

**Regional Resilience Initiative (RRI) Steering Committee Meeting**

16 May 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand  
**Minute of Meeting**



**Venue:** International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Country Cluster Support Team (CCST),  
Bangkok, Thailand

**Chair:** Mr. Marwan Jilani, Head of Bangkok Country Cluster Support Team, IFRC

## Introduction

Mr Marwan Jilani introduced the participants and the meeting agenda. He explained the objective of the annual Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting which is designed by the project as an instrument to review the progress of the programme's activities, as well as to adopt year 5 annual workplan (AWP5). He referred to the *Summative Evaluation Report* which has been commissioned by the Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the *RRI Baseline Endline Study* commissioned by the Canadian Red Cross (CRC), both of which had been shared with the meeting participants.

He highlighted RRI achievements in supporting the 11 Southeast Asian (SEA) countries through their respective National Societies, as well as the work of IFRC at regional level. Mr Jilani cited following examples in relation to these achievements by RRI.

- The recognition of IFRC, as well as RRI, as an agent that supports and promotes the integration of Gender and Diversity (G&D) into policies and tools of the National Societies, AHA Centre training programmes, as well as in the considerations related to the AADMER (ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response). RRI is keen to build on this success in the next few months. It has introduced to the AHA Centre the concept of "Women Leadership in Humanitarian Actions" and now has strong recommendations under the "Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) research" which can be integrated into its ACE and ERAT Programmes. RRI will offer to help review the policies and tools of AHA Center and ASEAN to ensure integration of G&D, including during the AADMER midterm review. However, he acknowledged AHA Centre's possible needs for continued support beyond the life of the project which will need to be addressed.
- RRI's unique role in contributing to strengthening the network of the National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies at national and local levels in relation to disaster risk reduction advocacy.
- Recognition of IFRC role as one of the leading agencies around helping states and the National Societies on Disaster Law, ensuring the Disaster Law within the ASEAN region integrates the aspect of G&D and be inclusive of all actors in humanitarian sector.

## Initial remarks from the partners

**Lt Gen. Dr Amnat Barlee (Thai Red Cross Society - TRCS)** thanked GAC and CRC for the support to TRCS. He talked about TRCS engagement in the activities supported by RRI, namely, the CSR Forum (Community Safety and Resilience Forum), which has worked closely with ASEAN, as well as the Lao-Thai Border collaboration with the Lao Red Cross (LRC). The latter activity has seen TRCS and LRC working together in various areas. TRCS has sent its team to support the emergency response in Lao PDR and has provided trainings to the LRC staff. Dr. Barlee added that the success of the peer-to-peer collaboration between TRCS and LRC can be replicated for the case of Thailand-Myanmar and Thailand- Cambodia. He informed

the meeting about the upcoming cross-border meeting between TRCS and LRC which will take place at the end of May with the support from RRI.

**Mr Douglas MacDonald (CRC)** began his remarks by recognizing the fact that this was the last AWP meeting to reflect on the conclusion and the success of the programme, particularly looking at the two evaluations of the programme. He highlighted the success factors of RRI, including the overall design of the programme as well as the strong engagement by the 11 National Societies. Mr MacDonald also acknowledged the volume of communications among project stakeholders which indicates the level of commitment, engagement, and professionalism by all people involved in the programme. He then thanked GAC for recognizing and making the final evaluation possible, noting that the strong evaluation at the last period would define the success of the programme.

**Ms Shawna Godbold (GAC)** updated about GAC and Canada's new Feminist International Assistance Policies. She also shared with the meeting that the management of the ASEAN regional development program will start to be handled directly from the Headquarters in Canada in the coming months. She also mentioned the arrival of a new Ambassador of the Mission of Canada to ASEAN. Such changes will not impact on the way the RRI is being managed at present.

Regarding the Feminist International Assistance Policies (FIAP), Ms. Godbold mentioned that the policies aim to eradicate poverty and to build more peaceful and inclusive world through promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. The policies are delivered through six action areas: 1) gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (this is where initiatives to reduce SGBV can be conducted); 2) human dignity; 3) growth that works for everyone; 4) environment and climate action; 5) inclusive governance; and 6) peace and security. Ms. Godbold added that RRI is regarded as being aligned with FIAP as proven by its strong gender and diversity results. She acknowledged RRI success in G&D work which was highlighted in the Summative Evaluation Report.

