**Summary Report on the *“Regional Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Early Warning and Early Action (EWEA)”,* 26-29 March, Bangkok**

**Summary:**

South-East Asia is one of the most disaster-prone regions in Asia and the Pacific. The Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam and the International Federation have been making – through various risk reduction and preparedness programme initiatives – significant contribution in reducing the vulnerability of people living in some of the most hazard-prone areas in their respective countries. These initiatives are very much in line with the International Federation’s global strategy of reducing disaster risk through strengthening the preparedness and capacities of communities so that they are in a better position to respond when a hazard occurs; promoting activities and actions that mitigate the adverse effects of hazards; and protecting development projects such as health facilities from the impact of disasters.

The impact of climate change; such as increase in temperature, increased frequency of high precipitation in SEA, risk of increase in the number and intensity of strong cyclones and sea-level rise, coupled with coastal storms, storm surge, river flooding; is already being observed and felt. More heat waves will increase the number of deaths particularly among vulnerable group of population such as elderly and children. Increased drought in SEA will likely further damage to crops or reduced yields due to land degradation effecting the populations dependent on subsistence agriculture, through food and water shortage and higher incidence of malnutrition, water-borne and food-borne diseases, and may lead to displacements of populations.

 Increased frequency of high precipitation and in SEA will trigger floods and landslides, with potentially a large scale of losses of life and assets. These events will disrupt agriculture, settlements, commerce and transport and may further increase pressures on urban and rural infrastructure. Increases in the number and intensity of very strong cyclones (typhoons and hurricanes) along with sea level rise will affect coastal regions, with potentially large additional losses of lives, livelihoods and assets.

Considering these facts, SEARD has been considering the DRR, CCA and EWEA as important components to be integrated further into programming of NSs as per the dialogue with NSs during the different forums since last couples of year. “Preparedness for Climate Change” from the period of 2007-2011 in Lao Red Cross, Philippine Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, Timor Leste and Myanmar Red Cross Society was just one example of efforts for the SEARD to enhance the overall understanding of climate change consequences and potential measures to incorporate adaptation agendas along with ongoing activities at communities’ level. There are already series of activities being implemented at community level through our National societies of the region to incorporating CCA into ongoing activities at NS level considering overall aspects of risk reduction that includes livelihood, health, mitigation and preparedness. The Red Cross Red Crescent focuses on reducing risk since long back including climate change adaptation(CCA) and Early warning Early action(EWEA), whether this has been in the form of good disaster preparedness, strengthened health infrastructure, community-based initiatives focusing on preparedness, hazard mitigation measures, awareness raising and EWEA etc. contributing to development goals.

To continue contributing to these efforts, SEARD organized a three and half day workshop on Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Early Warning Early Action from 26 May to 29 May, 2013 in Bangkok. Total 27 people participated from 10 National Societies (Except- Singapore Red Cross) from Southeast Asia and 4 participants from metrological department of 4 countries (Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar and Indonesia). The workshop concentrated on how to implement 'climate-smart' disaster risk reduction and general integration of climate change aspects into National Society programming and humanitarian diplomacy/advocacy. Workshop was conducted in English. The workshop was designed to promote a participatory approach through exchange of knowledge and information among national societies. Emphasis was put on awareness generating sessions with minimal "lecture-type" sessions, but more focus on group discussion, case studies, participatory games, films, and structured exercises. The group discussions and case studies exercises extended an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences among the participants as well as simulate them to reflect upon their real life experiences and also come up with new ideas and approaches in climate-smart DRR and EWEA measures.

The workshop was organized in coordination with Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre. Selected parts of the training modules ("Climate Training Kit) of the RCRC Climate Centre, which were tested in South Asia in 2012, were used for the workshop to enhance the skills and knowledge of the participants as well as promote CCA concept into DRR along with EWEA at National Society level. The following were the specific objectives of the workshop:-

* To further enhance the knowledge of the participants on climate related hazards and overall consequences as well measures to reduce the impact.
* To strengthen the participants existing capacity on DRR and EWEA in relation to changing risk patterns induce by climate change and variability.

