



# MEKONG

## 2025 IFRC network country plan

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 7.5M**

9 April 2025

In support of the Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Viet Nam National Societies



สภากาชาดไทย  
THAI RED CROSS SOCIETY



**120**

National Society branches



**16,538**

National Society local units



**29,404**

National Society staff



**539,115**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



Ongoing emergency operations



Climate and environment



Disasters and crises



Health and wellbeing



Migration and displacement



Values, power and inclusion

**Cambodia**

**500,000**

**100,000**

**100,000**

**Laos**

**550,000**

**210,000**

**100,000**

**700**

**Thailand**

**550,000**

**100,000**

**500,000**

**200,000**

**150,000**

**Viet Nam**

**130,000**

**300,000**

**150,000**

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Emergency response

- Typhoons

#### Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk management
- Climate change adaptation
  - Health and wellbeing

#### Capacity development

- Resource mobilization
- Legal base and systems
- Youth and Volunteering

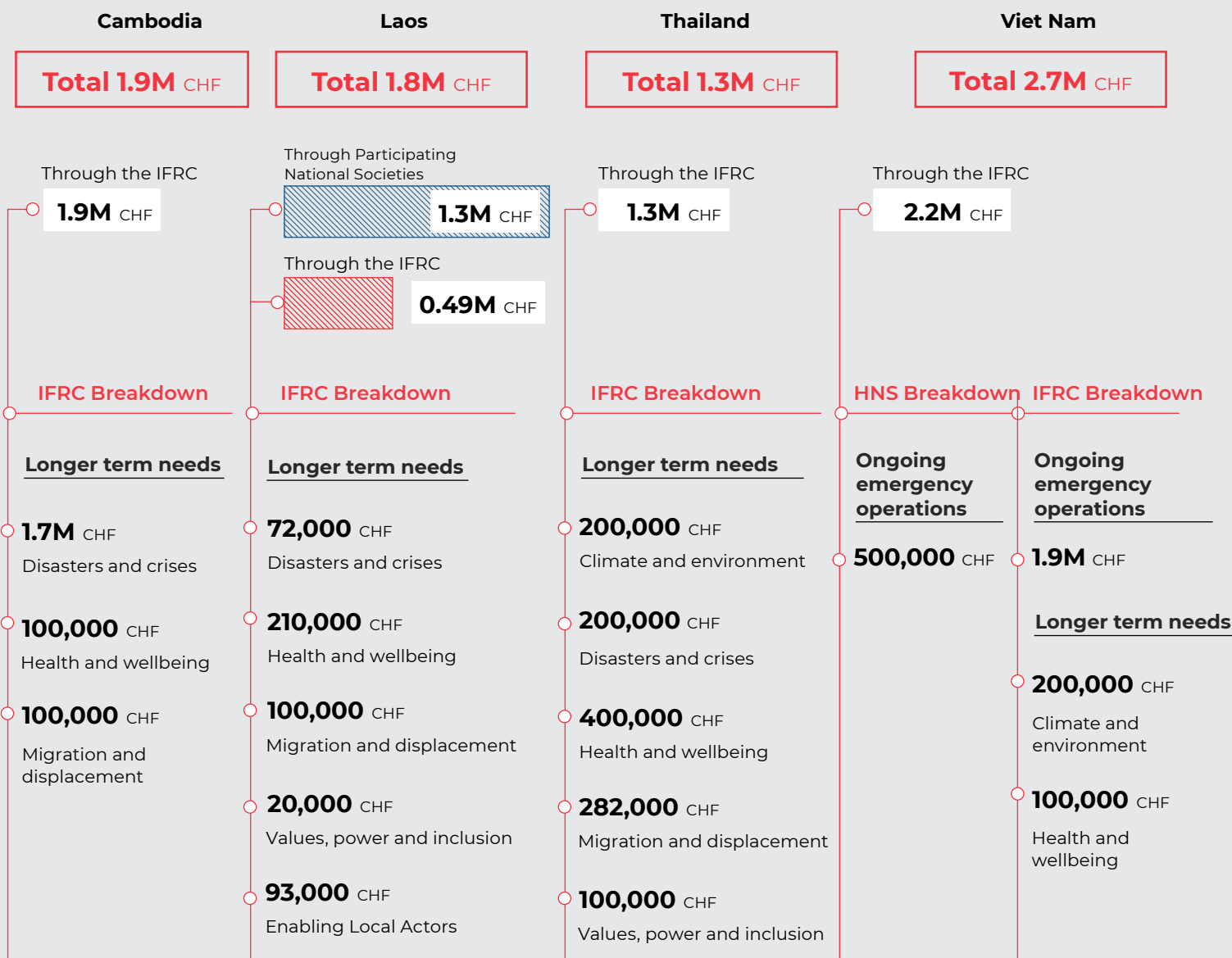
### Key country data

	Cambodia	Laos	Thailand	Viet Nam
INFORM Severity rating	Medium			
INFORM Climate Change Risk Index	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Human Development Index rank	148	139	66	107
World Bank Population figure	17.4M	7.7M	71.7M	100.4M
World Bank Population below poverty line	17.7%	18.3%	6.3%	4.3%

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Cambodia, Laos, Thailand & Viet Nam, Bangkok











# Funding requirements

2025



See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

## Participating National Societies bilateral support for 2025

Country	National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Swiss Red Cross	1.3M						
	Thai Red Cross Society							
Viet Nam	The Republic of Korea National Red Cross							

Total Funding requirement **CHF 1.3M**

### Hazards



Cyclones/  
Typhoons



Heatwaves



Floods



Drought



Air pollution

### Participating National Societies

British Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society\*

The Republic of Korea National Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

Thai Red Cross Society

*\*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2024.*

### IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

**MDRVN024** Typhoon Yagi

Longer-term needs:

**MAAKH002**

**MAATH001**

**MAALA002**

**MAAVN002**

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

## Cambodian Red Cross

The **Cambodian Red Cross** was established through a Royal Decree in 1955 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1961. It is the primary national humanitarian organization in the country and has a privileged position in coordination mechanisms for disaster management and health service provision at all levels of governance. The National Society plays a key role in Cambodia's national disaster management system and enjoys a permanent seat on committees for disaster management at national, provincial, district and commune levels.

The Cambodian Red Cross' humanitarian services are founded on three programmatic and operational pillars: disaster management, health and care in communities, and promoting the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

These cover both response and developmental approaches relating to community-based risk reduction, community-based health and first aid, disaster preparedness, and youth and volunteer development. Overall, the National Society has 359 staff and more than 50,000 volunteers across 1,881 local units.

Following its Strategy 2021-2030, the Cambodian Red Cross will continuously contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality of mothers and children, prevention and elimination of communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases, health in emergency interventions, aging health, first aid and community health promotion.

In 2023, the Cambodian Red Cross reached approximately 523,000 people through its long term services and development programmes and approximate 456,000 people with disaster response and early recovery programmes.

## Lao Red Cross

The **Lao Red Cross** was established in 1955 as an auxiliary to the public authorities of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos) in rendering humanitarian services in the country. It was admitted to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1957. Through its core programmes and services, it responds to the needs of the most vulnerable people in Laos. In 2017, the National Assembly of Laos passed the Red Cross Law, mandating the National Society to provide primary relief assistance and first aid, encourage blood donations and supply blood to survivors, promote basic health care and carry out emergency rescue operations, mobilize resources, and train volunteers to provide humanitarian assistance.

The Lao Red Cross works in close coordination with the National Disaster Management Committee and maintains direct communication with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Its branches also work closely with the respective committees at the provincial and district levels. The National Society's efforts are sustained by its 446 volunteers, 508 staff and its 52 local units in the country.

