### Regional Community Safety and Resilience Unit

### Overview of activities for the month of October 2013

***Thailand***

***Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction-Thai Red Cross:***

Baan nong praya, Baan mara and Baan nong lumchi from Burirum province, targeted under the current CBDRR project, were flooded in September and beginning of October. After the flood waters receded, TRC conducted lesson learnt workshop to ensure improvement in their preparedness and response actions in the future.

***Post Emergency Preparedness Operation in Thai Red Cross:***

Relief and Community Health Bureau (RCHB) organized meeting for Post Emergency/Preparedness Operation on 25th October 2013. Around 20 people were part of the meeting. SEARD/CSRU attended the meeting and reviewed the achievements as well as discussed the next quarter Plan along with colleagues from respective Bureau of Thai Red Cross Society. Meeting was chaired by Assistant Secretary General of Thai Red Cross Society. Meeting mainly covered the following agenda: Quarterly working advance request, time line for working advance, progress report, financial and narrative report, POA for next quarter and working advance.

***Tsunami Residual Funding Programme-Thai Red Cross:***

The implementation faced some challenges regarding the pace but after several discussions between TRC and IFRC solutions to challenges have been jointly identified.

*Development of first aid publication materials***:** First Aid publication materials; USB flash drive, cloth bag, umbrella, sms package and VDO clip; have been produced. The materials will be distributed to first aid youths, supervisors of First Aid Clubs and trainers during the next training session.

*Follow up on project implemented by TRC Nursing College after 2004 Tsunami***:** Community visit manual and check list are being produced and the visit will be organized by the end of the year 2013.

 *Strengthening capacity of Planning and Policy and Strategic Analysis staff of TRCS:* The last training course on strengthening capacity of Planning and Policy and Strategic Analysis staff of TRCS “Strategic Thinking” is still pending due to unavailability of identified expert. Alternative solution is being sought.

**Regional**

***Southeast Asia Regional Civil Society Conference to Advance the ACDM-CSO Partnership Framework (ACPF) for AADMER Implementation”, 9-10 October 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.***

The main purpose of the meeting was to share the framework with the body that constituted the first Southeast Asia Civil Society Consultation on AADMER Engagement and Partnership held on January 28-29, 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand that produced the draft of the ACDM-CSO Partnership Framework (ACPF) to support AADMER implementation. The ACPF identified, not only the framework of partnership and cooperation with the ACDM, but also activities for collaboration where the ASEAN and the CSOs may work together.

IFRC/CSRU and Thai Red Cross representative continued to be involved in the consultation process ensuring due recognition of RCRC contribution to AADMER programme implementation.

***Food Security Working Group Meeting, 1st October 2013, Bangkok***

CSRU representative participated in the food security working group meeting organised by ECHO with participation of ADPC, ACTED, ADRA, Oxfam, Save the Children, TANGO International, the Border Consortium and WFP.

Urban food security in Asia was the main topic of discussion. WFP, ADPC and IFRC shared global and regional experiences. IFRC presentation depicted urban food bank project led by Romanian Red Cross launched in September 2009.

Urban food security challenge is linked to changing lifestyles, frequent occurrence of emergencies and disasters, water quality and safety, etc. One of the conclusions is to reduce the dependency by promoting urban agriculture.

The topics for next working group meeting will include markets (its role in the response, its importance in the analysis), social safety nets and food vouchers (although CTP should be developed through the CaLP regional working group).



***The ASEAN Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX-13), 21-24 October, Vietnam***

Vietnam hosted 13th ARDEX exercise from 21 to24 October in Hanoi's Ba Vi District, testing for the first time the operational capability of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) since its establishment in November 2011. The event was jointly organized by the Vietnamese National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), and AHA Centre.

Ten ASEAN member states joined the exercise, of which seven deployed forces and three others send observers. Around 2,500 people took part in the event including deployment of two helicopters, 23 canoes and vessels, one military bridge, 245 cars, and 359 search equipment and medical devices.

