

2021



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BANGKOK

IFRC COUNTRY CLUSTER

Appeal number
MAA51001

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
604,200



Countries

4



Staff

17



People to be
reached

2,238,623

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

188 million

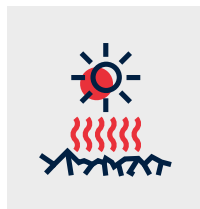
Vulnerability to disasters



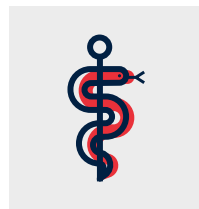
Floods



Drought



Heatwave



Health



Climate
change



Migration

The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) covers the four Mekong countries of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Thailand and Viet Nam.

The region is frequently affected by natural disasters associated with climate change, such as floods, droughts, typhoons and heatwaves. Although the four countries are diverse and score differently on the Human Development Index, they do face common challenges. Emerging risks including rapid urbanisation, climate change and environmental pressures along with health risks, rising inequalities, migration, gender discrimination and violence.

- The most critical threats to the four countries are:
- climate change and rapid, unplanned urbanisation, which are exacerbating people's increased vulnerabilities and exposure to a wide range of risks across the four countries
- the underlying causes of vulnerabilities, which are linked to development gaps, particularly in health, water and sanitation, social and gender inequalities



ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Collaboration

**Cambodia: Cambodia's National Committee for Disaster Management,
Laos: National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee,
Thailand: Thai School Safety Network,
Viet Nam: National Steering Committee on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control**

As a leading humanitarian organisation in Cambodia, the Cambodian Red Cross Society (CRC) reduces poverty, protects vulnerable people and promotes humanitarian values. It is officially recognised as an independent voluntary aid society by the Royal Government and serves as an auxiliary to the public authorities. It helps the most vulnerable people in society by managing disaster and through its community healthcare services. As part of its emergency response programme, the National Society deploys volunteers to help people in emergencies and disasters.

The Lao Red Cross (LRC), established in 1955, works with vulnerable communities to improve their health, livelihoods and to prepare for and respond to disasters. Its core programs and services focus on disaster preparedness, risk reduction and emergency response at the community level. The National Society shares early warning information, provides emergency relief supplies including food and other essential household items, health and care, water and sanitation, and shelter relief in emergencies and disasters in coordination with the local authorities.

The Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) alleviates human suffering, promotes international humanitarian law and provides health services to the most vulnerable, including children, women and older people. The National Society's core areas are medical and healthcare services, preparation and response in disaster, blood transfusion services, social welfare and promoting quality life. It runs knowledge and technical skills training programmes and has set up a Disaster Operations Centre to share information in disasters.

Viet Nam Red Cross Society (VNRC) is one of the leading humanitarian organisations in Viet Nam with more than four million members and branches in all 63 provinces. The National Society's services provide emergency assistance and humanitarian relief; healthcare; first aid; blood, tissue and organ donation; reuniting families separated by war and disasters; promotion of humanitarian values; and preparation and response for disaster. Its focus areas evolve to reflect the changing needs of vulnerable people and its increasing auxiliary role to the country's public authorities.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Movement coordination

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
ICRC				✓		✓	✓	✓
German Red Cross	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Swiss Red Cross	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Singapore Red Cross			✓					
American Red Cross	✓	✓				✓		✓

Movement footprint

The National Society in Cambodia is primarily responsible for the day-to-day cooperation with its Movement partners. In the COVID-19 pandemic operation, the National Society received cash and in-kind support from the **IFRC, ICRC, Red Cross Society of China, Finnish Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross**, and Viet Nam Red Cross. The ICRC provides technical and financial support to the National Society to strengthen its capacity in its Restoring Family Links initiative, which helps people who have lost contact with their family to be safely reunited.

The Laos National Society receives support from several partner National Societies, as well as the IFRC. Following flash floods in 2018, the IFRC deployed staff to support the National Society's Emergency Appeal Operation. The IFRC also provided logistical support to the operation and induction training to volunteers. The Thai Red Cross Society and the Viet Nam Red Cross Society have increased their financial and technical contributions to the Laos National Society in recent years.

The National Society in Thailand has regular meetings with the **Red Cross Society of China, Lebanese Red Cross** and **Nepali Red Cross**. They provide financial support to the National Society to rebuild blood donation centres damaged in a recent earthquake. As part of its cooperation with the IFRC and the ICRC, the National Society in Thailand also has regular meetings with the Lao Red Cross to provide aid to each other as needed.