**Agenda:**

The three and half day’s workshop focused the following modules:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day 1**  | **Day 2**  | **Day 3**  | **Day 4**  |
| **Welcome** | **Basic Facts of CC** |  |  |
|  |  Basic Introduction to Climate Change, incl.* Climate change science
* "mitigation/adaptation"
* Commitments/roles of Movement
 | Climate Change in DM/DRR programming – a brief introductionDRR & CCA in community work: similarities & differences |  Q&A – feedback on questions/issues from "parking lot"  |
| National policy dialogues and long-term funding opportunities for NS* Intro on 'Preparing NS for CC'
* National climate risk assessments
 |
|  |  | **Tea/Coffee break** |  |
|  |  Climate trends and projectionswhat are the facts in Southeast Asia, and what are adaptation options and plansEarly warning --> Early Action: Using information on different time scales (incl. La Niña/ El Niño)**Movie**: Movement experiences from West Africa | Participatory game: "Humans versus Mosquitoes"Climate Change and health |  Where to from here? Quick self-assessment exercise on opportunities based on " Six good entry points for considering climate change in National Society programmes"  |
|  |  | **LUNCH** |  |
| Workshop openingIntroduction of Participants, incl. exercise on “background” | Participatory **game:** "Paying for Predictions - Early Action"  |  Addressing community climate risk: incorporating CC in participatory tools (VCA/CBHFA), incl. a tools exercise | Group work: How to strengthen collaboration between National Societies and Government, incl. meteorological services? |
|  |  | **Tea/coffee break** |  |
| Participants’ experiences – and leveling expectationsIntroducing the *Climate Training Kit*: a resource pool for facilitators |  Exercise in early warning – early action: different timescales | CCA integration in "community risk reduction plans" – exercises | Discussion and wrap-up: how could these training sessions be applied in your own NS? |
| Planning for next 3 days Q&A / parking lot! | Wrap-up day 1 + Q&A | Wrap-up day 2 + Q&A  | Evaluation and closing session |
| **Movie**: *An inconvenient truth* + *discussions* | **Demystifying forecasts**: *IFRC-IRI website browsing exercise* (bring your laptop!) |  |  |

**Participant’s expectations:**

 As usual, this workshop also collected the expectations of the participants before the sessions which are given below:

* To share information and experience from each other (National Societies and Metrological department)
* Linkage between early warning and early action
* How to link climate change adaptation activities with regular Red Cross program
* How to build early warning capacities at community level
* Enhance knowledge on Climate change adaptation and early warning system
* Lesson learnt of National Societies on Climate Change Adaptation
* Practical idea to enhance community knowledge on climate change
* Practical way to communicate scientific climate information to community
* Information dissemination using basic technology
* Adaptation strategies on climate change
* How to enhance capacity of Red Cross branches and sub branches on climate change

**Evaluation:**

Daily evaluation was carried out to streamline the entire workshop to meet the expectations of participants. At the end of workshop, evaluation session was conducted and following points were highlighted by participants as the best aspect of the workshop and to be improved further, which are illustrated below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The best aspects of workshop** | **This workshop could be improved by** |
| * Idea to build on current program to make it climate smart
* How DRR and CCA is related
* Adequate group discussion
* Using game to explain importance of forecasting
* Learning from other national societies
 | * Emphasis on communication for CCA
* Time a bit less need to hurry
* Basic definition should be provided before the workshop
* Field visit must be one of the part of the workshop
 |

**Attached:**

Annex 1: Process report

Annex 2: Participant List

Annex 3: **Group Work:** Diarrhoea outbreak prevention – timescale (**session 9**: **Climate Change and health- ref: Process report)**

Annex 4: **Group work:** Climate smart risk reduction Village plan of three village( **Session 11:** **Climate Change Adaptation integration in "community risk reduction plans"- ref: Process report)**

Annex 5: Six entry points

Annex 6: **Group work:** “Group dating”: Red Cross + Metrological departments (**Session 13: Strengthen collaboration between National Societies and Government- ref: Process report)**