



Building safer and more resilient communities
in Southeast Asia

IFRC- South East Asia Regional Project

Focus countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Timor Leste and Viet Nam (Myanmar and Thailand).

Operational timeframe: 15 Sept 2008 – 14 January 2010

The project consists of 6 major results:

1. Development of standardized DRR framework:

The Framework leads national societies to find answers to the question of “*why DRR and how to work together to scale up DRR activities in the region*” using the existing network of RDMC together with key partners and donors. The draft Framework outlines can be summarized as below:

- What is DRR and why DRR is needed for the Red Cross Red Crescent movement;
- Red Cross Red Crescent commitments to DRR;
- Hazard and vulnerability trends in the region;
- Where we are now in the region reflecting to the global framework for community safety and resilience
- How will we scale up to achieve the goal of building safer and more resilient communities in Southeast Asia

Four of six training courses/workshops for RCRC staff and volunteers on its use of the framework and DRR as a whole have been conducted in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philipines and Timor Leste.

2. Integrating DRR into informal education:

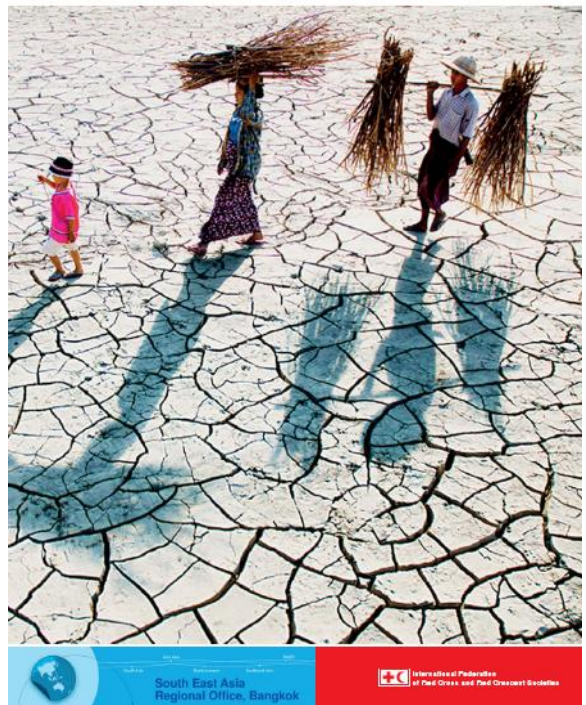
The priority of the guideline is to provide guidance to national societies on effectively engaging in informal disaster risk reduction (DRR) educational initiatives. The publication is meant, in relation to DRR and education, to promote relevant initiatives in the region, identify the current roles and responsibilities of the national society, and encourage the promotion of effective child and youth-centred DRR educational activities.

Guideline contributions:

- Contextualization of regional risk and DRR informal education
- Mapping of current roles and responsibilities of DRR and education actors
- Identification of relevant roles and responsibilities of national society from headquarters to community levels and Red Cross volunteers, including suggestions for future actions
- Discussion of background, drivers and challenges for effective DRR informal education initiatives
- Stories from the field: outcomes of field visits to national societies of Cambodia, Viet Nam and Indonesia
- Suggested actions for identified stages of involvement in DRR education, including understanding the DRR arena of each country, coordinating activities and partnerships, conducting capacity building and training exercises, identifying and implementing programme activities, promoting monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy and awareness-raising activities
- Guideline on how to promote effective youth participation
- Outlining, according to the priorities of the HFA, the role of national societies and examples of corresponding education and DRR activities
- Identification of key messages for national societies

Reducing the risks:

A framework for DRR in South-East Asia





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3. Improving Community based EWS by developing the regional guideline:

The guidelines provide guidance to the national societies on effectively enhancing early warning systems (EWS) in their respective countries, particularly at the community level. The publication is meant to identify the current roles and responsibilities of national societies at different levels, including volunteers, relating to EWS and identify ways in which these positions could be enhanced to promote the effectiveness of EWS. The guideline is also meant to promote EWS advocacy and awareness-raising; identify challenges and drivers for effective end-to-end EWS systems; and encourage the building of capacity for community-level EWS activities.

