

Celebrating 10 Years of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN)

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Cover photo caption: Dr Soulany Chansy, Deputy Director of Health and former migration focal point of Laos Red Cross, joins an activity as part of the Asia Pacific Migration Network Annual General Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, 2019.

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Acknowledgements

We are pleased to share this report celebrating 10 years of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN).

Since its inception in 2012, the APMN has aimed to increase the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's (the Movement) impact on migration through a peer-to-peer approach focused on research, advocacy, knowledge and expertise sharing, capacity building, and policy engagement.

This report is a compilation of the breadth and scope of activities the APMN has progressed with its National Society members, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It profiles the history, activities, and impact of the APMN as a peer network, demonstrating the diversity and strength of Red Cross and Red Crescent collaboration on migration from the local to the global.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Asia Pacific National Society leaders and focal points, National Society partners, IFRC, and ICRC colleagues who have contributed to the APMN over the last 10 years.

Our particular thanks to the co-chairs of the APMN over this time, including New Zealand Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Mongolian Red Cross, Maldivian Red Crescent, and Philippine Red Cross. We would also like to acknowledge Australian Red Cross for providing Secretariat support to the APMN.

In marking this 10th-anniversary celebration, we take great pleasure in congratulating every National Society that has contributed to the APMN. Since its founding, the APMN has built momentum and action on migration, and become a highly recognised network within the Movement as a platform of knowledge, expertise and information sharing.

The existence of the APMN has given National Societies the opportunity to share crucial knowledge and experiences on migration, in turn allowing us to learn from one another. Facilitating and enhancing the ability of National Societies to collaborate across borders and communicate on the many grassroots challenges faced at a community level, the APMN is a space for us to showcase our work and gain insight from different perspectives. By opening the door for us to continuously pursue the means to overcome these challenges with the support of our colleagues, we can work together to raise awareness and identify the gaps related to migration in the region.

As co-chairs, we have been able to support the valuable contributions of migration focal points to the APMN, and amplify the regions perspectives and expertise at the global level. We appreciate the APMN as an asset to us all. It has granted us a platform where we can come together as peers to present a united front on migration and key global issues related to migrants, reinforcing our ability to refine the role of the Movement on migration and improve regional advocacy and communication on all levels. Let us work towards raising awareness on key areas of concern in the region regarding migration, and strengthen the operational and technical capacity of the Movement to tend to these areas in the long term.

The recent endorsement to develop a Movement Strategy Migration¹ provides us with an important opportunity to reach our potential and ensure all migrants and people affected migration - no matter where they are from, how they arrived or what their legal status may be – can find Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies ready to support their safety, dignity and inclusion within communities.

As we face new crises and challenges that impact the world and our work as National Societies, the collaborative work of the Movement on migration is needed now more than ever as we strive towards a safer, more inclusive, and welcoming world for migrants and people impacted by migration.



Fathimath Himya

APMN co-chair and Secretary General
Maldivian Red Crescent



Mike Mabugnon

APMN co-chair and Migration & Displacement
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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Descriptor
AGM	Annual General Meeting
APMN	Asia Pacific Migration Network
APRRN	Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network
CoD	Council of Delegates
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GMTF	Global Migration Task Force
GML	Global Migration Lab
GMLG	Global Migration Leadership Group
HSP	Humanitarian Service Points
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MPA	Minimum Protection Approach
NS	National Society
PERCO	Migration Network Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants
RFL	Restoring Family Links
RCRC	Red Cross Red Crescent
The Movement	The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a global humanitarian network of 80 million people. It consists of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
TiP	Trafficking in Persons
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Executive summary

The Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN) was established by 17 National Societies in 2012, with a vision of strengthening the capacity of Asia Pacific National Societies to respond to the humanitarian needs and build resilience of migrants and other people affected by migration through peer-to-peer engagement. Since then, the APMN has engaged 35 National Societies across the region. It is now one of five Red Cross and Red Crescent regional or sub regional migration networks that brings together Movement components and engages with global migration platforms, aiming to strengthen the strategic role, technical capacity and evidence base of the Movement on migration.

When the APMN was founded, it became evident that more information was needed about migration in the region, the differing needs and vulnerabilities of migrants in each context, and the migration-related activities undertaken by National Societies.² Early research projects and surveys enabled the APMN to gather insights and develop a base line of evidence that has supported Movement components in the region to strengthen and amplify its work with and for migrants.

Through their participation in the APMN, National Societies have raised awareness of the humanitarian needs and challenges faced by migrants across the Asia Pacific, including for migrants in irregular and undocumented situations, migrants experiencing or at risk of labour exploitation and trafficking, and those impacted by climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation that drive and trigger migration and displacement.

Over the years, National Societies have identified barriers to increasing action on migration, including lack of available resources, lack of understanding of migration issues, barriers to accessing information, and the politically sensitive nature of migration issues in many countries.

The APMN has leveraged these learnings over the last decade to grow and evolve its approach and response to migration alongside components of the Movement. It continues to fulfill its purpose of providing a platform for National Societies to collaborate; communicate; share knowledge and experiences; strengthen capacity to protect, assist and advocate with and for migrants; and promote the role of Asia Pacific National Societies on migration in regional policy and advocacy fora. This report celebrates the broad range of activities the APMN has engaged in to improve the lives of people impacted by migration.

These achievements include:

- **Conducting research and developing guidance for National Societies**

The APMN published a Foundation Paper on migration issues in the Asia Pacific region; a report on migration related activities of National Societies in the Asia Pacific; country profiles on migration issues and vulnerabilities in the Asia Pacific region; and a report relating to National Society humanitarian approaches to migration in the Asia Pacific.

- **Peer to peer learning and collaboration**

The APMN has coordinated and facilitated several in person and virtual peer-to-peer learning programs and established working groups and communities of practice on key thematic areas and sub-regions of interest to National Societies, such as labour migration and trafficking in persons, climate and disaster related migration and displacement, and migration and displacement in the Pacific.

- **Regional Migration Events**

The APMN has worked alongside partners within the Movement to coordinate, facilitate, and participate in several key regional migration meetings held in Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, including the 2016 Mobilising the Movement on Migration meeting, the 2017 Health and Care for Migrants Workshop, the 2018 Cross Regional Conference on Labour Migration, and the 2019 Workshop on Migration. The APMN has also hosted in person and online Annual General Meetings from 2016 – 2021.

- **Advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy**

The APMN has increasingly worked with National Societies and IFRC and ICRC to engage and influence regional and global policy forums on migration, such as the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), the Global Compact on Refugees, the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), and the Bali Process Working group on Trafficking in Persons. The APMN has also been a valuable platform to consult Asia Pacific National Societies on issues and areas of concern for the region, and contribute towards global Movement migration strategies and processes.

- **Leadership engagement and cross regional collaboration**

The APMN has engaged leaders from Asia Pacific National Societies in global and regional forums relating to migration within and external to the Movement. The APMN has



Image supplied by Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

led side meetings at Red Cross Red Crescent Statutory Meetings, drafted joint statements with IFRC and ICRC, drafted interventions for leadership meetings, and delivered briefing sessions to highlight the humanitarian challenges faced by migrants in the Asia Pacific region. Within this internal advocacy, the APMN has amplified the mandate and strengths of National Societies on migration and encouraged strategic and collaborative action on migration across countries of origin, transit, and destination.

Understanding National Society perspectives and measuring our impact

The APMN has been supporting National Societies to address humanitarian concerns and build resilience of migrants and other people affected by migration. Since 2015, the APMN has conducted annual surveys with National Society members to better understand their unique contexts, migration activities and priorities. Results demonstrate that migration has increased in prioritisation over these years, which has been reflected through the number of National Societies that now have migration embedded their strategic plans. At the same time, National Societies have consistently identified that their ability to support migrants requires technical, financial, and human resourcing, as well as capacity building and knowledge development on migration for staff and volunteers.

Lessons learnt

The 10-year anniversary of the APMN provides an opportunity to reflect on the lessons learnt over this period, to help shape the future of the network for years to come. These lessons include:

- Migration in the Asia Pacific is complex, comprising of temporary, permanent, cyclical, seasonal, irregular, and cross regional movement
- Responding to these challenges is difficult and requires strategic and targeted resourcing
- Capacity building and peer to peer engagement can be strengthened when supported by partners within the Movement

- National Societies are in a unique position to respond to the humanitarian concerns of migrants, and are ready to work together
- Collaboration and integration of migration across departments and thematic areas is important to address the humanitarian concerns of migrants

Embedded in local communities, along migration pathways and as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, National Societies have a unique role and responsibility to access and address humanitarian concerns for migrants across countries of origin, transit, destination, and return. When National Societies collaborate and work together across countries, they can maximise their potential to address and prevent humanitarian concerns for migrants.

Recent global commitments on migration, including the IFRC Strategy 2030³, and endorsement of the Council of Delegates (CoD) Resolution entitled '[Towards a Movement Strategy on Migration](#)' in June, 2022 highlight that now is an exciting time to consider how the APMN will continue to meet the needs of migrants in the region by further building on peer-to-peer engagement and strengthening Movement collaboration.

By using innovative approaches of localisation, peer-to-peer engagement, mobilisation, and collaboration, the APMN can continue to leverage its potential and ensure Movement partners in the Asia Pacific are connected, advocating, and scaling up action to respond to challenges that lie ahead.

Looking to the future, the APMN will focus on expanding its peer-to-peer learning programs and opportunities, virtually and in-person; supporting cross border collaboration between National Societies and with other networks; supporting the development and implementation of a Movement Strategy on Migration to include key issues and perspectives from the Asia Pacific region; contributing to research, evidence collection, and knowledge gathering on migration; and ensuring the ongoing sustainability of the APMN as a vibrant, peer led network that amplifies the strengths and value of Asia Pacific National Societies on migration.

Migration context in the Asia Pacific



Image supplied by Indonesian Red Cross Society

Migration is a feature of life in the Asia Pacific. At the end of 2019, there were over 65 million migrants in the region, with over 107 million people from Asia and the Pacific living outside their countries of birth.⁴ People are on the move every day in search of safety, opportunity or to connect with loved ones. Migration often brings positive outcomes to individuals and communities of origin and destination in rich and diverse ways, but it can also create significant challenges, vulnerabilities, and risks for migrants. Migration can be voluntary or involuntary, but most of the time a combination of choices and constraints are involved.