CSRU provided support for participation of two SEA NSs in ARDEX. Thai Red Cross sent six representatives embedded to the Thai Government team (DDPM) as both, observers and emergency medical team members respectively. Vietnam Red Cross Red Cross took part in the exercise in close collaboration with Vietnamese government. Such events further strengthen auxiliary roles of national societies and their respective governments and further explore areas of cooperation not only at national but also at regional level.

***Disaster Risk Reduction Practitioner Workshop, Bangkok 13- 14 November 2013:***

The CSRU is gearing up for the Disaster Risk Reduction Practitioners Workshop which is to be held in Bangkok from 13- 14 November 2013. The workshop expects to provide a golden opportunity for DRR Practitioners from both Red Cross Red Crescent and other stakeholders to share practices, challenges and opportunities in building safer and more resilient communities in South East Asia. Almost 60 participants have registered and confirmed to participate in the two day workshop with five key sessions following:

* Session 1: Advocacy, Awareness and Accountability
* Session 2: Community Mobilisation and Inclusive Approach
* Session 3: School Safety and Youth Empowerment in Risk Reduction
* Session 4: Early Warning- Early Action
* Session 5: DRR & Livelihoods and Health

All sessions will be moderated by an independent facilitator and interactive methodology to be applied throughout the workshop to maximise the participation. The workshop managed to invite some community representatives to share their practices as well.

***Strategic review of Ex-Regional Disaster Management Unit (RDMU) and current Community Safety and Resilience Unit (CSRU***

Zero draft report has been submitted by consultant who was hired from 22, September 2013 for 14 days to reflect back on achievements during the last decade under both: RDMU and CSRU, impacts, provide conclusions and recommendations for the future interventions/support. SEARD is reviewing the draft zero and will provide the feedback to consultant. The final report is expected to be submitted by late November – early December.

***Laos Floods DREF allocation for Lao Red Cross Society:***

The DREF Operation has been approved on 3rd October, 2013 for a total of CHF 292,168 to cover basic needs of 10,000 beneficiaries (2,000 families) for immediate assistance with food (15 kg of rice per person for a month), non-food (soap - six pieces per family and detergents – 2 kg per family), mosquito nets (two pieces per family) and hygiene promotion materials. The procurement process for all items has been initiated.

The target areas of this DREF operation are in the Salavan and Champasak provinces- which are situated in Southern part of the country.

In order to assist the national society in the implementation process a staff on loan from the Thai Red Cross is expected to be deployed as of early November The staff on Loan would be embedded to the Lao Red Cross Disaster Management Division to provide support to implementation of DREF operation according to developed plan of action.

This deployment will also contribute to strengthening of regional response capacity and further build peer learning/exchange opportunities as well as further strengthening of partnership between Thai and Laos Red Cross Societies.

***Regional Health Technical working group (RTHWG) meeting:***

SEA RHTWG meeting was held from 28 – 29 October, 2013 in Bangkok. Total 21 people attended this meeting from NSs and IFRC. Head of health of eight NSs and chairperson of the different Health networks (such as VNRBD, Art) participated in this meeting along with IFRC representatives from Country, Regional and Zone.

 The general objective of this meeting was to provide a platform for the Regional Health Technical working group members to discuss and share learning, and be updated on recent development within technical as well as management areas. The meeting also focused on understanding of the importance of integrated programming and plan how best to contribute in operationalization of Resilience approach.

Discussions were lively and constructive throughout the two days. Group works produced useful outputs related to finalization of Regional Health Technical Working Group (RHWG) Terms of Reference (ToR) and Regional SEA NS’s integrated road map from health lenses. In addition, unanimously elected Health Manager of Philippines Red Cross and Director of Health of Cambodia Red Cross as chairperson and vice chairperson respectively.

***International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) 2013:***

CSRU is working closely with Thai RC for ICCAP. ICAAP is the largest forum on HIV/AIDS in the AP region. This year Bangkok is hosting ICAAP from 18 - 22 November, 2013. ICAAP participant list has been finalized - 7 participants will be supported by SEARD to attend the ICAAP.

