

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

**EVENT EVALUATION**

**Sub-National Dissemination Workshop on Disaster Management Law**



**National Society**

In 2015, a major milestone took place with the signing of a new national disaster management law in Cambodia. The adoption of the new law emphasized the country's commitment toward strengthening and regulating disaster risk management across its territory. The new law contains a chapter on international assistance and cooperation, based on recommendations contained in the 'Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance' (also known as the 'IDRL Guidelines'), as recommended by Cambodia Red Cross and IFRC. This includes a commitment that the state will bear all taxes and duties imposed on humanitarian assistance in an emergency, and provides for the granting of special visas for the entry of relief personnel. In addition to a strong focus on response, the law calls for the integration of disaster risk reduction measures into development planning, and mandates Cambodia's National Committee for Disaster Management to issue guidelines on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Cambodia now joins the ranks of fellow countries in the region that have developed national disaster management laws.

Cambodia Red Cross is partnering with the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) to support the implementation and dissemination of the new law, in their role as auxiliary to the national authorities in the humanitarian field. CRC and NCDM held a joint national level dissemination, and are planning a series of joint sub-national dissemination workshops to familiarise key stakeholders with the main components of the new law, and what this means for disaster management in Cambodia.

## Objectives

The National Dissemination Workshop, and subsequent sub-national dissemination workshops is seeking to strengthen public awareness on the new disaster management law and increase understanding and cooperation in the implementation of the law and its relevant components. This includes implementation and cooperation in relation to risk reduction (also in accordance with Cambodia's National Strategic Plan for DRR), preparedness for response and recovery as well as the awareness on climate change adaptation at national and sub-national levels. The dissemination workshops will familiarize participants with the most relevant components of the 2015 Disaster Management Law, especially with regard to roles, rights and responsibilities. The dissemination will also serve to reinforce and highlight the role of Cambodia Red Cross as a key community-based actor and partner of NCDM and the PCDMs. Furthermore, there is a strong interest from INGOs working in the country for a systematic training package which they could utilize in their own dissemination. CRC has consented to share materials with JAG/HRF for their use, which further solidifies CRC's key value add in Disaster Law and dissemination. The dissemination process has included one event at the national level and will contain three at the sub-national level.

## Expected result and measurements for success

The National Workshop and subsequent sub-national workshops are expected to:

- Promote how the importance of the Disaster Management Law and how it can support the emergency services, the Cambodian Red Cross, humanitarian agencies and the communities that they serve.
- Strengthen relations between government institutions, UN agencies, Cambodian Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies.
- Promote and raise awareness of the Disaster Management Law to key focal persons at national, provincial and Red Cross branches to carry out relief operations on time, and to improve accountability and effectiveness.
- To highlight links between the disaster management law and the national strategy for disaster risk reduction

## Activities and Achievements of the Sub-National Dissemination Workshop on Disaster Management Law

Process:

The workshop was conducted into 3 sub-national levels within 25 Cambodian Red Cross provincial branches. There were 1 branch staff and 4 sub-branch staff (sub-branch staff and member of District Disaster Management Committee) participants from each branch to participate in this workshop.

❖ Date and Venue and participants

No	Date	Venue	Participants			From province
			M	F	TOT	
1	12 July 2017	Pursat Provincial branch Red Cross	31	11	42	Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Pailin, Banteay Mean Chey, Battambang, Oddor Mean Chey, Siem Reap and Phnom Penh
2	26 July 2017	Diamond Hotel, Kampot province	33	17	50	Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Takeo, Kep, Kandal, Kampong Speu, Prey Veng, Kampot and Svay Rieng
3	10 August 2017	Ly Cheu Hotel, Kratie province	33	12	45	Kratie, Tbong Khmum, Rattanakiri, Mondulkiri, Stung Treng, Preah Vihear, Kampong Cham and Kampong Thom

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>137</b>	
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#### ❖ Facilitators:

This workshop conducted under co-facilitated between National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) and Cambodian Red Cross (CRC):

- H.E Khun Sokha, Consultant and Director of Training and Preparedness Department, NCDM
- Dr Uy Sam Onn, Deputy Director of Disaster Management Department, CRC
- Ms. Yin Bunsopheaktra, Head Unit of Disaster Preparedness, CRC

#### ❖ Content and methodology

The **workshop** included a mix of **brainstorming, plenary discussion**, presentations, **scenario**, group discussions, exchanges among participants based on knowledge gained **and experience in cycle of disaster management in each province. Please see agenda in annex 1.**

Presentations

### 1. NCDM: Law on Disaster Management

H.E Khun Sokhha, Consultant and Director of Training and Preparedness Department of NCDM presented an overview of process in developing the Law on Disaster Management, and let the participants look through the whole DM law for 20 minutes and ask them to highlight on articles that they things important and need to clarified. Then the facilitator presented each article in the law especially the article in chapter 2 to 9.

