**Regional Resilience Unit**

Overview of activities for the months of February 2013

**Thailand**

**Thai Red Cross Post Emergency and Preparedness Operation**

The meeting was organized between Thai Red Cross senior management and SEARD’s Head of delegation in order to discuss the progress of Project Agreement. In the meeting the Thai RC informed that further review of activities is being undertaken and they were holeful that this proces would be finalized soon so we could proceed with official signing of the agreement.

**Water Sanitation activities in Thai Red Cross**

**Training III:** Training of staff and volunteers from the North-eastern provinces was organized from 4th to 8th February with 44 participants coming from Thai RC health stations, head quarter as well as from local government organisations of northeastern provinces.

This was the first training facilitated by the newly trained trainers of the Health and Relief bureau supported by one of the staff members from the rapid assessment team. The 44 participants represented the local branches and health stations and the headquarters and local authority representatives from Surin, Ubon Ratchani, Kalasin, Sri Saket and Roy-ed Provinces. The training focussed on practical operating and backwashing of the SIEMENS, DOW and the NEW MAN unit (Berkefeld TWA4-light). During the first day the people were trained on the principles of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in emergency response, using the SPHERE standards (water, sanitation, hygiene, solid waste, drainage and vector control) and water treatment principles. Each participant was explained why different parameters are measured in the water.

The Training of trainers supported by the training department of King Mungkut’s University (KMUTNB) was conducted in Ayutthaya. The participants were trained in different training and communication techniques, in ways to provide feedback during trainings and different ways to engage trainees. The participants spend one day during the training to run and backwash the TWA-4-light water treatment unit and to operate the field lab.

*Increasing the capacity by upgrading of Water treatment equipment and field laboratory equipment:*

In coordination with the Thai Red Cross it was decided to replace the old TWA-10 unit with a new TWA-4 Light unit. This unit is more mobile and runs purely on local available consumables and has a high efficiency of coagulant/flocculent. Along with this it was decided to get three additional pre-treatment units for the SIEMENS and DOW units. All staff was trained on how to use this unit. The Thai Red Cross in the assessment also identified the need to upgrade their capacity in water testing and water quality monitoring. Therefor three new mobile laboratories where obtained. All staff members were trained to check, the according to Thai drinking water standard, relevant physical, chemical and microbial parameters in treated and in untreated water.

In mid February, WatSan delegate completed his mission. In order to ensure consistent support to the Thai Red Cross’ Water and Sanitation activites, it is envisaged to recruite a local staff with necessary expertise who would continue providing support on daily basis (embadded to TRC) for a period between 6-12 months to ensure longer term sustainability of support provided during the last six months, incuding facilitation of trainings planned for mid year 2013.

**Thai Red Cross Tsunami Residual Funds**

The Project Agreement between Thai Red Cross and IFRC was signed on 4th of February 2013. Implementation of activites would follow shortly.

**Regional: *Workshops, Meetings, Conferences***

**Regional Conference on Promoting Psychosocial Support and Psychological Recovery in Emergencies in Asia organized by ADPC, 4-5 February 2013, Bangkok**

The conference was organized by **Asian Disaster Preparedness Center** (ADPC) in collaboration with the Center for Crisis Psychology Bergen, Norway. The conference was sponsored by the Royal Government of Norway. There were 64 participants coming from national governments, international and national organizations, civil society, academic institutions and scholars attending the conference.

The main objective of the conference was to learn about the challenges related to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in emergencies in Asia. IFRC CSRU’s Regional Psycho Social Delegate was requested to deliver presentation on the IFRC approach to MHPSS in emergencies.

The conference provided an opportunity for sharing MHPSS experiences in Asia. The key speakers and country presenters gave interesting and relevant presentations. From an IFRC perspective it was an opportunity to promote coordination and an integrated community based approach with a focus on staff and volunteers in emergencies. The presence of donors (ECHO and USAID) also provided an opportunity for the participants to raise the issue of funding for MHPSS and the need for donors to support long term interventions.

The conference materials are posted on:

[*https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia/meetings-workshops/promoting-psychosocial-support-and-recoveries*](https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia/meetings-workshops/promoting-psychosocial-support-and-recoveries)

**Thematic Seminar on Integration, 6-7 February 2013, Timor Leste**

The Resilience Unit designed the initial draft concpet of the thematic seminar to assist National Societies to develop an appropriate model taking into account national and local context, existing resources and the RCRC strategies with ultimate aim being more effective approach for National Society to build safer and more resilient communities in Timor Leste.

With faciliation by the regional team, the Seminar saw the participation (40) from various departments of CVTL: Disaster Management, Health, Livelihood, Youth, etc including most senior managers such as the Secretary General of CVTL, heads of departments and branch coordinators. Participants from PNSs (Australian Red Cross) along with IFRC country delegation were present throughout the seminar providing their valuable inputs.