The National Society's Strategic Plan 2021-2030 revolves around three primary programmatic components which are:

- Enhance capacity on disaster preparedness, response, and basic relief assistance
- Promote access to health services for a decent quality of life
- Develop Lao Red Cross to become a strong and sustainable humanitarian organization, able to operate with effectiveness and efficiency

In 2023, the Lao Red Cross reached approximately 62,000 people with long term services and development programmes and approximately 21,000 people with disaster response and early recovery programmes.

## Thai Red Cross Society

The **Thai Red Cross Society** was founded in 1893 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in its current form in 1921. The Thai Red Cross Society today is a national charitable organization which carries out humanitarian activities in keeping with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. The National Society's work medical and health care services; disaster preparedness and response; blood transfusion services; and social welfare and quality of life promotion.

The Thai Red Cross Society is designated as a primary responder under Thailand's disaster management system, with its role and functions included in the national disaster risk management plan. The National Society has more than 11,000 staff, approximately 63,500 volunteers and 392 local units throughout the country. The National Society's Relief and Community Health Bureau leads on disaster management and health programming, in coordination with Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation and Ministry of Public Health. The National Society provides knowledge, technical skills and training, and has an established disaster operations centre which can be used as a source of information and coordination. It also has a network of health stations throughout the country.

Over the recent years, the IFRC and the National Society in Thailand have used a mobile app called PhonPhai to facilitate their humanitarian relief efforts. The app was developed with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. Using the app, the National Society ordered and processed relief kits in collaboration with 19 government disaster response agencies, including the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, the Ministry of Public Health and the Department of Public Works. It also coordinated with frontline responders and community members to deliver the kits to vulnerable households. Healthcare volunteers in rural communities are also using PhonPhai to support vulnerable people in quarantine at home by conducting primary health screenings. Volunteers can use PhonPhai to order relief kits, which are then delivered directly to households.

The National Society's Strategic Plan 2023-2027 focuses on five core programmatic components which are:

- Production of quality medical personnel and services up to international standards

- Comprehensive services of blood transfusion, biological products, eyes and organs
- Speedy and effective assistance to disaster victims
- Development of volunteer work to enhance the quality of life
- Effective system of organizational management

In 2023, the Thai Red Cross Society reached approximately 4.6 million people with its long-term services and development programmes and 667,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

## Viet Nam Red Cross Society

The **Viet Nam Red Cross Society** was founded in 1946 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1957. It is one of the leading humanitarian actors in Viet Nam, with more than 17,000 staff, over 400,000 volunteer members and 14,191 local units across the country. The National Society's mission is to become a social humanitarian organization that connects and encourages Vietnamese people at home and overseas to carry out humanitarian activities without discrimination of class, ethnicity, religion or sex. It also promotes humanity, peace and friendship, with a view to building a powerful Viet Nam, a strong nation and an equitable, democratic and civilized society that provides for a good life with freedom, well-being, and conditions for comprehensive development.

In 2008, a Law on Red Cross Activities was approved, defining the National Society's seven core areas of activity: emergency relief and humanitarian aid, health care, first aid, donation of blood, tissues, organs and bodies, tracing relatives missing in wars, natural disasters and other disaster, disseminating humanitarian values and participating in disaster preparedness and response.

The National Society's Strategic Plan 2020-2030 aims to build the Viet Nam Red Cross Society into an increasingly strong, professional organization which plays a supportive role for the Government and acts as the driving force in humanitarian activities. It aims to raise its capacity to respond to challenges and emergencies in humanitarian work, contribute to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and boost international cooperation in humanitarian sector.

In 2023, the Viet Nam Red Cross Society reached approximately 3.7 million people with its long-term services and development programmes and 395,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

All four Mekong countries involved in this plan—Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam—score differently on the [Human Development Index](#) (VietNam 0.70, Thailand 0.77, Laos 0.61 and Cambodia 0.59). Despite these differences, they share common challenges and emerging risks, including rapid urbanization, climate change and environmental pressures. They also face recurring disasters, health risks, rising inequalities, migration, gender discrimination and violence and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Cambodia

Having sustained high levels of economic growth over the last two decades, Cambodia is on the path to becoming a higher middle-income country by 2030. However, high inequality and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on local economies are hampering growth. This is particularly true for vulnerable, marginalized rural populations, who were significantly harder hit by the pandemic's effects on employment, household wages and non-wage incomes than macroeconomic [trends](#) suggest.

Cambodia is one of the world's more [disaster-prone countries](#), particularly due to seasonal flooding and droughts. Over the last decade, these events have resulted in significant loss of life and economic loss. As a less developed, agrarian country where more than 75 percent of people live in rural areas, Cambodia has a strong dependency on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, land, water resources, forestry and fisheries. These factors make Cambodia particularly vulnerable to climate change, further exacerbated by weak adaptive capacity, poor infrastructure and limited institutional capacity. The government recognizes floods and droughts as the main drivers of poverty and rural households, particularly women, are especially vulnerable to climate change and struggle to adapt.

Climate change may be increasing the risk of water- and vector-borne diseases and the likelihood of epidemics. Droughts, rains and floods are linked with an increased risk of outbreaks of diseases, including diarrhoea, cholera, dengue, malaria and respiratory tract infections, putting additional strain on local health services. High temperatures also drive vector-borne diseases such as dengue.

### Laos

Like its neighbours, Laos has made [impressive development gains](#) in recent years, halving poverty and reducing malnutrition. The challenge now is to enable all Lao people to benefit from

the country's development, ensuring that the results of high economic growth, which have averaged more than 4.9 per cent for the past five years, are evenly distributed and translated into inclusive and sustainable human development.

Communities across the country are affected by frequent small-scale, recurrent disasters which have significant socio-economic impacts, making poor populations increasingly vulnerable and undermining their existing coping mechanisms. Laos also continues to deal with unexploded ordnance and bombs in many areas.

In 2022 after achieving a high vaccination rollout rate, most of the measures put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 were relaxed, including the opening of international borders. However, this coincided with a period of global macroeconomic instability, with soaring prices of food, fertilizer, fuel and finance (4F Crisis) and a sharp depreciation of the national currency. This affected all aspects of national development. The country depends on imports for key commodities, such as fuel, food and medicines. This resulted in a rapid increase in domestic inflation, reaching a record 39 per cent by the end of the year. Moreover, the new Prime Minister of Lao PDR was appointed and committed immediately to efforts to improve macroeconomic stability, pursue sustainable development, poverty alleviation and to narrow inequalities in the country.

### Thailand

Over the past four decades, Thailand has achieved significant social and economic progress, transitioning from a low-income to an upper-income country in less than a generation. Tourism and private consumption are projected to be the primary drivers of growth. Tourism is expected to recover to pre-pandemic levels by mid-2025, with arrivals reaching 90 per cent of pre-pandemic levels in 2024. However, the increasing frequency of natural disasters threatens sustained economic growth, impacting environmental sustainability and social inclusion. Rapid economic expansion has led to a sharp rise in greenhouse gas emissions and widening inequalities between regions and businesses.

Thailand remains vulnerable to major disasters, including floods, landslides, forest fires, wind damage, drought, lightning, hail and epidemics, alongside health-related risks that cause economic losses and losses of life. Significant health threats include pandemics, non-communicable diseases, infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis and traffic accidents.

