



# Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Disasters in ASEAN Project

Mid-Term Report, July 2017

# About the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest volunteer-based humanitarian network. With our 190 member National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide, we are in every community reaching 160.7 million people annually through long-term services and development programmes, as well as 110 million people through disaster response and early recovery programmes. We act before, during and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people. We do so with impartiality as to nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class and political opinions.

Guided by *Strategy 2020* – our collective plan of action to tackle the major humanitarian and development challenges of this decade – we are committed to saving lives and changing minds.

Our strength lies in our volunteer network, our community-based expertise and our independence and neutrality. We work to improve humanitarian standards, as partners in development, and in response to disasters. We persuade decision-makers to act at all times in the interests of vulnerable people. The result: we enable healthy and safe communities, reduce vulnerabilities, strengthen resilience and foster a culture of peace around the world.



## International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

P.O. Box 303  
CH-1211 Geneva 19  
Switzerland  
Telephone: +41 22 730 42 22

**With thanks to the following donors who have made this project possible**



A Canada-ASEAN  
project. Funded by

**Canada**

© International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,  
Geneva, 2017

Any part of this publication may be cited, copied, translated into other languages or adapted to meet local needs without prior permission from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, provided that the source is clearly stated. Requests for commercial reproduction should be directed to the IFRC at [may.maloney@ifrc.org](mailto:may.maloney@ifrc.org)

P.O. Box 372  
CH-1211 Geneva 19  
Switzerland  
Telephone: +41 22 730 4222  
Telefax: +41 22 730 0395  
E-mail: [secretariat@ifrc.org](mailto:secretariat@ifrc.org)  
Web site: <http://www.ifrc.org>

# Acknowledgements

## Sponsors

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) wishes to thank the following sponsors for their support to this project:

- Australian Red Cross and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- British Red Cross and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID)
- Government of Canada and Canadian Red Cross
- Finnish Red Cross Communications Unit

## Contributors

This project is led by Ms Priyanka Bhalla, ASEAN SGBV Project Lead, IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, in collaboration with:

### **IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur:**

Ms May Maloney, Asia Pacific Regional Gender and Diversity Coordinator, who has provided substantive technical, project management and fundraising support.

Ms Padmini Nayagam, Disaster Law Officer, who provided administrative and research related support in the initial phases of the project.

Ms Jenny Molin, former Gender and Diversity Intern, who provided research and technical related support during the initial phases of the project.

Mr Charles Ranby, FACT Information Management/Information Technology Delegate, who oriented core members of the team on information management and the open data kit (ODK)

### **IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) Bangkok:**

Ms Christina Haneef, Gender and Diversity Senior Technical Officer who has provided extensive project management and training support including leading on training in Indonesia

Ms Warongrong Tatrakom, Disaster Risk Reduction Officer, who have both provided project management, administrative, training, translation and other key technical support for all three target countries.

Ms Mirva Helenius, Communications Delegate, who was part of the core communications team to document a short film about the training, data collection and follow-up community-based programming process as part of this project.

### **IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) Indonesia and Timor-Leste:**

Mr Giorgio Ferrario, Head of Country Cluster Support Team to Indonesia and Timor-Leste and Representative to ASEAN, for providing important and strategic entry points for a collaborative project with the ASEAN Disaster Management Committee

Mr Ahmad Husein, Senior National Society Development Manager, was the Lead Researcher for the Indonesia data collection team and provided project management, administrative, training, translation and other key technical support.

Mr Husni Mubarak (Alex), Senior IT and Telecom Officer, for providing substantial support during the form-building of the household survey within the open data kit (ODK) and with troubleshooting during data collection in Indonesia.

Ms Hanika Winahayu, Liaison and Coordination Manager – ASEAN, for providing important and strategic entry points and follow-up actions for a collaborative project with the ASEAN Disaster Management Committee

Ms Riris Sirait, Senior Administrative Officer, for providing substantial administrative support.