The Viet Nam National Society receives support from the **American Red Cross, German Red Cross** and **Swiss Red Cross**. These partners support the National Society with National Society development, to address climate change adaptation, reduce the risk of disasters, and provide health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support. The ICRC supports the National Society to increase its ability to help more people in the Restoring Family Links programme.



Viet Nam © IFRC

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

40,000



Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam are all highly disaster-prone and vulnerable to climate change. Droughts, floods, tropical storms and forest fires are frequent occurrences. Changing patterns of the climate poses a severe threat to the environment, economy, societies, and people's health and well-being. In the past 10 years, a succession of droughts and floods have resulted in significant loss of life, and the Government has recognised them as one of the main drivers of poverty in Cambodia.

Laos is also susceptible to drought, floods and typhoons. It is dependent on climate-sensitive natural resources and has a low capacity to adapt.

The damage caused by climate change to agriculture and coastal tourism in Thailand will significantly affect the economy and environment. For example, just one degree Celsius of warming will destroy rice crops that are central to the economy.

Viet Nam faces similar challenges. In 2020, a saltwater intrusion in more than 24 provinces damaged many rice fields and fisheries, posing a considerable threat to the country's food chain.



1°C
increase
needed to
destroy rice
crops in
Thailand



10%
predicted
reduction of
Cambodia's
GDP by
2050 due
to climate
change



60%
people in Viet
Nam who rely
on agriculture
as their main
livelihood

→ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC, National Societies, Climate Centre and partner National Societies will collaborate to secure funds before a disaster occurs.
- The IFRC will take learnings from its response to a heatwave in Viet Nam and develop plans to guide early actions in the event of disaster for the National Societies of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.
- The IFRC will provide technical support to all four National Societies to analyse vulnerability and exposure to climate shocks to anticipate climate impacts and identify suitable early actions.
- The IFRC will advocate for the National Societies so that they are recognised and approached as essential partners to support communities and governments to scale up climate action.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to collaborate with research institutes to enhance their knowledge of climate-related impacts.
- The IFRC will support the network to reduce its carbon footprint.

EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

5,000



Massive urbanisation, climate change and the growth of megacities in low-lying flood plains increase risks in both rural and urban areas of the four countries. Political instability, border disputes and ineffectual regional networks worsen the situation.

There is a reluctance to share data and information systems on transboundary hazards and vulnerabilities. There is also a lack of quality data, coordination between ministries and member states, and finance and technical capacity.

The IFRC will support the National Societies to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to test new approaches for multi-hazard community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives in rural and urban settings.

In the meantime, the IFRC will support the National Societies to promote multi-hazard and climate-smart community contingency planning for sudden-onset disasters, and seasonal and ENSO events, which are the fluctuations in temperature between the sea and atmosphere.

The IFRC will support the National Societies to collect data on communities' vulnerabilities and exposure to risk via surveys and community feedback.

The IFRC will then support the National Societies to promote community early warning early action (EWEA) systems that are linked with local and national meteorological systems. These systems circulate warning information about hazards so vulnerable areas can act quickly to reduce harm and save lives. The National Societies will integrate EWEA systems as part of community-based and school-based disaster risk reduction initiatives.

The IFRC will support the National Societies in Cambodia and Thailand to provide people with cash-based interventions in disasters and crises. Cash programmes ensure people in need can decide upon and prioritise their own needs.

The IFRC will also annually track the National Societies' response capacity in terms of their response teams and available stock to identify gaps in capabilities and provide practical support. The IFRC will encourage and support women and underrepresented groups to participate in humanitarian response programmes.



90%
poor people living
in rural areas in
Cambodia



1 million
people in need of
medical services and
PPE in Viet Nam

➔ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will promote good practices, guidance, and urban resilience tools in close collaboration with the Urban Community Resilience Hub.
- The IFRC will develop readiness plans, prepositioning measures and implement strategies while ensuring that all activities are COVID-safe.
- The IFRC will support the National Society in Laos to assess its preparedness for effective response.

GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

90,000



The IFRC's health and care priority in 2021 is to provide comprehensive support to the four National Societies to strengthen their response to the COVID-19 pandemic by continuously increasing their ability to achieve their objectives effectively and efficiently.

It will support the National Societies in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam to continually promote the control of mosquito-borne and vector-borne diseases, and epidemic control for volunteers, and provide them with technical support to help migrants living with HIV/AIDS. The IFRC will prioritise this support to ensure these migrants have access to antiretroviral treatment and care.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) promotion is a critical requirement in emergency operations within the Mekong region. Not only are there problems associated with floods, in which water and sanitation facilities are destroyed and contaminated, there are also significant barriers to accessing safe water that comes with increases in cases of drought and saltwater intrusion.

