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

Malaysia is relatively free from some of the natural hazards that affect its neighbouring countries, however, it is vulnerable to floods, forest fires and epidemics.

Non-communicable diseases burden the country, accounting for 73 per cent of total deaths, with the most significant contributor being cardiovascular diseases such as heart attacks and strokes. Data shows an increasing trend for all non-communicable diseases risk factors including overweight, obesity, high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol.

Singapore sits outside the ‘Ring of Fire’ and is not prone to natural hazards. One of the biggest challenges facing the country relates to vulnerabilities linked to ageing. Projections indicate that due to its rapidly ageing population, by 2030, one in five people in the country will be aged 65 years or older.

The island city-state is not insulated from the impact of climate change. As a low-lying island, the rise in sea level poses the most immediate threat to Singapore. As it imports more than 90 per cent of its food demand, Singapore is vulnerable to fluctuations in global food supply and prices. The effects of climate change on crops grown in countries from which it imports food would have the potential to disrupt the food supply.

Brunei has a well-developed economy and one of the highest GDP per capita in the world. Located in a unique area largely spared from natural hazards, floods and forest fires (with their resultant haze and air pollution) are the main hazards that occasionally impact the country, sometimes with substantial humanitarian consequences.

Non-communicable diseases are the leading cause of mortality in Brunei, constituting 52.5 per cent of the total deaths in the country while road traffic accidents are the leading cause of death.
The Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) formed as a branch of the British Red Cross in 1948. Fortunately, the risks faced seldom become disasters. Since Brunei is not disaster-prone, the National Society offers other vital services driven by the needs of the country. These include blood donation campaigns, national health awareness campaigns, mobilising and training youths for various activities, promoting road safety, delivering first aid, and coordinating with the public health authorities on preparation and response to pandemics.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) was established as a branch of the British Red Cross in 1948. The vision of the National Society is to be the leading and distinctive humanitarian organisation in Malaysia that brings people and institutions together for the vulnerable. As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the National Society’s mandate covers crisis and disaster management. It includes evacuating affected people, providing emergency medical services, preparing and providing food, and distributing relief items such as clothing and blankets. During non-disaster and non-emergency times, the leading service of the National Society is the Emergency Ambulance Service.

The Singapore Red Cross Society (SRCS) was set up as a branch of the British Red Cross in September 1949. Its mission is to be dedicated to relieving human suffering, protecting human lives and dignity and responding to emergencies. The National Society’s mandate includes preventing and alleviating human suffering with complete impartiality, without any form of discrimination. The mandate also includes providing emergency relief in time of disaster for the alleviation of human suffering; and contributing to the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering. The National Society’s vision is to be a leading and distinctive humanitarian organisation that brings people and institutions together in aid of the vulnerable.
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Asia Pacific Regional Office – through assigned Country Focal Points – will support the Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore National Societies in line with the core statutory obligation of the IFRC.

The National Societies will coordinate with the broader membership as well as with the IFRC, which will provide technical support and assist with mobilising resources for the benefit of the National Societies in Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore.

The IFRC will support the Singapore National Society to set up the Pandemic Preparedness Hub for Southeast Asia as a platform to share knowledge and exchange best practices. The IFRC will support the Malaysia National Society to organise its Humanitarian Field School as a facility where the next generation of Red Cross Red Crescent responders can learn by doing. The National Society will take lessons learned from the COVID-19 operation and apply them to position the IFRC network as the partner of choice for humanitarian assistance and community resilience.

The IFRC will support the National Society in Brunei to strengthen its overall organisational capacity so that it can deliver vital public humanitarian services to communities. These include blood donation campaigns, national health awareness campaigns, mobilising and training youth, promoting road safety, providing first aid, and coordinating with the public health authorities to prepare for and respond to epidemics, including COVID-19.

The IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to ensure that it has systematically strengthened its organisational and response capacities built on an evidence-based approach that will enable it to fulfil its humanitarian mandate. The Malaysia National Society regularly responds to disasters, especially flooding during the monsoon season, health emergencies (such as its ongoing response to COVID-19) and ensures readiness for other disaster events.

