



SEA Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies - IFRC engagement with ASEAN

4th September 2024

Disaster Risk Reduction Overview

Common Threads of Activity

National Societies across Southeast Asia have been at the forefront of DRR efforts, undertaking a wide range of activities designed to reduce disaster risks and build resilience at the community level. These activities are tailored to the specific contexts of each country but share common goals of mitigating hazards, reducing vulnerabilities, and enhancing preparedness.

National Society Activities

- **Community Resilience Building:** The Philippines is focused on enhancing community resilience by integrating climate change considerations into its disaster risk reduction efforts. This involves incorporating the impacts of climate change into local disaster management strategies to better address emerging hazards.
- **Diversified Early Action Plans (EAPs):** To strengthen anticipatory actions, the Philippines is developing diversified Early Action Plans tailored to various hazard types. This approach aims to improve preparedness for different disaster scenarios and ensure effective responses.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Singapore has shown regional solidarity by offering assistance during crises, such as providing support to the Philippines' National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) during Tropical Cyclone Nalgae. This assistance underscores Singapore's commitment to regional cooperation in disaster management.
- **Capacity Building:** The ASEAN Centre for Disaster Response's Executive Programme (ACE) is a key initiative supported by Singapore. This program has trained 118 disaster management professionals from 2014 to 2022, contributing to the development of a disaster-resilient region.

Complementary ASEAN Initiatives

- **ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADINet):** Established in 2012 to address the need for a comprehensive and accessible disaster information system in the region. ADINet enhances situational awareness and facilitates timely information sharing, leading to more informed disaster management decisions and improved regional cooperation.
- **ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT):** A rapid deployment team established to provide immediate needs assessments and support disaster-affected countries. The team has become a vital resource for timely and efficient disaster response, significantly enhancing the region's capacity to address emergency needs and support affected communities.
- **ASEAN Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA) Guidelines:** A standardized approach to assessing disaster risks for better preparedness and planning. The guidelines have improved the quality of risk assessments and have supported better preparedness and planning, leading to more effective disaster management strategies.
- **ASEAN Safe School Initiative (ASSI):** Focuses on building the resilience of schools and students to disasters. The initiative has helped schools across ASEAN to implement effective disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures, thereby protecting students and educational infrastructure from disaster impacts.
- **ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) Program:** The DRFI Program explores innovative financial mechanisms to manage disaster risks, including insurance products and financial tools. The program has facilitated the development of financial tools that help ASEAN countries manage disaster-related financial risks, improving recovery efforts and reducing economic impacts.

Potential Joint Activities

- **Regional Early Warning Systems:** Developing a standardized early warning system for the ASEAN region could enhance disaster preparedness and response by providing timely and accurate alerts to all member states.

- **Cross-Border Disaster Response Exercises:** Joint disaster response simulations can improve coordination and collaboration among ASEAN countries, ensuring a more effective regional response to cross-border disasters.
- **Knowledge Sharing Platforms:** Creating platforms for sharing best practices and lessons learned can foster collaboration and enhance disaster management strategies across the region.
- **Capacity Building Programs:** Implementing joint capacity building initiatives for disaster management personnel can strengthen skills and knowledge across ASEAN, contributing to a more resilient regional community.