WASH programmes are particularly successful in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. Public authorities have recognised them in both emergencies and development. The National Society in Thailand has the opportunity to increase its regional leadership in this area of programming, so the IFRC will provide support as required.

The IFRC will support the National Societies to capitalise on their auxiliary roles to cement their positions on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms. Where appropriate, the IFRC will accompany the National Societies at national platforms.

The IFRC will also support the National Societies to provide locally-led solutions for communities to meet their self-identified needs and priorities. To help communities identify and reduce health risks, the IFRC will adapt and improve guidance on community-based healthcare, including outreach and campaigns, in the context of COVID-19.

TARGET 1

All four National Societies will review and update their WASH strategies.

TARGET 2

The IFRC will hold sub-regional training on the prevention of non-communicable diseases.



86%

poorest rural
Cambodian people
who practise open
defecation



21

Viet Nam provinces
still experiencing
drought from 2019's El
Niño weather event

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will invest in the development of the National Societies so they can provide access to health services for communities in emergencies.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to pilot commercial first aid interventions and promote first aid knowledge and experience sharing between peers.
- The IFRC will strengthen cross-border cooperation between Laos–Thailand, Laos–Viet Nam, and Thailand–Cambodia through blood services and first aid programmes and promote peer-to-peer support.



Lao © IFRC

MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
120,000



People are on the move, whether voluntary or involuntary, within the Mekong sub-region countries for a variety of complex and diverse reasons. Migration through both regular and irregular channels is for reasons such as employment opportunities, lack of livelihoods, to reunite with family, to gain access to healthcare, education or seeking safety and protection.

The IFRC has a long-standing commitment to work with and for migrants and displaced people. It plays a crucial role in addressing migration and displacement's humanitarian consequences in emergency and non-emergency contexts. The IFRC network also works to strengthen the resilience of migrants, displaced people, and host communities. The presence of National Societies along migratory routes means that they are uniquely placed to respond to people's needs during their journeys, and ensure they have access to essential services and protection, whatever their legal status.

The four National Societies have taken important commitments to increase local, national and regional capacity and action to respond to the humanitarian needs of migrants and displaced people. The IFRC's support focuses on core areas of National Society capacity strengthening, and the development of National Society plans of action at the national and branch level. The overarching goal is for National Societies' staff and volunteers to effectively engage with migrants, displaced people, and host communities to assess, understand, and respond to their priority needs.

To ensure that vulnerable migrants are assisted and protected, the IFRC will support the National Societies with community programmes, and emergency preparedness and response initiatives. It will also support them to engage in humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy with local and national authorities.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the four National Societies to conduct national strategic dialogue workshops on migrants' and displaced people's humanitarian needs.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies by participating in regional inter-agency and multi-stakeholder forums on migration, displacement.
- The IFRC will facilitate and provide the National Societies with support, appropriate training, advice, and clear direction to guide migration and displacement programmes and activities.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to conduct national needs assessments on the humanitarian needs of migrants and displaced people in their respective countries.



Viet Nam © IFRC

VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
10,000



The IFRC is committed to reaching those most at risk effectively and in a non-discriminatory and equitable manner and ensures that all its actions promote gender equality and respect for diversity as a priority.

In 2021, the National Societies will be acting on the findings and recommendations of research carried out in Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam on the prevention of sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Southeast Asian nations. The IFRC will support the National Societies with technical advice and capacity-building assistance so that they can implement in-country/community-based activities.

The IFRC will coordinate and support the Southeast Asia Youth Network and youth activities and will encourage collaboration between the National Societies and Southeast Asian partners to engage young people.

The IFRC will scale-up the Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) initiative, which promotes a culture of non-violence and peace. It will support the National Societies to set up stable and sustainable Red Cross clubs in schools; and integrate YABC activities into new humanitarian education programmes such as climate change action, road safety promotion and school safety.

To promote and support equitable access to quality education for all boys and girls affected by a disaster, the IFRC will support advocacy campaigns for safe return to school in all four countries. It will also support National Societies to set up formal agreements with Ministries of Education and youth organisations to provide training and activities to schoolchildren. The IFRC will support the National Societies to engage those affected – especially the education community and young people themselves – in decision-making.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the review and updating of the existing Gender and Diversity policy for all four National Societies by 2025.
- The IFRC will ensure that National Societies' disaster response operations include measures to prevent and respond to SGBV.
- The IFRC will support the distribution of information materials on SGBV in 10 select communities.