In the ICAAP-11, a satellite symposium on ‘From science to community - Asia Pacific Red Cross Red Crescent HIV/AIDS response’ will be hosted by RCRC family. CSRU along with AP zone and Thai RC are coordinating with different keynote speaker of the symposia. In addition, there will be oral and poster presentation and a booth where NSs can demonstrate IEC materials, case studies, strategic documents, etc. A flyer has been developed for this specific event.

***AP Zone CBHFA workshop:***

AP Zone CBHFA workshop was held from 1 – 5 October in Sri Lanka. One session was facilitated by member of CSRU to integrate NCD module into CBHFA. Total 49 people from across AP zone were the part of the workshop. SEA holds a Panel discussion on integration. This discussion also saw participation from Norwegian Red Cross representative. Five NS from SEA participated in that workshop. In addition Cambodia and Myanmar presented evaluation report of their CBHFA programme. Timor Leste presented recently produced video on CBHFA.

***Malaria Programme:***

There is continuous follow up and technical inputs provided to Malaria programme focal person. The programme activity was minimal this month due to recent flood and cyclone affecting the implementing countries. However, VNRC has already finalized the IEC materials and have conducted Training for volunteers. In addition, they also organized some of the planned public campaigns at community level.

Lao Red Cross has already completed orientation to stakeholders at the community level. Both implementing province Champasack and Sekong have organized Malaria prevention and hygiene promotion training. Around 20 people (7 – 8 females) in each province were trained on Malaria prevention activity.

In Cambodia, community education activities were conducted 5 sessions at target villages. There were 230 participants attended in these activities (Female: 169). IFRC countries offices in Cambodia conducted monitoring visit and planned with observe some of the community education activities.

Norwegian Red Cross has approved three months no cost extension for the project. Now the new end time of this project is March, 2014.

***SEA Regional training on Community Based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS):***

SEARD is planning to organize a regional workshop on “Community Based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS)” in 16-20 December2013 with the following objectives:

* The psychosocial impact of crisis situations
* Stress and how to cope with stress
* Different types of loss and the grieving process
* Community based approaches to Psychosocial Support
* Psychological First Aid and Supportive Communication
* How to support and protect children
* How to support staff and volunteers

This five day training will include a comprehensive introduction to the IFRC Psychosocial Centre’s Community Based Psychosocial Support training kit covering the above mentioned modules. The training will provide the participants with a thorough knowledge and understanding of Community Based Psychosocial Support, both theoretically and practically in terms of implementing psychosocial support activities.

The training will also provide an opportunity to discuss how the Community Based Psychosocial Support training kit can be adapted and implemented to local cultural contexts. Invitations will be sent out first week of November.

***International DRR Day and ASEAN Day for Disaster Management 2013***

Thai Red Cross Society and Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) with 18 alliance networks organized the “ASEAN Day for Disaster Management and International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2013”.  The event was held on 11-12 October 2013. Different activities were activities were carried out to raise awareness on disasters, associated risks and necessary measures to reduce their impact.

One of speakers, who is also disabled, delivered a speech on "Roles of people with disabilities and disaster risk reduction". Different orientation sessions like induction of AADMER, launching of Asian Safe School initiative, demonstration of rescue technique for people with disabilities, panel discussion, simulation exercise focusing on disabilities, mobility assistance using rescue dogs show, booths and exhibitions were carried out in these two days. Around 600 people took part in marking the celebration.

Lao Red Cross also organized similar event at their Headquarter involving participants from different communities where LRC’s been implementing CBDRR programme.

***Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) and Psycho-Social (PSS) Roll Out in Lao Red Cross:***

Follow up with Lao RC for the upcoming training on ECV toolkit has been on-going. The tentative date for the training is 2 -4 December, 2013. Translation of the ECV toolkit and training manual is completed.

