**12th Annual South-East Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting 2015**

National Society Development

OD report / Cambodia / 25-27 February 2015

**Introduction**

IFRC’s approach to organisational development and capacity building is shifting. The two concepts are no longer regarded as isolated and stand-alone approaches. Instead they are increasingly viewed as critical to an integrated approach to support more effective national society programmes. Therefore, the approach is more integrated/holistic now which looks more broadly into the overall National Society development issues. National Society Development (NSD) therefore aims to achieve and maintain an organisation that consistently delivers country wide services to vulnerable people, through volunteers and staff, sustained for as long as needed and that contributes to the strength of IFRC and the Movement. National Society Development is primarily a responsibility of each sovereign National Society. Coordinated support is provided through region and the Country Delegations where present.

The National Society Development Frame[[1]](#footnote-1)work approved during the General assembly in Sydney in 2013 and also endorsed by ICRC at the Council of Delegate puts a strong emphasis on leaders role in decision making that shapes the future of their organizations. Several tools have been introduced to develop a Strong National Society such as Federation wide Databank and Reporting System (FDRS),: Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) , Red Cross and Red Crescent learning platform**,** Bridging the Digital Divide (DDI) etc. It is encouraging to witness that the National Society Development Framework is being utilized by an increasing number of SEA NS as a lens to review their existing Strategic Plans, set new goals and targets.

South-East Asia Regional Delegation (SEARD) in coordination with Asia-Pacific Zone renders continuous support to NS in their efforts to strengthen the coherence and consistency of organizational development and capacity building approaches. In addition, IFRC provides for platforms where the Framework can be debated and agreed as the key guidance to support the development of sustainability and accountability internally and externally in specific country context

**Key Developments**

**Implementation of National Society Development tools**

Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC)

The implementation of the **National Society** **Development Framework** initiatives has been progressing well in the region as below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Countries** | **Achievements** |
| **Myanmar** RC | revisited the previous OCAC results internally with the Senior Management and Managers also organized a workshop with in-country partners and held Institutional Gaps Mapping Exercise to plan harmonised support of the Partners for capacity building and OD efforts. |
| **CVTL** | carried out self-assessment was in 2014 and the key findings/deficit areas were considered in its new strategic plan (2015-2019). The new strategic plan was adopted in January 2015. |
| **Vietnam Red Cross** | also carried out in 2014. Report has been translated into local language. VNRC is considering to develop the plan to address the findings/deficit areas. The report received from the facilitators have been translated into the local language. |
| **Lao RC** | A one day OCAC orientation was conducted. Lao Red Cross is planning to do OCAC self-assessment exercise in 2015. |
| **Cambodia** | the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (BOCA) ToT was conducted BOCA Exercise was also held in two branches. There is a plan to continue this in other Branches too. Cambodian Red Cross plans to carry out OCAC exercise only after BOCA is completed in all the Branches. |

**Use of Learning Platforms**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **NS** | **No of LP Users** |
| 1 | Brunei | 12 |
| 2 | Cambodia | 57 |
| 3 | Indonesia | 305 |
| 4 | Lao | 35 |
| 5 | Malaysia | 150 |
| 6 | Myanmar | 114 |
| 7 | Philippines | 1292 |
| 8 | Singapore | 115 |
| 9 | Thailand | 104 |
| 10 | Timor Leste | 16 |
| 11 | Vietnam | 114 |
| **Total** | | **2,314** |

SEA National Societies are continuously using the learning platform and here below is the situation of current users .

**Use of FDRS**

In reference to FDRS, SEA NS have increased their upload of data in 2014.Out of 11 SEA NS, Seven NSs such as Timor Leste (CVTL), Indonesia, Lao, Myanmar and Singapore have shown their interests and widely used FDRS for providing data on 7 key indicators thus contributing to greater accountability and transparency. Especially Lao RC has provided data to all key indicators 100% while the others completed 67% according to IFRC Zone data.

**Dividing Digital Divide (DDI)**

DDI process has been in a good progress despite funding constraints in some NSs. CVTL has completed the DDI process and has a system to provide data manually when there is no internet access. Following assessment in the past, procurement of IT equipment has been complete in CVTL. There is a plan to carry out all the planned activities in 2015 with technical support from the Zone office. Malaysian RC has also completed Plan of Action to implement DDI and will start its implementation from 2015. SEARD with the support of the IT Unit in the Asia Pacific Zone will continue to explore possibilities to further promote this initiative.

**Other strategic developments**

**Induction** for the newly elected Executive Board of BDRCS was held together with the ICRC. Leaders from Lao Red Cross and CVTL also participated in the Movement Induction Course ( MIC) organised jointly by the IFRC and ICRC in Malaysia.

**Statutes**

Cambodian Red Cross revised its **statutes** and the same has been endorsed by the General Assembly last year. CVTL has also revised its statutes and on the process of endorsing. BDRCS is also on the process of revising its statutes.

**Strategic Plan**

Cambodian RC, Myanmar RC and Lao RC are on the process of reviewing and developing their new **strategic plan.**

**HR**

Under **HR**, a concept note and simple questionnaire were developed and discussed in Cambodia. Coordination with APZO is continuing to promote HR system development in the NSs. In Laos, a brief discussion was held with further coordination with AVID volunteer who is also supporting the Lao RC on HR development. Effort will be continued in 2015.

