

Regional Community Safety and Resilience Unit (CSRU)

Overview of activities for the month of November 2014

Southeast Asia Pandemic and Public Health Emergencies Workshop

Southeast Asia Regional Delegation has organized, Southeast Asia Pandemic and Public Health Emergencies Workshop from 17-20 November 2014 in Singapore in co-sponsorship from the Singapore Red Cross to identify and agree on priority actions at national and regional levels to take stock of the status of readiness to pandemics and public health emergencies of National Societies, as well as explore how on-going efforts in community resilience strengthening can be capitalized on to address these public health threats.



The workshop saw the participation of 30 participants from Health and/or Disaster management division of nine national societies of Southeast Asia. In addition, there were participations from the ASEAN Secretariat, ADB, ICRC, and Academia. The IFRC Southeast Asia Regional Delegation and Asia Pacific Zone Office facilitated the event. The workshop included presentations from subject matter experts, regional governments' ministry of health, National Societies, IFRC SEARD and AP Zone Office, ASEAN Secretariat, and ADB.

National Societies from nine countries, with support from the government representatives and partners, engaged in focus group discussions guided by a worst-case pandemic scenario. The exercises generated key National Society Actions to pandemic Impacts, and the 4Ws (What, When, Where and who) were identified for several of the actions for contingency plan development. National Societies formulated their Way Forward for the completion of their plans and capacity building. In addition, regional areas of cooperation within IFRC and with partners,

such as ASEAN and ADB, were identified, with the corresponding action elements being indicated in a Draft IFRC Roadmap for regional cooperation on pandemic and PHE preparedness.

The representative from ASEAN (Health sector) presented the main strategic directions of health in ASEAN and emphasized that 2015 and 2016 would be crucial years to discuss planning ahead, including joint initiatives in which Red Cross Red Crescent Societies – hand in hand with their respective ministries – could play a role for a safer ASEAN.

Study Exchange



Vietnam Red Cross, Lao Red Cross and the IFRC Regional Disaster Law Delegation took part in a 'south to south cooperation' study exchange in Vietnam in early November, which was organized by UNDP Laos, the Lao Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MoNRE) and IFRC. MoNRE is currently in the process of drafting a new 'disaster risk management and climate change law', and the study tour was organized so that the delegation from Lao PDR could learn about drafting the new disaster management law in Vietnam (the new law was adopted in 2013). The delegation from Laos included the Vice President of Lao Red Cross, and included sessions with Viet Nam Red Cross, the National

Assembly and key departments involved in the development of the DM law in Viet Nam. The tour also included a field visit to Lao Cai province to meet with provincial disaster management authorities. This was a great example of enhancing partnerships, building capacity, and the positive momentum in south-to-south cooperation between Southeast Asian nations and National RCRC Societies to strengthen disaster laws in South East Asia.



Regional Red Cross Red Crescent workshop on Gender and Diversity



On 24-25 November, representatives from PMI, MRCS, PRCS, TRCS and VNRC participated in the regional DRR and Gender workshop organized by ADPC in Manila. The workshop brought together around 100 participants and aimed at highlighting gender approaches to disaster response, recovery, and prevention. Discussion

also addressed gender-based violence in disaster response as well as inclusion of vulnerable groups.



Taking the opportunity of ADPC supporting travel for all colleagues to Manila, SEARD organized a first Regional Red Cross Red Crescent workshop on gender and diversity on 26-27 November, co-hosted by the Philippines Red Cross Society. For this workshop, more participants from CRC and LRC joined the other countries. The

workshop was an opportunity for National Societies to gain a shared understanding about Gender and Diversity as well as their inclusion within programming. Furthermore, the meeting promoted peer-to-peer exchange among participants, reviewed the TOR for the creation of a gender and diversity regional network (to be further endorsed by SEA Leaders in February 2015) and planned ahead for mutual support in integrating these important issues at all levels of the NSs (strategic, planning, implementation, etc.).

Philippines Red Cross also organized a field visit for participants in which their livelihoods activity in Valenzuela Chapter (near Manila) is greatly contributing to the empowerment of women in the area.

ASEAN Safe School Initiative (ASSI)

On 24-25 November, ASEAN organized a workshop in Jakarta to launch the second phase of the ASEAN Safe School Initiative (ASSI), which is recognized as one of its priority projects in the areas of disaster prevention and mitigation (as per the AADMER Work Plan). The overall goal of ASSI is for children in ASEAN to be more resilient to disasters and have a safe and secure learning environment. To achieve this, ASSI brought together the education and disaster management sectors, supported by civil society organizations to ensure a cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach in promoting school safety.



