

# Concept Note Draft



## Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week - Asia Pacific™

December 8-10, 2025, Bangkok, Thailand

# Theme: Reframing Humanitarianism for a Changing World

## Sub-theme: Redefining Aid; Navigating Shifts in Power, Climate, and Resources

### Background

The Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) Asia Pacific, is a collaborative event co-organised 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 2024, the RHPW attracted over 400 participants from 300 organisations across 61 countries. The event highlighted critical developments in humanitarian action, with key messages including:

- The urgent need to adapt humanitarian responses to increasingly complex crises, including climate-induced displacement, protracted conflicts, and evolving geopolitical tensions across the Asia-Pacific region.
- The imperative to diversify funding mechanisms beyond traditional donors, particularly as global humanitarian needs reach unprecedented levels while funding gaps continue to widen.
- The growing recognition that local and national actors must lead humanitarian responses, moving beyond capacity building to genuine power-sharing and decision-making authority.
- The critical importance of integrating cli-

mate resilience and adaptation into all humanitarian programming, as climate change becomes the primary driver of displacement and crisis in the region.

- The necessity of fostering innovative partnerships between humanitarian actors, private sector entities, and technology companies to scale impact and reach underserved populations.

### Objectives

The humanitarian landscape of 2025 presents unprecedented challenges that demand fundamental shifts in how we conceptualise, finance, and deliver aid. With climate disasters intensifying, geopolitical tensions reshaping power dynamics, and traditional funding models proving insufficient for growing needs, the Asia-Pacific region stands at the forefront of necessary innovation.

Recent global events, including major funding suspensions and shifting international priorities, have underscored the vulnerability of the current humanitarian systems and the urgent need for more resilient, locally-driven approaches. The region faces a critical juncture where traditional aid paradigms must evolve to address complex, interconnected crises that span humanitarian, development, climate, and peace agendas.

RHPW Asia Pacific 2025 will carry the theme of 'Reframing Humanitarianism for a Changing World' with the sub-theme 'Redefining Aid: Navigating Shifts in Power, Climate, and Resources' and invites the civil society, NGOs, the UN, the private sector, academia, and affected commu-

nitie to explore how humanitarian action must transform to remain relevant and effective in an era of profound change.

Given the evolving humanitarian context and emerging challenges, we invite participants to engage in critical dialogue around the following key themes:

**1. Power Redistribution:** How can humanitarian systems meaningfully shift power to crisis-affected communities and local actors, moving beyond participation to genuine leadership and decision-making authority?

**2. Climate-Development-Humanitarian Nexus:** How do we ensure contextualised and interconnected approaches across climate adaptation, mitigation, and anticipatory action, while also addressing loss and damage from climate impacts?

**3. Business Model / Financing Innovation:** What new business model or financial mechanisms, including private capital, blended finance, and alternative funding streams, can sustainably re-source locally led humanitarian action in an era of declining traditional donor support?

**4. Technology and Digital Transformation:** How can emerging technologies, including AI and digital platforms, enhance humanitarian effectiveness while ensuring ethical use and digital equity?

**5. Conflict-Sensitive Programming:** How do we adapt humanitarian approaches to operate effectively in increasingly contested spaces and politically polarised environments?

### Private-Public Partnership Segment

A dedicated segment will focus on 'Financing the Future: Unlocking Private Capital for Humanitarian Innovation', exploring how private capital can be mobilised and strategically lever-

aged to fund humanitarian innovation, disaster risk reduction (DRR), crisis response, and long-term resilience-building across the Asia-Pacific region. This segment will include components on:

- Innovative blended finance mechanisms that combine humanitarian, development, and private capital
- Impact investment opportunities in humanitarian technology and infrastructure
- Corporate social responsibility evolution towards strategic humanitarian partnerships
- Risk-sharing mechanisms that enable private sector engagement in fragile contexts
- Parametric insurance and forecast-based financing models for disaster preparedness
- Digital finance solutions for cash programming and financial inclusion
- Role of national governments and regional bodies in enabling private investment in humanitarian spaces
- Localised Financing & Support to National Actors: Mechanisms to ensure that private capital flows reach local NGOs and community-based organisations

### Humanitarian Story Circle

The 'Humanitarian Story Circle' will provide a dedicated platform for narrative sharing and learning through lived experiences. This showcase event will feature:

- Stories from crisis-affected communities highlighting resilience, innovation, and leadership
- Testimonials from local humanitarian workers on frontline experiences and solutions
- Inter-generational dialogues between veteran and emerging humanitarian practitioners
- Digital storytelling workshops and multimedia presentations
- Community-driven documentation of humanitarian impact and lessons learned

## Audience

This regional event is designed for various stakeholders in the humanitarian sector and aims to foster collaboration and innovation among non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs), academia, relevant government representatives, think tanks, the private sector, international financial institutions, technology companies, and international bodies such as the United Nations. Special emphasis will be placed on ensuring meaningful participation from crisis-affected communities, local organisations, and emerging humanitarian leaders. As this event aims to create space for dialogue and exchange among humanitarian practitioners, participation by CSOs, local NGOs, and community representatives will be prioritised..

## 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's format will include diverse session types responding to our themes:

- **30-minute Innovation Spotlights:** Showcase cutting-edge practices, tools, and programs addressing emerging humanitarian challenges
- **75-minute Multi-stakeholder Dialogues:** Interactive roundtables and panels bringing together diverse voices around common themes as well as focused discussions on innovative financing mechanisms and corporate engagement models
- **Story Circle Sessions:** Narrative-sharing platforms highlighting community voices and lived experiences

**You can apply to organise a session by completing the Expression of Interest (EOI) form [here](#).**

## Marketplace

RHPW 2025 will feature an expanded marketplace and innovation showcase where organisations can demonstrate their projects, technologies, and innovative approaches. This space will include:

- Technology demonstrations and digital innovation displays
- Community-led initiative showcases
- Private sector humanitarian solution exhibitions
- Interactive poster sessions and networking zones
- Live storytelling and multimedia presentations

The marketplace will operate throughout the event, allowing maximum visibility for participating organisations. If you are interested in booking a slot at the Marketplace, kindly fill this [form](#). This exhibit space is free of cost for the three-day event. **The space allocation will be done on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to availability.**

## Registration Criteria

Building on lessons learned from previous years and responding to the evolving humanitarian landscape, RHPW is implementing an enhanced registration system that prioritises diversity, inclusion, and meaningful participation.

### 1. Organisational Nominations:

Registration opens early to allow organisations adequate time for planning and resource mobilisation. The process aims to ensure broad representation and facilitate rich knowledge exchange.

- I. International non-governmental organisations (INGOs) operating across multiple countries may nominate up to four individuals

- II. National and local organisations may nominate up to three individuals, with special consideration given to youth and women leaders.
- III. National and international NGO forum secretariats may participate with up to two representatives per secretariat.
- IV. Private sector entities, donor organisations, UN agencies, and academic institutions may register up to two individuals per organization.
- V. Crisis-affected community representatives and local humanitarian workers will receive priority consideration and dedicated support for participation.
- VI. Given that local organisations are among the hardest hit by the current humanitarian funding shortfall, international and regional organisations are encouraged to sponsor local partners as part of their delegations to help ensure inclusive and equitable representation.

### 2. Registration Amendments:

Any changes to nominated participants due to unforeseen circumstances must be communicated promptly via email to the co-organisers

for registration updates.

### 3. Confirmation Process:

Registration serves as an expression of interest and does not guarantee participation. Official confirmation will be issued following thorough review by co-organisers, considering factors such as gender balance, geographical diversity, organisational representation, thematic expertise, and event capacity.

### 4. International Participants:

Participants travelling from outside Bangkok must upload hotel reservation confirmation or sponsorship documentation after completing their registration. This demonstrates adequate funding or organisational support for attendance.

### 5. Visa Support Letters:

Please note that participants are responsible for arranging their own visa support letters through their respective networks or affiliated organisations. Regrettably, due to limited capacity this year, the organisers will not be able to provide visa letters as in previous years.

## Key Timeline

**Registration Opens:** July 1, 2025. [Register here](#).

**Expression of Interest (EOI) Deadline:** August 31, 2025

**Confirmation Notifications (for Registrations and EOIs):** September 30, 2025

**Final Logistics and Program Information:** November 15, 2025

**Event Dates:** December 8-10, 2025

## For Queries and Suggestions

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