Regional Community Safety and Resilience Unit

Overview of activities for the month of June 2013

**Thai Red Cross Society**

***Post emergency preparedness operation***

Thai Red Cross carried out intensive process to finalize the POA with involvement of all Bureaus. A comprehensive Plan of Action is in now place. Majority of activities planned under the Post emergency preparedness operation in Thailand is yet to be implemented due to lengthy process that involved engagement of many different departments and internal approval processes that had to be followed. The agreement was signed at the beginning of June. The Thai Red Cross has created separate committee to coordinate and implement the Post emergency/preparedness Operation. The full scale implementation of Post emergency preparedness Operation will start immediately until the end of 2014.

***Legal Preparedness for International Disaster Response in Thailand***

With support and facilitation by the AP Zone Coordinator for Disaster Law Programme, a date has been set for December 2013 to facilitate a workshop for “Legal Preparedness for International Disaster response in Thailand”.

The workshop aims to target key figures from: relevant government departments or ministries, such as disaster management, foreign affairs, health, justice/legal, environment, national security, customs/immigration, Representatives from TRCS, with the necessary expertise in disaster management/legal affairs, Local humanitarian agencies or NGOs and Community representatives or civil society actors.

*Expected outcomes of this workshop:*

* Clarification of procedures, roles and responsibilities in accepting and facilitating international disaster assistance in Thailand
* Improved awareness and knowledge of legal preparedness for international assistance, and the role of the IDRL Guidelines and Model Act
* Stronger relationships and mutual understanding of roles between National Society, government authorities, local NGOs and communities in enhancing disaster preparedness
* Potential interest in reviewing and assessing the existing legal framework for international assistance against the IDRL Guidelines.

More details will follow in months close to the workshop.

**ASEAN Day for Disaster Management - ADDM (11-12 October 2013)**

Draft plan of action has been developed between Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) of Royal Thai Government and the Thai Red Cross as the coordinators of the event. The main theme will focus on: “Together toward Safe ASEAN Community” and two sub-themes:

1) People with disabilities, Step Up for Disaster Risk Reduction

2) Disaster Risk Reduction Innovation: Policy, Process, and Product

Targeted Partners in implementation of this plan of action are: IFRC/SEARD, AADMER Partnership Group, National level partners/ NGOs, Private Sectors: Corporate, Department Store (Siam Paragon), Honda, Tourism industry, etc, Thammasart University: Faculty of Mass Communication and Public Relations, People with disabilities groups, ASEAN/ ASEC/ AHA Centre and UN.

Some of activities that would be implemented during the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management include: Pre-event seminar: INCA and ASEAN, DRR Market Place, Exhibition, ADDM Parade, opening speeches by representatives from UN, ASEAN, IFRC, Thai Government, and Civil Society (maybe from disabilities group), recognition ceremony for disaster risk reduction alliances (all event partners and sponsors), symbolic flags/plaque given to the organizations to recognize their contribution in DRR among other.

**CBDRR programme in Thailand**

Two members from Canadian Red Cross visited Thailand from 29th April to 3 May, 2013 and observed the achievements made by two communities of Ubonratchathani Province. Team from Canadian Red Cross had meeting with community people as well as Thai Red Cross staff at field and headquarter. Meetings focused on the achievements of the project and future plan. Discussions also took place between IFRC and Canadian Red Cross Team to review the overall progress of the project. After all discussion, team of Canadian Red Cross agreed to support a non cost extension for the period of six months in order to ensure proper follow up is implemented at community level. The Thai Red Cross along with SEARD/CSRU has revised the proposal with new time frame for the revised Plan of Action. The new project end period proposed is September, 2014.

**DRR Education to 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.

**Early warning and Early action project in Thailand and Indonesia**

Training focusing on EWEA, DRR and CCA was organized by PMI NHQ Training Unit from 11-16 June 2013 in Cisarua Puncak, West Java Province. The training module for this workshop was adapted based on the existing PMI Guidelines developed in 2012 and 2013. Training was organized with the following objectives:

* To exchange lesson learnt about practical knowledge on disaster response preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at community level.
* To refresh participants’ knowledge about disaster response preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
* To increase the participants’ skilled on organizing disaster response preparedness, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and advocacy at community level

A total of 25 participants comprising of staff and volunteers from PMI Chapter/Branch involved in Integrated Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (ICBDRR) programs. Three participants from Timor Leste Red Cross (CVTL) both from health and DM also joined this training and shared their knowledge (training was conducted in Bahasa language). Similar types of workshop were organized at the end of last month in Thailand where around 40 people attended along with three people from Lao Red Cross Society (also held in Thai language).

