International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Stakeholder Action Statement

Asia Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction

2-5 November 2016

New Delhi, India

Resilience can and must be built at all levels, from the individual to the community, from the locality to the nation. For the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), representing twenty-two National Societies in Asia, our greatest strength is working with and for communities to strengthen their resilience even further in the face of more frequent and complex disasters and crises.

Through our volunteer and youth networks, we are part of our communities, able to address needs over time of all women, men boys, girls and at-risk groups. Our strength is also derived from our auxiliary role to Governments, as well as in the resources, expertise and solidarity found in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;

Fulfilling the Sendai Framework Principle of “all of society engagement” in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), we are committed to continued action on DRR in Asia through the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) platform and the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) as a self-organized stakeholder group; and

Building on prior commitments we have made to the fulfillment of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Climate Agreement and World Humanitarian Summit

We hereby commit to the following actions in support of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework and in line with the global and regional strategic directions of IFRC, including the IFRC Disaster Risk Management Strategy 2016 -2020, the IFRC Gender and Diversity Strategic Framework 2013-2020 and the IFRC Youth Engagement Strategy:

1. Increase our investment in local action and local actors ahead of disasters and crises, to build resilience and anticipate shocks which will help protect the lives, livelihoods and dignity of the world’s most vulnerable people; in line with “Grand Bargain” of the World Humanitarian Summit, which championed allocation of 25 per cent of global humanitarian funding to local and national responders by 2020;
2. Build stronger, more resilient communities by saving lives today, protecting livelihoods tomorrow, and providing economic and social stability in the years to come;
3. Work along a continuum of preparedness through early warning, early alert, followed by early action-to better respond, facilitate recovery and build resilience so we can truly bridge humanitarian, development and climate agendas;
4. Through the One Billion Coalition for Resilience, bring together partners from all sectors, from local to global, to motivate, inform, mobilize and support communities to take action, to be safer and better able to withstand shocks, as well as support a stronger and more diverse humanitarian ecosystem;
5. Support the development of an enabling environment where good governance is exercised through application and respect for disaster laws which ensure participation and empowering of local communities;
6. Identify potential and actual issues of gender and diversity based discrimination, as well as opportunities to promote equality and act upon these through all the full programme cycle and
across the whole disaster risk management spectrum;

7. Ensure youth engagement by investing in developing youth leadership on disaster risk reduction and foster an enabling environment to facilitate youth-led initiatives to build resilient communities;

8. Support National Societies to work closely with their governments to strengthen national and local DRR platforms, as well as in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction, in coordination with other relevant frameworks.

Specifically, in the next two years (2017-2018), we commit to undertake the following actions and report back at the 2018 AMCDRR:

Regional Level Actions

- Contribute to strengthening Regional Platforms for DRR, including the Asian Ministerial Conference, the ISDR Asia Partnership and its Secretariat through enhanced engagement of our National Societies, youth, volunteers and partners to support the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework.
- Promote and support gender and diversity-sensitive and climate-smart DRR actions, including prevention and response to gender based violence, at national and local level through regional policies of intergovernmental organizations.
- Strengthen the connection of our National Societies with inter-governmental organizations and cooperation among them for coherence of regional, sub-regional and national laws and strategies; information and knowledge exchange on specific DRR and response aspects; and concerted support to national actions.
- Enhance the capacity of national and regional Red Cross Red Crescent Youth Networks to foster information and knowledge sharing on Youth-led initiatives for DRR, in order to capitalize innovative solutions.

National and Local Level Actions

Priority Area 1: Understanding Disaster Risk

- Assess disaster risk, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible effects across different time and geographical scales;
- Build the knowledge and capacity of one million local government officials, civil society, communities and volunteers including women, youth, girls and boys to monitor hazards, exposure, risk and capacities; collect and analyze sex, age and disability-disaggregated data and inform all risk assessments through gender and diversity analysis to monitor social vulnerabilities.

Priority Area 2: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk

- Support revision of existing national and local Disaster Risk Management laws, strategies/plans, including through ensuring meaningful community engagement and the leadership of women and minority groups, in line with the Sendai Framework, Paris Climate Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals to ensure disaster risk sensitive development in 8 Asian Countries.
- Enable a supportive policy environment to establish/strengthen multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral national and local platforms with the participation and leadership of local community representatives which include women, youth and minority groups and other stakeholders.
- Support local authorities in the development and dissemination of guidelines and their coherent implementation of the 2030 development agendas at local level involving the national authority that are responsible for local administration in 8 countries in Asia.

Priority Area 3: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience
• Institutionalize Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) to strengthen resilience of women, men, girls, boys and at risk groups in at least 5 countries in Asia,
• Develop and test mechanisms and a youth-friendly toolkit to formalize volunteer and youth roles in DRR programs as well as in comprehensive school safety programs by 2018

Priority Area 4: Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to “Build Back Better” in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

• Provide capacity building for local authorities, community members and volunteers to develop gender-sensitive and climate-smart disaster preparedness plan including early warning systems, response coordination, evacuation plans, stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue, relief and recovery activities.
• Strengthen resilience of critical infrastructure including facilities for disaster preparedness such as schools and emergency shelters.
• Promote the safety and security of women, girl and boys in disasters, ensuring gender based violence risks are understood and measures taken, based on IFRC standards, to prevent, mitigate and respond to gender-based violence in preparedness and recovery programmes.
• Train 400 key volunteers and Youth leaders as Agents of Behavioral change and equip with skills to reduce risk in its own communities, and further facilitate the pool of existing 1400 YABC peer educators to take active part in developing youth-led initiatives in its own communities with its peers to build a safe and resilient community by 2018.

To support stakeholders to deliver on our commitments, we further call on Governments and other partners to:

1. Increase investment in local actors and responders in Asia to ensure people centered approaches;
2. Convene and participate in coalitions from the corporate sector, academia, civil society and governments at local, national and international levels to share common ambitions, risks, accountability and successes in building resilience and contributing to implement the Sustainable Development Goals;
3. Strengthen gender and diversity and socially inclusive approaches under the principle of leaving no one behind and ensure an all of society approach which engages and empowers women and minority groups in disaster risk reduction processes;
4. Review and strengthen sub regional, national and local climate-resilient development, through stronger and more coherent governance frameworks (laws and policies) for integrated and inclusive disaster risk management;
5. Further strengthen formal and non-formal education for youth to take an active part in School Safety and disaster risk reduction activities in their own communities, which recognizes their key role as agents of behavioral change. Further provide opportunities to engage youth at all levels of design, discussion and decision making to build resilient communities;
6. Find innovative ways to change the way we work to better anticipate and prepare for early action, including through forecast-based financing;
7. Explore ways for the humanitarian and development systems to respond predictably and effectively to protect the most vulnerable when shocks hit, including through social protection and safety nets;
8. Prioritize work to improve the resilience of urban communities, including institutional and legal preparedness.