Thai Red Cross Society Working towards School Safety

The Thai Red Cross Society was established in 1893. It provides services in four core areas of work: medical and healthcare services, disaster preparedness and response, blood transfusion services as well as the promotion of quality of life for vulnerable people. The Thai Red Cross Society provides these services through a network of 76 provincial chapter offices and 77,000 Red Cross Youth Club members.



The Thai Red Cross Society has a strong partnership with the Ministry of Education, including through the Office of Non-Formal and Informal Education, the Office of Basic Education Commission, and the Bureau for the Scout Movement, Red Cross Youth and Student Affairs. It has also signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with nine ministries related to its Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) initiatives, which include school-based interventions. Furthermore, it works alongside the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation in both disaster preparedness and response activities, including awareness campaigns targeting youth. The Thai Red Cross Society is also a member of the Thailand Safe School Network (TSSN) led by World Vision which provides an opportunity for coordination, information-sharing and joint technical support to eduction authorities in the country.

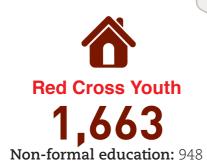
In its engagement with schools, Thai Red Cross Youth Bureau established 1,663 youth clubs in schools throughout the country. The Thai Red Cross Society contributes to the three pillars of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework, with a key focus on disaster preparedness, first aid, health and personal hygiene as well as awareness campaigns, simulation exercises, and water and sanitation activities in partnership with the private sector.





Outreach





Non-formal education: 948 High school: 536 Vocational and university: 87 Others: 92

Water and sanitation interventions Water and sanitation system established in school accompanied by the promotion of good hygiene practices.



Establishment of School Disaster committee and activities

Students showing the school's evacuation routes as a part of a school safety plan in Angthong, Nakornayok and Singburi provinces.



Simulation Evacuation exercise Training on evacuation drills in schools.

Safe Learning Facilities

School retrofitting Water and sanitation interventions

School Disaster Management

School safety plan Simulation exercises Training on Search and Rescue/Evacuation First Aid training



Risk Reduction and Resilience Education

Awareness sessions for student Dissemination of awareness-raising materials Organization of campaigns



First Aid training Students and teachers learn first aid as a key component of disaster preparedness.

NEWGEN



Joint activities with scout clubs and environment clubs for the School Garden Campaign

Thai Red Cross Youth established a food growing project as part of their school's development plan.



Awareness sessions Peer-to-peer sharing about disaster risk reduction and awareness. "In Thongphapoom in Kanchanaburi Province, the Kurusapa School is one of the schools implementing a community-based disaster risk reduction project. It has been implementing the activity since 2007, and in 2015 participated in a one-day disaster awareness raising training for students. Since then, the school has been consistently organizing simulation exercises held annually on 22 July."

Relief and Community Health Bureau. The Thai Red Cross Society.

Challenges

Tight academic schedule and workload for teachers and students, so there is the constraint to direct access to all school.

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Although the implementation of school safety activities should follow the school year, this is not always possible due to the schedules of project-based funding.

Ways forward

Continue implementing school safety initiatives in close collaboration with related ministries and key partners at the provincial level, as well as school authorities.

Enhance assessments in schools to design appropriate interventions.

- Consider the school's timeline when planning the school satefy interventions.
- Continuing internal collaboration between the Relief and Community Health Bureau (RCHB) and Youth Bureau of the Thai Red Cross Society to enable better access and services related to school safety interventions.

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