The Asia Pacific has large numbers of refugees, people seeking asylum, stateless persons, and internally displaced persons. At the end of 2019, there were over 7.8 million refugees and people in refugee-like situations in Asia Pacific countries, representing 38 per cent of the global refugee population, and the largest regional refugee population in the world.⁵ The region also has large number of people moving irregularly across borders, people who have experienced trafficking, and people moving in response to climate change, disasters and environmental degradation.⁶

Over the past two years, COVID-19 has shone a light on the importance of migration in development contexts. Migrants have faced many barriers, particularly those in irregular situations, such as accessing essential services, receiving information in local languages, and being included in national emergency and health response plans. Migrants are often at greater risk of abuse, violence, exploitation, and discrimination in destination countries. They may be forcibly displaced due to conflict and insecurity, and may face challenges accessing shelter, food and water, health and psychosocial support.⁷

Migration and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The IFRC Policy on Migration defines migrants as *'persons who leave or flee their habitual residence to go to new places, usually abroad, to seek opportunities or safer and better*

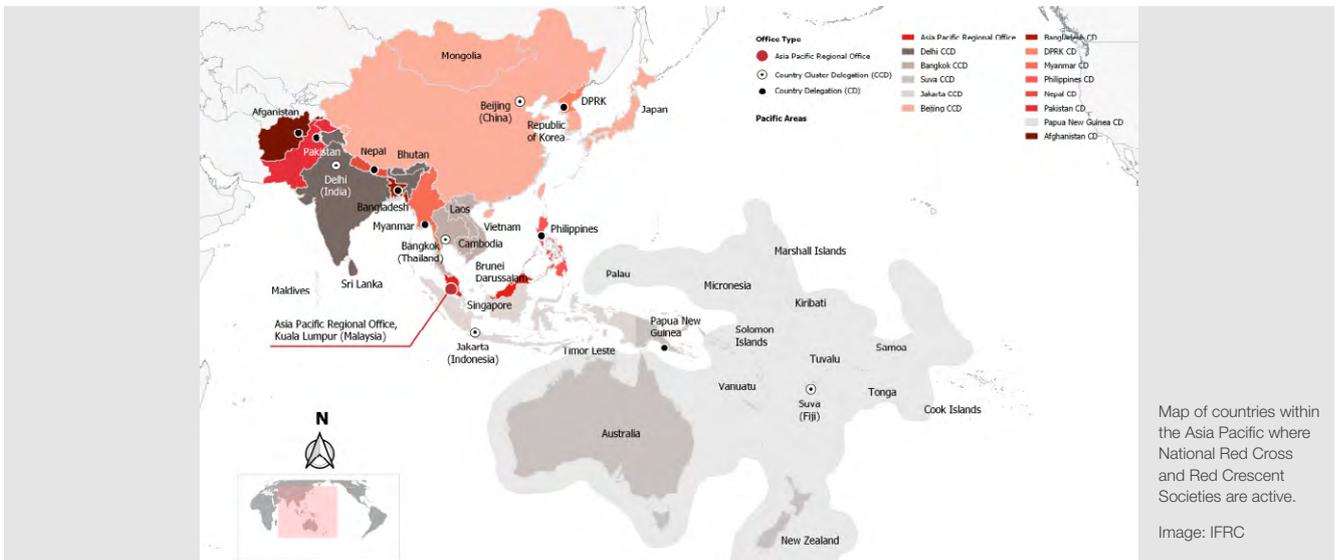
prospects'.⁸ The approach of the Movement on migration is strictly humanitarian and based on the recognition of each migrant's individuality and aspirations. It focuses on the needs, vulnerabilities, and strengths of migrants, irrespective of their legal status or documentation.

The commitment and role of the Movement in relation to migration has been repeatedly affirmed through several resolutions and high-level dialogues during past Councils of Delegates (CoD) and International Conferences (IC). The most recent Movement-wide commitments are outlined in the [Movement Statement on Migration and our Common Humanity \(2019\) – CoD](#); [Restoring Family Links: Strategy for the RCRC Movement 2020 - 2025 – CoD](#); [International RCRC Movement policy on addressing mental health and PSS \(2019\) – CoD](#); [Movement Call for Action on the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants \(2017\)](#); [Movement statement on migration: Ensuring Collective Action to Protect and Respond to the Needs and Vulnerabilities of Migrants \(2015\) - CoD and Migration: Ensuring Access, Dignity, Respect for Diversity and Social Inclusion \(2011\) – IC](#).

The Movement is uniquely placed to address the humanitarian needs of migrants in a variety of ways. Its humanitarian mandate, and longstanding commitment to working with migrants, irrespective of legal status, means that National Societies can focus on preventing and addressing vulnerability and need while working with people who may otherwise be left behind.

National Societies in the Asia Pacific region have a unique role to address and prevent humanitarian needs of people impacted by migration. The presence of well-known, local and trusted National Societies in countries of origin, transit and destination means that they are well-placed to assist migrants at different stages of their journey. The status of National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field provides opportunities for dialogue with governments to ensure that the needs of migrants are met and their rights and dignity are respected.

The Asia Pacific Migration Network



The APMN is a regional network of Asia Pacific Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, established by 17 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 2012. The current co-chairs are the Maldivian Red Crescent and Philippine Red Cross, and the Secretariat is hosted by the Australian Red Cross. The APMN is supported by the IFRC and the ICRC. To date, the APMN has engaged 35 of 39 National Societies across the region.

Since its inception, the APMN has worked alongside Movement partners to ensure the prioritisation of migration, share expertise and experiences between National Societies, raise awareness of key issues relevant to the region, strengthen engagement between National Societies, and sensitise the role of the Movement on migration. It has done this through strengthening technical and operational capacity on migration, providing a platform for regional advocacy and communication on National Societies' role and approach to migration, both internally and externally with partners.

Asia Pacific Migration Network Vision and Purpose

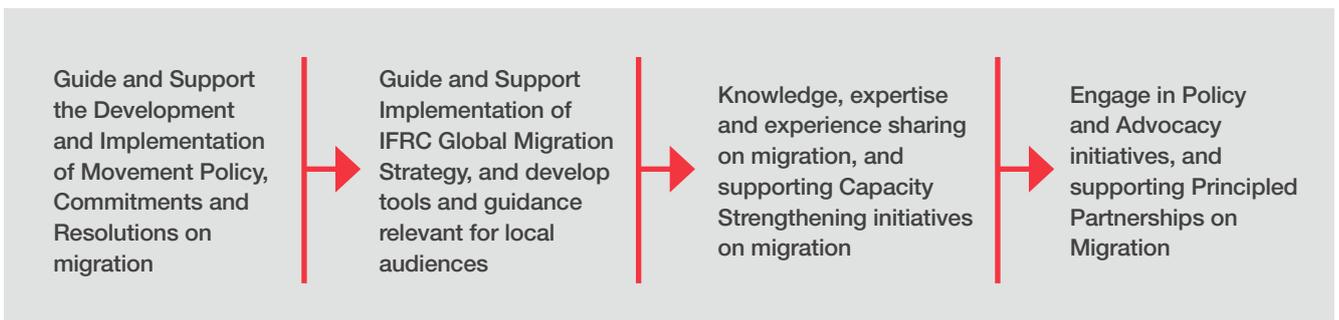
The vision of the APMN is to strengthen the capacity of Asia Pacific National Societies to respond to the humanitarian needs and build resilience of migrants and other people affected by migration.

Aligned with Movement policies, principles and resolutions relating to migration, the purpose of the APMN is to:

-  **Provide a platform for National Societies to collaborate, coordinate and share knowledge and experiences**
-  **Strengthen National Society capacity to protect, assist and advocate with and for migrants**
-  **Promote the role of Asia Pacific National Society on Migration in regional policy and advocacy**

APMN key areas of focus

The APMN aims to connect and strengthen the work of its members on migration. We do this through the following focus areas aligned with the IFRC Strategy on Migration and ICRC commitments on migration:



Origins and evolution of the APMN

Since 2012, the APMN has undertaken a range of activities to achieve its vision, including engaging in advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy, supporting regional and global meetings within and beyond the Movement, coordinating and facilitating peer to peer learning, hosting regional migration events, and conducting research and mapping projects.

2012

- APMN established by 17 National Societies at IFRC regional meeting in Bangkok.
- New Zealand Red Cross and the Maldivian Red Crescent nominated as APMN co-chairs.

2013

- APMN Annual General Meeting (AGM) held during Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Statutory Meetings in Sydney. Australian Red Cross and Mongolian Red Cross nominated as APMN co-chairs.
- APMN side meeting at Restoring Family Links (RFL) Regional Workshop, Kuala Lumpur.

2014

- APMN profiled during the Ninth Asia Pacific Regional Conference in China.

2015

- APMN Annual General Meeting held during Manila Conference on Labour Migration, Philippines.
- APMN Foundation Paper, *'Migration Issues in the Asia Pacific Region'* published.
- APMN side meeting at the RCRC International Conference, Geneva.

2017

- First APMN peer to peer learning program. National Societies represented: Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Australia.
- APMN Report and Mapping published *'Migration Related Activities of National Societies in the Asia Pacific'*.
- APMN co-organised IFRC event *'Health and Care for Migrants and Displaced Persons'*, Malaysia. APMN AGM held. Australian Red Cross and Maldivian Red Crescent nominated as APMN co-chairs.
- APMN representation at the Global Compact on Migration Regional Consultations, Bangkok.
- APMN Pacific statement on Migration endorsed by Pacific Leaders.

2016

- APMN co-organised Movement event *'Mobilising the Movement: Humanitarian Responses in migration in the Asia Pacific'*, Malaysia. APMN AGM.
- APMN participation in the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) Consultations, Bangkok.
- APMN participation in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Dhaka.

2017 cont.

- APMN event at Red Cross Red Crescent Forum (RC²) *'Are we reaching our potential? Mobilising the Movement to respond to the humanitarian needs of migrants'*, Turkey.
- APMN statement delivered at the Southeast Asia Leadership Meeting, Vietnam.

2018

- Second APMN peer to peer learning Program. National Societies represented: Tonga, Philippines, Nepal, Maldives, Vietnam and Australia.
- APMN Participation in the first Bali Process Government and Civil Society Roundtable.
- Regional Movement Conference on Labour Migration with Asia Pacific and Middle East and North Africa National Societies, Bangkok. APMN AGM held.
- APMN participation in Bali Process training on Human Security. National Societies represented: Myanmar, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Australia, and ICRC.

2019

- Third APMN peer to peer learning program. National Societies represented: New Zealand, Pakistan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Australia.
- APMN co-organise Regional Migration Workshop, Bangkok. APMN AGM held. Singapore Red Cross joins Australian Red Cross, and Maldivian Red Crescent as APMN co-chairs.
- APMN participation in Bali Process training on Human Security, represented by Philippine Red Cross and Sri Lankan Red Cross as well as ICRC.
- APMN participation in Bali Process Supply Chain Symposium, Bali.

