Regional Community Safety and Resilience Unit

Overview of activities for the month of July 2013

**Thailand**

***Post emergency preparedness operation***

 Thai Red Cross continues with implementation of the Post emergency preparedness operation after signing of project agreement between SEARD and Thai Red Cross Society. A kick off meeting was conducted during this reporting period. The full scale implementation of Post emergency Preparedness Operation has started and will continue to the end of 2014.

***Tsunami Residual Funds Operation***

First quarterly review/meeting took place on 10th and 18th July respectively involving participation of senior management of the Thai RC as well as all focal points from various Bureaus involved in implementation. One of the key outcomes, as per request of the Thai RC to IFRC, was an agreement to recruit a local Project Assistant who would provide day-to-day support to the International department and other TRC staff to ensure smooth implementation. The recruitment will be carried out by IFRC and once completed the selected person would be embedded to the TRC at least for the period of twelve months.

***Public Health in Emergency workshop***

TRCS organized Public Health in Emergency Workshop from 29-31 July in Chiang Mai. The total participants were 41 people (40 women and 1 man) from head quarter and health stations. The objectives of this workshop are a) to increase the knowledge of public health in emergency in order to be prepared, response before, during and after disaster, b) to develop the facilitation skill of TRC staff. The contents of this workshop include Response mechanism of Thai government, TRCS response mechanism, DRR and Health terminology, IFRC Global Response tool, Health in disasters situations ( impact, underlying causes, concepts, principles), Introduction to Communicable disease/ Epidemics and Measures of prevention of Communicable diseases , Sexual and Reproductive Health, Psychosocial Support, IFRC PSS approach in emergencies , Water and Sanitation and hygiene promotion, Rapid Health Assessment (RHA) and RHA simulation. Trained human resources of TRCS were mobilized as facilitators along with team members of CSRU/IFRC.

***Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction programme in Thailand***

Relief Community and Health Bureau organised the sessions to disseminate information on role and responsibility of Thai Red Cross before, during and after disaster, including first Aid training at three schools of 3 communities (Baan Sab kraso, Baan Nam aom, Baan Non Sanga) from Ubonratchathani Province. Ban Kudchum, Thabongmang, Don-ngew, Ban-Changmor, Watburapa communities from   Ubonratchathani Province   conducted simulation exercise focusing flood.

Similarly simulation exercise focusing flood has been completed at Baan Kok kamin, Baan Chamlae, Baan Mara communities from Surin Province. The community plan will be updated in coming days as per the findings of simulation exercises. Chiang Mai Health Station: Table top exercise and training on Search and Rescue conducted at Baan Mae kanil tai, Baan Sob guy, Baan Pang ma klauy, Baan Sob lerm, Baan Pao communities. In addition, first Aid training was conducted at Mae Kanil Tai.

***Disaster Risk Reduction – Information Education and Communication materials - Thai Red Cross***

The productions of roll up and posters have already been completed and ready for distribution in targeted School. Total 300 schools have been targeted from 17 Provinces. Materials are focusing on: Flood, Tsunami, wildfire, landslide, Earthquake, Storm, Drought, Chemical and Road Safety, Skin disease, Conjunctivitis, Respiratory diseases, Measles, Hand foot and mouth disease, Diarrhoea, Leptospirosis, Dengue, Malaria and Check list of evacuation plan for children. The materials are published in Thai as well as English language.

**Regional**

**Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) – General Assembly meeting, 2-5 July, Manila, Philippines**

ADRRN’s is a network of 35 national NGO/civil society agencies from 15 countries across Asia Pacific with main aim to promote coordination, information sharing and collaboration among NGOs and other stakeholders for effective and efficient disaster reduction and response in the Asia-Pacific region. In support of that aim an interactive forum was organized for ADRRN members and other important stakeholders in the region, including IFRC and Philippines Red Cross to discuss about different challenges and opportunities for civil societies in Asia. Please visit: <http://www.adrrn.net/> for more information on ADRRN.