### Viet Nam

Viet Nam has emerged as one of the fastest-growing economies of the twenty-first century. Economic and political reforms introduced in 1986 spurred rapid development, transforming the country from one of the world's poorest nations into a

lower-middle-income economy. Built on strong foundations, Viet Nam’s economy has remained resilient through various crises. Economic growth in 2024 reached an estimated five point five per cent, up from five per cent in 2023, driven by increasing global demand and renewed domestic consumer confidence.

Viet Nam’s long coastline, geographic location and diverse topography and climate make it highly vulnerable to climate

change and natural disasters, including floods, tropical cyclones, landslides, droughts and heatwaves. In response, the country has reinforced its commitment to climate action through national policies and concrete adaptation measures, setting an ambitious target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. This commitment is outlined in the recently adopted [National Environmental Protection Planning Project for 2021 to 2030](#).

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page [Viet Nam](#)

Emergency Operation	Viet Nam Typhoon Yagi
Appeal number	<a href="#">MDRVN024</a>
People affected/at risk	19 million people
People to be assisted	130,000 people
Duration	12 months (18 September 2024 to 30 Sep-tember 2025)
Funding requirement	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 4 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 4.5 million
Emergency Appeal	<a href="#">Typhoon Yagi</a>
Link to Operational Strategy	<a href="#">Operational Strategy</a>
Link to Operational Update	<a href="#">Operational Update No. 2</a>

Typhoon Yagi made landfall in Quang Ninh Province and Hai Phong City on 7 September 2024, bringing torrential rain and winds exceeding 200 kilometres per hour. Although it dissipated by 8 September, it caused severe flooding and landslides, particularly in northern mountainous provinces and urban areas such as Hanoi. The Viet Nam Disaster and Dikes Management Authorities reported 262 fatalities, 83 missing persons and 1,908 injuries, with over 130,000 people evacuated. Nineteen million people across 26 northern provinces have been affected and three provinces—Lao Cai, Tuyen Quang, and Yen Bai—have declared a state of emergency. The typhoon and subsequent flooding damaged over 168,000 houses, submerged more than 73,000 and affected power lines, schools and health facilities, leaving millions without safe drinking water and sanitation. Widespread destruction of crops, livestock and infrastructure heightened food insecurity and disease risks. The Viet Nam Red Cross Society is prioritizing assistance for the most vulnerable by coordinating with local authorities to ensure aid reaches those in need, including children, the elderly, people with disabilities and migrant workers. Through the Emergency Appeal the Viet Nam Red Cross Society is mobilizing resources for search, rescue and relief efforts.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The operation seeks to assist 130,000 people in seven northern provinces by providing immediate relief through essential household items and initiating early recovery efforts with cash support for livelihoods and shelter. Over six months, the Viet Nam Red Cross Society will focus on long-term recovery by promoting resilient housing, sustainable livelihood restoration and improved health and WASH services. The strategy integrates dignity, access, participation and safety considerations while ensuring community engagement and accountability. The highlights of the assistance are:

#### Shelter, housing and settlements

Relief kits, tents, and repair kits are distributed, with conditional cash support provided for shelter repairs and new home construction. Build-back safer guidance is provided to targeted households.



## Livelihoods

Conditional cash support is provided for livelihoods restoration, including purchasing seeds, fertilizers, and livestock or repairing barns. Training in nature-based solutions is provided to affected households.

## Health and care, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Provision of hygiene promotion sessions and distribution of information, education and communication materials.

Mental health support is integrated into emergency training. Additionally, conditional cash assistance is distributed for water tanks and latrines are constructed in affected communities.

Cross-cutting approaches: The operational strategy integrates community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

The four Mekong countries face increasing levels of risk in both rural and urban areas, due to massive urbanization, climate change and the growth of megacities in low-lying flood plains.

**Cambodia** is projected to experience a warming of 3.1 degrees Celsius by the 2090s under the highest emissions pathway (RCP8.5), with increases in annual maximum and minimum temperatures exceeding average temperature rises. This will heighten pressures on health, livelihoods and ecosystems, particularly threatening outdoor labourers and urban populations due to the urban heat island effect. Climate change may also increase the transmission of water and vector-borne diseases, though further research is needed. Without action, the population exposed to extreme river floods could grow by around 4 million by the 2040s, with human factors such as Mekong River damming potentially altering flood dynamics. Upstream dam construction and deforestation threaten the productivity of Tonle Sap Lake and Cambodia's fisheries, crucial for many poor, rural communities. Projected climate trends indicate more severe floods and droughts, potentially affecting Cambodia's GDP by nearly 10 per cent by 2050. Significant adaptation efforts are needed to manage yield losses due to extreme heat during staple crop growing seasons, particularly for subsistence-level, rain-fed agriculture. These impacts may exacerbate wealth and income inequality, hindering poverty alleviation efforts.

**Laos** is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change, facing significant climate-related hazards exacerbated by poverty, malnutrition and high exposure of marginalized communities. Increased extreme heat threatens human health, particularly for outdoor labourers and urban populations amid rapid urban migration. Without action, the population exposed to river flooding is projected to double to over 80,000 people

by the 2030s, with potential for even greater impacts from flash flooding and landslides. Projected warming of 3.6 degrees Celsius by the 2090s under the highest emissions pathway (RCP8.5) will likely increase pressure on health, livelihoods and ecosystems. These impacts will disproportionately affect poorer communities and widening inequality in Laos may further amplify the effects of climate-related disasters.

**Thailand** ranks ninth among flood-prone countries globally, trailing only Viet Nam, Myanmar and Cambodia in the region. The poorest groups in society are likely to be disproportionately affected by climate risks. Heavy manual labour jobs, which are among the lowest paid, are most at risk of productivity losses due to heat stress. Poor farmers and communities struggle to afford local water storage, irrigation infrastructure and technologies for adaptation. Marginalized groups, including ethnic minorities, remote communities and people with disabilities, are typically the most vulnerable to natural hazards in Thailand. Flooding, which accounts for nearly 100 per cent of average annual loss associated with hazards, is a significant concern. The Greater Bangkok area, where over 14 million people live and where the most significant portion of national GDP is generated, is highly vulnerable to flooding. By 2035-2044, the number of people affected by extreme river floods could increase by over 2 million, while coastal flooding may impact an additional 2.4 million people by 2070-2100. The operation of hydropower dams will further influence future flows in the Mekong River. Bangkok faces risks from rising seas, sinking land and potential cyclone-induced storm surges. The World Bank estimates that by 2030, a major flood such as the one in 2011 could cost more than 10 per cent of GDP in lost production.

**Viet Nam** is highly vulnerable to natural hazards, including tropical cyclones, storm surges, droughts and floods. Tropical cyclones are the most significant threat, with over 80 storms affecting approximately 45 million people and causing nearly



19,000 fatalities from 1953 to 2010. Flooding is the second most dangerous hazard, with 60 significant incidents, 5,000 deaths and 25 million people affected over the last 50 years. As one of the five countries most vulnerable to climate change, Viet Nam faces significant risks to its key economic sectors—industry and agriculture—located in coastal lowlands and deltas. Human development pressures, such as increased groundwater use, land-use changes and rapid urbanization, further strain water resources. Sea-level rise threatens an estimated 12 million people with irreversible inundation in low-lying areas. National efforts to protect the coastline include hard infrastructure and mangrove restoration. Climate change will impact food production and labour conditions, with temperatures in Da Nang projected to exceed thermal comfort thresholds by 2050, affecting millions of workers. Without effective disaster risk reduction and adaptation measures, Viet Nam could see increased multidimensional poverty and inequality.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The four National Societies will translate climate action commitments into actions through advocacy, awareness, education, risk assessments and community-based interventions and practices. In addition, they will scale up anticipatory action focusing on emerging hazards such as heatwave, pollution, floods, drought and typhoon. The National Societies will take actions aligned with their commitments to the Charter, including clear targets (e.g. reducing carbon footprint, Green Response, mainstreaming climate change adaptation in climate-based disaster risk reduction projects). The National Societies will also address the compounding effects of air pollution and heatwave using a science-based approach and practical measures and will work to mainstream climate change adaptation and nature-based solutions in their long-term community-based projects.