2018 cont.

- APMN participation in the Global Compact on Migration Regional Consultations.
- APMN developed Country Profiles on Migration Issues and Vulnerabilities in the Asia Pacific Region.
- APMN participation in Global Compact on Migration Negotiations. National Societies represented: Australia, Maldives, Philippines and Fiji.
- APMN co-hosts Leadership Dialogue on Migration at the Tenth Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Manila.

2020

- APMN, IFRC and ICRC publish report '*Humanitarian Approaches to Migration in the Asia Pacific*'
- Regional RCRC Webinar on Protection, Migration and COVID-19.
- Red Cross and Red Crescent Virtual Migration Workshop: Strengthening our Humanitarian Action with and for Migrants. APMN virtual AGM. Maldivian Red Crescent and Philippine Red Cross Societies confirmed as co-chairs.
- APMN contributes to ICRC online 'Minimum Protection Approach' training for Asia Pacific

2021

- APMN participation in the Global Compact on Migration Regional Consultations.
- APMN and IFRC launch '*Guidance for Asia Pacific National Societies on Conducting a Migration and Displacement National Needs Assessment*'.
- APMN, IFRC and ICRC host webinar on Migration, Protection and the role of the Movement; and Climate change, migration and displacement in the Pacific; online training '*Understanding and responding to Trafficking in Persons*'.
- APMN and IFRC participation in the Pacific Technical Working Group on Human Mobility.
- First virtual APMN peer to peer program. National Societies represented: New Zealand, Indonesia, Australia, Maldives, Philippines, and Malaysia.
- RCRC Virtual Workshop on Migration: '*Strengthening Humanitarian Action with and for Migrants in the Asia Pacific*'. APMN AGM held remotely.

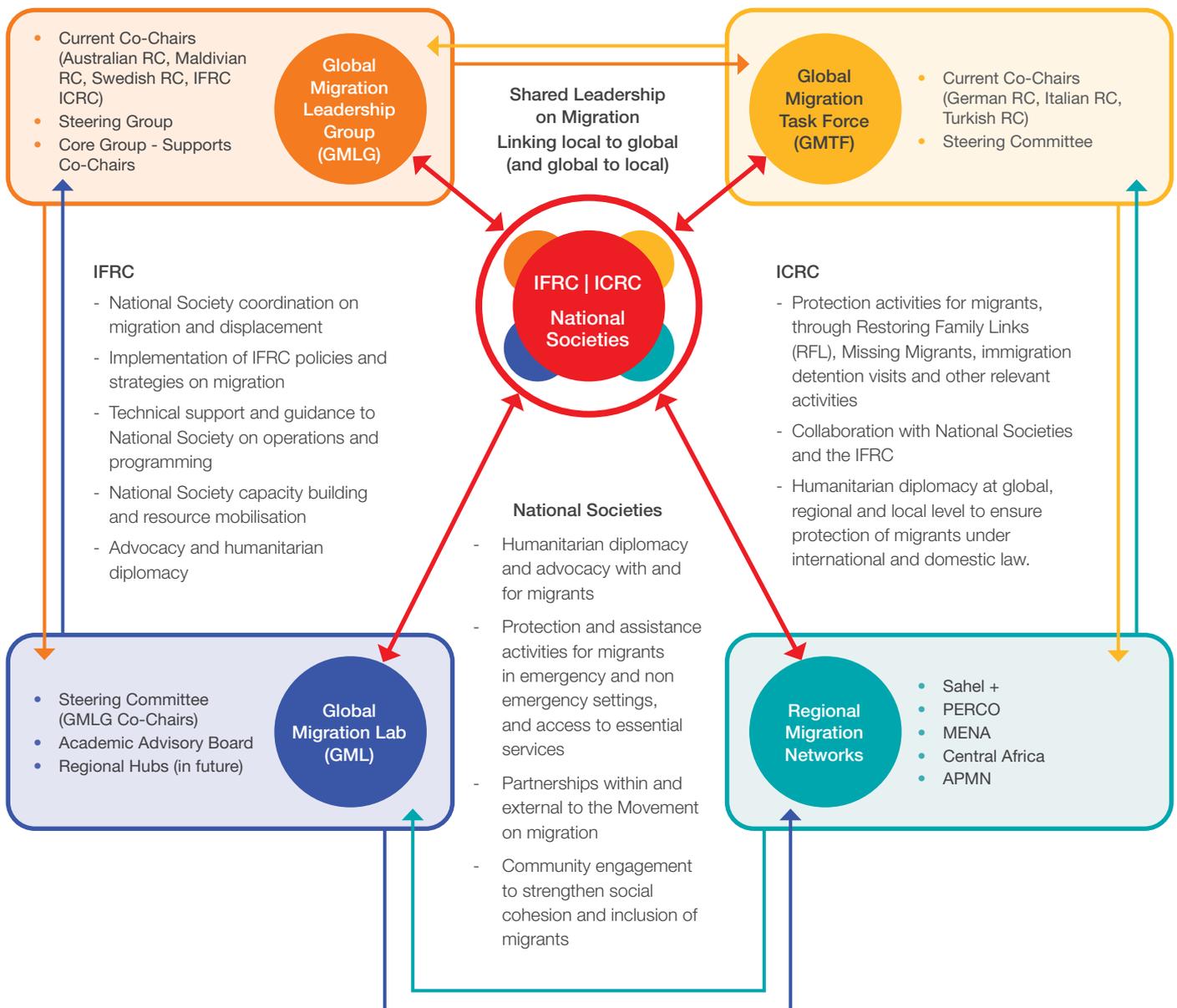
2022

- APMN and IFRC peer briefing and tools development on the Global Compact on Migration and International Migration Review Forum.
- APMN Pacific working group on Migration engagement in Pacific Technical Working Group on Human Mobility and development of government led Pacific Climate Mobilities Framework.
- APMN briefing and support in drafting interventions for the 2022 RCRC Statutory Meeting.
- APMN and IFRC Webinar on Understanding Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) for Migrants.

Working together on migration within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The APMN is one of five regional and sub regional migration networks that bring together partners within the Movement, in addition to global migration platforms that function to strengthen the strategic role, technical capacity and evidence base of the Movement on migration. The visual below demonstrates how each platform interacts and engages with each other to strengthen the mandate and leverage the potential of the Movement on migration.

Working Together on Migration within the RCRC Movement



GMLG - Senior Leaders from 25 National Societies, IFRC + ICRC

- Strategic vision, direction and leadership
- Development of Movement Strategy on Migration
- Recommendations, advice and guidance to GML and GMTF
- Promote and disseminate GML research findings and recommendations

GMTF - Convened by IFRC Secretariat. Technical Leads from 40 National Societies, IFRC + ICRC

- Operationalises recommendations from the GMLG
- Collaborates with GML to identify research topics of interest
- Facilitates cross-regional sharing and guidance
- Technical guidance to GMLG recommendations

GML - Movement-wide resource and initiative co-created by the IFRC, ICRC and National Societies, currently hosted by Australian Red Cross

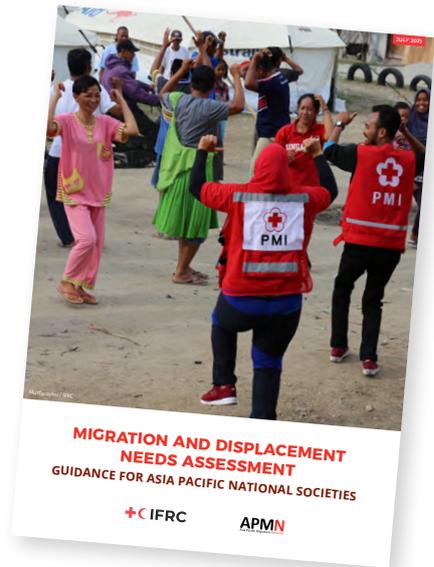
- Research, identification of trends and future foresights related to migration to inform GMLG strategy and RCRC actions
- Evidence-building and analysis to support Movement humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy
- Collaboration with National Societies to conduct global and regional research projects
- Linking data and expertise from local RCRC operations to regional and global migration policy dialogues

Regional Peer-to-Peer National Society Networks - Co-Chaired by National Societies

- Build peer to peer engagement, collaboration and knowledge sharing between National Societies and regions
- Leverage regional perspectives to inform global advocacy, strategies, research
- Tailor and adapt global guidance for regional and national contexts



APMN activities and ways of working



Research and guidance for National Societies

When the APMN was founded in 2012, it became evident that more information was needed about migration in the region, the vulnerabilities of migrants in each context, and the migration-related services and activities undertaken by National Societies. As such, the core work of the APMN Secretariat was to lead research on these issues as foundational information for the Movement.

As a result, members agreed to conduct research on migration trends, key issues and challenges facing migrants, to amplify the work of Asia Pacific National Societies. Four pieces of research were produced:

- APMN Foundation Paper: Migration Issues in the Asia Pacific Region (2015);⁹
- APMN Report: Migration Related Activities of National Societies in the Asia Pacific (2017);¹⁰
- APMN Country Profiles on Migration Issues and Vulnerabilities in the Asia Pacific Region (2018); and¹¹
- IFRC, ICRC and APMN Report: National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Humanitarian approaches to Migration in the Asia Pacific (2020).¹²

The APMN progressed this research utilising National Society staff, volunteers, and interns, in collaboration with IFRC and ICRC, to help build understanding and awareness of the humanitarian challenges migrants face across the Asia Pacific, and the critical work of National Societies to prevent and respond to migration concerns. Beyond this research, the APMN and IFRC developed Guidance for Asia Pacific National Societies on Conducting a Migration and Displacement National Needs Assessments in 2021, aligned with the 2018-2022 IFRC Global Migration Strategy, as well as a range of internal thematic information documents based on the expertise and knowledge of APMN members.

The APMN has also provided a platform for the [Red Cross and Red Crescent Global Migration Lab](#) to engage National Societies across the Asia Pacific in research on migrants' access to essential service and vaccinations during COVID-19.