## IFRC Country Office Philippines:

Mr Patrick Elliot, Operations Manager Delegate, for providing technical guidance on data collection site

Ms Sandra Romero Ruiz, Disaster Risk Management Delegate, for providing project management, administrative, training, translation and other key technical support.

Mr Byronjay Nonato, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Officer, for providing technical support on ODK related matters during each data collection training, including form-building of the household survey and troubleshooting during data collection.

Ms Pauline Caspellan-Arce, Regional Disaster Law Officer, for providing key technical and analytical support on integrating the gender and disaster law research into this project.

Ms Philame Guevarra, Administrative Officer, for providing substantial administrative support.

## Lao Red Cross:

Ms. Ketkeo Oupalavong, Deputy-Head of the Advancement of Women, Lao Red Cross, who has provided project management, administrative, training, translation and other key technical support. She was also the Lead Researcher in Lao PDR for this project.

Mr. Kovit Pholsena, LRC volunteer, Lao Red Cross, who has provided extensive support in documentation and translation

Ms. Malaykhan Keomouny, Deputy of Women Development Division, Lao NCAW

## Palang Merah Indonesia (Indonesian Red Cross):

Mr Ritola Tasmaya, MD, MPH, Secretary General of Indonesian Red Cross for providing his great support from the beginning of the research.

Ms Deasy Sujatiningrani, Act. Head of Planning, Research and Development Bureau for providing project management, administrative, training, translation and other key technical support.

Mr Andrea Pahlevi, IT-Telecom Head, for providing substantial support during the form-building of the household survey within the open data kit (ODK).

Mr Teuku Alaidinsyah, Chairman of Aceh Chapter and Mr Ridwan Hidayat, Chairman of Nusa Tenggara Barat Chapter for providing full support to IFRC and PMI data collection team during the research.

Mr Teuku Ardiansyah (Vice Board Member for Disaster Management), Mr. Fauzi Husaini (Pak Poli/Head of DM Division), and Mr Jhoni Ikhwan (DM Staff) at Aceh Chapter for providing their qualified volunteers, coordinating all technical preparation and support to data collection team.

Mr Fakhruzzaman Hasballah, Chairman of Pidie Jaya Branch for his supporting the data collection team during the research.

Mr Fery Sofyan, Chairman of Kota Bima Branch for providing their qualified volunteers and staffs as data collection team members and supporting the research.

Mr Umar Abda, Board Member for Disaster Management of Pidie Jaya Branch for his great daily technical support in coordinating with head of village within target area.

## Philippines Red Cross:

Ms Norwina Eclarinal, Officer-In-Charge, International Relations and Strategic Partnerships Office, for providing project management, administrative, training, translation and other key technical support.

Mr Brian Kae Enriquez, Acting Manager Haiyan Operations and WASH Unit Head, for providing substantive support in the initial recruitment of the Tacloban data collection team and other technical guidance.

Mr Hubert M Quijano, WASH Officer, Leyte, Haiyan Operations, for providing substantial administrative support during the recruitment of the Tacloban data collection team.

Mr Laurence Zalavarria, Finance and Admin Officer, Leyte, Haiyan Operations, for providing substantial administrative support during the recruitment of the Tacloban data collection team.

Mr Louie John Legaspie, PRC Chapter Project Coordinator – Aklan, for providing project management and administrative support for the Aklan data collection team.

## Australian Red Cross

Ms Leda Tyrell, Practice Lead – Protection, Gender and Inclusion, for substantial technical, fundraising and financial support

## Canadian Red Cross

Ms Nita Ryarti, Former Project Manager for Canadian Red Cross in Indonesia, for providing project management, administrative, training, translation and other key technical support, as Lead Researcher, during the initial phases of the project

## Finnish Red Cross

Ms Anna-Sofia Joro, Media Producer, who was part of the core communications team to document a short film about the training, data collection and follow-up community-based programming process as part of this project.

Ms Maria Santto, Audio-visual Communications Delegate, who was part of the core communications team to document a short film about the training, data collection and follow-up community-based programming process as part of this project.