While the focus of discussions was on how to strengthen network leadership in the Asian region, identification of leadership criteria for national and local civil societies, discussions about networks activities in the region, identification of some concrete actions to be taken by network to build leadership – yet it was an opportunity for building new partnerships between Red Cross and ADRRN members.

Red Cross was invited to deliver presentation about regional RCRC priorities in terms of disaster risk reduction and resilience building as well as to explore / suggest possible areas of collaboration between ADRRN and RCRC. The dialogue was established and it will be followed up with ADRRN at regional level and with Philippines RC at national level with ADRRN members from Philippines.

**Follow up meeting after 17th Regional Disaster Management Committee (RDMC) – with participation of representatives/chairs of SEA NS’s Health, DM and OD**

The 17th Regional Disaster Management Committee meeting was held from 11 June to 13 June 2013 in Yangon, Myanmar with participation of 44 representatives, out of which 28 from 11 National Societies in the South East Asia Region – Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

This RDMC meeting was a unique in a way that the participants (Directors/Managers) from both Health and Disaster Management (DM) Departments of the National Societies in Southeast Asia Region came together to discuss about how to work better in an integrated manner, discuss about current situation, achievements and challenges. Following the leadership meeting recommendations, this meeting has identified the need to have one forum to maximize NS resources in order to provide better service to the people in needs. The meeting in Yangon discussed and agreed to meet in Bangkok during July in order to finalize the name of the new “forum”, related ToR and fine tuning of the Road Map, meeting will follow up in July 2013 involving key representatives of ex-RDMC / ex- Health WG - Dr. Barlee-TRCS, Arifin-PMI and Ryan-PRCS for further coordination with members and Community Safety and Resilience Unit (CSRU). Considering the nature and main purpose of the Road Map and long-term importance of such forum, it was jointly decided to invite the chair of SEA Organizational Development forum to join this meeting. As per the decisions of 17th RDMC meeting, the above mentioned representatives met in Bangkok on 24-25 July and worked on name of the new forum, related ToR and other points and also outlined the points to share during next leadership meeting in March, 2014. The two days meeting mainly discussed following points and agreed to:

* Name of the regional platform: Regional Forum for Community Safety and Resilience (RFCSR).
* RFCSR Chair as concurred among meeting participants: Dr. Anmat Barlee
* Regional forum for community Safety and Resilience(RFCSR) is constituted by three technical group named DMTWG( Disaster Management Technical Working Group- currently existing as Regional Disaster Management Committee), Health TWF( Health Technical Working Group- currently existing as Regional Health Working Group) and OD Technical working Group( Currently existing as OD Forum).
* The zero draft ToR of RFCSR has been shared along with this meeting note with rest members for final feedback.
* Representatives (Dr. Jyoti-OD, Pak Arifin-DM and Ryan-Health) of Technical working group will share the zero draft ToR of respective members of technical working group for final feedback by middle of August, 2013. Regional forum and technical working groups will focus:

on DP/Response and Recovery, CCA/EWEA, DMIS/Knowledge Sharing, RFL/Migration as DM core technical theme. Similarly, CBHFA and PSP, Emergency health and Watsan, Blood services and HIV/AIDS, and Health Care Services as Health core technical theme. Likewise Advocacy, Partnerships, networking, volunteer and Youth, Resource mobilization as well as integrated assessment and planning as OD core technical theme. Gender, climate change, people with disability and children are cross cutting components to scale up our reach to vulnerability.

* Health components have been incorporated into Road map during the Yangon meeting by health managers of each NS of the region. Chair of OD forum will coordinate with respective working group members to incorporate the OD components and share back by middle of August, 2013.
* The meeting has also identified the action points to share during the next leadership meeting in March, 2014.

Full report available on: <https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia/meetings-and-workshops/meetings-and-workshops-2013/last-rdmc-meeting-yangon-2013>

***Psychosocial support service – Training on Psycho-social First Aid, 10-12 July Bangkok***

The Psycho-social (PSS) delegate moved to Bangkok in July as part of the Community Safety and Resilience Unit and will be based in Bangkok in August, October, November and December, 2013.