The IFRC’s support to the National Society in Singapore will focus on increasing the sharing of best practice and mobilising subject matter experts for peer-to-peer support. The IFRC will also help it to better prepare for epidemics and pandemics among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) National Societies, enhance its coordination in international emergency response, and drive the ASEAN Coalition for Resilience, which aims at making 100 million people more resilient in ASEAN countries by 2025. The Singapore National Society is recognised for its excellence with regards to safety and first aid, social care programmes, youth and volunteer engagement and a growing role in international emergency response.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supports the National Societies in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei through its Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur. The IFRC will work closely with the ICRC to complement efforts. Where applicable, Movement coordination activities – including joint assessments, planning and reporting arrangements – will be pursued. Furthermore, the three National Societies will be supported jointly by IFRC and ICRC to move forward the action plan on Strengthening Movement Cooperation and Coordination.

The IFRC will support the three National Societies to strengthen their partnerships with a range of external organisations, to shape or influence humanitarian agendas and policies as well as positioning the National Societies with their respective governments, civil society organisations and other stakeholder groups. The IFRC will support the National Societies to formalise partnerships with external bodies through Memorandums of Understanding for cooperation where applicable. The IFRC will also engage in various sub-regional, regional and international platforms on behalf of or in support of the National Societies.
Malaysia is vulnerable to several natural hazards. Floods are the primary natural disaster affecting the country, with landslides and droughts also significant, though their effects are limited to much smaller areas. The effects of climate change have the potential to result in high exposure, frequency and vulnerability to extreme weather and climate-related disasters. Considering biodiversity loss and other longer-term impacts of climate change, communities will face further exacerbation of shocks, including an increase in cases of vector-borne diseases, such as dengue, which occur during warmer periods.

Several different sectors are affected by climate change, including agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, water resources and energy. People and communities will continue to experience climate change impacts on water availability, food security and nutrition, public services, and economic opportunities. For instance, considering that Singapore imports more than 90 per cent of its food demand, the island city-state is vulnerable to fluctuations in global food supply and prices. Effects of the climate on crops grown in countries from which it imports food have the potential to disrupt its food supply. In addition, the combined effects of increasing temperatures, high humidity and pollution are increasing the risks associated with heatwaves in all three countries.

Climate change will also impact on gender and income inequality reversing the gains achieved so far, especially in communities reeling under the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. Protecting, conserving and diversifying livelihood strategies is imperative for community resilience.

The IFRC will support the National Societies in Malaysia and Singapore to develop their capacity and knowledge on climate change adaptation, by facilitating activities and training in climate-smart programming and actions to respond to extreme weather events.

The IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to promote environmentally-sustainable practices such as in livelihood and shelter interventions. It will also support the National Society in Malaysia to conduct community and school-based education or awareness-raising activities on environmentally-sustainable practices in rural and urban contexts.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will invest in strengthening capacities, promoting best practices, guidance, tools and technical support to the National Society in Malaysia for urban resilience and reducing community risk.
- The IFRC will organise and facilitate activities that allow the Malaysia National Society staff and volunteers to conduct risk awareness activities. The activities will analyse vulnerability and exposure to climate shocks, integrate and anticipate climate impacts, and identify suitable early actions, including via forecast-based financing.
- The IFRC will foster collaboration between the National Society in Malaysia with the Government, civil society organisations, private sector, research institutes, academe and other stakeholders.
- The IFRC will advocate with the National Society in Malaysia for laws, plans and policies to be made climate-smart and to include urgent climate action.
Evolving crises and disasters

Activities

- The IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to enhance its capacity around shelter and settlements programmes in rural settings, including through tailored technical training.
- The IFRC will facilitate discussions on forecast-based financing with the National Society in Malaysia including external stakeholders.
- The IFRC will support the Malaysia National Society to engage in legislative advocacy through the development of an evidence base and the provision of training and peer support opportunities.