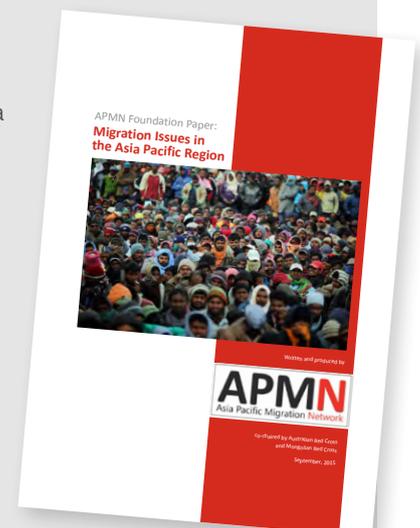
Spotlight: APMN Foundation Report: Migration Issues in the Asia Pacific (2015)

The 2015 APMN Foundation Paper, titled '*Migration Issues in the Asia Pacific*' provided an overview of available information and data on migration within the region, identified migration related activities, and sought to support and guide National Societies to prioritise activities in support of migrants experiencing vulnerability.

The study found that the Asia Pacific region has one of the highest numbers of people impacted by migration in the world; that migrant workers were the most identified group of concern by National Societies in the region; that migration was an emerging priority for Asia Pacific National Societies; and that National Societies experienced knowledge, technical, financial, and human resources barriers to developing migration initiatives in their country.

The study recommended that National Societies, and the Movement more broadly, could respond to these challenges through:

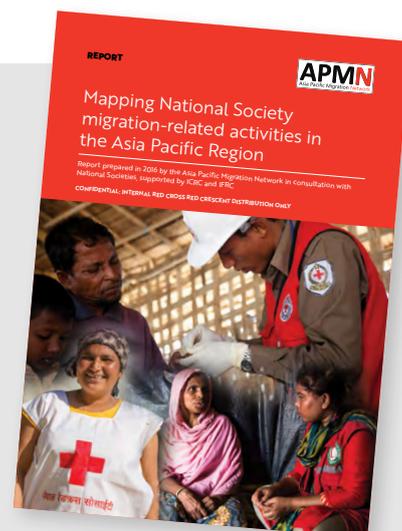
- Conducting further investigation on migration needs and vulnerabilities, on both a regional and country-by-country basis;
- Identifying existing migration initiatives by National Societies to address these needs and support future action;
- Increasing knowledge, data and information sharing between APMN members on migration strategies, humanitarian diplomacy, and collaboration with other stakeholders.



Spotlight: Migration Related Activities of National Societies in the Asia Pacific 2017

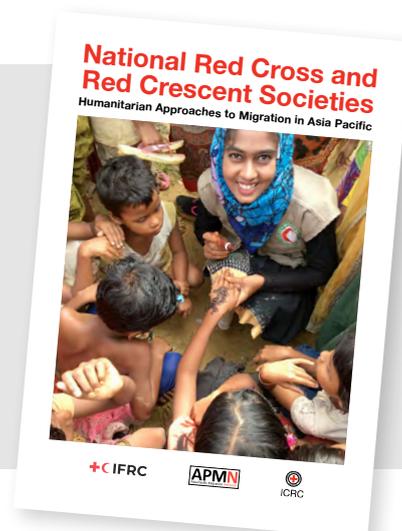
In 2017 the APMN conducted a region wide mapping of 32 National Societies' migration activities. A Report and Annex of *Migration Related Activities of National Societies in the Asia Pacific* was produced and highlighted the breadth and scale of migration initiatives across the Asia Pacific region, creating an evidence base for future work and peer learning. The Report identified several priorities for regional Movement partners such as:

- **Increase cooperation and collaboration between National Societies**, as well as externally with local and international organisations to strengthen access to humanitarian assistance and protections for migrants.
- Increase capacity of National Societies on migration through **peer-to-peer engagement, planning, programming and consultation**.
- **Support National Societies** to amplify their role and mandate on migration within and beyond the Movement;
- **Develop tools and skills** for National Societies to advocate with local and national authorities for access to migrants irrespective of their legal status; and
- Support **Pacific National Societies to have a baseline understanding of migration** issues, challenges, and opportunities for the sub-region, including related to climate change.



Spotlight: APMN, IFRC and ICRC Report: Humanitarian Approaches to Migration in Asia Pacific, 2020

Building on the mapping of National Society activities, the APMN, alongside ICRC and IFRC, produced a report on '*Humanitarian Approaches to Migration in Asia Pacific*'. The report provides an overview and case studies of the important and varied work undertaken by 23 National Societies in Asia and the Pacific. The Report was developed to support all components of the Movement, as well as external stakeholders and partners, to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the strengths of Asia Pacific National Societies in the context of migration.



Peer to Peer Learning and Collaboration

Peer to peer engagement, collaboration and knowledge sharing has been a foundational way of working for the APMN to strengthen local, national, and regional capacity on migration. To do this, the APMN has coordinated and facilitated in person and virtual peer-to-peer learning programs, established working groups and communities of practice from 2016 onwards.

In person peer-to-peer learning events occurred in 2017, 2018 and 2019, with 13 Asia Pacific National Societies embarking on two-week experiential trips hosted by Australian Red Cross.

The APMN peer-to-peer learning programs have been a flagship program of the APMN, where the program design and delivery has been co-developed in partnership with participating National Societies to ensure the program meets the specific interests and knowledge of participants, and to foster broader skills building on facilitation, planning, presentation, and outcomes delivery. After the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the APMN pivoted to hosting the peer-to-peer program online, and in 2021, another six National Societies were able to join the program alongside National Societies from other regions, and ICRC and IFRC colleagues.

APMN peer-to-peer learning programs on migration:



2017

- The first in person APMN peer-to-peer learning program took place.
- Participants join from **Pakistan Red Crescent, Bangladesh Red Crescent, Sri Lanka Red Cross, and Australian Red Cross.**
- Key areas of focus include understanding National Societies' strategies and approaches to migration, immigration detention monitoring, Restoring Family Links (RFL), labor migration and trafficking, humanitarian settlement programs for refugees, and large-scale emergency response; field visit to a school workshop 'In Search of Safety' to help children understand why people seek asylum across international borders.



2018

- The second cohort of APMN focal points join the APMN peer-to-peer learning program.
- Participants join from **Tonga Red Cross, Nepal Red Cross, Vietnam Red Cross, Maldivian Red Crescent, Australian Red Cross, and the Philippine Red Cross.**
- Key areas of focus include developing National Societies' migration strategies; safe migration and awareness raising training for prospective migrants; supporting the mental health of migrants in detention; Protection, Gender and Inclusion within migration; and including migrants within disaster management.



APMN peer to peer participants gather with the Migration Support Program Team at Australian Red Cross in Melbourne, 2019.



2019

- The third APMN peer-to-peer program is held.
- Participants join from **Pakistan Red Crescent, Myanmar Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, Mongolian Red Cross, Australian Red Cross**, and a colleague from the Afghan Red Crescent joins virtually.
- Key areas of focus include understanding the migration context and experience of migrants in each country; workshop on understanding indicators of trafficking and exploitation; global and regional migration policy; RFL, a Minimum Protection Approach, and the future of the APMN. Participants visited the town of Toowoomba in Queensland, known as the town most welcoming of refugees in Australia, to learn about programs and services delivered to newly arrived refugees.



2021

- **First virtual APMN peer-to-peer program**
- Participants join **Maldivian Red Crescent, Indonesian Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Nepal Red Cross, and Malaysian Red Crescent**, as well as partner National Societies, ICRC and IFRC.
- Over a period of four weeks, participants discussed migrants' access to essential services irrespective of their legal status; climate related migration and displacement; strengthening cross border collaboration; linking local data and evidence on migration to influence decision makers; the practical application of the Minimum Protection Approach and harnessing lived experience in migration work.

Reflections from National Societies on the impact of APMN peer to peer learning programs

“ The Movement’s role in migration is expanding day by day and the complexities around migration issues in the region are becoming diverse. There is a need to increase capacity of National Society staff on this issue. Moreover, the expertise Australian Red Cross has shared on migration has been phenomenal, hence, I would like to see peer to peer learning progress in the years to come as it will enable the resources of NSs to do better in the field of migration and trafficking.



Syed Muneeb Ilyas,
Restoring Family Links
Program Manager,
Pakistan Red Crescent (2019)

“ I can say that the APMN peer-to-peer learning is the best platform where we can share our various experiences and different level of knowledge and learn from each other based on informative presentations and discussions. I think having small group of people and enough time, meeting with colleagues from different programmes every day and visiting the field to see the activities has been a valuable way to learn. This is an important activity of the APMN for engaging the NSs, gaining the knowledge and improving the relationship among those in the region.



Undram Chinges,
Program Monitoring,
Evaluation and Learning,
Restoring Family Links
and Migration Focal Point,
Mongolian Red Cross (2019)

“ Participating in the 2-week peer to peer learning opportunity has widened my knowledge on how the Movement works with migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and people who have been trafficked. The knowledge I gained from my co-participants will be helpful for my National Society to develop programs & services and expand existing ones. The learning opportunity did not just talk about how the Movement works with migrants but also how can National Societies better position itself as an independent and neutral organisation that can promote and protect the rights of migrants worldwide.



**Michalle “Mike” Angiolo
Mabugnon, Migration &
Displacement Focal Point,
Welfare Department,
Philippine Red Cross (2018)**

“ On behalf of Nepal Red Cross Society and personally, I would like to thank you APMN for this grand opportunity. After spending two rigorous weeks — I concluded that still we have miles to walk to reach into those most vulnerable people out of growing population movement, who need an immediate humanitarian support. And this peer-to-peer learning opportunity has become part of our journey. We discussed, shared, and learned from each other — we did not only discuss the challenges but also the opportunities. We discussed our role and mandate - on migration, our strengths and experiences and presented interventions on how to collaborate moving forward.



**Saagar Shrestha, Director,
Nepal Red Cross (formerly
Migration Focal point) (2018)**



Rodney Su from Samoa Red Cross provides a statement in support of the 'Towards a Movement Strategy on Migration' Resolution, on behalf of Pacific National Societies at the Council of Delegates in Geneva, 2022.

APMN Working Groups and Communities of Practice

The APMN has also coordinated Working Groups and Communities of Practice on key thematic areas and sub-regions of interest to National Societies. Each group enjoyed leadership and participation from different National Societies and met regularly to share information, knowledge and experiences related to their specific areas.

Previous groups that have now concluded are:

- The South Asia Working Group on Migration (2016-2019);
- Understanding Vulnerabilities of Migrants (2016 – 2018); and
- Migration and Health (2017-2019).

Groups that are considered a current priority for APMN members include:

Pacific Migration and Displacement (2016-current)

Achievements: Drafted statements and updates on migration and displacement for Pacific leaders; developed humanitarian diplomacy engagement tools for National Societies on the Global Compact on Migration; drafted a background paper on migration issues across the Pacific; and hosted thematic discussions on climate change, labour migration, COVID-19 and protection.