The Viet Nam Red Cross Society is part of the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an

unprecedented scale-up in locally-led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

## Planned activities in 2025

### Cambodia

- Assess the carbon footprint of services and programmes
- Integrate practical measures to reduce the negative impact of humanitarian operations on the environment

### Laos

- Create a training module focused on climate-smart Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA)
- Coordinate meetings to raise awareness about climate-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) projects and select communities for implementation
- Integrate IFRC tools for disaster management and health into enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments (eVCA) and community action plan processes

### Thailand

- Distribute information, education and communication (IEC) materials about climate change adaptation and environmental projects in communities and schools



Viet Nam Red Cross Society teams providing emergency assistance to communities affected by Typhoon Yagi, in September 2024 (Photo: Viet Nam Red Cross Society)

- Conduct an orientation in community-based disaster risk reduction and integration of climate change adaptation and environmental protection for community leaders and representatives

## Viet Nam

- Develop informative and visual information, education and communications material to promote the benefits and principles of nature-based solutions
- Work on integrating nature-based solutions into community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM)
- Disseminate a 'Safe school manual' at local schools to raise awareness on environment protection
- Eliminate single use plastics in all procurement and intervention activities
- Work with local suppliers to purchase locally produced items while still adhering to both environmental and IFRC standards
- Promote better waste management and recycling in communities.
- Mainstream the IFRC Environment Quick Guide throughout its operational planning process

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Cambodian Red Cross, Lao Red Cross, the Thai Red Cross Society and the Viet Nam Red Cross Society in encouraging them to sign the Climate and Environment Charter and in developing the respective National Society's climate and environment policy. The IFRC will continue to advocate for all four National Societies and support them to scale up climate action and climate-smart interventions. These include nature-based solutions and rolling out the Charter. A major focus will be put on promoting an understanding of the Charter and translating it into practical actions.

The IFRC, along with the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) of the USAID also supports the Thai Red Cross Society in strengthening climate resilience by expanding the capabilities of the PhonPhai application. This expansion integrates the application with existing early warning systems to provide real-time disaster updates and water level monitoring.

The **American Red Cross** supported the Viet Nam Red Cross Society in implementing the Greening Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative until 2023. With continued funding from USAID BHA, the IFRC will be supporting this initiative through 2026. The project aims to enhance community resilience in Viet Nam by addressing current and future climate and environmental risks through a nature-based solutions approach.

The IFRC will also provide technical assistance and project management support to the Viet Nam Red Cross Society in the implementation of the Greening DRR project funded by the USAID BHA.



## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit IFRC GO page [Cambodia](#), [Laos](#), [Thailand](#) and [Vietnam](#).

In **Cambodia**, droughts, floods, cyclones and heatwaves are expected to rise significantly. The current rate of 4 per cent annual probability of severe meteorological drought is expected to rise 5 to 9 per cent by 2080-2099 with global warming. Floods impact around 4 million people, with a 19 per cent increase in exposure projected by 2050 due to climate change, though upstream hydropower development may mitigate some effects. Coastal zones are at risk from cyclones and sea-level rise, threatening agricultural communities. Heatwaves, with 64 days annually exceeding 35 degrees Celsius, are becoming more frequent and intense, posing severe risks to human health and biodiversity. Urgent adaptation and mitigation measures are essential to address these climate-induced hazards.

**Laos** is particularly susceptible to flooding, primarily from the Mekong River during the southwest monsoon season. It affects critical infrastructure and hampers disaster response. Other climatic hazards include increased risks of droughts, cyclones and heatwaves. Cyclone hazards are high, with a more than 20 per cent change of damaging wind speeds in the next decade, necessitating resilient construction design. Heatwaves, with an average monthly maximum temperature of 28 degrees Celsius and May maximum of 31 degrees Celsius, have a 3 per cent median probability and are projected to increase in frequency due to global warming. Poorer communities suffer the worst consequences in the aftermath of disasters, as they are more vulnerable, less resilient and cannot recover as quickly. This further raises their levels of vulnerability and undermines their existing coping mechanisms. Laos also continues to deal with unexploded ordnance and bombs in many areas.

**Thailand** faces increased climate-related hazards including droughts, floods, cyclones and heatwaves. With El Nino and rising CO2 levels, meteorological and hydrological droughts are expected to double in frequency by 2080-2099, increasing risks of air pollution and forest fires. Floods, the most frequent and damaging natural hazard, cause annual losses of about 2.6 billion dollars, potentially escalating to 6.9 billion dollars in urban damage by 2030 due to climate change. Cyclones and rising sea levels further heighten flood risks. Heatwaves, with temperatures exceeding 35 degrees Celsius, are projected to rise significantly, particularly under higher emissions scenarios, posing additional threats to public health and economic stability.

In **Viet Nam**, the annual probability of drought is projected to increase by 10 per cent under all emissions pathways, remaining constant from 2020 to 2100, with more frequent and prolonged droughts across all regions. Floods pose the greatest economic risk, causing 97 per cent of annual hazard losses and affecting approximately 930,000 people annually, with impacts concentrated in the Red River and Mekong River deltas. Climate change and rising sea levels are expected to exacerbate flood risks, potentially increasing the affected population by 3–10 million by 2035–2044. Viet Nam's northern coast is highly exposed to tropical cyclones, with risks of intensified storm surges due to sea-level rise and increased cyclone intensity, potentially putting 9 per cent of GDP at risk in the Red River Delta by 2050. Heatwaves, with average monthly maximum temperatures of 28 degrees Celsius and a May maximum of 31 degrees Celsius, are projected to become more frequent and severe under all emissions scenarios.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

With reference to the Manila Call for Action targets, the four National Societies aims to be 'cash ready' by the end of 2025. The IFRC Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) framework will be adopted as the standard preparedness framework by the four National Societies and will have at least one PER trainer by the end of 2025. The National Societies will enhance their response capacities under PER and will work to be inducted with new tools and policies such as the IFRC disaster response management strategy and the road to resilience as well as enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (EVCA).

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), and with implementing support from the Finnish Red Cross, the Cambodian Red Cross will be supported in community-based disaster risk management. Support will include training volunteers in identifying risks and developing community action plans, based on the vulnerability and capacity assessments.

The Cambodian Red Cross and Lao Red Cross are involved in the Early Warnings for All initiative (EW4All), which aims to ensure everyone on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027. In this United Nations-led initiative, the IFRC

is the lead of Pillar 4 on preparedness for response to warnings and is also actively engaged in Pillars 1 and 3 of Disaster Risk Knowledge and Warning Dissemination and Communication. The National Society, with IFRC support, will be working with national authorities to coordinate Pillar 4 and implement activities.

In Cambodia, a preparedness for effective response was conducted for the National Society leadership and management level and a self-assessment will be conducted moving forward. The preparedness and response enhancement for Laos will remain a top priority both at the policy and strategy level. A critical task for the Lao Red Cross is the establishment of a financial service provider. It works closely with the Government and is supporting the development and establishment of its disaster emergency fund decree. This will enable the National Society to strengthen its position as an auxiliary to the Government in Laos.