People to be reached

4,000

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

100,000

Brunei and Singapore are mostly free from many of the natural hazards that affect other countries in Southeast Asia. However, Malaysia is vulnerable to several natural hazards such as floods, landslides, forest fires and haze, with the risk of earthquakes mainly in Sabah. The threat of human-induced and technological hazards, especially the contamination of water sources with toxic wastes, is on the increase in Malaysia. Urbanisation is creating new risks as thousands of people, mostly migrants, the homeless and urban poor, settle in hazard-prone areas.

Disasters and crises are going to become more common and complex, more concentrated, more dynamic and more costly.

In a context where humanitarian and development challenges are increasing, local humanitarian workers need to ensure that they are at the right place, taking the right action at the right time. To achieve this in Malaysia, the IFRC will support the Malaysia National Society, as part of the Red Ready programme, to strengthen its capacity to respond to disasters and crises.

Building on 20 years of experience in disaster law, the IFRC will support the Malaysia National Society to leverage its auxiliary role to influence national and subnational disaster law processes. The IFRC will support the Malaysia National Society to work closely with the Government and partners to strengthen laws and policies to make communities safer, facilitate humanitarian assistance and improve the protection and inclusion of the most vulnerable people.

To reduce communities’ vulnerability and exposure to hazards, the IFRC will facilitate events with all three National Societies for peer support for rolling out measures that will encourage community-based risk reduction action in communities, schools and institutions.

The IFRC will guide and support the National Societies in Singapore and Malaysia to design relevant programmes to address urban resilience. It will also support the National Society in Malaysia to establish a centralised resource database, undertake a resource mapping exercise, and develop measures for responding with speed using cash and voucher assistance.
The three National Societies offer first aid training courses to equip more people with basic first aid knowledge so that they are empowered to save lives in the event of emergencies. To protect and improve the health and wellbeing of communities, the IFRC will support the National Societies in Malaysia and Singapore to take steps towards achieving International First Aid Attestation recognition. It will support the Brunei National Society to upgrade its first aid app to a blended learning app for first aid education.

Non-communicable diseases account for a large proportion of deaths in Malaysia. Increasing urbanisation, a sedentary lifestyle, obesity and hypertension are significant contributors, so campaigns to promote healthy lifestyles are crucial. The IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to develop a community-based health programme focusing on the prevention of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, and a youth-led campaign to promote healthy lifestyles.

The IFRC will support the National Society in Singapore to collect, analyse and share evidence to demonstrate the impact of its programmes that support older people and share that knowledge with other National Societies.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) capabilities vary between states in Malaysia, so the National Society will undertake a needs assessment to direct a strategy. The IFRC will guide the Malaysia National Society to develop its health and WASH strategies aligned with its auxiliary role and domestic mandate.

The IFRC will also guide and support the National Society in Malaysia to install rainwater harvesting systems for resource-limited communities in rural areas, to improve their access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally-sustainable services. The IFRC will also support the National Society in Malaysia to develop a youth-led campaign to sustain hygiene practices and respiratory etiquette because of the continued threat of COVID-19.

To maintain the health and dignity of communities in emergencies, the IFRC will support the Singapore National Society to establish a Centre for Excellence in pandemic preparedness and to run mini-seminars in health, pandemics and WASH.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will guide the National Society in Malaysia to develop a mental health and psychosocial support framework and support it to integrate psychological first aid in its first aid training courses, ambulance services and emergency response.
- The IFRC will facilitate WASH training for all three National Societies, including in emergency WASH and participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation.
- In close coordination with the ICRC, the IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to collaborate with state health authorities on social mobilisation for routine and emergency vaccination campaigns.
Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore are significant countries of destination for migrants, mainly due to their economic and development status.

There are more than 170,000 refugees and asylum seekers living in Malaysia. The support they receive is complex since Malaysia is not a signatory to the Refugee Convention. Limitations include difficulties to access public schools and challenges finding decent work or places to live. Therefore, the IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to develop its strategy, plan of action and guidance on migration and displacement. The IFRC will also support the National Society in Malaysia to develop and implement principled programming to assist and protect migrants and host communities. In addition, it will support the Malaysia National Society to deliver activities to address stigma against migrants and refugees.

The IFRC will facilitate and support the National Societies in both Malaysia and Singapore to enhance cooperation with National Societies of neighbouring countries and those along migratory routes to arrange support to migrants.