Key outcomes of this two day seminar were:

* Enhanced knowledge about better operationalization of an integrated approach.
* Povided a platform to review CVTL ICBRR project – its strength, weakness and potential solution to those weakness.
* Increased knowledge and awareness related to village selection process and information management.
* Formation of working group including members from each department to review challenges existing ICBRR programme, VCA and village selection process
* Working group to design community plan of action for piloting youth project as per the result of multisectoral assessment.

In his closing remarks the Secretary General of the CVTL expressed his satisfaction over the entire two days proceeding. He believes these two days of the seminar will help staff of CVTL to carry forward the integrated approach and help the beneficiaries to build more resilience. He expressed appreciation to both, regional team and Timor Leste Country Delegation, for continuous support to CVTL.

**Regional Workshop on Geo-referenced Disaster Risk Management Information System in South-East and East Asia and Pacific, 20-22 February, Bangkok**

The workshop was organized by ESCAP as a follow-up activity to the Expert Group Meeting on Geo-reference Disaster Risk Management System in Asia-Pacific Region held from 15 to 17 February 2012 in Bangkok, and also an activity of the project entitled “ Improving Disaster Risk Preparedness in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Region ” which ESCAP is currently implementing .

The project has the overall goal of strengthening government capacities in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) through the use of geo-referenced information tools for effective disaster risk preparedness, and timely early recovery efforts in the Asia-Pacific region with focus on countries with special needs (CSN).

30 international and local participants (high level government decision/policy makers and international/regional/sub-regional and inter-governmental organizations) from the region, including SEARD participated in the event. In addition a presentation was delivered on Federation’s Disaster Management Community of Practice (DM CoP).

**Cambodia Epidemic Control Volunteers (ECV) Training, Phnom Phen, 20-22 February, 2013**

After reprinting of Epidemic Control Volunteers toolkits in Khmer language in December 2012, Cambodain Red Cross, with support of the Resilience Unit, invited all health focal persons from their branch offices and organized a three days training. Total 26 staff: 24 health focal persons from 24 branches and 2 from HQ attended the training.

The facilitators came from the Cambodain Red Cross Disaster Management and Health departments, previously trained by AP Zone. Considering increasing cases of Avian Influenza in Cambodia in 2013, ECV toolkits and training are evaluated as timely and relevant. The next training targeting volunteers will be organized in May this year.

**Thematic Seminar on Integration and Thematic Seminar on Response Preparedness, Phnom Penh, 26-28 February, 2013**

The Cambodian Red Cross, with the technical and financial support from the IFRC Regional Delegation Resilience Unit organized a Thematic Seminar on Integration and Response Preparedness where almost 40 participants from five technical departments at NHQ and 11 branches gathered in Phnom Penh.

The seminar aimed at clearer identification of gaps in community safety and resilience concept that needs further investment; identification of core capacities that National Societies needs to increase the resilience at community level, develop a plan of action or road map on how to achieve the same.

Furthermore, seminar on response preparedness aimed on having common perception about the IFRC Standard Operating Procedures for Disaster Response and Early Recovery in Asia Pacific; have a contextualized understanding of how the National Society should act locally; identify key lessons learned from recent operations and existing capacity in response; identify gaps and recommendations for future improvements and develop a clear and detailed Plan of Action to address the identified issues

Going back to Integration Seminar, it is worth mentioning, that the significant time was spent on discussionss where the Integration can fit in looking from Community Resilience perspective. The seminar came up with several concrete action points as way forward for 2013 and beyond. Those points are:

1. Development and compilation of an Integrated Training Manual. The training manual will be used to train branch committee members and sub branches and it will be a three day training course.
2. Training of Trainers including NHQ and Svay Rieng branch
3. A multi- sector assessment will be carried in one selected community in Svay Rieng branch with the aim to identify possible cross sectoral interventions.
4. An integrated community action plan (CAP) will be developed as a result of the assessment and the IFRC Regional Delegation together with Country Delegation and CRC will support the process
5. Implementation of the CAP
6. Lessons learned workshop and/or a case study to be developed for sharing practices.
7. A detailed Plan of Action to enhance Response Preparedness

**Cooperation with Academic Institutions**

*5th February 2013 – Thai Red Cross Nursing College, Bangkok*

On the request of the Thai Nursing College, following successful lecturedelivery of July 2012, new invitation for a key note speaker was received; this time the subject was *“" Climate change: health impact and nurse's roles"*  that was delivered to approximatelly 100 students (3rd year Bachelors).

The objective of this lecture was to educate the student, allowd them to lear from expereince in RCRC and expand their own experiences in disaster nursing preparing them for more efficient and prompt response as future Thai Red Cross Society nurses, who are one of key person in responding in times of disasters in the country and region.

*14th February 2013 – Thai Red Cross Nursing College, Bangkok*

Resilience Unit delivered presentation on the topic of “*“Great lesson learned from recent Disasters towards the sustainable health management”*. The presententation focus was on: Disaster situations around the world, tendency of disaster re-occurring in the future, disaster impacts on health and strategies for sustainable health management. Lecture was attended by Thai Red Cross Headquarter senior staff, governament representatives from Health department, staff from TRC Health station from several provinces and staff from other medical institutions. IFRC support was greatly appreciated.