Guideline Contributions:

- Mapping of current roles and responsibilities of actors relating to EWS
- Identification of relevant roles and responsibilities of national societies at different levels and Red Cross volunteers, including suggestions for future actions
- Discussion of drivers and challenges for end-to-end EWS
- Stories from the field: outcomes of field visits to national societies of Cambodia, Viet Nam, Philippines and Indonesia
- Suggested actions for identified stages of involvement in EWS, including risk knowledge, monitoring and warning systems, dissemination and communication strategies, response capabilities and training, coordinating of efforts and partnerships, and conducting monitoring and evaluation, advocacy and awareness-raising activities
- Guideline on community-based EWS, including information on people-centred EWS systems, cross-cutting considerations, and involving actors from the community upwards and outwards
- Outlining, according to the priorities of the HFA, the role of national societies and examples of corresponding EWS activities
- Identification of key messages for national societies

The guideline will be in place by the end of this year

4. Improving VCA as community based planning tool

In consultation with national societies and the in-country Federation representation, the regional practical step-by-step VCA guidelines have been developed with the aim to help national society field practitioners have the same common approaches and apply this tool in community planning.

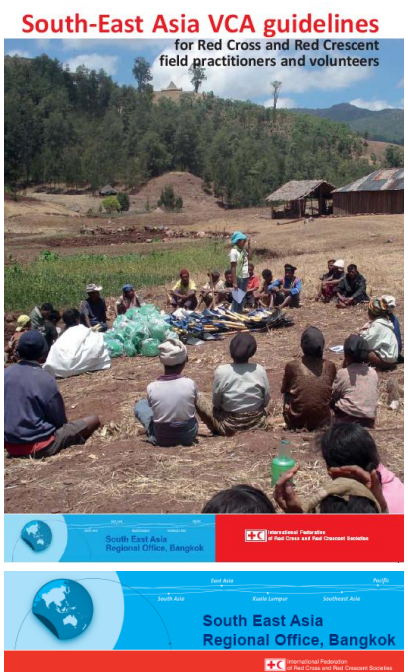
The guideline will be translated into some local languages of Khmer, Lao, Thai and Myanmar.

5. Strengthening coordination and networking

- Regional Disaster Management Committee network
- Promote NS to join National Platforms for DRR
- Exchange from NS to RDMU versus, NS to NS, NSs and RDMU to training events as part of capacity building
- RCRC with other stake-holders: governments; UNs, donors etc.

6. Case- studies and knowledge sharing

- Document good practices within and cross- regions and circulate to NSs for better programming and application
- A cross- regional and inter- agency DRR Practitioner workshop (SA, SEA, EA and the Pacific) hosted by SEA and jointly organized by IFRC and ADPC in Phuket, Thailand from 15- 17 September 2009.



Join the National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction

As you are probably aware, the UN created the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) in the General Assembly in June 2007. This decision was accompanied by strong calls to all governments to establish their own National Platforms for DRR.

Such platforms have now been created in 48 countries around the world, three of which are in South East Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines). Many more countries are in the process of creating National Platforms and it is important that national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies play an active part from the onset.

Most organisations involved in disaster risk reduction activities have repeatedly expressed a desire to have a mechanism through which they can exchange experience and access information from other stakeholders and these platforms will provide an opportunity to do exactly that.

Being a global initiative the National Platforms will also make it easier to obtain knowledge on how other countries have addressed particular challenges in disaster risk reduction and in their implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

What is a National Platform for DRR?

A National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction can be defined as a nationally owned and led forum or committee for advocacy, coordination, analysis and advice on disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Identify a National Platform in both on existing mechanisms and comprises the full range of stakeholders concerned with disaster risk reduction, harnessing their combined potential to build resilience to disaster.

Stakeholders include:

- Government (relevant line ministries and disaster management authorities),
- Non-governmental organisations,
- Academic and research institutions, professional associations,
- Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies,
- The private sector, and
- The media.



Dear colleagues,

"In recognition of the key role played by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction, and in the interests of long-term cooperation with other key players, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies calls upon your National Society to participate actively in the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in your country. This forum is an important tool in reinforcing the central objective of Disaster Risk Reduction actions to build safer and resilient communities"

- Alan Brinkley, Head of South East Asia Regional Office, Bangkok