### 2. CRC: *Know your Rights, Roles and Responsibilities in Disaster Risk Management*

The facilitator presented the overview of rights, roles and responsibilities in disaster risk management. We know that a law is only as good as it is understood and implemented. We recognise that all government departments should know the DM law, and that a solid understanding of roles and responsibilities across NCDM and down to sub-national and community disaster management committees is crucial to ensure disaster risk is effectively prevented, mitigated, responded to and recovered from.

It is equally important that community members understand their roles and responsibilities within disaster management, and how the law might affect them. Therefore all Cambodia people should know their rights, roles and responsibilities and how they can contribute to effective and efficient disaster management.

If disaster occurs the people in communities are not the ones most affected but also the first responder in disaster. It is important that people not only are aware of what the law provides for them (which echoes the rights enshrined in the Constitution) but also HOW they can become more involved and engaged in their local disaster management. We have highlight the communication way which is important that sub-national committees for disaster management keep the communities they serve informed and increase their capacities to identify risks, undertake DRR and preparedness activities, how to respond to and importantly, how to recover when their communities have been affected by a disaster.

### 3. Walk through scenario

In this section the facilitator divide the participants into 5 groups and have one person in each group to read this scenario that relates to common natural hazards and disaster risks that often impact Cambodia. In this instance we are using the example of flooding occurring across several provinces. It looks at an ideal scenario and the application of the 2015 law and let them to discuss on following question:

1. In your experience, is this what happens during a disaster? What is your experience? Discuss each stage of the disaster management cycle.
2. What do you think are the biggest challenges in a disaster response? Where in the disaster

management circle?

3. What can be improved in practice through the provisions of the law?
4. What do you think is needed for the scenario to happen as is described?
5. What can you do in your work to apply the law and improve disaster management?

Their reflection to the above questions:

1. In your experience, is this what happens during a disaster? What is your experience? Discuss each stage of the disaster management cycle.
  - Conduct assessment
  - Provide relief
  - Evacuate affected people to safe place
  - Awareness on hygiene, water sanitation...
  - Provide first aids
  - Mobilize, fund-raising
2. What do you think are the biggest challenges in a disaster response? Where in the disaster management circle?
  - Resources (human and fund ) is limited
  - Have plan but not functioning or applicable
  - Outreach of early warning system is limited
  - Lack of coordination/collaboration/participation at sub- national ( lack of information sharing )
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3. What can be improved in practice through the provisions of the law?
  - Develop disaster risk reduction and mitigation plan with appropriate key indicators
  - Improve the early warning system to outreach to community level.
  - Enhance the coordination/collaboration
  - Capacity building
  - Resource mapping
4. What do you think is needed for the scenario to happen as is described?
  - No
5. What can you do in your work to apply the law and improve disaster management?
  - Continues to disseminate DML
  - Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) should be developed and test (simulation)

## Handouts

Materials developed for the sub-national level workshop includes:

- Presentation Law on Disaster Management
- Pamphlet: Cambodia Disaster Management Framework
- Pamphlet: Know your rights, roles and responsibilities in disaster management
- Walkthrough scenario visual
- Feedback form

All materials have been translated and are annexed to this report.

## Media Coverage

The workshop activities were broadcasted through the different channels namely CNC TV, Bayon TV, TVK, Hang Meas TV, Facebook, Koh Santepheap Newspaper and website and Cable TV Red Cross channels.

<https://kohsantepheapdaily.com.kh/article/167676.html>

## Government Involvement

The facilitators were invited from the National Committee for Disaster Management, to present the Law on

Disaster Management. Invite Provincial governor in opening remark.

**Partner Involvement**

N/A

**ASEAN Involvement:**

N/A

**Social Media**

Broadly public dissemination of this workshop activity through the two different of TV channels namely CNC TV and Cable TV Red Cross channels. The facilitators and participants posted the pictures of this workshop in their respective Facebook accounts and web-site of Cambodian Red Cross, [www.redcross.org.kh](http://www.redcross.org.kh), as well.

**Gender of Participants**

The total participants were 137 persons (40 females) which include from 25 Red Cross Branches staff and sub-branch officer.

**Other Information**

For coming to end-year 2017, the Cambodian Red Cross is expecting to get addition fund from RRI to continue to develop the Gender & Diversity refresher, G&D in VCA school based, .

**Photographs & Stories**

<http://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/2017/08/07/red-cross-equips-communities-law-empower-protect-disasters/>





### Feedback from participants

At closing, the participants were presented with feedback forms, seeking reflections on the workshop and whether it was meeting its objectives. Participants were satisfied with the workshop preparation and they stated that they have understand and know about the DML especially in chapter 7 (Roles and obligation) and chapter 8 (Legal penalties). They provided some comments that this law should continue to disseminate to government line, private sector, civil society and community.

Reporter:

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