In Thailand, the replication and improvement of PhonPhai application will be the major emphasis in the next two years along with the knowledge and technology transfer and support to the Viet Nam Red Cross Society for the inception of the PhonPai application.

The Viet Nam Red Cross Society will continue to focus on strengthening preparedness and response, with a special emphasis on enhancing the capacity of its branches at the provincial level.

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## Planned activities in 2025

### Cambodia

- Conduct a PER self-assessment and develop disaster risk management plans for targeted communities
- Review and develop contingency plans, organize coordination meetings among members for preparedness and response operations
- Organize annual pre-disaster meeting with Red Cross branches and its partners

### Laos

- Enhance community capacity for effective disaster response through community-based disaster risk reduction, including vulnerability and capacity assessments
- Translate and revise the curriculum for the enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (eVCA) training to align with specific context of Laos
- Establish a cash working group with representatives of each one of its departments
- Develop a disaster risk management strategy and standard operating procedures for disaster response



- Conduct needs assessments training for national disaster response teams
- Develop Early Action Protocols (EAPs) for drought and floods
- Engage in mapping disaster-related laws, policies and regulations in keeping with its auxiliary role

#### Thailand

- Conduct relevant disaster preparedness and response training with communities and schools such as PhonPhai app training, disaster preparedness and response, first aid and disaster risk reduction
- Provide communities with the equipment needed to use during the disaster response
- Enable the PhonPhai application to incorporate air image data collected by drones
- Organize meetings and training with government authorities involved with disaster management to provide timely support and avoid duplication during the crisis
- Engage in mapping disaster-related laws, policies and regulations in keeping with its auxiliary role

#### Viet Nam

- Provide relief kits including essential personal items to disaster affected households
  - Enhance community awareness on build back safer to support disasters affected households
  - Provide conditional cash for shelter assistance including repair and construction for disasters affected households
  - Coordinate with the cash working groups in Viet Nam, to ensure adherence to relevant standards for cash and voucher assistance (CVA)
  - Conduct response capacity enhancement training for the provincial and commune disaster response teams as well as local response forces
  - Organize a pre-disaster meeting with the government and hydrometeorological agencies to review weather forecasts and plan response measures
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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Lao Red Cross, Thai Red Cross Society, Cambodian Red Cross and Viet Nam Red Cross Society in strengthening their disaster preparedness and response capacities. This includes developing an enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (eVCA) plan and conducting enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments in communities. It also facilitates activities focused on preparedness for effective response (PER) while providing technical support for programme design, training in relevant themes and improving warehouse management and relief kit replenishment. Additionally, the IFRC provides technical and financial support for implementing the PER workplan and advancing cash and voucher assistance (CVA) readiness for future emergencies.

The IFRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre support the four National Societies in forecast-based financing and developing early action protocols for heatwaves and other hazards such as floods and typhoons. In Cambodia and Viet Nam, this support focuses on anticipatory action for these hazards. In Thailand, the IFRC helps strengthen disaster risk reduction capacity by linking community-based disaster risk reduction with climate-smart action.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the Lao Red Cross in strengthening its capacity for effective response at both headquarters and branch levels. This includes developing standard operating procedures, building disaster response capacity, cash preparedness and conducting needs assessments. It also supports the Lao Red Cross in conducting vulnerability and capacity assessments, with mitigation measures informed by Village Disaster Management Committee plans to enhance community preparedness.

The **Thai Red Cross Society** provides disaster management support to the Lao Red Cross as needed under a bilateral memorandum of understanding signed for 2023 to 2027.



The Mekong River region faces several health risks and impacts that affect the local population and ecosystems such as malaria and dengue fever. The Mekong River and its tributaries serve as a vital source of water for drinking, bathing and fishing for millions of people. However, the river's water quality is compromised by pollution, agricultural runoff and inadequate sanitation systems, leading to the spread of waterborne diseases such as typhoid and diarrheal illnesses. Additionally, the warm and humid climate provides a conducive environment for the breeding of disease-carrying mosquitoes. Furthermore, the Mekong River is subject to seasonal flooding, which can have severe health consequences. Floods often lead to the displacement of communities, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases, malnutrition and mental health issues among those affected. This region is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns. These changes can have far-reaching health effects, such as increased heat-related illness, water scarcity and food insecurity.

**Cambodia** is considered a global hotspot for the transmission of emerging, re-emerging and epidemic-prone diseases – in particular, zoonotic diseases such as avian influenza and rabies, which are increasingly concerning. These diseases need multi-sector and multi-disciplinary approaches to preparedness and response and these approaches are currently lacking in the country. Key drivers of risk to zoonotic diseases in Cambodia include low-risk perception, misinformed practices such as consuming animals known to be sick or found dead, the close co-habitation of animals in cooking and sleeping areas, wet markets and the consumption of wild meats.

**Laos** faces many challenges in its health sector, including a shortage of adequately trained personnel, weak infrastructure, a limited ability to conduct surveillance of infectious diseases and respond to outbreaks, limited maternal and child health care coverage and an overstretched health care workforce. The country faces heightened pandemic infectious disease threats due to a combination of its location in the heart of the Mekong region and rapid socio-economic changes that increase cross-border commerce and migration. Maternal and child mortality rates are among the highest in the region, with almost 20,000 children under the age of five dying each year from diarrhoea, malnutrition and respiratory diseases. Providing education and work for people living with disabilities also remains a serious problem in Laos.

In **Thailand**, non-communicable diseases accounted for the bulk of morbidity and mortality before the COVID-19 pandemic. Infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, as well as road accidents and air pollution, are also major public health concerns.

Although **Viet Nam** has seen strong economic growth in recent years, it still needs significant investment in its healthcare sector. The lack of sufficient quantity and quality of water due to saline intrusion in many coastal areas and the changing patterns of infectious diseases, pose new threats to health and livelihoods. As a tropical country, Viet Nam is prone to diseases such as dengue fever, malaria, avian influenza and hand, foot and mouth disease. As a result of climate change, several climate-sensitive diseases have also transformed, resulting in more outbreaks and infectious cases, further threatening communities' capacity to cope with health and economic impacts.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The four National Societies aims to strengthen their epidemic preparedness mechanisms in order to enhance their readiness for possible epidemics in the future. They will also work to strengthen their response to the compounding effect of extreme heat and air pollution on people's health conditions. As part of their response to crises and hazards, the National Societies will step up their actions on mental health and psychosocial first aid (MHPSS) and psychological first aid (PFA).

The **Cambodian Red Cross** will continuously coordinate with the Ministry of Health and provide education on disease prevention behaviours and disaster response at the community level. This is in response to the evolving risks associated with epidemics in Cambodia. The National Society will enhance its first aid activity and also work on HIV awareness activities for those who are particularly vulnerable.

The **Lao Red Cross** will work on first aid dissemination and first aid education as an integrated response to traffic accidents and disaster victims. It will also roll out an emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as a response to disasters and will spread community awareness about prevention of infectious diseases.

The **Thai Red Cross Society** will work on developing a response to the health impact of climate change at the national level and will continue providing existing professional health services including immunization campaign by using new technology.

The **Viet Nam Red Cross Society's** objectives revolve around preventing communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, first aid, WASH, pandemic and epidemic preparedness through capacity enhance of its staff and volunteers.

WASH promotion remains a primary need in emergency operations within the Mekong countries and this is a particular strength of the Cambodian Red Cross, Lao Red Cross and Thai Red Cross Society. These three National Societies are recognized by public authorities as key water, sanitation and hygiene service providers in emergencies and in development.