## The Data Collection Team, Lao PDR

### Oudomxay Team

1	Mr. Ninxay Phomphoumy	Lead of Oudomxay team
2	Mr. Sungkham Xayyan	Data Collector
3	Ms. Souksavahn Chanthaphone	Data Collector
4	Ms. Khounthavy Luanduangsithideth	Data Collector
5	Ms. Bounthone Phimmavong	Data Collector
6	Ms. Amphai Thompadith	Local translator
7	Ms. Neephone Thompadith	Local translator

### Sekong Team

8	Ms. Phetdavahn Champamanyvong	Lead of Sekong team
9	Mr. Jai Meuanlard	Data collector
10	Mr. Vilaysack Boudsaba	Data collector
11	Ms. Salita Vongchandy	Data collector
12	Ms. Keoduangta Khamdy	Data collector
13	Mr. Vilaysack Saiysekong	Local translator
14	Mr. Kiengsa	Local translator
15	Mr. Songka	Local translator
16	Ms. Sydoon Yaplalonghang	Local translator

## The Data Collection Team—Indonesia

Aceh		
1	Mr. Sultan Fariz Syah	Field Supervisor
2	Ms. Rika Yuli Harta	Assistant to FS
3	Ms. Julia Wati	Data Collector
4	Mr. Fachrurrazi	Data Collector
5	Mr. Fadhlullah	Data Collector
6	Mr. Rahmatullah	Data Collector
7	Ms. Ade Yulia Andriani	Data Collector
8	Ms. Leni Fitria	Data Collector
Bima		
9	Ms. Evi Susanti	Field Supervisor
10	Mr. Rusydiyono	Assistant to FS
11	Mr. Zulfakar	Data Collector
12	Mr. Rusdin	Data Collector
13	Mr. Ilyas	Data Collector
4	Mrs. Nur Afni	Data Collector
15	Ms. Suci Damayanti	Data Collector
16	Ms Rismawati	Data Collector

## The Data Collection Team—Philippines

Presently in recruitment

### External Partners

Ms Andrea Cullinan, Regional GBV in Emergencies Advisor, for reviewing all the data collection tools and providing key technical support during trainings for data collection teams in Lao PDR, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Ms Mary Picard, Consultant, who provided technical support by reviewing all the data collection tools.

Ms Malaikan, National Commission for the Advancement for Women, Lao PDR, for technical support during the training of the data collection team in Vientiane and field monitoring during data collection.

Ms Tun, Lao Statistics Bureau, for technical support during the training of the data collection team in Vientiane.

Mr Muhammad Saeroni, Manager of Research and Training Division, Rifka Annisa, Indonesia, for technical support during the training of the data collection team in Jakarta.

Mrs Sunarti, Head of Sub-Directorate Recovery and Social Strengthening, Ministry of Social Affairs Indonesia, for technical support during the training of data collection team in Jakarta.

Ms Rowena Dacsig, Humanitarian Affairs Analyst, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Philippines, for technical support during the training of the data collection team in Aklan.

## Background and Rationale

As has been established by numerous studies, SGBV during and after disaster situations and other emergencies is under-researched and largely ignored in policy circles. Studies conducted in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the United States have found that GBV increases after disasters. However, few studies have been undertaken in low-income, developing country settings. Few go beyond researching the gendered effects on women and girls of GBV. Consequently, many humanitarian agencies overlook men and boys and minority groups, such as gay men and boys, lesbian women and girls and transgendered individuals in their target groups during data collection and follow-up community based programming.

Considering that SGBV, in some countries, is the leading cause of death among women aged 18-44, that at least one third of women experience some type of SGBV in their lifetime (WHO, 2016) and that Asia-Pacific is the most disaster prone country in the world (UNNC, 2016), it is crucial to substantiate that both male and female SGBV survivors need stronger support mechanisms during disasters and other emergencies.