*18th February 2013 – Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management (DPMM) ,*

Following up on lecture delivered to AIT students in December last year on *“Climate Change and impacts on Health”and initial meeting held at SEARD office* with AIT representative (23 Jan),a follow up meetingwas arranged between AIT- DPMM and IFRC at AIT premises to discuss more about possible areas for formal collaboration between the two. This is something identified as mutually beneficial to both AIT and IFRC in the field of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance.

The meeting took place with heads of DPMM and Resilience Unit where more specific areas were identifies as opportunitie for future collaboration such as: exchange of expertise, collection and publication of good practises/case studies, utilisation of AIT Masters Degree students for possible evaluation of RCRC community based initatives, various reasearches etc. Proposed was forward was to draft a Memorandum of Understadnign between the two and approach it in a more systematic way with concretely identified mutually support areas.

Meeting was followed by an introductory meeting with DPPM students (medium and senior level practicioners coming from Asia and beoyn) which will be followed by a lecture on Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in general and Resilience Approach scheduled to take place on March 12th at AIT premises.

**Visitors**

*1 February 2013, Visit of Norwegian Red Cross to SEARD.*

Resilince Unit delivered presentation on strategic directions and priorities for implementation of 2013. Also, disucssions were held on SEARD’s progress on operationalisation of the Resilince approach. NorCross representative was supportive to the achivements thus far and interested to look into possibilities of future partnerships in particular related to Resilience operationalisation and Mekong River Basin intative.

*6-7 February 2013, Operations Coordinator for South East Asia, AP Zone*

Operation Coordinator for SEA, who arrived recently to his post in the AP Zone, visited SEARD office in order to get full briefing on the regional priorites, strategic directions and explore possibilities for more future cooperation and support between AP Zone and SEARD.

6th February 2013, *Development Advisor, IFRC Country Delegation, Phillippines*

Incoming Development Advisor for Philippines participated in a serious of brefings with SEARD team including the Resilience Unit.

*14 February 2013, IFRC Head of Delegation for Cambodia*

HoD for Cambodia visited SEARD and held discussions with the team about onging programmes implemented with Cambodian Red Cross, supported, technically and financially by the Resilience Unit.

*26-28 February 2013, Hong Kong Red Cross monitoring visit to Thailand DRR in Education project*

HKRC Desk officer for Thailand and South East Asia visited Thailand in order to monitor implementation and evaluate impact of “DRR in Education” implemented by Thai Red Cross through SEARD and supported by HKRC. Two days field visit was organized and in total 8 schools were visited in two Provinces of Thailand.

**Coordination and Knowledge Sharing**

The online DRR library of the Community Safety and Resilience Unit contines to be updated on regular basis with latest addition in Health: <https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia/>

**Activites Planed for March 2013 :**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **March** | 4-5 | Director of AP Zone visiting SEARD | Bangkok | CSRU  |
| 5-7  | Thai RC Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) manual project review meeting  | Thailand | Rommanee, Sanjeev, Abhishek, Indira, TRC |
| 8 & 11 | Meeting with Asian Coalition on School Safety | Bangkok | Indira, Sanjeev, Drew (ARC) |
| 12 | Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) – lecture on RCRC movement and Resilience | Bangkok | Indira |
| 12- 13 | Thematic Seminar on Integration | Myanmar | Ha, Sanjeev, Andreas (DMU), John, MRCS, Chow (AP Zone)  |
| 13-14  | ADB Asia Water Week  | Manila, Philippines  | ADB, AP Zone, Niels  |
| 14-15 | Response Preparedness Thematic Seminar | Yangon, Myanmar | Ha, Sanjeev, John, MRCS |
| 18-20  | Working with DG ECHO focus on preparing the Action and the Single Form – ECHO FAFA training | Bangkok | Abhishek |
| 19-22 | ASEAN Capacity Building Forum on Risk Assessment | Bangkok | Indira, Sanjeev, Dr. Barlee |
| 20-21 | Southeast Asia IFRC DM/Resilience coordinators meeting | Bangkok | CSRU, John, Niels, Pascal, Wayne, Andreas, Terhi, Michael |
| 22nd  | World Water Day  | Global  | Global  |
| 25-27 | Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) Meeting | Mongolia | Dr. Barlee-TRC,  |
| 25-28 | WatSan Emergency Response ToT training  | Danang, Vietnam | Vietnam delegation |
| 26 - 29 | Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change- Early Warning Early Action | Thailand | Sanjeev, Knud – Climate Centre, SEA NSs |
| 25-27 | Leadership meeting SEA | Luang Prabang,Laos | RDMC Rep, Dr. USA (CRC) |
| 28-29 | ACDM-CSO Partnership Dialogue | Bangkok | Indira |