

Disaster Law disseminations in Cambodia

Final Concept Note / Kuala Lumpur / December 2016

Background

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.

The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) is now looking to partners to support the implementation and dissemination of the new law, and Cambodia Red Cross will be working closely with NCDM as part of this process, in their role as auxiliary to the national authorities in the humanitarian sphere. Discussions have been underway between NCDM and CRC to hold a joint national level dissemination, and 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.

Purpose

The main purpose of the dissemination workshops will be to strengthen public awareness on the new disaster management law and strengthen understanding and cooperation in the implementation of the law and its relevant components, including 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 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 will include one event at the national level and three at the sub-national level.

Methodology / Programme

The dissemination workshops will run for one day each, and the agenda will be developed

according to the relevant components of the Disaster Management Law and areas outlined above. The dissemination sessions will be delivered by a facilitation team from NCDM, CRC and IFRC including through presentations and discussions, in an interactive and participatory manner. CRC, with support from IFRC, will develop a dissemination package, to be shared with NCDM and NGO consortium JAG/HRF. The exact agenda for the dissemination workshops is yet to be determined.

The CRC DM and Communications teams, with support from IFRC, will develop an appropriate media and social media plan for the dissemination, including featuring dissemination materials on the 30 min TV show that is broadcast to 23 provinces, the CRC Minute that is broadcast in 2 provinces, as well as featuring the materials on both the website and Facebook.

Desired outcomes

The desired outcomes of the disseminations are 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.

Timing and Location

The draft dissemination package will be shared for input from relevant stakeholders, including NCDM and JAG/HRF by the end of December 2016.

The National dissemination event is scheduled for last week of January and will seek attendance from multiple stakeholders, including government, Red Cross, UN agencies (specifically UNDP) I/NGOs, academia and civil society, and will be facilitated by CRC and NCDM. This event will also present 'next steps, looking forward' and the launch of the report outlining recommendations for the implementation of the DM Act, together with UNDP. Prior to the national dissemination event IFRC will provide a 'training of trainers' for CRC, NCDM and JAG/HRF members so that all stakeholders can undertake dissemination activities in the programming, beyond the scope of the national event and the three provinces.

The remaining three provincial disseminations in Kratie, Kampong Cham and Pursat Provinces are scheduled for February and March 2017.

Participants

Participants to attend the national dissemination workshop:

- CRC/HQ staff, 25 Red Cross branches directors, NCDM, 15 provincial focal persons from provincial committee for disaster management and other stakeholders including humanitarian organizations and academia (total approx. 50 people).

Participants to attend the sub-national dissemination workshops:

- CRC Branches staff, sub-branches staff, district and commune committee for disaster management (total approx. 40 members in each workshop).

Note that participants from relevant partner organizations e.g. civil society, NGOs, international organizations (e.g. UN) and the media for will be invited to attend as relevant for the sub-national dissemination.

Budget

Description	Location	Budget	Proposed Time frame
DML printing	Phnom Penh	3,000.00 USD	Oct - Nov 2016
National workshop	Phnom Penh	4,027.50 USD	Nov - Dec 2016
Sub- national	Kratie Province	4,315.50 USD	Jan - 2017
Sub-national	Kampong.Cham Province	4,315.50 USD	Feb - 2017
Sub –national	Pursat	4,315.50 USD	March - 2017
Total		19,974.00 USD	

Resources

For more information and resources on disaster law, visit: www.ifrc.org/dl and www.drr-law.org

Contact information

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