**17th Regional Disaster Management Committee (RDMC)**

The 17th Regional Disaster Management Committee meeting was held with 28 participants 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 from 11 June to 13 June 2013 in Yangon, Myanmar. The meeting was hosted by Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) with the technical support from the IFRC Myanmar Delegation, Community Safety and Resilience Unit of Southeast Asia Regional Delegation and Asia Pacific Zone Delegation. A representative from European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (DG ECHO) - Myanmar also participated in the meeting.

This RDMC is unique in a way that the participants from both Health and Disaster Management (DM) of the National Societies in Southeast Asia Region came together to discuss about the current situation, achievements and challenges. The two days agenda was tight but participants of the meeting made most of it through open and constructive discussions. The group work sessions were very interesting resulting in identified common areas of collaboration between health and DM in order to promote integrated planning at NS level as well as implementation of the Road Map.

The following key activities were carried out during the meeting:

* Integration of RDMC and the Regional Health Woking Group into one Regional Forum. OD also to be integrated. The final name of the forum is to be decided in July when the Steering Committee meets (ex-RDMC Chair, Co-chair, Health Focal point and OD chair).
* Regional Disaster Management Committee (RDMC) and Regional Health Working Group (RHWG) members jointly reviewed the existing Road Map; identified common areas of intervention eventually developing an Integrated/Resilience Road Map – One Road Map that would promote Resilience Approach in the SEA region.
* Laid out a plan and timeline for the drafting of ToR for the new integrated (Health and Disaster Management) forum.
* Information sharing/feedback by RHWG and RDMC participants at the leadership meeting held in Luang Prabang, Laos PDR from 25-27 March followed by identifying the action points to follow up the recommendations.
* Review and revision of the Global Community Safety and Resilience Framework led by the an external consultant
* Discussion on the Recovery Cash Transfer Programme
* Discussion on Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief to provide feedback.

**A consultative workshop for risk reduction practitioners**

The International Federation, South- East Asia Regional Delegation is conducting a workshop titled “*A road to Resilience in Southeast Asia*”. This workshop is scheduled to be held in November 2013 in Thailand. This will contribute to a series of such workshops held since 2001 in the South- East Asian region. The first workshop was in Viet Nam in 2001; the 2nd was also in Viet Nam; the 3rd in 2003 in Bangkok; the 4th also in Bangkok in 2006; the 5th workshop in Cambodia in 2008; and the most recent DRR practitioners’ workshop in Phuket in 2009- all previous events were co-organized with Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC).

This workshop aims to equip risk reduction (RR) practitioners with good knowledge and exposure to develop community resilience, strengthen community preparedness for response and to establish networks, develop and promote regional knowledge sharing. The workshop is part of current DIPECHO supported project. The more updates related to this workshop will be shared in near future.

**Lao Red Cross initiative for Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction for school teachers**

SEARD has received financial support from Japanese Red Cross to implement an important initiative to strengthen disaster risk reduction for school teachers from Khammuan, Saravanand and Savannakhet province. The project will target the teachers of identified schools and enhance their skills and knowledge on risk reduction measures which will be further disseminated to students and ultimately to community themselves. A Plan of action has been developed and shared by Lao Red Cross Society. The planned activities will be accomplished before the end of this year.

**People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV)**

With assistance from the SEARD the Lao Red Cross (LRC) will continue to support implementation of “Support and Care programme for People living with HIV (PLHIV)” thanks to generous support of support of Norwegian Red Cross Society. The project agreement has been signed between LRC and SEARD and the implementation is on its way.

**Malaria programme implementation in Mekong Sub region**

Three NSs (CRC, VNRC and LRC) will start malaria prevention programme - also supported by Norwegian Red Cross Society. The overall goal of the programme is to increase national society health risk reduction capacities to enable healthier and safer living contributing to increased resilience in particular addressing Malaria prevention at community level in Mekong sub region.