Upon arrival to Bangkok the PSS delegate facilitated training on Psychological First Aid (PFA) from 10-12 July in coordination with the Thailand Red Cross (TRC). The 23 participants – all linked to the TRC First Aid and Health Care Training centre - felt there was a need to refresh their PFA knowledge and skills which they had acquired through their training as nurses and first aiders. The main topics covered during the training were as follows:

* Crisis events and psychosocial support
* Stress and coping
* Loss and grief
* Psychological First Aid and supportive communication for adults and children
* Supporting Volunteers and staff

The main focus of the training was on Psychological First Aid and Supportive Communication. The four elements of PFA i.e. active listening; accepting feelings; staying close; and general care were explored in depth through role play and group discussions and also explored in relation to Thai culture. During First Aid trainings in Thailand Red Cross, a module on PFA is also included, but it is often quite theoretical and limited in scope according to the participants. The aim of this training was therefore to explore the main elements of PFA in depth but at the same time it was also an opportunity to introduce other Psychosocial Support topics such as stress and coping and caring for staff and volunteers. The various toolkits and manuals developed by the IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support were also introduced to the participants. The PSS delegate is currently exploring the possibility of developing a standardized module on PFA for SEA which could be used during First Aid trainings, but also in other fields where communication skills are essential. The training was therefore also a learning opportunity to better understand the focus and needs of nurses and first aiders in relation to the four elements of PFA. (Cf. mission report on the training for further details).

***National Conference on Challenges of Thai Medical System for Disaster Management, 11-12 July, Bangkok***

The National Institute of Emergency Medicine (NIEM) in Thailand organised a national conference on health challenges of Thai Medical System for Disaster Management with support of the WHO. More than 150 participants, coming mainly from health sector, including IFRC and the Thai Red Cross, took part in the conference.

Community Safety and Resilience Unit was asked to deliver presentation on IFRC activities in disaster management (from preparedness through recovery) as well as our Resilience approach as, in NIEM’s was very much interested to learn about it considering that, as they said, Thai people are not familiar with the word 'resilience'. In addition NIEM’s asked if we could share experiences from recently held Asian Regional Forum DiREx exercise that took place in Cha-am in Thailand. Instead, the CSRU invited the Thai Red Cross representative to deliver the presentation on DiREx as more relevant considering their involvement.

CSRU also delivered a short presentation on OCHA’s role in international assistance as per request of both NIEM and OCHA. NIEM website: <http://www.niems.go.th/en/View/Page.aspx?PageId=25551114035939822>

**Cooperation with Academic Institutions**

The PSS delegate provided feedback to PSS guidance notes being developed by the Danish Red Cross. In-depth Skype interview conducted with Lise B. Nielsen, a student of Copenhagen University who is currently completing her Master thesis on Disaster Management. The student is doing a qualitative analysis of mental health and psychosocial support and the IASC Guidelines in disaster/emergency situations. She contacted the Danish RC in order to gain access to RC/RC PSS delegates with field experience in disasters/emergency situations.

**Global Disaster Preparedness Centre Technical Advisory Group Meeting, 29 July 2013, Bangkok,**

Last year the American Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Secretariat established/officially launched a Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC) to strengthen the DP capacities of the global RC/RC network, with a focus on building national society capacity. The GDPC is engaging in service delivery in three broad areas: knowledge management, research and technical assistance while the main goal is:

*“To expand and enhance disaster preparedness capacities of Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies, and where possible the wider humanitarian and development communities, through a service-oriented and demand-driven global reference center focused on reducing the effects of disasters on vulnerable populations”*

The GDPC prioritized its target audience and strategic partnerships in this order keeping the main focus on National societies, IFRC counterparts and strategic partners and the wider humanitarian community (in this order).

A Structure was introduced in support to the GDPC functioning – called Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to exhibits the global nature of the GDPC. Tag is consisted of, not only Red cross Red Crescent network but also humanitarian and development partners and experts from the academic sector.