Labour Migration and Trafficking (2016-current)

Achievements: Contributed to IFRC Guidance on programing principals on labor migration and trafficking; online rollout of the IFRC e-module on Understanding Trafficking in Persons; and participation in Bali Process Trafficking in Persons Working group activities, including training on Human Security and Government and the Civil Society Roundtable.

Climate Change and Disaster Related Migration Displacement (2019-current)

Achievements: Contributed to the development of the IFRC and Climate Centre Training on Climate Related Displacement; developed a Tips sheet outlining key resources and ways of engaging and integrating migration and displacement with climate and disaster management policies and operations; hosted several peer led sessions for National Societies to share current approaches and challenges to address climate and disaster related migration and displacement, and on thematic areas such as climate related displacement and urbanisation.

Regional Migration Events

Bringing National Societies together across the region has been an important part of relationship building, knowledge sharing and strengthening the role and mandate of the Movement on migration over the last decade. The APMN has worked alongside Movement partners to coordinate, facilitate, or participate in several key regional migration meetings.

These have included *'Mobilising the Movement: Humanitarian Responses to Migration in the Asia Pacific'* (2016); *Health and Care for Migrants and Displaced Persons* (2017), the *International RCRC Movement Asia Pacific and Middle East Conference On Labour Migration* (2018), and the Regional Red Cross Red Crescent Workshop on Migration (2019). As a result of COVID-19, the APMN shifted to virtual events, hosting webinars on protection, climate change and migration in the Pacific, and the 2020 and 2021 regional migration workshops. All APMN related events have brought together technical migration focal points, leadership, IFRC, ICRC, partner National Societies, and representatives from other organisations working on migration, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and the Bali Process Regional Support Office.



Vicki Mau, former APMN co-chair, matches National Society migration activities alongside the IFRC Global Migration Strategy, at the 2018 APMN Annual Meeting.

Sessions at these meetings have showcased migration activities; emergency responses; humanitarian diplomacy approaches; inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction for migrants; understanding risks of trafficking and exploitation of migrant workers; restoring family links; understanding the impacts of climate change on migration and displacement; a Minimum Protection Approach; and implementing humanitarian service points for migrants.

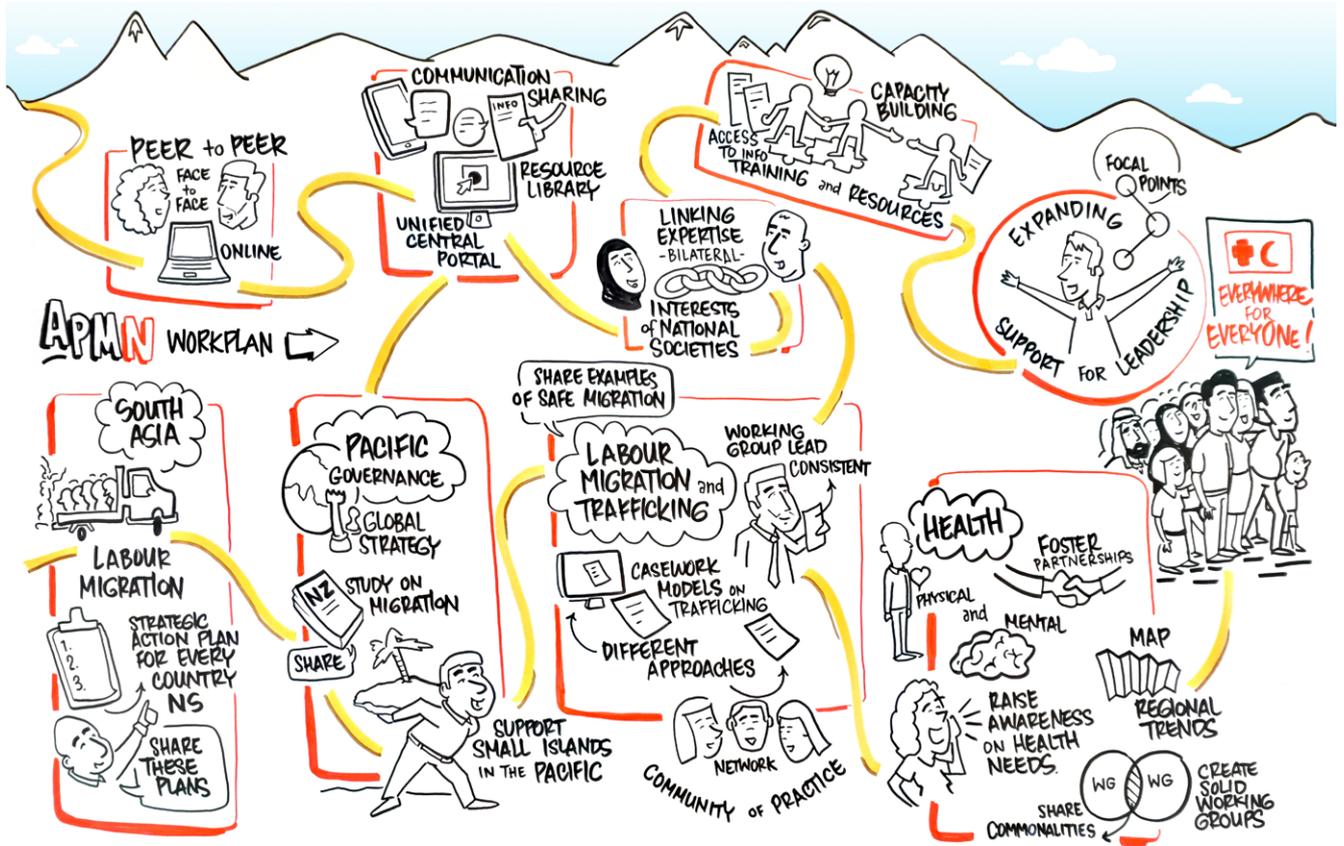
After each regional workshop, the APMN has hosted full day Annual General Meetings where migration focal points have come together to forge stronger peer relationships and engagement across the region and to decide key priorities and focus areas for the APMN over the coming year.

Spotlight: RCRC Movement event *'Mobilising the Movement: Humanitarian Responses in migration in the Asia Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, 26-28 April 2016'*

'Mobilising the Movement: Humanitarian responses to migration in Asia Pacific' was the first combined regional Movement event on migration. Leaders and migration focal points from 18 National Societies across the Asia Pacific region, as well as ICRC and IFRC staff, gathered to discuss humanitarian responses to migration. It was made clear during the forum that National Societies in the Asia Pacific were already responding to many of the vulnerabilities that arise from migration and wished to do more. Based on discussions held during this workshop, the Movement agreed to engage further with the APMN through sharing practice and analysis on migration-related developments in the region and through identifying unmet needs and areas of collaboration. The Movement also committed to collaborative action to address the humanitarian needs of migrants.

"As a National Society, this meeting is very important on migration, to improve our knowledge, and better advocate to authorities for migrants using the principle of humanity" – APMN Migration Focal Point

"I would like to congratulate work of the APMN. A forum like this is very useful as it gives us the courage to work in this area. Seeing everyone else's work in migration has given us a lot of confidence. We will never be out of options to look for better practices and examples with other National Societies." – National Society Secretary General



Graphic illustration of the 2018-2019 APMN workplan, by Alex Wisman. GRAPHIC FACILITATION ALEXWISMAN.COM



APMN group photo from the APMN Annual General Meeting in Thailand 2018.



National Society migration focal points at the 2019 APMN Annual General Meeting.

“ I hadn’t realised that this network is REALLY about direct peer to peer exchange between National Societies in the region. I was so used to another regional context where partner National Societies drive a lot of exchange between National Societies. It was super positive to see National Societies from the Asia Pacific region fully engaged with each other directly, with no intermediary except the IFRC facilitating and ICRC fully engaged and sharing. As a partner National Society, I was definitely an observer and not being asked to contribute. It is how I always imagined the RCRC Movement would and should work. IFRC fully embracing its function to facilitate engagement between strong NS; ICRC open, supportive and sharing. – Reflection from Partner National Society after the APMN regional meeting 2021

Advocacy and Humanitarian Diplomacy

The APMN has increasingly worked with National Societies and partners within the Movement to engage and influence regional and global policy forums on migration. Representatives of the APMN have engaged in Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) Consultations, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) consultations and negotiations, events and trainings related to the Bali Process Trafficking in Person Working Group, and the Pacific Technical Working Group on Human Mobility.

The APMN has also been a valuable platform to consult Asia Pacific National Societies on key issues and areas of concern for the region and contribute towards global Movement migration processes. The APMN has facilitated regional consultations on the IFRC Global Migration Strategy, the IFRC Policy Position on GCM, and sought insights for the forthcoming Global Movement Migration Strategy. The APMN has led cross regional collaboration with other Movement migration networks and amplified key regional migration issues to the Movement's Global Migration Leadership Group, Migration Taskforce and other statutory meeting processes.

Spotlight: The Bali Process Government and Civil Society Roundtable (2018)

On 14 – 15 May 2018, Australian Red Cross and the IFRC, with the Australian and Indonesian governments, co-hosted the first regional Government and Civil Society Roundtable as part of the State-led Bali Process. Leveraging the APMN, representatives from National Societies including Indonesia, Bangladesh, Philippines, Maldives, Nepal, and Australia, and the IFRC and ICRC joined the roundtable. The event was viewed as a success, with strong engagement between the Movement, governments, and civil societies, and commitments to follow through on outcomes and recommendations. The roundtable was a key opportunity for the Movement to:

- engage with government counterparts on regional labour migration dynamics;
- sensitise governments in the region to the humanitarian role and mandate of the Movement;
- share what we know about migrants and their strengths, challenges, needs, and resilience;
- sensitise governments to the possibilities of, and limits to, assistance and protection that National Societies and the broader Movement can provide in addressing the needs of migrants;
- support National Societies in their auxiliary role in the humanitarian field, through connecting with relevant government representatives on issues of humanitarian concern;
- learn about issues of humanitarian concern and identify potential opportunities for National Societies to collaborate with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and governments to support migrants in need; and
- initiate or progress Humanitarian Diplomacy activities between National Societies and governments to ensure migrants and those affected by migration have effective access to humanitarian assistance and protection.

Reflections from National Society attendees:

“It was a surprise to see such open and frank sharing and communication between governments and civil society. It was great to meet and discuss migration issues with government attendees, and we were really encouraged to see the growing acknowledgment of the role of Red Cross and Red Crescent on migration”

“We want to use this platform to go back and use the opportunities of our experience with government, and especially through this narrative of humanitarian support.”