Lao © Nack Phouangphala / Lao Red Cross

ENABLER 1

ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

50,000

The IFRC will support National Societies to strengthen their engagement with partners within and outside the network to work on the key challenges facing vulnerable communities.

The IFRC will support them to develop plans and programmes in alignment with the Strategic Plan 2030. Joint planning will be carried out at country level to maximise their collective impact, increase efficiencies and scale up in quality and reach of programmes. The IFRC will also support the creation of videos and photos of critical interventions and achievements each year, to help increase National Societies' visibility and recognition in their regional and global networks.

The IFRC is committed to supporting the National Societies to build on the One Billion Coalition for Resilience model, which is an initiative designed to scale-up community and civic action on resilience. The aim is for National Societies to connect with or lead wide-ranging multi-stakeholder coalitions to tackle humanitarian issues.

The IFRC will support National Societies to increase their impact, public trust and understanding of their role and activities by providing communications and public advocacy resources and advice. It will support them to be first to market with media, social media, and appropriate photos and video content, in disasters and crises, including pandemics by helping to develop relationships with media editors and journalists.

The IFRC will scale up auxiliary support for National Societies by conducting regular meetings with government agencies where feasible. It will also support National Societies to enhance their advocacy skills to more systematically and confidentially engage in regional, national and policy-making and decision-making platforms to influence policies and systems.

The IFRC will ensure that development opportunities are given to the National Societies' leaders to drive innovation and transformation. The IFRC's approach to innovation will focus on tackling system-wide change. As part of this approach, the IFRC will promote peer-to-peer support on effective leadership among the four National Societies.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Societies in their digital transformation, with specific attention to developing a digital platform to record, manage and engage their volunteers.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to have peer-to-peer discussions on effective leadership.



Cambodia © IFRC

ENABLER 2

ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

110,000

The IFRC will develop staff talent by ensuring they all have access to professional development programmes.

The IFRC is committed to ensuring gender parity, diversity and inclusion at an institutional level and in the way humanitarian operations are carried out. It will ensure that all job vacancies reflect this commitment and culture.

The IFRC will ensure that all financial resources are safeguarded and managed efficiently and transparently. As such, the IFRC will support the National Societies to submit externally-audited financial statements and work closely with them on the requirements.

The IFRC will improve the risk management culture to ensure it is compliant with rules and regulations and the duty of care to staff and volunteers. It will facilitate staff risk management training, with a clear link to accountability and quality assurance, and train staff to mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse within the IFRC and National Societies.

Finally, the IFRC will ensure that its web-based systems are accessible at all levels.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will train staff on the mitigation of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse via Learning Platform
- The IFRC will ensure gender parity in its recruitment processes throughout the year
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to submit externally audited financial statements.



Thailand © Thai Red Cross Society

ENABLER 3

TRUSTED BY COMMUNITIES, OWNED AND VALUED BY THE MEMBERSHIP
WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

The IFRC will support the National Societies to strengthen their leadership teams and develop their legal base to better address service sustainability, ensure local branches are robust and diversify their volunteer base.

It is essential that young people and volunteers contribute to decision-making and innovation. The IFRC will support the National Societies to revise or develop their Youth and Volunteer Policies, which will empower youths to access decision-making positions in their National Society. It will also support the National Societies to improve their volunteering recruitment and management systems to ensure that the needs of young people from all backgrounds are well understood and are accurately reflected in plans and programmes.

The IFRC will strengthen mechanisms that protect volunteers and promote psychosocial well-being. It will support the National Societies in their duty of care for volunteers, by ensuring that all volunteers are provided with effective and functional insurance coverage and psychosocial support services. It will also ensure that the National Societies include safety and security training in volunteer induction orientation and pre-deployment briefings.

The IFRC will strengthen National Societies' engagement with Reference Centres, Hubs and Labs to encourage the capturing of evidence and sharing of knowledge. It will also systematically collect, analyse and share evidence that demonstrates the impact of strong engagement with communities on the quality of programmes. This will ensure that vulnerable people and communities are empowered to influence decisions affecting them and trust the National Societies to serve their best interests.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Societies with technical guidance on protection, gender and inclusion, community engagement, and complementary and coordinated accountability.
- The IFRC will provide technical assistance to the National Societies to support the development of tools and guidelines to prevent, manage and address integrity and reputational risks.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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