One of such TAG meeting took place in Bangkok between Asia Pacific TAG members of which IFRC CSRU is part, including ADPC and a representative from an NGO from India.

More info on GDPC: <http://www.preparecenter.org/>

**‘Building Urban Resilience’ Workshop, 30 – 31 July 2013, Bangkok, Thailand**

With support of the Global Disaster Preparedness centre (GDPC) and Rockefeller foundation, IFRC assisted in organizing an AP zone wide workshop on “Building Urban Resilience”. The workshop was an opportunity for colleagues from across Asia to meet, share experience and devise ways of strengthening our work in support of vulnerable communities in urban contexts. Specifically the workshop will provide an opportunity to:

1. Review our experience and shared learning on addressing urban risk
2. Identify gaps & challenges to urban preparedness and resilience and ways to overcome them
3. Explore what we can do collectively to leverage the full resources of the RC/RC
4. Identify a research and action agenda to fold into Federation, National Society, and Global Disaster Preparedness Center plans.

The workshop brought together colleagues from the Red Cross / Red Crescent Societies from South and Southeast Asia: Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam – whereby some of NS’s came along with representatives of their own National Disaster Management Authorities. From Partner national Societies: American RC, British RC, Nederland’s RC, Norvegian RC, Finish RC and French RC joint the workshop along with IFRC representatives from AP Zone, country and regional offices. In addition, the workshop saw participation of key external stakeholders such as ASEAN, ADPC, UN ISDR, Zurich Financial Services, ECHO and Asian Institute of Technology – making it even more successful. Total number of participants reached 50.

One of goals of the workshop was review the progress that national societies and their partners in Asia and the Pacific are already making in addressing risk in urban settings, recognizing that oftentimes approaches come dressed as health, livelihoods, or empowerment programs rather than with a formal disaster preparedness title.

Thus the workshop was designed to give as much space as possible for interaction and:

* Review our experience and share learning’s on addressing urban risk
* Identify gaps & challenges to urban preparedness and resilience and ways to overcome them
* Explore what we can do collectively to leverage the full resources of the RC/RC
* Identify a research and action agenda to fold into Federation, NS, and GDPC plans

The workshop was completed with great satisfaction of all participants. They all appreciated the opportunity given to share, discus and learn more about Urban Resilience and Urban DRR The workshop report will be prepared in early August and share wider. However, the process applied for the workshop has been depicted online in “Storify” on the following link – please visit: [*http://storify.com/SM4Resilience/building-urban-resilience-july-30th-31st-2013*](http://storify.com/SM4Resilience/building-urban-resilience-july-30th-31st-2013)

***Knowledge Sharing***

**Health bulletin** continues to be shared with respective colleagues of NS as well as AP zone and country delegation in order to update knowledge and enhance communication. The bulletin includes- latest health related events in the region and around the globe, funding opportunities, on-going activities of CSRU and upcoming events in the region. You can find previous health bulletin on <https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia/health-and-care/health-bulletins>. This above site is regularly being updated with DRR, health and other reference documents by SEARD/CSRU Team.

 **Upcoming Events for August 2013**

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|  **Date** | **Events** | **Venue** |
| 1-2 | Meetings with OCHA and UN ISDR – Visit of Head of AP Zone DMU | Bangkok |
| 1-5, August | Strengthening DRR  for School Teachers in Lao RC | Savannakhet province |
| 5-6 Aug | Executive Committee Meeting for the 6th AMCDRR | Bangkok |
| 7 August | ECHO- CSRU meeting on preparation for the ECHO- RCRC Coordination meeting and Practitioners Workshop | SEARD Office |
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| 9 August |

 | RCRC- ECHO Meeting | Bangkok |
| 6-8, August | ECV Training | Cambodia |
| 25-31, August | AP Climate Change Training(ToT) | KL |
| 26- 28 August | Asia- Pacific Ministerial Dialogue | Bangkok |