments into the conversations that shape decisions at the highest levels.



East Asia Five Plus (EA5+) Leaders' Forum

22-24 July 2025, Macau, China

Target Setting for HC4A (New Zealand Red Cross)



Introduction

In 2023, the Hanoi Call for Action (HC4A) set out shared commitments for National Societies across Asia Pacific. For New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC), the process of setting HC4A targets was an opportunity to embed international obligations into existing organisational priorities and core business processes — ensuring a strong link between global commitments and local implementation.

NZRC took a whole-of-Society, systematic approach to target-setting, ensuring commitments were not just documented, but actioned.

Takeaway for Other National Societies

Target-setting works best when integrated into your existing organisational priorities and planning cycles.

NNZRC nine-step approach demonstrates how to: Secure leadership buy-in, build clarity and shared understanding, and link commitments directly into operational plans.

Versions of the tools developed by NZRC are available for others to use — contact IFRC Asia Pacific if you'd like a copy.

What This Enables



Strategic Coherence

International commitments are aligned with national planning.



Ownership

Collaborative development strengthens team buy-in..



Continuity

Targets flow directly into organisational plans



Efficiency

Early translation and clear tools save time and effort.

The Approach: Nine Steps

Step 1. Leadership Alignment

Senior management made it clear from the outset that HC4A targets mattered. Direction from the Secretary General, who attended the Hanoi Conference, set expectations and positioned target-setting as part of building National Society preparedness.

Step 2. Planning at the Center

The process was coordinated from within NZRC's planning function, keeping it connected to both organisational strategy and operational delivery.

Step 3. Translate for Local Context

Time was invested in interpreting HC4A indicators and guides (Implementation Guide, Target and Implementation Plan, FDRS User Guide) for NZRC's context. This early translation step clarified expectations, saved time later, and made engagement easier across teams.

Step 4. Build Practical Tools

To support target setting discussions, NZRC developed simple, transparent templates that combined commitments, indicators, baseline data, proposed targets, and planned activities in one place. To prepare their baseline survey responses, survey questions were compiled in a spreadsheet with the approach to calculating responses documented, ensuring consistency for midline and endline surveys.

Step 5. Identify Key Contributors

Key contributors to target setting were identified from contributors to the baseline survey responses, updated and then confirmed — maintaining continuity and avoiding duplication of effort.

Step 6. Meet Directly with Each Team

Working meetings, not presentations, were held with each team. Targets were co-created using the templates, supporting engagement and ownership.

Step 7. Reflect and Refine

Teams reviewed draft targets with their managers, allowing time for feasibility checks and final refinements before sign-off.

Step 8. Secure Senior Management Approval

Targets were consolidated and approved at a weekly senior management meeting, ensuring visibility, accountability, and organisational endorsement.

Step 9. Integrate into Operational Plans

Targets were embedded into operational plans, turning target-setting into target-implementation and giving the commitments operational weight.

Looking Ahead

NZRC structured, repeatable process shows how HC4A target-setting can be embedded into core systems, not treated as an add-on. For other National Societies, the lesson is clear: anchor leadership support early, translate commitments for your context, use simple and transparent tools, and integrate outcomes into planning cycles. When targets are truly embedded, commitments become lived priorities.



LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into the final quarter of 2025, the focus remains on strengthening collaboration, tracking implementation, and aligning priorities through regional dialogue.

Final Reminders

- Baseline survey: have you submitted it?
- HC4A workplan and target setting – reach out anytime if you need support
- Contact point: If there is any change of the NS focal, please let us know so we can stay connected.

Upcoming Regional Engagements

- Southeast Asia Leaders' Meeting (Q4 2025): HC4A featured as a standing agenda item
- Pacific Leaders' Meeting (Q4 2025): Emphasis on climate and local leadership
- Central Asia Leaders' Meeting (Q4 2025): Focus on resilience and coordination



“Local leadership backed by international solidarity produces the most effective and dignified humanitarian response...”

The Ha Noi Call for Action isn't just a document that we endorsed and filed away. It is a living commitment that requires our daily attention, strategic thinking, and operational excellence.”

