

ASEAN CONSULTATION MEETING

RESEARCH RESULTS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER DISASTERS IN ASEAN COUNTRIES

Hotel Grand Kemang, Jakarta – 2-3 May 2018

*Opening Speech by Mr Vilayphong Sisomvang,
Deputy Director General, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Lao PDR
representing ASEAN Disaster Management Committee Working Group on Prevention and
Mitigation*

Dear...

- Representatives from ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre, in particular:
 - o Members from the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) - Working Group on Prevention and Mitigation;
 - o ASEAN Committee for Women (ACW);
 - o ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women and Childrens' Rights (ACWC);
- Ms Sharon Armstrong, Development Assistance Director, Embassy of Canada
- Mr Giorgio Ferrario, Head of Country Cluster Support Team and Representative to ASEAN of IFRC
- Representatives Philippines Red Cross; Palang Merah Indonesia; Lao Red Cross
- Colleagues from IFRC and ICRC
- Technical partners

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. A warm welcome to all participant in this consultation meeting, a key milestone in the research ACDM and IFRC embarked on a year ago, focusing on gender-based violence prevention and response before, during and after disasters in ASEAN countries.
2. I would like to start by congratulating the three ASEAN countries who worked on the research to date (Indonesia, Lao PDR and the Philippines) with support by their National Societies and in collaboration with local and national authorities, as well as relevant

technical partners. We look forward for the other countries to undertake the research in the next future and invite partners to support this ASEAN / IFRC initiative.

3. This research was designed and conducted as a contribution to the AADMER work programme 2016-2020, namely its priority programme 4 (Protect). As such, the ACDM Prevention and Mitigation Working Group, co-chaired by Lao PDR and Thailand, received regular updates on the implementation progress.
4. In the three countries where the research was conducted, the results show an increase of sexual and gender-based violence in disaster situations. The evidence shows that this increase is irrespective of the scale of the disaster, the environment where it takes place, and the degree of advance of the DM capacity. As such, the issues covered are relevant to all of us in particular for National Disaster Management Organizations.
5. Also, the research shows that such occurrence of SGBV is not only the fact of disaster situations, rather it is rooted in non-disaster pre-existing and prevailing conditions related to general gender equality and protection. We welcome therefore this consultation meeting as a cross-sectoral initiative with the ASEAN Committee for Women as well as the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women and Childrens' Rights. We hope that, through this consultation, we will be able to share our respective expertise, learn from each other and identify concrete recommendations for the way forward.
6. Let me recall that from a Disaster Management and Emergency Response point of view, there is a need not only to provide material and life-saving support to all affected in the communities based on their needs, but also to protect all affected communities from further harm. To achieve this, cooperation is key at all levels: in communities, among local authorities, at national level and in ASEAN.
7. As policy-makers, we need to reflect in the two coming days on how we can integrate the learning from this study in our existing laws, policies and guidelines, in particular the AADMER Work Programme, the Regional Guidelines on Social Protection or the Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (to name a few).
8. In Manila at the 31th ASEAN Summit, our Leaders adopted the *ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society*". The Culture of Prevention represents a paradigm shift, especially in enabling ASEAN to comprehensively respond to challenges that hamper sustainable development in our region, addressing underlying root causes of social issues. It is my hope that – through this consultation meeting – we will be able to contribute to this ambitious vision.
9. At this point, I would like to extend our gratitude for our Dialogue Partners and other donors who made this research as well as this meeting possible, including Australia and Canada, as well as the Australian RC, the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and

the Finnish Red Cross. This support was coordinated with us through the IFRC who also provided technical expertise for this research.

10. I would like to conclude by thanking all our participants for accepting our invitation to join this consultation, and wishing everyone a very fruitful meeting.