

12th Annual South-East Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting 2015

Regional Health Technical Working Group (RHTWG)

Health/ **Cambodia** / 25-27 February 2015

Introduction

The Regional Health Technical working group discussed Resilience House and Regional Road Map, ERU and Foreign Medical team, Pandemic and PHiE Preparedness. The meeting was organized in line with approved ToR of Regional DM Technical working group.

Key Developments

RHTWG discussed the resilience house and proposed the revised resilience house model in the third day sessions. The working group has incorporated additional health components into the Regional Road Map. More interactions between DM and Health managers of NS have been integrated in the planning. Year 2015 is a critical year for ASEAN since member states are discussing new health strategy beyond 2015. It could be an opportunity for RCRC members to be part of the national consultation process. ASEAN secretariat invited RCRC feedback through their respective ministry of health. Climate-sensitive diseases are being considered by National Societies while implementing and designing the community based programmes.

1. **Climate Change Master Training:** IFRC's South East Asia Regional Office - together with the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Climate Centre and supported by the Finnish Red Cross - organized a regional Climate Change Master Training in Thailand in September, 2014. The overall purpose of this programme was to develop a core group of climate change experts amongst South-East Asia National Societies who can provide technical support to plan and implement climate smart project activities at national, sub national In addition, Community Safety and Resilience unit, SEARO together with reference group (facilitators' for climate change training) is finalizing a climate change training package tailored, for Southeast Asia National Societies based on the experience of the Climate Change Master training. Click here for [brief report](#).
2. **Regional Psychosocial Support in Emergencies training:** SEARD has organized Psychosocial Support in Emergencies training from 14 - 17 October 2014 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The objective of the training was to provide participants with psychosocial technical skills, understanding and knowledge to enable them to rapidly assess, plan, coordinate and implement priority psychosocial interventions during disasters/emergencies. During the four-day training, PSS relevant tools, formats and methodologies for assessment, planning of activities (PoA) monitoring and evaluation and caring for staff and volunteers, psychological First Aid and linkages between RFL and PSS were discussed. Click here for [brief report](#). The PSS focal persons from 10 national societies has been identified and are part of Emergency health and PSS sub-group under Regional Health technical working group.
3. **Regional Pandemic and Public Health in Emergency (PHiE) Preparedness Initiative:** The entire region is vulnerable as well as highly at risk of epidemics. A regional workshop on Pandemic and PHiE preparedness has been held in November. Participants from NSs drafted their Plan of Action to enhance their capacity regarding Pandemic and PHiE preparedness. ASEAN Secretariat took part in the

workshop and outlined the cooperation between RCRC and ASEAN Secretariat regarding Pandemic and PHiE preparedness. Considering the different scenarios of pandemic and PHiE, Singapore Red Cross agreed to organize the subsequent workshop on Business Continuity Plan and Contingency Plan for National Societies in 2015 along with IFRC Secretariat. Participants outlined some of the recommendations for Pandemic and PHiE preparedness at NS level in the [Brief Report of the Pandemic and PHiE Workshop with Plan of Action from NS as well as key recommendations](#) of the workshop.

4. National societies in the **Mekong region** have implemented building resilience for malaria and climate change programme. The programme focused on six areas which include: capacity building, community based malaria prevention, coordination, knowledge sharing, regional cooperation model and monitoring and evaluation. National Societies has organized malaria prevention campaign involving school children in the targeted communities. This programme also facilitated to increase cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Movement, in order to mutually achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
5. The engagement of Southeast Asian National Societies in psychosocial support, road safety and emergency health initiatives has been increased. In Lao PDR, [community based psychosocial support \(CBPSS\)](#) training of trainers was conducted following the IFRC CBPSS manual been translated to Lao and also adapted to Lao culture. SEARD supported Lao Red Cross to integrate PSS component in their regular PLHIV support and care programme by introducing Psychological First Aid component. Cambodian Red Cross has also integrated PSS in their ongoing Community based health development initiative.
6. **Epidemic prevention and response** has always been a key priority for Southeast Asia National Societies. Myanmar Red Cross and PMI (Indonesian Red Cross) translated and adapted the IFRC epidemic control for volunteer's toolkit and conducting the master training. In November, SEARD organized the lesson learned workshop coupled with Pandemic and Public Health in Emergency workshop. Viet Nam Red Cross is in the process of finalizing their emergency health contingency plan; the first draft is in place for comments.
7. In partnership with American Red Cross, PMI is rolling out its **mobile first aid application**. The application has been adapted to the Indonesian context and will be a regular part of traditional first aid training conducted by PMI. The application also includes psychological first aid section and some diseases like cardiovascular, hypothermia, Meningitis, Stroke, Dengue, and diarrhea. Myanmar Red Cross has also rolled out first aid application and is also including 2 – 3 common diseases.
8. **The 20th International AIDS Conference (IAC)** was held in Melbourne, Australia from 20 to 25 July, 2014. Technical support was given to National Societies to submit abstracts for presentation at the IAC. Cambodia Red Cross, Thai Red Cross and Viet Nam Red Cross have submitted abstracts for the conference. Thai RC and Viet Nam RC attended the IAC from South-East Asia region. During the AIDS conference, the IFRC emphasizes the Red Cross Red Crescent commitment towards greater access to HIV testing and treatment for all. IFRC also organize the satellite sessions during the conference focusing on community based service delivery model and HIV treatment access in a fragile state.

Decisions/Directions

- Implement the recommendation of Regional Pandemic and Public health emergency preparedness workshop recommendations. Links of process report can be accessed with Regional Health technical working group report.
- Build the partnership as per outlined by expected cooperation by ASEAN and government representatives during regional Pandemic and Public Health in Emergency Preparedness workshop. Engage in national level consultative process to develop health strategy of respective countries.

- A regular mapping of human resources- specifically in health and WATSAN- should be done to strengthen regional cooperation.
- Transfer regional road map to country specific plan.

Leaders' support is required in the following areas:

- Continuous support to ensure health participation in Resilience discussion is required.
- Strengthen institutional preparedness for effective response in country or region by focusing on the development of contingency plan, business continuity plan and simulation exercises. Strengthen NDRT and RDRT for better regional cooperation, which includes training, deployment opportunities and related tools.
- ART should expand the area of work beyond HIV/AIDS. Since ART is beyond this region; it would be good to decide our involvement further in ART. Since NSs has to pay USD 1000 as membership fee for ART; good to review the effectiveness. Click to view [ART Annual meeting report of 2014](#).
- Continue to support new health initiatives like non-communicable diseases prevention, addressing climate risk in health, etc.
- Continue to encourage National Societies to share information on the institutionalization of (voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD).
- Foreign Medical Team (FMT) could be a tool of regional cooperation. Opportunities need to be explored to those NSs who have potentiality to send FMT.

Contact information

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