

10, 11 & 12 DECEMBER, 2024

SPARKING GLOBAL CHANGE THROUGH LOCAL SOLUTIONS IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION



Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week - Asia Pacific 2024

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Theme: Sparking global change through local solutions in humanitarian action

Bangkok, Thailand

Concept note

Background

The Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) is a collaborative event co-organized by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), The Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network (ADRRN), Community World Service Asia (CWSA), and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). RHPW aims to bring together hundreds of diverse humanitarian professionals primarily from the Asia-Pacific region to converge, share best practices, and cultivate partnerships, ultimately enhancing the efficacy of humanitarian programs and services for communities in need.

In 2023, the RHPW attracted over 280 participants representing approximately 200 organizations from different regions across the globe. Some of the key messages, among many others, derived from the participants include:

- Empowering frontline workers through localization involves adopting a people-centered approach and implementing well-thought-out, people-focused policies, procedures, and frameworks.
- Localization requires strategic partnerships that support organizational development, ensuring local organizations can apply global standards and contextualize accompaniment/mentoring mechanisms.
- Encouraging refugee-led organizations to gather data can provide a more accurate depiction of the situation on the ground, offering valuable insights for research and advocacy purposes.
- Integrating gender and social inclusion into Anticipatory Action and climate-resilient practices across Asia and the Pacific is critical. As disasters become more frequent and conflicts more protracted, strengthening local capacities is increasingly critical to ensure the safety and resilience of the affected people.

- The Humanitarian/Development/Peace pillars of the nexus should not be considered separately; they must start from any emergency response, acknowledging that the response may not be able to meet all needs fully. In many cases, this is already happening at the community level.

Objectives

In the evolving landscape of humanitarian aid, where needs are growing exponentially, responses are becoming politicized, and funds are being stretched, *ensuring accountability to affected people and efficiency is paramount*. Within the Asia Pacific region, a hotspot for numerous crises, it is imperative to innovate and adapt our methods of operation or enhance existing practices to truly empower communities and address needs effectively. The Grand Bargain was agreed upon at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, and its operational modalities have long been debated. However, many of its pillars, such as the need for accountable and inclusive responses, quality funding, and local leadership, have been well recognized.

RHPW 2024 will carry the theme of 'Grand Bargain in Action' and invite civil society, NGOs, the UN, the private sector, and academics to shed light on how humanitarian responders in the Asia Pacific are trying to put these key concepts into practice and what gaps remain. The RHPW 2024 will feature presentations, panels, spotlight sessions, and a marketplace.

Given the theme of 'Grand Bargain in Action' and the key gaps we have heard from peers, we invite participants to engage in a discourse on their contributions towards the following key themes, which will also help influence global debates. Participants from the Pacific are strongly encouraged to apply.

- 1. Defining Equitable Partnerships:** What are the key characteristics of an equitable partnership in the humanitarian context, and how can we ensure communities are at the center?
- 2. Climate Change:** How do we capitalize on the prioritization of climate change action and ensure more effective and coordinated mitigation, prevention, and humanitarian responses?
- 3. Capacity Strengthening:** What approaches best utilize the capacity of all partners to respond to complex emergencies?
- 4. Risk Management:** How does risk sharing between donors and partners contribute to better outcomes in humanitarian responses?
- 5. Innovative Financing:** How can we broaden and diversify the financial streams for Preparedness and Response work? How can we reduce competition for funding?
- 6. Localizing the Nexus:** In what ways can the Nexus approach be localized to ensure that it is led by and tailored to the needs of the communities it serves?
- 7. Local Leadership:** How can we foster local leadership, including in humanitarian diplomacy and policy work?

Audience:



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HUMANITARIAN ACTION

This regional event is designed for various stakeholders in the humanitarian sector and aims to foster collaboration and innovation among non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, think tanks, the private sector, and international bodies such as the United Nations, and international financial institutions. By joining this event, participants will have the opportunity to network with like-minded entities, share best practices and challenges, and learn from experts and peers. As this event is aimed at creating space for dialogue and exchange among humanitarian practitioners, participation by CSOs and NGOs will be prioritized.