Finally, Ms. Godbold emphasized the need to strengthen the results that RRI has achieved to ensure their sustainability. In terms of project management, she also highlighted the importance of accurate financial forecasting and disbursement report, and encouraged RRI to display its good value-for-money, as well as results from the National Societies.

#### **Overview of project achievements toward outcome during the fourth annual work plan (AWP3)**

**1) Ms. Priyanka Bhalla, Gender-based Violence Advisor from the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office** provided an update on the SGBV research with ASEAN.

### Background:

A collaboration with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, the research began in 2017 and took place in Lao PDR, Indonesia, and the Philippines which offer different contexts and scales of disasters. The objective of the research is to understand how SGBV affects the women, boys, and girls in the disaster-affected ASEAN countries, to map the essential SGBV response and to collect best practices that occurred during disasters. The research methodology was a mix between household surveys, focus group discussions with people affected by disaster, and key informant interviews with stakeholders from different sectors.

### Process:

Each National Society was approached individually and made aware of the issue of SGBV during disasters. Relevant departments of the national government then provided assistance to the research team in determining the types of disaster and the areas where the research would be conducted.

An 8-day training on SGBV was conducted for the in-country researchers on data collection techniques. Following the data collection, psychosocial debrief and a lesson-learned workshop were held.

### Results:

In all countries, early marriage and domestic violence were identified as harmful incidents that surge after disasters. There have also been cases of child sexual abuse. Therefore, it was recommended that child protection and school safety mechanisms be strengthened.

The women in all three countries felt that there is a need for support groups to be established at a community level, while the men expressed the need for a safe space where issues can be discussed openly. Many people urged for strong legal awareness with regard to SGBV. Ms. Bhalla also reported about the findings from individual countries.

Ms. Bhalla also reported about the ASEAN consultation meeting on the SGBV research which took place during 2-3 May 2018 where representatives from ASEAN bodies, PNSs, and other agencies such as GAC, UNOCHA, UN Women, and Oxfam were present. The meeting discussed how the research recommendations can be taken forward. One of the main recommendations made from the consultation was to continue the research in more of the ASEAN countries as well as to integrate the research recommendations into the regional social protection guidelines. At the meeting, representatives from the ASEAN bodies also discussed strengthening the coordination among themselves.

In addition, the meeting discussed engaging ACDM in the regional plan of action on the elimination of violence against women and mainstreaming SGBV into the national action plans. It also talked about partnership with the AHA Centre on its existing trainings and projects such as the ERAT and ACE Programme.

Next steps:

- At the next ACDM meeting, RRI team will present the outcome of the SGBV research
- To continue the research in Cambodia and Vietnam during the second phase of the research
- To come up with lessons learned which can be applied to the rest of the disaster-affected ASEAN countries.

2) **Mr. Mark Shepherd, External Consultant**, presented on the RRI Baseline-Endline Study

The presentation (available [online](#)) touched on the objective and approaches of the study. It also presented the main findings per RRI's outcomes, overall conclusion, and recommendations.

Discussions on the study:

Mr. MacDonald commented that the recommendations made as a result of the study could be applied to the programming of future regional programmes developed in collaboration with CRC.

Ms. Tulus discussed about the point raised in the presentation regarding the limitation of the quantitative indicators. In this regard, Mr. Shepherd responded that quantitative indicators are helpful for the National Societies' ground-level work as they are more readily use. The quantitative data can then be translated into qualitative data the same way that the 16 case studies were developed for RRI. He also recommended that the process of data collection be built into the design of future programmes in order to ensure smooth M&E process.

**Ms Connie Tulus, Senior Development Officer, ASEAN Regional Development Program (GAC)** updated the meeting about the Summative Evaluation Report. She reiterated the desire for the evaluation report to be useful to both GAC and IFRC. She shared with the meeting the status of the evaluation report which was in its second draft, and requested for comments, if any. The third draft is expected to be the final draft. The external evaluator is expected to present on the evaluation and the program's lesson learned on 28 June 2018 where other GAC project managers will also be invited to join.

**Presentation of the fifth Annual Work Plan (AWP5)**

The [presentation](#) was delivered by **Mr Herve Gazeau**. It featured the planning process for AWP5 and key highlights from AWP5. Since the actual plan was submitted to GAC in early May 2018 and had already received technical comments, it was not deemed necessary to present each component in detail, but rather to focus on the pending questions from GAC. Ms. Deborah Cote added in the presentation that RRI will be invited to present the lessons learned to CRC in Canada tentatively in September of October 2018.