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## Planned activities in 2025

### Cambodia

- Develop a commercial first aid sustainable system and a mental health and psychosocial support framework
- Promote mother, infant and child health
- Provide assistance in border areas for HIV/AIDS awareness
- Build capacity for staff and volunteers at all levels for community health promotion
- Update first aid policies and strengthen skills and knowledge of trainers and volunteers
- Emphasize community health promotion, hygiene, disease outbreak prevention and preparedness.
- Engage stakeholders for epidemic response support
- Empower Red Cross Volunteer networks and communities for effective disease prevention and response

### Laos

- Set up a national first aid committee and develop national first aid guidelines in collaboration with the government
- Develop a first aid manual
- Provide first aid training and refresher training for high school teachers and students
- Advocate with the Ministry of Health for coverage of its operational costs to ensure its national blood service plan is adequately supported and resourced
- Conduct behaviour change promotion activities in schools and communities to increase knowledge on healthy lifestyles and mitigate community health risks
- Develop a mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) course and information, education and communication (IEC) material focused on MHPSS
- Enhance voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation and support blood transfusion services through the provision of infrastructure
- Improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices in schools and villages

### Thailand

- Participate epidemic preparedness coordination platforms and working groups
- Develop and implement action plans to prepare for and respond to epidemic and pandemic threats
- Conduct a knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) survey to inform community health promotion plan
- Improve its online first aid training programme

- Develop and regularly test and update health services continuity plans (HSCP) for its health facilities
- Enhance the PhonPhai application by adding features for disseminating health information and collecting real-time community data, including for early outbreak detection
- Conduct behaviour change outreach through household visits, focus group discussions, community mobilization and awareness on health risks such as rabies and viral haemorrhagic fevers
- Assess community-based surveillance to strengthen health and livestock volunteer networks, ensuring integration with national systems for early detection and response to zoonotic diseases

### Viet Nam

- Develop a concept note on first aid capacity building programme, including commercial first aid
- Focus on psychological first aid by providing its staff and volunteers with training in psychological first aid in emergencies
- Provide conditional cash for water, sanitation and hygiene assistance to disaster affected households
- Construct latrines for affected communities and selected households
- Provide refresher training in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) promotion in emergencies and disease prevention for its staff and volunteers in key disaster provinces

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the four National Societies in expanding first aid activities to strengthen collective capacities and reaffirm first aid as central to IFRC Strategy 2030. It will continue fostering cross-border and peer support between Lao Red Cross and Thai Red Cross Society, Lao Red Cross and Viet Nam Red Cross Society and Thai Red Cross Society and Cambodian Red Cross in areas such as blood services and epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response. It will also provide technical and financial support to the National Societies in advancing health and well-being initiatives.

Through the DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership the Cambodian Red Cross be supported in strengthening epidemic preparedness capacities at community and institutional level, applying a One Health approach. Support will be provided to the Cambodian Red Cross to set up a community-based surveillance system, working with national authorities to link to the national health surveillance system.

The IFRC supports Thai Red Cross Society in strengthening epidemic and pandemic preparedness and outbreak response, particularly in the Thai Myanmar border areas

and other regions hosting migrants and displaced people from Myanmar.

The **Italian Red Cross** has supported Lao Red Cross and Cambodian Red Cross in HIV/AIDS-related interventions, including cross-border cooperation for migrants living with HIV/AIDS, awareness campaigns in border areas with high population flows and peer-to-peer learning.

The **Japanese Red Cross** supports the Lao Red Cross in rolling out its first aid initiatives and expand its interventions to six more provinces and at least 24 additional schools.



## Migration and displacement

Within the four Mekong countries, people migrate through both regular and irregular channels, driven by employment opportunities, lack of livelihoods, family reunification, access to health care, education, seeking safety and protection, or simply wanting a better life. As of 2024, the Asia-Pacific region was home to about 58 per cent of the world's population.

One defining feature of these migration flows is the movement of inbound migrant workers from Cambodia, Laos and to a lesser extent Viet Nam to Thailand, primarily due to Thailand's higher economic status, ageing society and structural reliance on labour migration across many key economic sectors. The total estimated figure for non-Thai nationals in Thailand amounted to almost 5.3 million as of December 2023, a marked increase of at least 446,000 migrants compared to nearly 4.9 million individuals in November 2018. Migration of migrant workers in elementary occupations from Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam remains by far the main regular migration flow to Thailand. However, regular migrant workers decreased from over 3 million in November 2018 to 2.3 million in December 2023.

The Asia-Pacific region remains a significant contributor to global migration, with individuals from these countries residing abroad accounting for a substantial portion of the world's international migrants. The humanitarian needs related to migration, displacement and identity in this region continue to be complex and multi-dimensional.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Asia Pacific National Societies have made a number of commitments to increase local, national and regional capacity and action in response to the humanitarian consequences of migration and displacement. These are reflected in the Manila Call for Action, which is a set of 21 commitments and 13 targets agreed by leaders of the Asia Pacific National Societies at the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference held in the Philippines in

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports Lao Red Cross in improving the quality and quantity of blood collection, processing and transfusion through a national blood programme. It also provides support in strengthening community health and resilience through community engagement and humanitarian services.

The **Thai Red Cross Society** supports Lao Red Cross in health programmes and blood services under a bilateral memorandum of understanding for 2023–2027.

2018. The National Societies of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand have worked on improving awareness around safe migration across borders and to improve support to migrants in Laos and Thailand. Moving forward, targeted areas of migration-related initiatives for the four National Societies will consist of interventions such as health awareness sessions targeting migrants, conducting assessments to pinpoint the specific requirements of migrant groups, strategizing small-scale pilot initiatives for migrants and establishing operational standards in humanitarian assistance, among others. These interventions will enable the National Societies to make informed decisions about operations and programming that could be undertaken to support migrants and displaced people.

## Planned activities in 2025

### Cambodia

- Conduct a migration and displacement assessment to better understand dynamics, stakeholders and humanitarian needs related to migration and displacement in Cambodia
- Provide assistance in border areas through HIV/AIDS awareness interventions targeting migrant workers
- Train staff and branch focal points on safe migration and train volunteers on principles and rules of safe migration

### Laos

- Assist migrant workers living in Laos for through health promotion and prevention of disease
- Provide assistance in border areas through HIV/AIDS awareness interventions targeting migrant workers

### Thailand

- Engage migrants and displaced people as volunteers and key actors within epidemic preparedness efforts



- Review and assess the cross-border relationships and coordination between Thai and Myanmar health care providers
- Address the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced people, including in urban internal displacement contexts and through access to protection during displacement
- Conduct advocacy in support of migrants and displaced people for access to essential public services

#### Viet Nam

- Conduct a national level needs assessment on humanitarian needs of migrants and displaced people
- Conduct national strategic workshop on addressing humanitarian need and assess the current status of humanitarian aid implementation
- Conduct training for its staff on upholding accountability principles in humanitarian aid delivery

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the four National Societies in identifying needs and priorities related to migration and displacement, including developing action plans based on their mandates and capacities. It will explore options to support the Lao Red Cross, Thai Red Cross Society and Viet Nam Red Cross Society in defining their priorities to address the needs of migrants and displaced people. It also supports coordination with key partners on health services for migrants and displaced persons.

The IFRC will support the Thai Red Cross Society in strengthening epidemic and pandemic preparedness and outbreak response through a whole-of-society approach in Thai Myanmar border areas and other relevant provinces and districts where migrants and displaced people from Myanmar reside.