Aiming to strengthen the evidence base and community based prevention and response systems on this issue, the Movement passed International Conference Resolution 3 on “Sexual and Gender-Based Violence: Joint Action on Prevention and Response” in December 2015. This resolution specifically calls for looking at existing research and to continue research on SGBV during disasters and other emergencies. It also calls upon states to look at their laws, plans and procedures to evaluate if they adequately address SGBV prevention and response. And finally this resolution calls for not only integrating SGBV into

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans, but also to engage community members, with a focus on women in decision making about DRR.

This resolution is the blueprint and mandate for how this research project has been designed and implemented so far. Engaging the ASEAN community from the outset, will give both community based interventions and policy changes greater reach and broader impact.

### Objectives of the Research

The **overall purpose** of this research is to better understand how public authorities and humanitarian actors can prevent and better respond to gender-based violence during and after disasters. The specific **objectives** include to:

- Understand how SGBV affects boys, girls, men and women differently during and after disasters
- Map essential SGBV response services that remain functioning during a disaster
- Understand how public authorities (including ASEAN coordinated response) and humanitarian actors (especially the Movement actors) have responded to disaster affected communities in the areas of SGBV prevention and response. Collect and document good practices but also make recommendations for Movement actors and public authorities (with a focus on ASEAN government representatives) to prevent and respond during future disasters.

The countries that have been chosen for this research are Indonesia, Laos and the Philippines. They were chosen in order to have a comparison across different scales and types of disasters, different cultural, socio-economic and political environments and varying levels of sectoral support for GBV survivors. In Indonesia, Aceh and Bima have been chosen as data collection sites. Aceh had a mid-scale earthquake in December 2016, but has been the site of numerous disasters and long-term conflict. Bima, has recurring floods on a yearly basis, also on a mid-scale level.

The Philippines has been witness to all scales of disasters, however, for this research, the focus is on the aftermath of devastating Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 and Aklan, which suffers from recurrent mid-scale disasters such as Typhoon Yolanda. Finally, Laos has recurrent flooding on a yearly basis and the two data collection sites are Oudomxay in the north and Sekong in the South. Compared to Indonesia and the Philippines, Laos has smaller scale disasters.

## Projected Outcomes

- Report on study results for each country with ASEAN specific recommendations and country specific recommendations in the health, legal, psychosocial and livelihoods sector directly related to disaster preparation, response and recovery.
- Detailed advocacy plan for select ASEAN and Movement actors in each country, suggesting meaningful interventions for survivors at the community, district, state and national level, specific to times of disaster.
- Detailed workplan for continued IFRC-ASEAN partnership in implementing the recommendations.
- Monitoring timeline for: (a) projected legislative changes in laws related to disaster management and violence against women and girls and (b) implementation in GBV prevention and response in each country chosen for research (over a period of four years).

## Linkages to IFRC Global Disaster Law Agenda

The IFRC is supporting Global Research into the prevalence and protective factors on sexual and gender-based violence in disasters, and this project links directly to the global agenda for research and change.



## Opportunities for engagement with ASEAN

- ⇒ Helping to formulate regional social protection guidelines and advising the ACDM how to better prevent and respond to GBV during disaster situations. (Area Four: PROTECT in AADMER workplan)
- ⇒ Participating in the revision of the ACDM's standard operating procedures during disaster management and response.
- ⇒ Integrating research results into ongoing training engagement with ACDM, such as the ACE training.
- ⇒ Future participation in development of guidelines related to disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

### Developments with the ASEAN Disaster Management Committee (ACDM)

IFRC was first approached in late 2015 by the ASEAN secretariat, to contribute to the AADMER work plan by planning and implementing a research project on SGBV prevention and response during disasters. In 2016, IFRC circulated and revised concept notes on this project, with input from the ACDM Working Group on Prevention and Mitigation and relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, including the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

Between December 2016 and April 2017, IFRC presented the project to the ACDM Working Group on Prevention and Mitigation three times (please see Annex A in supplementary material for presentation). The research project was fully endorsed during the April 2017 ACDM meeting in Vientiane, Laos.