Comments on the Disaster Law Academic Seminar:



Ms. Cote added that the seminar had been listed among the programme's ultimate output, and is being made possible by the extension. It has been the preference to engage academia and other organizations in building a greater momentum to help people understand the importance of International Disaster Response Laws, Rules, and Principles (IDRL).

#### Comments on Activities Planned Beyond September 2018:

Ms. Tulus requested for an email providing a list of those activities as well as the rationales in order to secure a written approval from GAC.

#### Discussion on Sharing of RRI Lessons Learned to CRC:

- Ms. Tulus requested that the activity be clearly mentioned in the email to clarify that it is different from the Lessons Learned Workshop in February 2018, and that there is no replication of activities.
- Mr MacDonald explained that the sharing of RRI Learnings will help other programmes to "multiply the existing reach", by engaging in a discussion about how to ensure that the "good value for money" results, e.g. the platform of networks and political connection with ASEAN, can be continued over time, especially in relation to GAC priorities and the needs in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Follow the points raised by Mr MacDonald, Ms. Godbold suggested the possibility organizing a brown bag session with GAC officers in charge of different regions as a useful way to disseminate and share RRI results.
- Ms. Cote also mentioned that Canadian RC would be developing an unsolicited proposal to GAC building on RRI successes and lessons learnt
- Ms. Godbold cautioned about GAC limited budget in 2018, but encouraged to explore funding possibility for this in the following year.

#### **AOB**

#### Discussion on Capturing Programme's Success and Sustainability:

As the programme is entering its last year, Ms. Tulus reiterated the importance of capturing the programme's value-for-money as well as the sustainability of its results under the three immediate outcomes in the next reporting, particularly the outcome on integrating gender equality into national and regional DRR policies and programs (eg. by highlighting the creation of the G&D network) and the outcome on enhanced regional cooperation (eg. by highlighting the MoU between IFRC and ASEAN).

In this connection, Mr MacDonald suggested that the above reporting could be included in the presentation in the Fall presentation.

Mr Jilani added that maintaining and engaging with leaders is key to build on the momentum of the networks and the relationship with ASEAN. He cited an example of the Southeast Asian Red Cross Red

Crescent Leadership Meeting which was originally supported by RRI, but is now continuing on its own as the leaders began to see the value and take ownership of the activity.

#### Endorsement of AWP5

The AWP5 was endorsed by IFRC and CRC, pending an email from IFRC to justify the activities planned beyond September 2018.

#### **Annexes:**

1. List of participants
2. Agenda
3. Presentations (online [here](#))
4. AWP5 (online [here](#))

## Annex 1

Participants	
Ms. Shawna Godbold	Deputy Director of Indonesia and ASEAN Programs, Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
Ms. Connie Tulus	Senior Development Officer, ASEAN Regional Development Program, Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
Ms. Pattama Vongratanavichit	Senior Development Officer, Embassy of Canada, Thailand
Mr Douglas MacDonald	Head of Region Asia, Canadian Red Cross (CRC)
Ms. Deborah Cote	Program Manager Asia, International Operations, Canadian Red Cross (CRC)
Lt. Gen. Dr. Amnat Barlee	Director of Relief and Community Health Bureau, Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS)
Mr. Marwan Jilani	Head of Bangkok Country Cluster Support Team (CCST), IFRC
Mr. Herve Gazeau	DRR Manager, IFRC
Ms. Warongrong Tatrakom	DRR Project Officer, IFRC
Ms. Runjini Raman	Protection, Gender and Inclusion Officer, IFRC
Ms. Tiamkare Thitithamtada	Communications and Reporting Officer, IFRC



## **Annex 2**

### **AGENDA**

**13.30 Introductions and presentation of the agenda (Chair)**

**13.35 Initial remarks from the partners (3-5mn each)**

- CSR Forum Chair
- Global Affairs Canada
- Canadian RC

**13.50 Update on project achievements towards outcomes**

- Screening of community voices videos produced by RRI
- Focus on the SGBV research with ASEAN
- Presentation of the endline study findings & recommendations
- Update on the summative evaluation process
- Presentation of the Resilience Library
- Discussion

**14.45 Presentation of Annual Work Plan 5**

- Presentation
- Discussion and amendments / endorsement

**15.45 Any other business**

**16.00 Final remarks and considerations/approval**