The **Italian Red Cross** has supported the Lao Red Cross and Cambodian Red Cross in HIV/AIDS-related interventions, including cross-border cooperation for migrants living with HIV/AIDS, awareness sessions in border areas with high population flows and peer-to-peer learning.



## Values, power and inclusion

In the Mekong countries, significant strides have been made in terms of gender equality, particularly in the areas of education and health. Increasing female enrolment in schools and improvements in maternal health are clear indicators of progress. However, substantial challenges persist. Women often encounter barriers in accessing economic opportunities and leadership roles, with limited representation in political and decision-making positions. Traditional gender roles continue to dominate, particularly in rural areas, where women's participation in the labour market is often restricted to lower-paying jobs and informal sectors. Violence against women and gender-based violence are pervasive issues that further hinder gender equality.

Social inequalities are also prominent in these countries. In Laos, ethnic minority groups face higher poverty rates and limited access to services compared to the Lao-Tai majority. In Thailand, disparities between urban and rural areas are significant, with marginalized groups such as migrants and ethnic minorities experiencing discrimination and restricted access to resources. Cambodia, despite achieving near gender parity in primary education, still struggles with gaps in higher education and employment and domestic violence remains a serious concern. In Viet Nam, although women play a significant role in the labour force and legal frameworks support women's rights, wage gaps, limited political representation and domestic violence are ongoing challenges. Ethnic minorities in

Viet Nam experience higher poverty rates and poorer health and education outcomes compared to the majority Kinh population.

Efforts to address these disparities are ongoing across all four countries, with various policies and programs aimed at promoting gender and social equality. However, substantial challenges remain in overcoming deeply entrenched social norms, ensuring effective implementation of legal protections and providing equitable access to resources and opportunities for all populations, particularly women and marginalized groups in rural and ethnic minority communities.

#### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The four National Societies have focused on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in recent years and have implemented several initiatives which include mainstreaming PGI in strategies, plans and services; training on PGI mainstreaming; and increasing societal awareness about preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence. The four National Societies seek to prioritize the implementation of key recommendations from their sexual and gender-based violence research, as well as position themselves as strong actors in this area. This will be achieved through partnership with the relevant national authorities, such as ministries of health, national committees responsible for human affairs, specialized

civil society organizations and United Nations agencies with a presence in the countries. The Mekong country National Societies also aim to strengthen women's leadership initiatives, collect disaggregated data around sex, age and disability and develop a policy for preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, clarifying referral mechanisms for reporting and support.

The Cambodian Red Cross is engaged in the new [RED Education](#) flagship initiative of the IFRC network to make education communities and facilities safer, more inclusive and resilient. This global effort seeks by 2030 to support 40 million children and youth, 1 million teachers and education personnel, in 100 000 schools and learning spaces, across 100 countries. It focuses on a three-fold approach:

- “Education Ready” for school-based anticipatory action and preparedness interventions (e.g., cash and in-kind assistance, comprehensive risk management, teachers’ training)
- “Education First” for immediate relief assistance to affected education communities (e.g., education kits’ distribution, set-up and running of temporary spaces, psychosocial support)
- “Education Forward” for recovery measures and longer-term development activities (e.g., schools’ reconstruction, retrofitting and greening; cash and in-kind assistance for education access and continuity; set-up and running of RED education facilities and clubs)

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## Planned activities in 2025

### Cambodia

- Focus on mainstreaming the protection, inclusion and gender ([PGI](#)) policies agreed and endorsed in the 2024 Bali statement
- Focus on mainstreaming the community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) tools and guidelines agreed and endorsed in the 2024 Bali statement
- Conduct workshops for the revision of youth and volunteer policies
- Introduce new tools for youth engagement

### Laos

- Strengthen community feedback channels that include steps to collect, consolidate, analyse, visualize and act on feedback received
- Develop community engagement and accountability and feedback mechanisms for the Red Ready project
- Ratify and implement national policies for protection against sexual abuse and exploitation ([PSEA](#)) and [child safeguarding](#)
- Focus on mainstreaming the protection, inclusion and gender ([PGI](#)) policies agreed and endorsed in the 2024 Bali statement

- Focus on mainstreaming the community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) tools and guidelines agreed and endorsed in the 2024 Bali statement

### Thailand

- Conduct child safeguarding risk analysis and develop a child safeguarding policy
- Apply CEA guidelines in youth-led volunteer structure
- Focus on mainstreaming the protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) policies agreed and endorsed in the 2024 Bali statement
- Focus on mainstreaming the community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) tools and guidelines agreed and endorsed in the 2024 Bali statement

### Viet Nam

- Provide relevant support to selected schools to enhance emergency and disaster preparedness and readiness in schools
- Ratify and implement national policies for protection against sexual abuse and exploitation ([PSEA](#)) and [child safeguarding](#)
- Adapt and translate [minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion \(PGI\) in emergencies](#) at country level
- Respond to community concerns through open and honest communication
- Participation in a wide range of community groups and community-based activities
- Focus on mainstreaming the protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) policies agreed and endorsed in the 2024 Bali statement
- Focus on mainstreaming the community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) tools and guidelines agreed and endorsed in the 2024 Bali statement

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the four National Societies by aligning with the priorities identified in their strategic and development plans, emphasizing the importance of volunteering, integrity, transparency and accountability as core elements of strong National Societies. A key priority is revitalizing the Southeast Asia protection, gender and inclusion network to strengthen peer learning and integrate protection, gender and inclusion into emergencies. Updated terms of reference and regular meetings throughout the year enable the National Societies to coordinate on essential initiatives. The IFRC will continue to support investments in leadership cultures that include women and minority groups.

The IFRC will continue supporting the National Societies in embedding recent statutory resolutions and commitments,

such as anticipatory action, the Climate and Environmental Charter and policies on volunteering, first aid and protection, gender and inclusion. It will also support investment in leadership cultures that promote inclusion of women and

minority groups. Additionally, it will continue empowering women within the four National Societies, by addressing gender disparities in leadership positions and fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment, in line with the Hanoi Call for Action commitment 2023.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The National Societies in the Mekong region are committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and have all recently carried out reviews and development activities. They are now in the process of operationalizing their plans. As part of their priorities, all four strive to increase their relevance in the face of evolving humanitarian and social needs and to be recognized as partners of choice. The National Societies are committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and the Viet

Nam Red Cross Society carried out an Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification ([OCAC](#)) process in 2022 which will be followed by the Lao Red Cross. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The National Societies are also committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) process. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



### Strategic and operational coordination

#### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

##### Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Viet Nam

- Focus on development of resource mobilization
- Increase collaboration with relevant government ministries and agencies to scale up humanitarian assistance
- Increase engagement in the regional humanitarian action working group and collaborate with other external actors to coordinate and improve work

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Societies in adopting long-term approach towards resource mobilization development. Based on data such as core cost analysis, market assessment and financial sustainability indicators, the IFRC will support the National Societies in developing their resource mobilization plans.

This includes developing resource mobilization plans tailored to contexts and needs, of the four National Societies, coordinating partner support, improving fundraising mechanisms and enabling peer-to-peer exchanges within cluster countries.