A project steering committee, with membership from the IFRC, ASEAN secretariat and the ACDM Working Group on Prevention and

Mitigation is overseeing the progress of the project. IFRC will present at the next ACDM meeting in October 2017 about project implementation and preliminary research results from Laos, Indonesia and Philippines. Follow-up policy and programme interventions will also be discussed at this stage. If the ACDM is in agreement, a second data collection phase with three more ASEAN countries may commence in 2018.

## Research Design and Development of Data Collection Tools

This project has a mixed methods research design, consisting of:

- A household level survey, using mobile data technology, for disaster affected adult men and women. One survey is targeted towards disaster-affected households who have not lived in temporary housing during the onset of the disaster. The other survey is targeted towards households, who were forced to leave their homes during the disaster and live in temporary housing (please see Annex B in the supplementary materials folder). Each country has two data collection sites, recently affected by disasters. A representative sample was taken of affected households (95% confidence level with 5% margin of error). Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with four types of target groups: (1) Disaster affected men, (2) Disaster affected women, (3) Disaster affected adolescent boys (age 12-17) and (4) Disaster affected adolescent girls (age 12-17). This same grouping was applied to communities in which individuals had to live in temporary housing. (please see Annex C in supplementary material)
- Key Informant Interviews: Key Informant Interview questionnaires were developed for individuals working in the government and non-governmental healthcare, psycho-social, security and legal sectors, at the capital, district and provincial level. Tools were developed for additional “responders” during disasters, such as DRR government departments, NGOs, international organisations, individual community

and religious leaders (please see Annex D in supplementary material).

- All tools were reviewed by internal IFRC staff, but also by a consultant working on the Disaster Law and Gender Research project and the Regional Emergency GBV Advisor (REGA), meant to work with members of the GBV Area of Responsibility (AOR). All tools were also developed, taking the following guidelines into consideration:
- [Reproductive Health Response in Conflict \(RHRC\) GBV Tools Manual \(2004\)](#)
- [Researching Violence Against Women: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists \(PATH and WHO, 2005\)](#)
- [GBV Assessment and Situation Analysis Tools \(prepared by GBV AOR in 2012 for “Managing GBV Programmes During Emergencies Training”\)](#)
- [WHO Ethical and Safety Recommendations for researching, documenting and monitoring sexual violence during emergencies \(2007\)](#)
- [Advancing the field: Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Humanitarian Settings \(UNICEF/IRC, 2011\)](#)

## Training and Implementation process for each target country

Each country underwent a recruitment process for its data collection team members (please see Annex E in supplementary material). Two data collection sites were chosen for each country context and the team structure consists of a Lead Researcher, two field supervisors (one for each site), two field supervisor assistants (one for each site) and twelve data collectors (three men and three women for each site).

Each team participated in a six-day training, before commencement of data collection, which included two days of essential topics on GBV sensitization, three days of data collection methods, including how to conduct surveys and FGDs, and the final day of the pilot test (please see Annex F in supplementary materials). Each member of the data collection team also received a fieldwork manual, which consists of the following content (please see Annex G in supplementary material for full fieldwork guide):

### Table of Contents in Fieldwork Manual

#### 1. Key terms and definitions

#### 2. Duties and responsibilities of data collection team

- Duties and responsibilities of Lead Researcher
- Duties and responsibilities of Field Supervisor (Research Assistant)
- Duties and responsibilities of data collectors

#### 3. Emergency contact and security guidelines/ Keeping safe in the field

#### 4. Ethical considerations during data collection

#### 5. Focus Group Discussion Questions

- How to conduct a Focus Group Discussion: Guidelines and Tips
- Focus Group Discussion Questions

#### 6. The Questionnaire: Explanation and Guidelines Question by Question

- Questionnaire for populations with shelter experience
- Questionnaire for populations with no shelter experience
- How to select and approach households
- Open Data Kit (ODK): Do's and Don'ts
- Minimizing non-response

#### 7. GBV referral services: Aceh and Bima

#### 8. Draft Fieldwork timeline: Dates, places, targeted number of FGDs and household level surveys

#### Annexes:

#### 9) Data monitoring and quality control

- Weekly field report from Research Assistant to Lead Researcher
- Confidentiality and Ethics agreement (to be signed by whole data collection team)

#### 10) FGD forms and questions

#### Supplementary print outs:

Excerpts from WHO ethical guidelines

Excerpts on UNICEF ethical guidelines for interviewing children

## **Training and Implementation process for each target country continued...**

After the training, Lead Researchers and another individual from the planning team would travel with the data collection teams for the first week of data collection, in order to help with monitoring and trouble shooting. During this week, Lead Researchers would also conduct some of the key informant interviews at the provincial and district level.