**CBHFA Review, Wonogiri, Indonesia**

Team member of CSRU attended Annual Review of Integrated Health & Disaster Risk Reduction Project from 17– 21 June, 2013 in Wonogiri, Indonesia. PMI with the support from American Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross is implementing an integrated health and disaster risk reduction program. The program is applying Community Based Health and First Aid approach in 30 villages in Wonogiri district. There were 4 types of pilot in trial in order to obtain feasibility study of replication globally. These four types of pilot are the integration of health and disaster risk reduction, the utilization of Rapid Assessment Mobile Phone (RAMP) in collecting the baseline survey data, the topic of Non-Communicable Disease (such as hypertension) and also collaboration of three parties (PMI-SRC-SRC).

**Key objective of the review were**

* To review the Detail Implementation Plan in order to obtain clear information regarding the completeness and the punctuality of action plan implemented.
* To review the first year achievement by analysing the indicator table, monthly report and quarterly report.
* To review the first year achievement by analysing the budget expenditures including proportioned allocation and its relation with the effective project performance.
* To identify obstacles, challenges and learning during the first year implementation including various trials as mentioned above and thereafter to be documented
* To adjust the implementation plan for the second year and third year
* To discuss and agree the recommendation required in regard with strategy, approach and mechanism to improve the implementation

**Key Recommendations**

* More cooperation between Health and DM team
* Standard IEC materials and guideline to be produced and disseminated as soon as possible.
* To promote Red Cross volunteers as change agent rather than just information disseminator by enhancing communication skills.
* To halt Non-communicable disease prevention till October till CBHFA NCD material is translated in local language if possible.

**A workshop on Building Urban Resilience**

The Red Cross/Red Crescent network recognizes the growing need and public demand for RC/RC services to reduce disaster risks in urban settings. The RC/RC has long been active in providing relief and preparedness services in communities in both rural and urban settings. What has changed in recent years is the recognition that urban and semi-urban centres are not just places where economic opportunity is thriving but also increasingly places where vulnerability and risk are growing as well. IFRC, both SEARD and AP Zone is working closely with the Global Disaster Preparedness Centre (GDPC) and American Red Cross to organize a two day workshop from 30-31 July, 2013 on Building Urban Resilience.

The 2-day workshop in Bangkok is intended to bring together practitioners in Asia and the Pacific to build a collective understanding of the complexities of resilience in urban settings, and to identify creative solutions that may better address the challenges around urban vulnerability. It is expected that participants will come from the NSs of Southeast Asia and South Asia. Representatives from the government involved in urban planning/disaster management will also be invited to participate.

Workshop will set the scene for discussions, jointly creating a visual overview of the trends impacting communities in urban and semi-urban settings, the impacts and key strategic responses globally and across the Asia and Pacific region. A number of participants are invited to share examples – ‘short stories’ - from their own experience, concluding with a critical question for further exploration. The discussion starts in plenary and continues in small groups.

**RCRC- ECHO Coordination Meeting**

Considering that DG-ECHO is on its way to launch its 2014- 2015 HIP for South- East Asia, one day meeting among ECHO- RCRC has been tentatively planned by SEARD in 9th August (subject to confirmation of availability of ECHO and PNS representatives).

The purpose of the meeting is to share ideas about possible interventions in the region and various countries, ensuring RCRC coordination and cooperation in support to NSs in the region. An initial invitation has been sent out with draft agenda for the feedback to the respective PNSs. This meeting is the continuity of meeting held in October 2011 in Bangkok where respective PNSs came together and discussed about the 2012-2013 HIP (DIPECHO) to support the national societies in South- East Asia region. The meeting was also used to address some common concerns about how to maximize RCRC resources by further sharing information and tools, avoid duplication and work in more cohesion with each other.

**Pilot Initiatives – following thematic seminars on Integration**

Thanks to four thematic seminars on Integration held in four national societies of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Timor Leste in the first half of 2013, six communities were selected in which two semi- urban in Myanmar; two rural communities in Laos; and one rural community in Cambodia and Timor Leste respectively to pilot the integration initiatives/models for learning and future replication. These initiatives focused on promoting the collective efforts and sectoral intervention from the national society to support the communities such as awareness raising, training for community volunteers on various issues of risk reduction (water & sanitation; hygiene promotion; mitigation measures, youth empowerment and education). These initiatives will be implemented with some financial support from the DIPECHO in the second half of the year where lessons learned will be drawn from this process for learning and sharing.