### National Society development

#### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

##### Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Viet Nam

- Focus on accessing any grant or awards related to National Society development programming
- Focus on empowering the local emergency responders and community-based organizations through the provision of technical training and resources

- Develop a National Society development plan aimed at enhancing the National Society's ability to identify gaps and capacity-building needs both at the headquarters and at the branch level
- Focus on new ways of engaging volunteers, managing volunteer data and improving volunteer safety and wellbeing
- Provide training in finance for Viet Nam Red Cross Society staff and volunteers

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the four National Societies in their objectives under National Society development through interventions such as engaging in dialogue with their respective governments to for legal status of the National Societies and supporting the

development of the National Society development plan. The IFRC also provides technical support to the National Societies to improve their understanding and the application for funding support for National Society development from various stakeholders.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

#### Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Viet Nam

- Conduct campaigns to disseminate information about the [fundamental principles](#) of the Movement
- Conduct effective advocacy with government agencies about the interventions of the National Societies and advocate for assistance for vulnerable people
- Conduct communications workshop and improve the capacity of the National Societies to promote their work and to build public trust

- Improve community awareness of the role and activities carried out by the National Societies and enhance their impact

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the four National Societies in promoting their work and in increasing their overall visibility in their respective countries. It plays a key role in promoting the work of the National Societies in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam. The IFRC supports the four National Societies by facilitating close collaboration with regional development partners in relevant meetings and fora.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

#### Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Viet Nam

- Develop fraud and corruption policy for the respective National Societies
- Strengthen the financial auditing systems of the National Societies and conduct training on finance for the National Society staff and volunteers to increase transparency and accountability
- Develop prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and [child safeguarding](#) policies
- Integrate and feedback mechanisms for both the staff and volunteers of the National Societies
- Conduct training for staff in upholding accountability principles in humanitarian aid delivery, ensuring transparent and responsible provision of assistance

- Develop prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and child safeguarding policies
- Strengthen the capacities of the National Societies on planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting ([PMER](#))

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Cambodian Red Cross, Lao Red Cross, Thai Red Cross Society and Viet Nam Red Cross Society with their respective priorities under accountability and agility. It provides support in promoting integrity, transparency and accountability. It also provides assistance the National Societies in implementing new financing modalities in line with the IFRC Strategy 2030 and helps them in their effort to improve financial auditing. The IFRC also provides support to the National Societies to develop their capacities in financial management, human resources. Additionally technical support is provided in strengthening the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems.



# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC supports the four National Societies of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam through its country cluster delegation based in Bangkok, Thailand. It supports the National Societies in enhancing their institutional capacity, responding to humanitarian needs in the event of disaster and crisis, implement long-term programmes and supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

The IFRC also supports the National Societies to leverage their auxiliary role and influence regional, national and subnational processes to ensure more effective laws and policies for climate, disaster risk management, emergency preparedness and response, including for public health emergencies. It also

focuses on support around civil-military relations and on engaging the military and other security forces in disasters. This includes holding high-level discussions with National Society leadership to discuss civil-military relations trends and preparing them to engage effectively in civil-military relations, disseminating the relevant Movement handbook and developing an initial civil-military relations plan.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Societies through a number of disaster response emergency fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and [Emergency Appeal](#) related to storms and floods, drought and saltwater intrusion, typhoons and other disasters.

## IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

### Cambodia

The Cambodian Red Cross is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the DG ECHO and IFRC and as such, is receiving the implementation support of the Finnish Red Cross, as well as the coordination support of the IFRC. The Finnish Red Cross provides the National Society with support in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response and community engagement and accountability. Regular coordination meetings will continue to share information and monitor progress. This partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with the potential for greater, longer-term impact.



Thai Red Cross Society volunteers distributing relief items to people affected by floods in provinces of Narathiwat, Satun and Songkhla, in December 2024 (Photo: Thai Red Cross Society)

It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the world's biggest international donor for humanitarian assistance. The partnership is scheduled to end in mid-2025.

The **Italian Red Cross** provides support for the National Society's HIV-AIDS related interventions.

## Laos

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the National Society on HIV/AIDS prevention awareness in border areas with high population flows.

The **Japanese Red Cross Society** supports the National Society's first aid project as well as emergency WASH project to strengthen the capacities of staff and volunteers in this area. The Japanese Red Cross Society will also contribute to MHPSS through the first aid project.

The **Swiss Red Cross** provides support to the National Society's interventions under disaster risk management, health, WASH and National Society development. It has also provided support through emergency operations mainly on needs assessment, shelter and essential household items.

The **Thai Red Cross Society** provides support to the Lao Red Cross in the areas of disaster management, blood services, organization development, fundraising and communications, youth and volunteer management and logistics, based on the bilateral memorandum of understanding signed for 2023-2027.

## Viet Nam

The **Korean Red Cross** supports the Viet Nam Red Cross Society in coordinating partnership in youth and volunteering development.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the Viet Nam Red Cross Society with resource mobilization through a focal point in Viet Nam.

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## Movement coordination

the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies. It organizes quarterly International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement coordination meetings and an annual partners' meeting. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The **ICRC** has a regional presence in Bangkok and field offices in the north and south of Thailand. It supports on migration and

displacement, youth, restoring family links and communication and has also made in-kind and financial contributions to The Thai Red Cross Society's COVID-19 operation. The ICRC opened a Mekong sub-office in Viet Nam in 2021, covering Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam, where it focuses on restoring family links, international humanitarian law, migration and displacement, safer access and communications, as well as legal preparedness and dissemination and youth-related activities in Laos.

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## Coordination with other actors

In line with their auxiliary roles, all four National Societies engage extensively in their national coordination disaster risk management mechanisms. They also collaborate with ministries and departments on a broad range of activities and with public authorities at all levels. The IFRC engages with United Nations agencies based in Bangkok and is a permanent observer to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The IFRC also engages formally within humanitarian coordination platforms in Bangkok and chairs the technical working groups on emergency preparedness, cash, protection, risk communication and community engagement.

With IFRC support, the Viet Nam Red Cross Society leads the shelter cluster in disasters. The [Global Shelter Cluster](#) is an Inter-Agency Standing Committee coordination mechanism

and the IFRC has led it in disaster contexts since this approach was established in 2005. This critical mandate places the IFRC as a lead agency in the international humanitarian coordination system. It leverages this leadership position in the Global Shelter Cluster for better coordination, stronger policies and standards across the sector and better support for affected people in their recovery.

The IFRC in Bangkok supports the IFRC in Jakarta to engage with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations secretariat work programme priorities. It is also exploring closer collaboration with the private sector, working across borders such as Thai CP Group which has been supporting the Viet Nam Red Cross Society and has also expressed an interest in supporting the National Societies of Cambodia and Laos.



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 16 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.

## About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2025 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

## Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2025 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
  - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
  - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

## Additional information

- [IFRC Global Plan and IFRC network country plan](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [IFRC Evaluation and Research Databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

## Contact information

**Cambodian Red Cross Society**  
[redcross.org.kh](https://redcross.org.kh)

**Lao Red Cross**  
[Lao Red Cross | Facebook](#)

**Thai Red Cross Society**  
[redcross.or.th](https://redcross.or.th)

**Viet Nam Red Cross Society**  
[redcross.org.vn/](https://redcross.org.vn/)

**Kathryn Clarkson**  
Head of Delegation  
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation  
for Cambodia, Laos, Thailand &  
Viet Nam, Bangkok  
[kathryn.clarkson@ifrc.org](mailto:kathryn.clarkson@ifrc.org)

**Herve Gazeau**  
Head  
Strategic Partnerships  
& Resource Mobilization  
Asia Pacific Regional Office,  
Kuala Lumpur  
T +6019 268 6503  
[herve.gazeau@ifrc.org](mailto:herve.gazeau@ifrc.org)

**Sumitha Martin**  
Lead  
IFRC Global Strategic Planning  
& Reporting Centre  
New Delhi  
[sumitha.martin@ifrc.org](mailto:sumitha.martin@ifrc.org)