This workshop brought together leading ministries from the education and disaster management sectors, from all 10 ASEAN Member States. Invited were also various technical resource people from leading development and humanitarian agencies engaged in school safety, such as ADPC, UNESCO, UNICEF, Plan, Save the Children and World Vision. IFRC was invited to deliver a presentation as a key player in the region and this was done jointly between SEARD and DMU in the APZ. The participation in this event was a good opportunity to learn about future plans of ASEAN in the area of school

safety as well as advocate for an increased involvement of Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies in this regard. Finally, IFRC made a call for the harmonization of initiatives contributing to school safety in the region, in particular through the development of a common framework for action under the three pillars of the Comprehensive School Safety global framework.

Lao Red Cross

CSRU representative attended Lao Red Cross meeting for HIV Global Fund – Expression of Interest on 11th November. The meeting was also attended by PNSs like French RC, German RC, Danish RC, Swiss RC, etc. LRC presented to the interested partners to submit Expression of Interest for Support and Care programme in Khammouane province. Danish RC, German RC and Swiss RC were not interested in the call. However, French RC offered material support in case you decide to make a trip to Khammouane province for elaborating LRC EoI, gathering primary data and securing support from all local stakeholders. IFRC will provide technical support to develop the EoI. Lao Red Cross will share the details once the call is open.

Thailand Red Cross

Sea Search and Rescue (SSAR) Training: Advanced course



SSAR Advanced course was conducted during 24-28 November 2014 at Klong Muang Beach in Krabi province. To be eligible for the course,

participants are required to complete the SSAR basic course with satisfying result. The advanced course focuses more on performance of the participants in rescue operations with their existing skills and capacity. There were 27 SSAR basic course trainees participating in the advanced training. Most of participants work as hotel lifeguard and local government officers while some others are public service agents. The participants aim to make use of sea search and rescue skills for their job and for helping other people, they were also eager to become

volunteers to help at local rescue center and government agencies such as DDPM and local administration office.

The finance clearance and report of the complete activities will be conducted in December 2014.

Post Emergency preparedness project

Rommanee went to Ang Thong province to monitor the construction of warehouse/storage for water purification unit and flat-bottom boats. The construction reaches 70-80 % of progress rate. Thai RC will submit the request for extra budget to build access into the warehouse. Within this month, the CSRU Unit conducted clearance of the q3 bills and transfer of the q4 working advance to Thai RC for their activities.

International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) Workshop

On the 27th November, over 60 representatives from Thai government ministries, the Armed Forces, Thai Red Cross, the United Nations, academia and civil society organisations came together for a workshop on IDRL and how to improve Thailand's legal preparedness for international disaster response. The workshop was run by the IFRC regional disaster law delegate in collaboration with Thai Red Cross, the Department for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, and UN OCHA. It concluded with recommendations to map the relevant laws and procedures relating to disaster response in Thailand, and engage in a multi-stakeholder process to support the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation to develop a new guideline on international assistance and cooperation.



Mapping and Documentation

The documentation process on the contribution of NSs to the HFA and AADMER is also ongoing:

- In Myanmar, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) is now finalizing the reports both in English and Myanmar.
- In Thailand, the consultant presented a first draft to the TRCS team on 6 November and is now about to finalize the reports after receiving final feedback from all stakeholders.

- In Vietnam, the recruitment of the consultant is still ongoing and the process might only start early 2015. This is also the case with Indonesia.
- Finally, the Philippines RC expressed interest late November to launch the process and preparations will be held in December.

Through the comprehensive documentation of the NS contribution to HFA (their government international commitment to the DRR and resilience agenda), it is expected that NSs will be able to profile their DRR work in country in past years and increasingly be considered as trusted partners by their counterparts, in particular the National Disaster Management Offices as well as other key stakeholders such as UN agencies, I/NGOs, etc. This will in turn provide them with increased opportunities to advocate for the community issues identified through their action in the field and promote better laws and systems. At the regional level, these reports should also raise profile of RCRC and a compiled report will be formulated in line with the ASEAN Agreement for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) work plan.

Knowledge Information Management (KIM)



SEARD is in process to strengthen the KIM process which will comprise the management of System, Users and Partnership. The system will include the information and knowledge management of hardcopy library, online library, local drive inputs in IFRC websites (ifrc.org and fednet) (See inset picture).

KIM is expected to facilitate all the stakeholders (SEARD different Units, NS across southeast Asia, Country Delegations and PNSs working in the region and wider public (including governments, UN, ASEAN, NGOs, and other DM/DRR practitioners) to encourage replication of best practices; avoid similar program pitfalls;

encourage dialogue, collaboration and peer-to-peer learning; and to avoid the loss of knowledge/insight in the SEARD and NS across Southeast Asia when staffs are leaving.

As a follow up to the SEA Climate Change Master Training held in September 2014, the training materials are being finalized to create a standardized climate change training pack to be sent to requesting NSs as a training tool for climate smart DRR programming across the region.

Upcoming Events for December 2014 and January, 2015

Date	Events	Venue
1 st December	World AIDS day	
2 – 3 December	ADB conference on Universal Health Coverage and Information Communication and Technology	Manila
January 2015 (date is tbc)	Regional Humanitarian Diplomacy workshop	tbc

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