**Finance Development**

In regards to **finance development**, In **Myanmar**, Navision refresher training was conducted by Agile consultants in Nay Pyi Taw. The correct accounting of the reserve and surplus of 2012-13 has been aggregated in Reserve & surplus. The accounting of project funds is also being re aligned. The accounting issues connected with the Myanmar RC audit of financial statements for 2013 were discussed with the Myanmar RC finance team and resolved. The independent audit of Myanmar RC financial statements for 2014 is in progress. In **Brunei**, the current financial management systems has been reviewed and assessed. It was urgent for Brunei RC to prepare financial statement and submit to the Finance Commission before the Governing Board meeting in the near future. Finance development work continues in CVTL and Vietnam and SEARD is provided technical support. There is a plan to support NSs to trickle down finance development work in the Branches also. APZO and SEARD are discussing to provide coordinated support to the NSs for finance development including risk management.

FD and risk management being identified as a priority by SEA Leaders, current job description of the FD Advisor is being reviewed to broaden the FD approach linking and integrating better some financial or financial related processes. Strategic approach is being undertaken to better respond to the needs expressed by the NS Leaders.

**PMER**

**PMER** training was conducted in Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Myanmar RC Branches at Region/State level was supported thru the Swedish RC PMER specialist in the country.

**Partnerships**

Myanmar Red Cross is engaged in CAS-2 development process. The CAS Working Group held a meeting during June in Myanmar to review its TOR, the draft Memorandum of Intent and CAS Plan Of Action, which are to be sent to Partners by RC for their agreement and support. A consultant has now been hired to support the Myanmar Red Cross in its CAS 2 development process.

**Resource Mobilisation**

IFRC together with the Australian Red Cross and the ICRC organized the “Communication and **Fundraising** Workshop for Lao RC” for all the Branches. The aim was to strengthen Lao RC and its branches the communication and fundraising capacities and also support Lao RC to develop the fundraising plan and policy. All the Branches have developed their fund raising plan.

**Reputational Risk Workshop**

Myanmar Red Cross with the support of the IFRC hosted their first-ever reputational risk workshop the 9-11 December 2014 which was facilitated by the facilitators from the Australian Red Cross and the IFRC. Results from the workshop will feed into the National Society’s development plan and strategy for 2016-2020 with a strong focus on risk management and enhancing the acceptance of MRCS and the RCRC Movement in Myanmar. It is also a method to prepare for the political elections that will take place the end of 2015. Reputational risk in particular is an increasingly relevant issue in the region, which also affects the wider RCRC Movement globally. Addressing it with the expertise of internal partners is of real value to the Movement, as demonstrated by this workshop.

**Southeast Asia Inter-cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue Think Tank**:

The Center for Strategic and International Studies-Myanmar Development Resources Institute (CSIS-MDRI), Interfaith Dialogue Group (Myanmar), Myanmar Red Cross Society, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) from 24-25 January in Yangon, engaged stakeholders for a regional think tank focusing on inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue. The think tank aimed to serve as a platform for relevant stakeholders in Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Middle East, to discuss relevant challenges, share best practice, and evaluate methods to mitigate tension in the context of their work. The think tank provided better comprehension on the prevailing beliefs, customs and faiths in Asia among the participants involved and opened initial discussions among participants on ways to strengthen partnership, address the issues of religion, culture and humanitarian work, as well as the role of the RCRC in this context. More information is available on FedNet [here](https://fednet.ifrc.org/en/newsevents/events/movement-meetings/asia-pacific-events/intercultural-interreligious-dialogue/).

At the national level, Malaysian Red Crescent Society participated in the **4th International Seminar on Interfaith Harmony and Tolerance and Award Ceremony 2015** hosted by the International Islamic University of Malaysia on 4 February 2015. Mr Saiful Izan Bin Nordin, manager of IHL for Malaysia Red Crescent presented and on the perspective of interfaith issues from a humanitarian perspective demonstrating how the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and our mandate fit into this context.

**Decisions and areas of support**

National Society development is not a goal in itself but a continuous process: the primary impact of National Society development can be measured through the services that it offers. Main direction is to maintain a stronger and sustainable NS through increasing capacity building and mainstreaming it within RC programmes. Based on this, Leaders’ support is required for the following:

1. Continuous support for the integrated approach to promote National Society Development efforts. This needs to be ensured through appropriate strategies, structures, resources and defined mechanisms.
2. Support for the allocation of resources in the annual budget to promote OD and CB works. This is to be ensure through establishing a mechanism to allocate resources in the annual budget plan.
3. Support OD practitioners to roll out the National Society Development Framework. NSD tools are very useful and support in developing a Strong National Society. IFRC is ready to extend support and Leaders’ support is expected to maximise this.

# Contact information

For further information, please contact:

**Dr. Selvadurai Jothi, Malaysian Red Crescent OD Board member, Regional chair of OD and youth working group**

Email: [drjoti@gmail.com](mailto:drjoti@gmail.com); phone : +60-1-2234-0310

Anne E. Leclerc, Head of South-East Asia Regional Delegation

Email: [anne.leclerc@ifrc.org](mailto:anne.leclerc@ifrc.org); phone: +66-02-661-8201

1. National Society Development Framework 2013 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)