– Her Royal Highness Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz

About the Ha Noi Call for Action

The Ha Noi Call for Action (HC4A) is a collective commitment by National Societies across Asia Pacific to advance local leadership, strengthen preparedness, and deliver measurable progress across nine shared priorities. Rooted in evidence and peer exchange, HC4A provides a common framework for humanitarian impact, accountability, and transformation.

In response to growing challenges in international humanitarian financing, a proposal is underway to establish an Asia Pacific Regional Solidarity Group – a platform for emerging regional donors (governments and National Societies) to collaborate, share learning, and foster solidarity. The group is expected to convene for the first time within the year.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to the Ha Noi Call for Action.

HA NOI CALL FOR ACTION PERFORMANCE REPORT

**Volunteers
Insured (Regional)**



12%

**NSs with
Youth-led
Activities**



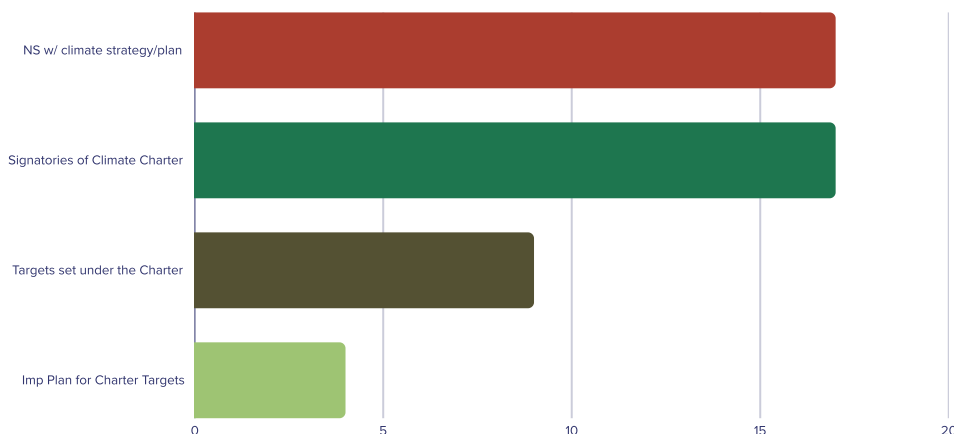
89%

**NS with Annual
Audited Financial
Report since 2023**



20

Climate and Environment



Disaster Preparedness Plans

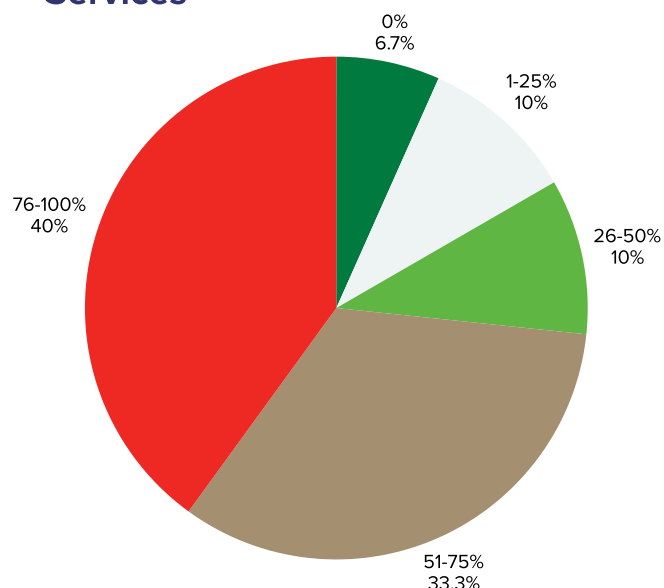
Have a preparedness plan 25 NSs

Last updated since 2023 15 NSs

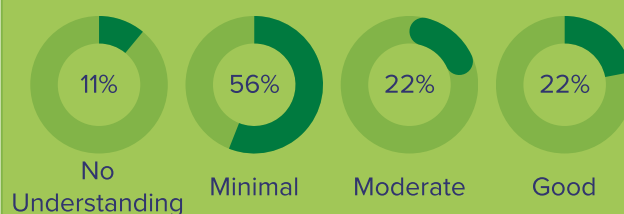
Last update in 2020-2022 7 NSs

Last Update before 2020 2 NSs

Donor Contributions for Funding Requirements for Programmes and Services



Understanding of Seville Agreement 2.0



Women on Governing Boards



28%
National



33%
Branch