National Society and IFRC colleagues attend the Bali Process Government and Civil Society Roundtable in Bangkok, 2018.

Spotlight: Engagement in the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration

In close collaboration with IFRC and ICRC, the APMN engaged, briefed, and consulted Asia Pacific National Societies on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) throughout its development, negotiation, and implementation. Most recently, the APMN conducted briefing sessions on the GCM to highlight opportunities for National Societies to engage with states prior to the first International Migration Review Forum, which took place in May 2022, New York.

During all engagement, the Movement called on States to respect their obligations under international law and to focus on four humanitarian priorities:

1. Protecting migrants from death, disappearance, family separation and violations of their rights along the entire migration route;
2. Guaranteeing that migrants, irrespective of legal status, have effective access to essential services;
3. Prioritising the most vulnerable; and
4. Using detention only as a measure of last resort.

These priorities span multiple GCM objectives and are relevant throughout the entire migration process. The Movement encourages States to partner with National Societies, as their auxiliaries in the humanitarian field, to address the protection and assistance needs of migrants, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles. The Movement is referenced as a key implementing partner within paragraph 44¹³ of the GCM text.

At the recent International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), States and stakeholders were urged to take concerted action to transform the **GCM's commitments into a reality for migrants**, as addressing the challenges that migrants face have become more pressing than ever before.

Towards this outcome, **the IFRC urged States to implement commitments within the GCM and prioritise policies, programs, and practices that:**

1. **Save lives**, including through search and rescue across sea and land routes.
2. **Ensure access to essential services** – including through assistance and protection, and COVID-19 related services— for all migrants and people on the move, irrespective of status.
3. **Scale up** support to persons at risk of **displacement related to disasters and the climate crisis**.
4. **Include migrants in all aspects of society**, from decision-making and processes around the GCM review to local migration programming, design, and implementation.



APMN co-chairs, National Society and IFRC leaders attend the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) Negotiations in Marrakesh, 2018.

Leadership Engagement and Cross Regional Collaboration

Engaging National Society leadership on migration has remained a priority since the APMN was founded in 2012. Since then, the APMN has progressed a range of initiatives to raise awareness of the unique role and mandate of the Movement on migration, and the value of the APMN as a collaborative peer led network. These have included the development of an APMN Secretary General briefing package, correspondence to leaders regarding opportunities for migration focal points to participate in the APMN, and invitations to join migration meetings, co-hosted by the APMN and partners within the Movement.

National Society leaders have joined key APMN meetings including the 2016 Mobilising the Movement on Migration, the 2018 Cross Regional Conference on Labour Migration, APMN Annual General Meetings, and APMN side meetings at RCRC Statutory Meetings. They have also joined regional migration fora such as the Global Compact on Migration, and Bali Process Government and Civil Society Round Table on Protection of Migrants.



Kyung-seo Park, former President of Korean Red Cross meets with Jessica Van Son, APMN Secretariat in Seoul, 2018.

Ahead of regional and global Statutory Meetings, the APMN has drafted statements and conducted briefing sessions for Asia Pacific National Societies to highlight the humanitarian challenges faced by migrants in the region, amplified the mandate and strengths of National Societies on migration, and encouraged strategic and collaborative action on migration across countries of origin, transit and destination.

On an annual basis, the APMN has provided updates, progress reports and recommendations on migration issues and National Society initiatives to sub regional leaders meetings, including annual Southeast Asia Leaders meetings and Pacific Leaders meetings.



Noel Clement, former Director of Australian Programs at Australian Red Cross, Aishath Noora, former APMN co-chair and Secretary General of Maldivian Red Crescent, and Francesco Rocca, President of the IFRC, host the Cross Regional Leadership Dialogue on Migration in Manila, 2018.

Spotlight: APMN, IFRC and Philippine Red Cross host Leadership Dialogue on Migration between Asia Pacific and Middle East and North Africa countries 2018

On 13 November 2018, the APMN, IFRC, and Philippine Red Cross hosted the Asia Pacific and Middle East Leadership Dialogue on Migration, on the side of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference. Leaders at the dialogue gathered to share their perspectives and challenges in supporting migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons, discussed the importance of building on previous Red Cross and Red Crescent commitments to address the specific needs of migrants and refugees, and the value of working together across regions and along migratory routes.

Spotlight: APMN hosts an interactive workshop at the Statutory Meetings titled 'Are we reaching our potential? Mobilising the Movement to respond to the humanitarian needs of migrants', Antalya, 2017.

During the 2017 RCRC Statutory Meetings in Turkey, the APMN led an interactive workshop at the Red Cross and Red Crescent Forum (RC2) 'Are we reaching our potential?' which focused on the role of different components of the Movement in responding to future humanitarian challenges involving migrants. A key outcome of this workshop included a general agreement that regional migration networks can make an important contribution to meeting the objectives of the IFRC Global Strategy on Migration. Other key outcomes included recognition of the need for cooperation and collaboration between regional networks, between National Societies, migration networks and with IFRC and ICRC along migration trails. The session identified how leveraging regional migration networks alongside Movement partners could help to overcome key challenges, such as by:

1. Strengthening coordination between National Societies in origin, transit and destination countries, and the capacity of National Societies to provide humanitarian assistance with the support of authorities to sudden or future population movements;
2. Strengthening communication and reducing language barriers between migrants, National Societies, and the authorities that prevent migrants from accessing humanitarian support and services;
3. Supporting National Societies to identify specific needs and vulnerabilities of migrants, and what support or assistance they require to have their humanitarian needs met; and
4. Enhancing engagement between neighbouring and regional governments in countries of origin, transit and destination to develop common preparedness and response plans to migratory movements.



Leaders from Maldivian Red Crescent, Australian Red Cross and the IFRC host the 'Are we reaching our potential event' in Turkey, 2017.

Spotlight: Cross regional engagement with RCRC migration networks

Cross regional engagement between RCRC migration networks has been a priority for the APMN. The APMN itself was modelled off the Migration Network Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO) network in Europe, and the APMN and PERCO co-chairs have met annually over the last seven years. The APMN has shared activities, ways of working and achievements with more recently established networks in Sahel+ and Americas, and continues to raise interest to formalise engagement with the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) network given such a large number of migrants from the Asia Pacific travel to the Middle East for work.

The APMN also contributed to and participated in the first face-to-face network meeting of regional co-chairs in Geneva in June 2022, which discussed the importance of strengthening and maximising the potentiality of networks in cross border and in peer-to-peer settings.



Mike Mabugnon, APMN co-chair from Philippine Red Cross, Vicki Mau, Australian Red Cross and Fathimath Himya, APMN co-chair from Maldivian Red Crescent attend the inaugural RCRC regional migration networks co-chair meeting in Geneva, 2022.

Understanding National Society perspectives and measuring our impact

Since 2015, the APMN has conducted annual migration surveys with National Society migration focal points to better understand their unique contexts, migration activities and priorities, as well as activities the APMN should prioritise and strengthen. From 2019, the APMN and IFRC designed joint regional migration surveys specifically for Asia Pacific National Societies, to strengthen collaboration and alignment with targets of the 2018-2022 IFRC Global Migration Strategy.

Key insights from annual surveys

2015 APMN Regional Migration Survey (29 completed):

- 12 National Societies (41%) regarded migration as a medium or high priority; 14 National Societies (48%) viewed it as a low priority; 3 National Societies (10%) stated it was not currently a priority.
- 24 National Societies identified migrant workers as the group of most concern and experiencing high levels of vulnerabilities, followed by people seeking asylum (8 National Societies) and irregular or unsupported migrants (7 National Societies).
- National Societies identified several barriers to supporting migrants including limited resources, lack of knowledge and information, limited staff training, and the politically sensitive nature of migration in many countries.

2016 APMN Regional Migration Survey (23 completed):

- 13 National Societies who responded suggested that migration was either a medium or high priority for their National Society.
- Underage or unaccompanied migrants, migrants in detention, people who were at risk of or experienced trafficking were identified by National Societies as groups most vulnerable.
- National Societies identified that access to health and other services and legal barriers were the main challenges facing migrants.

2017 APMN Regional Migration Survey (29 completed):

- Migration increased in prioritisation, with 16 National Societies (55%) regarding migration as a medium or high priority.
- Migrant workers continued to be the group of most concern for 21 National Societies, followed by people who have been trafficked or at risk of trafficking.
- Limited resources, lack of knowledge or information on migration and limited staff training continued to be barriers for National Societies to support migrants.

2018 APMN Regional Migration Survey (30 completed):

- More National Societies identified that they either had or intended to include migration as part of their organisational strategies, rising to 59% of National Societies surveyed in comparison to previous years (31% in 2015, 48% in 2016 and 34% in 2017).
- 27 National Societies identified that migrant workers were the group of most concern, followed by people who have been trafficked or at risk of trafficking (15 National Societies), as well as irregular or unsupported migrants (12 National Societies).
- When asked about future humanitarian concerns related to migration, 22 National Societies identified labour migration, 14 National Societies acknowledged trafficking in persons, and 12 National Societies identified climate change and disasters as critical and increasing challenges.

2019 APMN / IFRC Regional Migration Survey (31 completed):

- 18 National Societies (58%) advised they were actively strengthening collaboration and coordination within the Movement on migration.
- A third of respondents advised that they were developing programming on migration and increasing humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy relating to migration.
- When asked about future humanitarian concerns related to migration, 71% of National Societies identified labour migration, 65% mentioned family separation in the context of migration, and 48% noted climate change and disasters.

2020 APMN / IFRC Regional Migration Survey (22 completed):

- 13 National Societies (60%) stated they were actively increasing their understanding of migration issues.
- 15 National Societies identified migrant workers as the group of most concern, followed by undocumented or irregular migrants (12 National Societies). Climate change and disaster related migration and displacement was highlighted as an increasing humanitarian concern for 13 National Societies.
- 19 National Societies acknowledged they faced technical and financial barriers to integrating migration operational plans and moving to action on migration.



Graphic illustration of APMN priority areas for 2019-2020, by Alex Wisman.

2021 APMN / IFRC Global Migration Survey (25 completed):

- Almost all National Societies highlighted that migration was embedded in their strategic plans.
- Over half of respondents referenced they were including migrants and people who have been displaced as staff and volunteers.
- Over half of respondents were engaging in advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy to address humanitarian concerns of migrants.