Format of the event

The event will take place in person in Bangkok, Thailand. The venue will be shared closer to the event.

This year we will look at different types of sessions in response to the themes:

- 30-minute Innovation sessions: Showcase Innovative practices/tools/programs (individual agency or multiple)
- 75-minute multistakeholder dialogue: roundtables/panels/interactive sessions that bring different stakeholders together over common themes (90 minutes overall including set up and wrap up)
- In addition, there will be few 75-minute interactive on-demand sessions, which will be organized by co-organizers of RHPW to explore new trends in the region with the participants. (90 minutes overall including set up and wrap up)

Marketplace

We are excited to announce that RHPW 2024 will feature a marketplace/Ignite stage, where organizations can showcase their projects and share their experiences with other attendees. This is a great opportunity to network, learn from each other, and get inspired by the innovative and impactful work being done in the field. Whether you have a poster, a presentation, a video, or a demo, you are welcome to apply for a spot in the marketplace/stage and share your project with the conference community.

This space will be on a rotation basis each day for organizations to display their work.

Registration Criteria for the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week 2024:

In an effort to refine our registration process based on prior experiences, the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) is introducing an updated system for participant registration and confirmation.

1- Organizational Nominations:

Registration is opening in advance to allow NGOs and individuals ample time to mobilize resources. The revised registration process aims to foster diversity and broaden organizational participation, enabling a rich exchange of best practices.

- i. International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) operating across multiple countries are invited to nominate a maximum of four individuals from their respective organizations within the region.
- ii. National and local organizations are permitted to nominate up to two individuals from their entity.
- iii. National and international NGO forum secretariats are welcome to participate, with a limit of two representatives per secretariat.
- iv. Organizations from different status e.g. CSR, private companies and donors, institutional donors, and UN agencies, are welcome to register, but not more than two to three individuals per agency.

2- Registration Amendments:

Should there be a need to alter the nominated participants due to unforeseen circumstances, we request that the changes be communicated promptly to the co-organizer via email for registration updates.

3- Confirmation Process:

Registering for RHPW 2024 is a preliminary step and does not guarantee participation in the event. Official confirmation will be issued after the co-organizers have conducted a thorough review and approval of the nominations. The selection process will consider factors such as gender, geographical location, organizational diversity, and the event's capacity to ensure a balanced and diverse representation.

4- International Participants:

Participants traveling from outside Bangkok are required to upload a hotel reservation confirmation with their registration form. This serves as proof of sufficient funds or sponsorship for event attendance. Please note participants are expected to fund their own participation unless sponsorship has directly been offered.

5- Visa Support Letters:

Visa support letters will be provided exclusively to those who require one as essential for travel, meet the registration criteria, and can furnish a hotel reservation confirmation or a letter from their organization—or a sponsoring organization—verifying travel funding commitments.

It is important to note that the provision of a visa support letter does not guarantee visa issuance. Applicants must still apply for a visa through the nearest Thai Embassy/Consulate and manage their visa application independently.

The event organizers do not assume responsibility for visa decisions or any hindrances or costs arising during the visa application process. The visa support letter serves solely to facilitate the visa acquisition process and does not signify any endorsement or sponsorship by the organizers.

Applicants are advised to apply for their visa well in advance and adhere to the specific requirements and procedures stipulated by the respective Embassy/Consulate.

Key timeline

PUBLIC Registration | 15th May until 1st September 2024

PUBLIC Expression of Interest open | 10th June- 20th August 2024

PUBLIC Invitation /Visa letter request deadline | 25th August 2024

PUBLIC Acceptance email to organizers and registrants | 20th September 2024

PUBLIC Logistics guidelines and sponsorship information | 10 November 2024

For queries and suggestions

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