To strengthen its capacity to respond to the needs of migrants, displaced persons and host communities, the IFRC will support the Malaysia National Society to conduct a national needs assessment and organise staff and volunteer training on migration and displacement.

The IFRC will support all three National Societies to develop case studies on their work in migration and displacement to share knowledge, and to network by actively engaging in the Asia Pacific Migration Network.

**MIGRATION AND IDENTITY**

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**

25,000

**People to be reached**

4,000

**30%**

Refugees in Malaysia under the age of 18 years

**170,000**

Refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia

**4 million**

Irregular migrants in Malaysia

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support the Malaysia National Society to prepare for and respond to population movement crises, including for maritime arrivals.
- The IFRC will support the Malaysia National Society to engage with authorities, decision-makers and partners on the issue of migration and displacement, including through targeted humanitarian dialogue and advocacy where relevant.
VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

The IFRC will ensure that the National Societies advance on the principle of ‘do no harm’. It will support the three National Societies to ensure they integrate the IFRC’s minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergencies within their response operations. It will also guide and support the National Societies to ensure that their response plans and activities include measures to prevent and respond to interpersonal violence such as sexual and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, child abuse and human trafficking.

The IFRC will support the National Society in Singapore to collect, analyse and share evidence showing the impact of its inclusive programmes that support older people and homeless people, and to organise and facilitate Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change peer educator training.

The National Society will target schools as institutions that are essential to expanding the reach of their interventions. Activities will include school safety and encouraging youth to take action in various areas including campaigns on climate action, non-communicable disease and maintaining good hygiene because of COVID-19.

The IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to engage in youth-led initiatives to reduce stigma against migrants. It will also support the Malaysia National Society to develop a humanitarian education programme, building on its initial work of delivering humanitarian education aid to children from underprivileged families as part of the COVID-19 response operation.

In addition, to promote equitable access to quality education for all boys and girls in Malaysia affected by disaster, crisis or displacement, the IFRC will support the National Society to forge partnerships with the Ministry of Education, schools and education stakeholders in the humanitarian education agenda.

The National Societies will lead by example and inspire others on gender and diversity. The IFRC will support them to monitor progress against the gender and diversity targets in the Manila Call for Action, in their governance, management, staff and volunteers.

The IFRC will also coordinate and support all three National Societies to participate in Southeast Asia Youth Network activities.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support the National Society in Singapore to collect, analyse and share evidence to show the impact of its inclusive programmes that support older people.
- The National Society in Malaysia will undertake school safety activities, including campaigns on climate action, non-communicable disease and maintaining good hygiene.
- The IFRC will also support the National Society in Malaysia to engage in youth-led initiatives to reduce stigma against migrants.
ENABLER 1
ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

The National Societies and the IFRC will influence both the behaviour of the public and policy change at the domestic, regional and global levels. The IFRC will coordinate with and support the National Societies to deliver high-impact media and communication campaigns on emergencies as well as undertake public advocacy targeting donors, Government, partners and policy influencers.

To support policy change in Singapore, the IFRC will support the National Society in the country to host and select prominent speakers for its annual Humanitarian Conference. The conference connects with regional National Societies and other humanitarian actors in the country to shape the disaster risk management plan in Southeast Asia.

The IFRC will support the Singapore National Society to establish an information-sharing platform and advisory group to improve its engagement with Government bodies in Southeast Asia. Together with the Singapore National Society, the IFRC will engage military bodies to enhance collaboration in humanitarian issues.

The National Societies and the IFRC will strengthen their engagement with partners. The IFRC will support the Malaysia National Society to co-lead and host the Malaysia COVID-19 Coordination and Action Hub. It is a platform that connects donors, civil society organisations and the Government to magnify coordination and impactful humanitarian action in Malaysia.

The IFRC network will embrace digital and emerging technology and transform ways of working. To achieve this, the IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to improve its volunteer management system, and it will provide relevant hardware, software and training. The IFRC will collaborate with the National Society in Singapore to use virtual reality in disaster management training and create simulations exercises.