The Project Lead held weekly update calls with Lead Researchers. At least one refresher training meeting would be held half way through data collection (this is has not happened in Indonesia and Laos yet) and a feedback/lessons learned meeting would be held with the team soon after the completion of data collection (please see Annex H in supplementary materials for the types of questions that data collection team members were asked).

The analysis phase will be led by the Project Lead, with assistance from the Lead Researcher and other members of the in-country planning team. After the analysis phase, a committee, which decides on the dissemination of results and final report recommendations, shall be formed.

## **Implementation Progress in Laos, Indonesia and Philippines**

The table overleaf illustrates at which implementation stage each country is.

Each country is at a different implementation stage. For Laos, the focus is on the analysis of the results and ensuring that the FGDs are carried out. In Indonesia, the training with the data collection team is ongoing. In the Philippines, the planning and recruitment of the data collection team is underway.

Country	Project set-up and training of data collection team	Data collection	Status	Feedback/ Lesson learned meeting	Dissemination of results strategy
Laos	The project set-up phase and training for the data collection team is complete. The training took place from May 10 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2017.	Complete except for FGDs. They will take place in September. 27 villages were sampled (15 in Oudomxay and 12 in Sekong). 277 surveys were collected.	Started survey.	Complete, but results have to be written up.	Will take place in September
Indonesia	The project set-up phase is complete and the training for the data collection team is currently ongoing (July 17 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> )	The data collection will take place from July 26 <sup>th</sup> – August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Starts third week of August	TBD, but most likely end of August	TBD
Philippines	The project set-up phase is currently ongoing. The suggested dates for training the data collection team are: September 11 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	Suggested dates for the data collection phase are: September 18 <sup>th</sup> – October 12 <sup>th</sup>	Starts third week of October	TBD	TBD

## Advocacy Communication Plan

In order to document the training and implementation process and gather survivor voices, a 5-minute film is being shot in collaboration with Finnish Red Cross field communications unit. The outcome of this communications initiative is to raise advocacy and awareness

## Next steps for project implementation and guidance from ACDM

For the remainder of this year, the emphasis will be on completing data collection in Indonesia and the Philippines, completing the analysis of results for all three countries and to write a substantive report about the findings and future recommendations by November 2017. Specifically the following tasks have to be undertaken:

- 1) Data collection and results analysis for Indonesia
- 2) Entire implementation process for the Philippines
- 3) Survey analysis
- 4) FGD and KII coding and analysis
- 5) Drafting of report
- 6) Guidance from ACDM at October meeting on future planning for this research

It is recommended that the **next phase of data collection take place in the following countries:**

- 1) Myanmar: A short, qualitative study was already undertaken in Myanmar for the “Unseen, unheard” global study in 2015. More in depth research is required in the Myanmar context as it is considered the most disaster-prone country in southeast Asia.
- 2) Vietnam: Since 2011, Vietnam has experienced severe flooding in its southern region and devastating droughts in 2015 and 2016. Vietnam is also prone to typhoons, with an average of five to six per year.
- 3) Cambodia: Similar to Vietnam, Cambodia’s disaster history includes recurrent flooding and severe droughts.

# The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

**Humanity** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

**Impartiality** It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

**Neutrality** In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

**Independence** The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

**Voluntary service** It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

**Unity** There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

**Universality** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

**For more information about this project, please contact  
IFRC Gender and Diversity Coordinator, Asia Pacific  
Regional Office, Ms May Maloney:**

Email: [may.maloney@ifrc.org](mailto:may.maloney@ifrc.org)