Key insights across 2015-2021

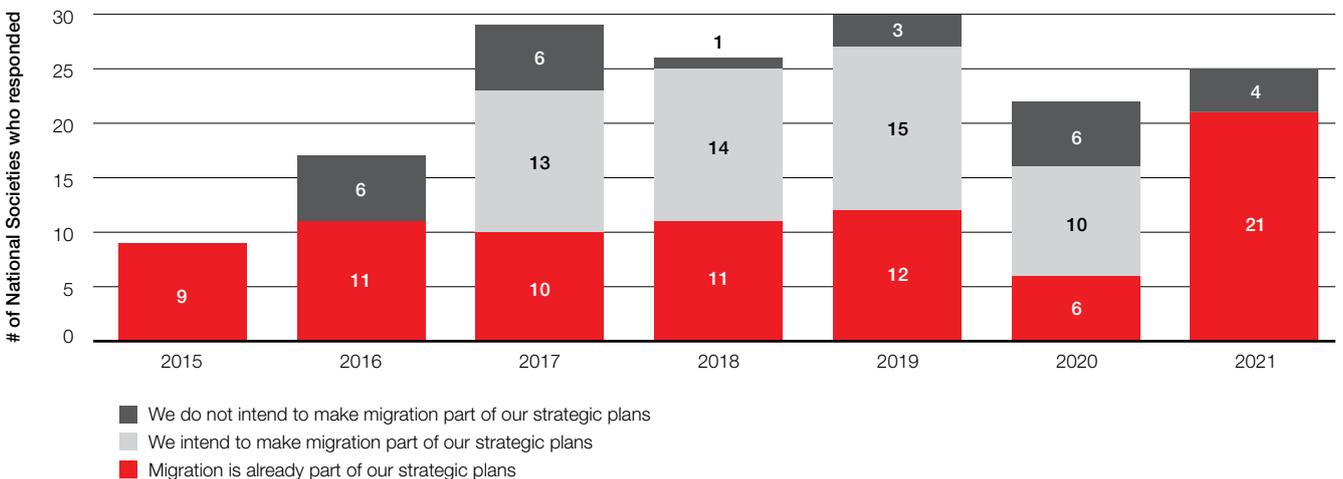
National Society prioritisation of migration

Each year the APMN asked whether migration was a priority for National Society. The results show that migration increased in prioritisation each year, which may have been a result of engagement in the APMN, the development of the IFRC Global Migration Strategy, or other opportunities provided to National Societies to learn from and share experience on migration.

Migration within National Society Strategic plans

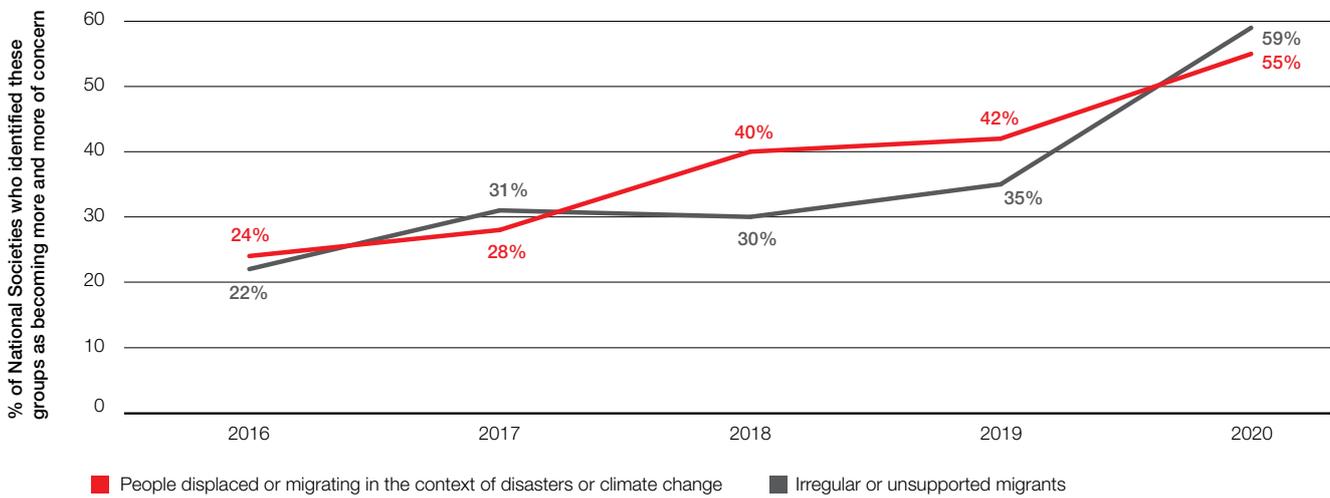
The number of National Societies identifying they had included migration within their strategic plans also increased since the first regional migration survey in 2015. The marked increase over recent years aligns with the support and guidance provided to National Societies by APMN peer to peer learning programs, ICRC and IFRC technical support, and targets related to the IFRC Global Migration Strategy: '75% of National Societies include migrants in strategic plans and conduct a migration and displacement needs assessment'.

Is migration and displacement recognised in your National Society's strategic plans?



Groups of increasing concern to National Societies

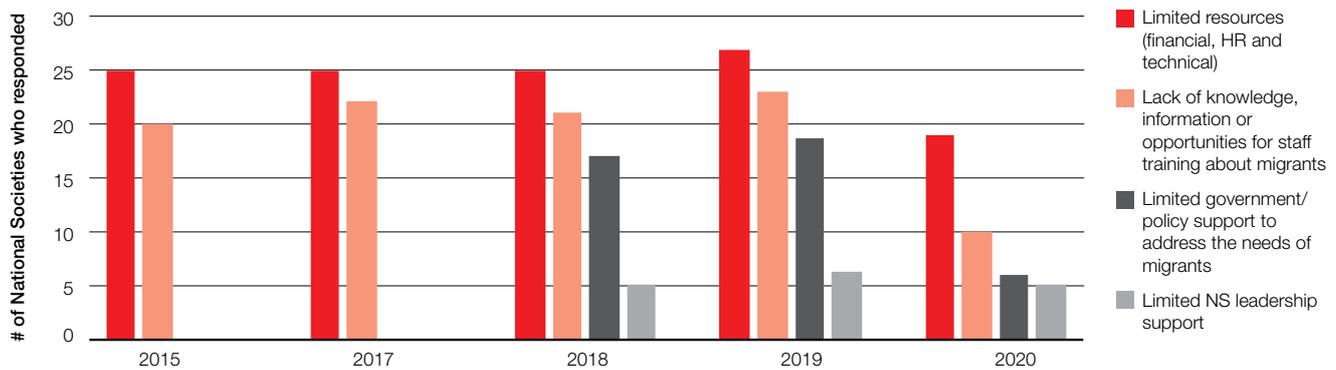
When National Societies were asked which groups of migrants were of most concern, noting the intersectionality of people's identities and experiences, they consistently identified migrant workers, people at risk of trafficking and as well those with limited access to humanitarian services. However, over time, there was an increase in the number of National Societies identifying that people being displaced or migrating in the context of climate change and disasters, as well as those moving irregularly was of humanitarian concern.



Barriers to understanding or addressing the humanitarian concerns on migrants

In each survey between 2015 and 2020, National Societies were asked what the main barriers were to progressing work on migration. The APMN received consistent feedback that resourcing was an issue, particularly related to technical support, training, and human resources, as well as financial support to scale up action. Limited knowledge on migration issues, as well as leadership support, and government policy on migration, were also identified as barriers and areas that National Societies sought support from partners within and external to the Movement to overcome.

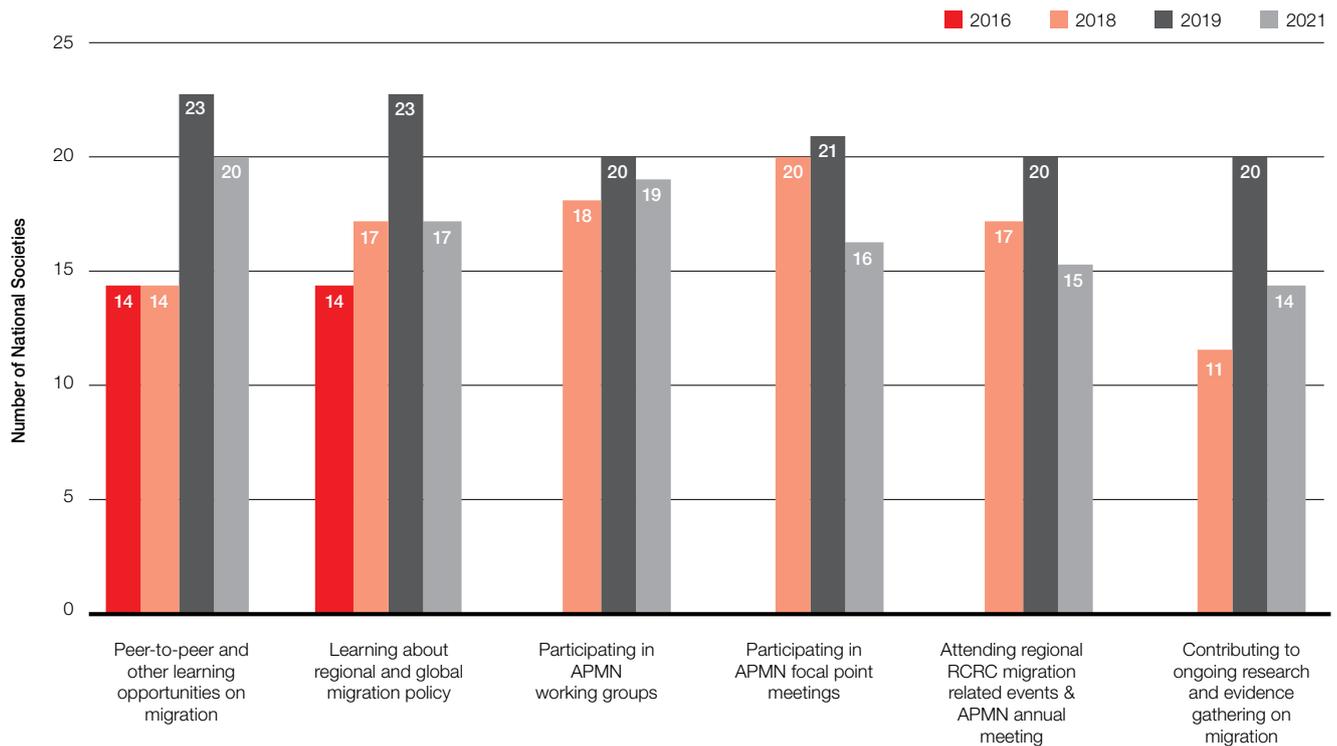
What are the barriers to supporting migrants in your country?