Follow up with Lao RC for the upcoming training on CBPSS (with a focus on HIV) has been on-going. Translation of the CBPSS manual began in October and an interpreter for the training has also been identified. PSS delegate will most likely travel to Vientiane on 20 November to ensure that the translated material is culturally appropriate.

**Psycho-Social Programme in Cambodia Red Cross:**

PSS delegate met with the Cambodian RC health team and worked with the new PSS officer who will be supporting the team to integrate PSS and Health in the CBHD programme. Due to flooding in a number of provinces the teams from Kampot and Preah Vihear were unable to attend the CBPSS Refresher training and hence only the Project officers from HQ were trained.

The training material has been translated into Khmer and photos and pamphlets are adapted to Khmer culture, however there were a number of challenges during the training related to the translation of the manual. Despite the material being translated by a PSS specialist, the translated text is not always accurate and this created some confusion for both trainer and participants. This is a lesson learnt and in future more time will be dedicated to reviewing and editing translated material.

**Thai National seminar on “Mainstreaming Climate Change adaptation into Policy Planning”** Supporting coastal communities in climate change adaptation, 28 October 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

 On the occasion of the drafted National Master Plan on Climate Change (2013-2050), Raks Thai Foundation and partners organized a national seminar to present and discuss strategies to integrate lessons learnt from community based adaptation in national policy on climate change adaptation.

Key objective of the seminar was to present policy recommendation and lesson learnt to be integrated into the National Master Plan on Climate Change (2013 – 2050). The draft master plan is one of the main policies on climate change adaptation for the next 40 years and currently in the process of submission to the cabinet. This was an excellent opportunity to influence its content with practical experiences from the ground.

Thai Red Cross and IFRC/CSRU representatives actively participated in the seminar whereby the Director of TRC Relief and Community Health deliver key note speech. More than 200 key stakeholders coming from various government ministries, IOs, NGOs, academia and others took part in the seminar.

This was just another example how RCRC with its demonstrated experience and knowledge can influence national policies.

***Knowledge Sharing:***

A case study was developed depicting Lao Red Cross working in Partnership with People Living with HIA (PLHIV) to reduce stigma and discrimination and promoting care has been finalized. Two cases study regarding DRR are in final stage to share. One case study will discuss on DRR Education whereas other case study will explain on impact of integrated planning.

This online site (<https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia/health-and-care/health-bulletins>.) is regularly update for knowledge sharing this above site is regularly being updated with DRR, health and other reference documents by SEARD/CSRU Team.

Other events that took place in October:

* AP Zone led consultation process around the Framework for Community Resilience 2-3 October
* Continuous consultation on preparation of 6th AMCDRR
* Publishing of Information Bulletins on Thailand and Cambodia Floods
* Global Urban DRR Pilot – meeting with Iranian RC

***Upcoming Events for November /December 2013:***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  **Date** | **Events** | **Venue** |
| 5-7 November | IAP Meeting (6th AMCDRR planning) | Bangkok |
| 7 November | Asian Coalition on School Safety Meeting | Bangkok |
| 6 -7 November | PMI Health planning meeting  | Indonesia |
| 13- 14 November  | DRR Practitioner workshop | Bangkok |
| 14-15 November | OCHA Partnership Meeting | Pukhet, Thailand |
| 18-22 November | ICAAP Conference | Bangkok |
| 20 November | IFRC Secretary General visit to SEARD | Bangkok |
| 21 November | AMCDRR – presentation on IFRC involvement (TBC) | Kuala Lumpur |
| 25-29 November | CBPSS Training  | Lao |
| 25-25 November | Hong Kong RC Monitoring Mission | Thailand |
| 27-28 November | PNS Meeting | Bangkok |
| 28 November | AADMER Partnership Conference | Hanoi |
| 29 November | HOD Meeting | Bangkok |
| 2 - 4 December | ECV training  | Lao |
| 2-4 November | C3R PiP workshop | Bangkok |
| 12 December | IDRL Training | Thailand |
| 16 - 20 December | Regional CBPSS Training | Bangkok |