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
35,000

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will recommend high-level speakers from other humanitarian organisations to collaborate with the Singapore National Society on events such as its Humanitarian Conference.
- The IFRC will support National Society in Malaysia to identify opportunities that enhance collaboration on humanitarian issues with organisations such as the ICRC and public authorities.
ENABLER 2
ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

The IFRC will support the National Societies to improve processes and put in place more robust internal controls to be more efficient, accountable and well-functioning so they can be the humanitarian partner of choice in their respective countries.

The IFRC will focus on supporting the National Society in Malaysia in several areas. It will support the National Society to review and update its standard recruitment process and to develop and approve human resources procedures for peacetime and emergencies.

The IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to better manage its finances by developing and disseminating financial procedures. It will also support the National Society to review its existing financial management system to ensure that it meets internal and external reporting needs promptly, and then support it to digitalise financial management processes.

To strengthen risk management, the IFRC will support the Malaysia National Society to develop a whistleblowing mechanism for reporting cases of suspected fraud and corruption, misconduct and abuse. It will also guide and support the National Society to embrace the inclusion of auditing and risk managing professionals on its Board.

The IFRC will also consider policies on personnel behaviour. It will support the Malaysia National Society to develop and adopt a Code of Conduct for its personnel as well as policies, guidelines, tools and mechanisms to prevent fraud and corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse, child protection, and sexual and gender-based violence. It will also support the Malaysia National Society to deliver training modules on these topics as part of response team training.

Within supply chain management, it will support the National Society in Malaysia to develop and roll out procurement procedures. It will support the National Society to update its warehouse and stock manual and provide training on warehousing and stock management functions. The IFRC will also support the National Society to develop a fleet manual including road safety and security, vehicle management and maintenance, insurance and registration.

To improve planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, the IFRC will coordinate with and support the National Societies in all three countries to provide their yearly data and documents to the Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System.

ACTIVITIES

• The IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to identify and enhance areas of finance, HR, supply chain, reporting and evaluation that need strengthening.

• The IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to update its Finance, Logistics and Procurement policies and to introduce a new Financial system to digitalise and coordinate financial information between the HQ and branches/states.

• Under the Red Ready programme, The IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to improve its financial accountability, logistics capacity and procurement needs to meet conditions in an emergency response.
The IFRC will support the National Societies to become the trusted partner of choice for humanitarian action in their country.

The IFRC will support the Malaysia National Society to develop and implement youth leadership training and create internship opportunities for university and college students. It will also support all three National Societies to participate in youth networks.

The National Societies will be engaged to ensure that they have sufficient quality assurance measures, while also achieving greater ownership, responsibility and high standards of integrity and accountability.

It will support the National Societies in Brunei and Malaysia to strengthen their legal bases by updating their National Society statutes under IFRC National Society Statute Guidance and Model Law. The IFRC will also support both National Societies to develop their new Strategic Plans in line with the IFRC Strategy 2030. Additionally, the IFRC will support the Malaysia National Society towards more significant localisation by placing a strong focus on the development of its branches.

To ensure financial sustainability, the IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to develop and implement a fundraising strategy to increase the economic resource base at national and sub-national levels. It will also support the National Society to establish an emergency fund at the national level together with a mechanism to direct financial resources towards the fund.

The IFRC will support the National Societies to renew their leaders to enable a more diverse leadership. Part of this will involve supporting the National Societies in Malaysia and Singapore to develop and pilot a youth leadership development programme and endorsing staff that are within the youth group to the IFRC for regional roles.

The IFRC will enhance membership coordination by supporting the National Societies in Malaysia and Singapore in IFRC-wide approaches to support emergencies and programmes within their countries and of other National Societies.

People and communities will be empowered to influence decisions affecting them. The IFRC will support the three National Societies to integrate and strengthen channels for communication, participation and feedback and complaints within programmes. It will also support the National Society in Malaysia to collect, analyse and share evidence to show the impact of this approach on the quality of its programmes.

### ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to diversify its volunteer base to include under-represented communities.

- The IFRC will support all three National Societies to ensure that all deployed volunteers for emergency response are adequately insured, either through a local insurance scheme or the IFRC volunteer insurance scheme.
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.