**Project Planning Process training for Myanmar Red Cross**

IFRC/CSRU offered one staff members to French Red Cross to organize Participatory Project Planning (PPP) training for the volunteers and staff members of Myanmar Red Cross Society from 4-7 June, 2013. The training aimed to build the technical capacity of the staff and make them familiar with the results-based program management, proposal development. A total of 44 volunteers and staff members benefited from this workshop.

**Coordination and 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.

Regional PSS delegate linked up the Australian Red Cross with the Director of Arts Therapy Services for the Ragamuffin Centre in Phnom Penh and as a result, staff from the Ragamuffin Centre facilitated a session on stress during a retreat held for Australian RC volunteers in late June.

PSS delegate facilitated a session on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in emergencies during the Asia Pacific Emergency Health training in Hong Kong (June 26) and supported outdoor exercises as a facilitator (June 27). The MHPSS session was conducted together with Hong Kong RC psychologist, Eliza Cheung. The main topics were: Introduction to IFRC PSS approach; MHPSS assessments and operational challenges during emergencies.

**Psychosocial support service**

The Basic ToT on Community Based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS) was conducted by the PSS delegate for the Cambodian RC staff of the Community Based Health Development Programme (headquarter team and Preah Vihear and Kampot Branch teams) and government health staff on June 19-21. 11 participants were trained over the course of three days. The training was opened by the Cambodian RC Secretary General, Madame Pum Chantinie, who highlighted the importance of PSS for both staff and beneficiaries. The training covered the main topics of the CBPSS manual, namely, Crisis events; Stress and Coping; Loss and grief; Community Based PSS; Psychological First Aid and Supportive Communication; Children; and PSS for staff and volunteers. The training went well, but due to the time limitation of three days, there was insufficient time for the participants to properly practice all modules. Two day refresher training will therefore be conducted in October to ensure that the participants feel more confident before having to conduct CBPSS trainings for volunteers in late 2013. Based on feedback from the participants and observations made by the trainer, the Khmer CBPSS manual will be revised and submitted for final translation and editing in July. A training report will be submitted in July with further details of the training.

Lao RC has expressed interest in training on CBPSS and hence the preparation and planning for the training will start in July. The training is expected to take place in August once the CBPSS manual has been translated to Lao.

**Partnership with Academic Institutions**

A draft Memorandum of Understanding is being discussed between the Asian Institute of Technology and IFRC. Discussions are expected to continue in coming month with involvement of the AP Zone office that would provide support to the legal issues related to the MoU. The interest of both parties is very high to have this MoU in place.

Administrative/Financial/Reporting:

* Revision of Development Operational Plan and respective budget was completed in June.
* Development of the Regional School Safety Risk reduction concept note is in its final stage and upon completion will be submitted to potential donors for consideration.
* In Mid June, reinforcement was made in the CSR Unit with arrival of Tim Kind, young student who would be volunteering for two months. His main focus would be to support consolidation of some health data (pandemic preparedness) and also assist to Communication Unit with the upcoming workshop on “Social Media in Resilience Building”. Welcome aboard Tim!

**Upcoming Events for July/August 2013**

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| **Date** | **Events** | **Venue** |
| 3-5 July | Asian DRR Network Annual Meeting | Manila |
| 10-12, July | Training on Psychological First Aid for Thai Red Cross | Bangkok |
| 11-12 July | RTG National Institute for Emergency Medicine – Health in Disaster Management | Bangkok |
| 24-25, July | *Task Force/Steering Committee* of the “Regional CSR Forum” (name to be confirmed) meeting to follow the actions points of recent 17 RDMC meeting. | Bangkok |
| 29-31 July | Public Health in Emergencies for Thai Red Cross | Thailand |
| 29th July | Technical Advisory Group of GDPC - Meeting | Bangkok |
| 30-31, July | A workshop on Building Urban Resilience | Bangkok |
| 9 August, (Tentative Date)   |  | | --- | |  | | RCRC- ECHO Meeting | Bangkok |