APMN activities most valuable to National Societies

APMN activities have become increasingly important for National Societies over recent years. Through these surveys, National Societies highlighted that peer-to-peer learning and collaboration activities were the most critical and valuable activity for migration focal points. In addition, leaning about and engaging in regional and global policy on migration has been fundamental in supporting National Societies to develop their understanding about migration policy and opportunities to engage with governments. National Societies also value participating in working groups on issues of mutual concern and contributing to ongoing research and evidence gathering on migration to amplify the role and added value of National Societies in preventing and addressing vulnerabilities of migrants.

What has been the most useful aspect of your engagement with the APMN?



What we have learnt

The 10-year anniversary of the APMN provides an opportunity to reflect on lessons learnt over this period, and help shape the future of the network for years to come. These lessons include:

Migration in the Asia Pacific is complex

1. **Migration in the Asia Pacific is complex and responding to humanitarian concerns of migrants is not a one size fits all approach.** There are many migration routes in the Asia Pacific. Migration can be temporary, permanent, cyclical, seasonal, irregular, or cross regional. For example, people move from South Asia to the Middle East; within Southeast Asia and within South Asia; seasonally within Pacific Island countries and to Australia and New Zealand for work or to be with family; or to neighbouring countries in search of safety, including from Myanmar and Afghanistan. Given this complexity, National Societies can experience difficulty in addressing the humanitarian concerns of migrants and people impacted by migration. In some countries and contexts, migration is perceived as politically sensitive, which makes the Fundamental Principles of Impartiality and Neutrality critically important for the Movement's work with and for migrants.
2. **COVID-19 presented a range of new and complex humanitarian challenges for migrants and the work of National Societies, but also created an opportunity to expand work and integrate migrants into humanitarian responses.** In this regard, National Societies have been able to scale up action to ensure migrants, irrespective of legal status or documentation, are included in health and vaccination programming, livelihoods initiatives, psychosocial support services and cash assistance, amongst.

Responding to these challenges is difficult and requires strategic and targeted resourcing

3. **National Societies face similar challenges to identify, scale up and respond to humanitarian concerns of migrants.** Resourcing remains a key issue identified by National Societies in multiple annual APMN and IFRC migration surveys and in peer-to-peer sessions. To support National Societies to overcome these barriers, it would be valuable to focus on sustainable resourcing to build local capacity, integrate migration into existing programming, and scale up action. Given the RCRC Movement is identified as a key implementing partner in the Global Compact for Migration, National Societies are well placed

to partner with governments to implement humanitarian services for migrants irrespective of legal status or documentation.

4. **National Society migration focal points value personal engagements and collaboration opportunities to enhance understanding on migration issues, build trust and relationships, and find areas of mutual interest.** COVID-19 has presented many challenges to the work of National Societies, and there are important opportunities ahead to build relationships, strengthen partnerships and share learnings. Resourcing and scaling up in person APMN activities such as peer learning programs, trainings, and mentoring should be prioritised moving forward.
5. **Ensuring the sustainability and strength of the APMN is a priority, however the network needs secure, reliable, and ongoing funding to develop and implement network activities, and adequately support National Societies to harness opportunities.** Since its inception, there has been limited resources put towards APMN activities. Additional funding will create and expand opportunities for National Societies to build capacity, take strategic action, and take on leadership roles such as APMN Co-Chair, Secretariat, working group leads, and to progress practical cross border collaboration.

Capacity building and peer to peer engagement can be further strengthened with support from partners within and external to the Movement

6. **Peer to peer learning and collaboration that is led by the interests and expertise of National Societies, with technical and resource support provided by partners within the Movement, is essential to enhancing capacity and collaboration between National Societies.** There are many opportunities to provide the support requested by National Societies to ensure migrants, irrespective of status, have access to essential humanitarian services in emergency and non-emergency contexts. The APMN's strengths lie in co-designing peer learning programs with National Societies on areas of mutual interest, with implementation support from partners within the Movement.
7. **Working groups and communities of practice function well when supported by technical leads through IFRC, ICRC and partner National Societies.** Ensuring there is ongoing, dedicated, and sustainable assistance available

to APMN working groups and communities of practice is essential to address challenges and opportunities raised by National Societies. Expertise and knowledge sharing on thematic issues such as climate change, labor migration and trafficking in persons, and sub regional engagement within the Pacific, Southeast Asia etc. enables National Societies to integrate shared learnings into local migration initiatives and scale up action.

National Societies are in a unique position to respond to the humanitarian concerns of migrants, and are ready to work together

8. **National Societies, in collaboration with Movement partners, are in a unique position to prevent, address and respond to the humanitarian assistance and protection challenges facing migrants across countries of origin, transit and destination.** As a regional peer led network, the APMN brings together National Societies who, despite working on similar humanitarian needs, are operating in different contexts and realities. The APMN adds value to National Societies by ensuring equal access to learnings, resources, and guidance to support this vital work.
9. **National Societies are interested to discuss, design and implement collaborative cross border projects.** The APMN has been valuable for information, knowledge and experience sharing on migration since its inception. Through the APMN, National Societies have identified a range of areas and opportunities where cross border collaboration and partnerships would be valuable to meet the humanitarian needs of migrants in cross border and cross regional settings.
10. **Where there is capacity, interest, and expertise to do so, migration could be integrated within existing humanitarian programming, to prevent and address the humanitarian concerns of migrants.** National Societies have strong programming in the areas of climate and disasters, protection, health, shelter, livelihoods and cash assistance, amongst others. Integration of migration within these existing areas, led by collaborative and complimentary approaches at the regional level, will support National Societies to embed this way of working into national and local humanitarian operations and contexts.



Leaders from Pacific National Societies, IFRC and ICRC gather at the 'Mobilising the Movement on Migration' event to discuss collaboration opportunities across the region, in Kuala Lumpur, 2016.

Looking forward

Addressing the humanitarian concerns of migrants and people impacted by migration is one of the main humanitarian challenges facing the Movement, and we are uniquely placed to respond to these challenges. The 2022 UNHCR report on the number of people forcibly displaced worldwide highlights the scale of humanitarian concern for people impacted by persecution, conflict, violence, and human rights violations, with numbers of people displaced increasing from 82.4 million in 2020 to 89.3 million in 2021.¹⁴ Of this, over 2.7 million people were displaced from Afghanistan and 1.2 million people from Myanmar.¹⁵

The global challenges of today require stronger collective efforts, engagement, and transformative ways of working. National Societies are critical to addressing these humanitarian concerns as our work spans countries and regions. As a Movement, we have committed to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to migrants in need, irrespective of legal status, and also to all those impacted by migration and displacement, including host communities and families that remain in home countries.

Since the APMN was created, National Societies have strengthened their capacity, activities, collaboration, and strategic approaches on migration. At the same time, National Societies are increasingly responding to more frequent and complex humanitarian challenges, which stretch their resources and capacity.

The recent establishment of the Global Migration Leadership and Global Migration Lab, and the forthcoming development of the Movement Migration Strategy, provides an exciting opportunity to consider how we build on the achievements and learnings of the APMN to ensure we meet the needs of migrants in the region now and in the years to come. It provides an opportunity to take stock of what has been working well and where stronger Movement collaboration will help National Societies to connect, influence, lead, and partner on migration, and ensure no one is left behind.

The first meeting of the regional Red Cross and Red Crescent migration network co-chairs in June 2022 provided an important opportunity to explore increased cross regional expertise and knowledge sharing, as well as cross regional support for migrants from the local to the global. These opportunities are timely, as we know the region faces more pressing and emerging risks in the years to come from climate change and disasters, conflict, insecurity, and epidemics.

The IFRC Strategy 2030¹⁶ outlines five global challenges facing National Societies over the next decade, which are 'interconnected and will require committed local action to manage

and bring about positive global change'. These include:

- Climate and environmental crisis
- Evolving crisis and disasters
- Growing gaps in health and well-being
- Migration and identity
- Values, power and inclusion

These issues are already having a significant and ongoing impact on migration in the Asia Pacific region and require scaled up action by National Societies, IFRC and ICRC to prepare for, address and mobilise local action as a distributed and collaborative humanitarian network.

The APMN is ready to progress peer to peer engagement and action on migration aligned with priorities of National Societies, and with support of partners within and external to the Movement. We can build on our achievements and lessons learnt over the last decade, and leverage our potential to accelerate localised, peer-to-peer engagement, and mobilise to prepare for and respond to challenges facing migrants in the years to come.

To do so, the APMN will focus its future efforts on:

- Expanding its peer-to-peer learning programs and opportunities, virtually and in-person.
- Enhancing cross border collaboration between National Societies and cross regional engagement with other networks.
- Supporting the development and implementation of a Movement Strategy on Migration to include key issues and perspectives from the Asia Pacific region.
- Ensuring the sustainability, influence, and ongoing leadership of the APMN, through securing reliable, and ongoing funding.
- Increasing the level of engagement of National Societies in the APMN and on migration, to ensure inclusive and accessible representation at both the technical and leadership level.
- Contributing to research, evidence collection, and knowledge gathering, including that of lived experience and on thematic areas of interest to National Societies, to strengthen the expertise and influence of National Societies on migration.
- Amplifying the work of National Societies in regional and global policy forums.

The APMN looks forward to working and collaborating with partners to develop a safer, more inclusive, and welcoming world for migrants and people impacted by migration across the Asia Pacific and beyond.

Endnotes

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3. IFRC (2020), *Strategy 2030*, <https://www.ifrc.org/strategy-2030>
4. UN ESCAP (2020), *Asia Pacific Migration Report 2020*, p.7.
See: https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/AP_Migration_R_2020.pdf
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8. IFRC (2009), *Policy on Migration*. See: https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/Migration-Policy_EN.pdf
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- 11 APMN Secretariat (2018), *APMN Country Profiles on Migration Issues and Vulnerabilities in the Asia Pacific Region*. On file with author.
- 12 IFRC, ICRC and APMN Report (2020), *Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Approaches to Migration in Asia Pacific*. On file with author.
13. Global Compact for Migration, paragraph 44 'We will implement the Global Compact in cooperation and partnership with migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organisations, faith-based organisations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, trade unions, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders'
14. UNHCR (2022), *Global Trends: Forced displacement in 2021*. See: <https://www.unhcr.org/62a9d1494/global-trends-report-2021>
15. UNHCR (2022), *Global Trends: Forced displacement in 2021*, See: <https://www.unhcr.org/62a9d1494/global-trends-report-2021>
16. IFRC (2020), *Strategy 2030*, See: <https://www.ifrc.org/strategy-2030>

