



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

4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## Disaster Management Overview

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### Common Threads of Activity - Disaster Management

Across Southeast Asia, National Societies have played a critical role in disaster management, implementing a wide range of activities that strengthen disaster preparedness, response, and resilience. These activities, while tailored to the specific contexts of each country, share overarching goals and methodologies that demonstrate the region's unified commitment to effective disaster risk management.

#### National Society Activities

- **Data Skills Training in Timor-Leste:** Implemented a comprehensive training program focusing on data collection, analysis, visualization, and effective reporting as part of the IFRC's Data and Digital Acceleration Program.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Strategic Framework in the Philippines:** Developed a strategic framework for DRRM, aligned with the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (Republic Act No. 10121), ensuring that disaster management activities are legally grounded and integrated with national policies.
- **Integration of PhonPai in Thailand:** Integrated disaster management tools, including the PhonPhai Application, into community action plans to enhance real-time disaster response capabilities.
- **Supply Chain and Logistics optimization:** Decentralized its supply chain and logistics operations, improving efficiency and aligning with the ASEAN Logistics Support Framework (LSF).

- **Warehouse Management in Laos:** Prioritized warehouse management training as part of the IFRC's Logistics Capacity Enhancement Program, focusing on improving inventory management.
- **Flood Response in Malaysia:** MRCS played a crucial role during the 2007 Johor floods, providing emergency relief and support. The society's broader disaster management activities include cooperation with government agencies and other organizations to improve response times, such as through their 24-hour ambulance services and community health initiatives.

### Complimentary ASEAN Initiatives

- **ASCEND Project (ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management):** Launched in 2020, this initiative establishes competency standards and certification for disaster management professionals. This project complements national efforts by providing a framework for enhancing the skills of disaster management personnel, such as those undergoing training in Timor-Leste, Laos, and the Philippines.
- **ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT):** This team is on standby for deployment in emergencies and involves coordination with national disaster management agencies. Supports capacity-building activities by offering additional expertise and resources during disaster response, aligning with the training and capacity development efforts of National Societies like Indonesia and Thailand.
- **ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADINet):** ADINet provides validated information on hazards and disasters, enhancing regional and national disaster management capabilities. Enhances data collection and analysis efforts similar to those undertaken by Timor-Leste's CVTL and Thailand's integration of the PhonPhai Application.
- **ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre):** Facilitates regional disaster response coordination and capacity building. Works in tandem with National Societies' CBDRR initiatives by offering a platform for collaboration and resource sharing.



## Potential Joint Activities

- **Regional Disaster Response Exercises:** Building on the success of previous exercises, such as the Emergency Operations Centre Exercises (EOCX), there is potential to conduct more frequent and comprehensive regional disaster response exercises.
- **Community Resilience Projects:** Joint initiatives focused on enhancing community resilience could be expanded, particularly in areas vulnerable to climate-induced disasters.
- **Harmonization of Disaster Laws and Policies:** Workshops and collaborative efforts to harmonize disaster laws and policies across ASEAN member states could be prioritized.
- **Youth and Volunteer Engagement:** Leveraging the ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme (AYVP) and National Society youth networks, there could be an expansion of youth-led disaster management initiatives.