



Memorandum of Understanding
between National Committee for Disaster management
and Cambodian Red Cross

First Edition 2007



National Committee for Disaster Management



Cambodian Red Cross

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Between the
National Committee for Disaster Management
and the
Cambodian Red Cross



1. Introduction

Disasters are on the rise because of increasing vulnerabilities, loss of capacities and of changing hazards, which provoked to grave consequences for the survival, dignity & livelihoods of individuals, particularly the poor, and for hard-won development gains. This, compounded by increasing vulnerabilities related to changing demographic, technological and socio-economic conditions, changes of urbanization, under-development, environmental degradation, climate variability, climate change, geological hazards, competition for scarce resources, and the impact of epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, points to a future where disasters will increasingly threaten Cambodia's economy, its population and its sustainable development.

Disaster risk arises when hazards interact with physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. Many zones of Cambodia are highly-prone to hydro-meteorological hazards and the exposed communities are striving to cope with and mitigate the negative impacts of disasters.

Cambodia is experienced with annual flood during the monsoon season along two major watersheds, the Mekong River and Tonle Sap Lake. Localized floods caused by monsoon thunderstorms also pose a serious threat. Along with the flood, during the rainy season, Cambodia is also affected by drought which is increasingly observed from last several years that caused unpredictable hazards to the people's living. Large storms and heavy rainfall cause dangerous flash-flooding and make people suffered and put an arduous burden to the Cambodian Government for relief. The house-fire is also intensified in the crowded communities. The civil war, land-mines, internal displaced persons, returnees brought Cambodian citizen into the poverty. In addition to those hydro-meteorological hazards, the poor Cambodian are still exposed to health and environmental problems such as HIV/AIDS, Avian Influenza, Dengue, SARS, Cholera, Crop pest infestations. Traffic accidents, air crashes have ruined a number of human safety. Factory residues, atmospheric pollution, uncontrolled chemical food stuffs are hidden risks to the society.

Disaster is the hindrance that continues to obstruct all development as well as continues to devastate potential for long-lasting poverty reduction.

The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) and Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), together with UN agencies, IOs, NGOs are implementing many programs and projects to support and find out possibility in assisting the disaster victims in providing emergency response operations, to rehabilitate, with the availability of resources and enhance the community resilience capacity to the disaster.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to establish a formal working relationship

between the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) and the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC).

The present MoU is undertaken to promote the collaboration between NCDM and CRC on the field of Disaster Management (DM). It is utilized as an instrument for advocating the two local institutions, within and outside the country, and provided as a guidance for good practices of the two organizations in supporting sustainable networks and partnership that advocate for preparedness and mitigation program.

This MOU is reviewed and updated from the previous existing MOU between NCDM and CRC agreed on 18th October 2004.

3. Background

3.1- Mandate of National Committee for Disaster Management

- Monitor, evaluate, collect, analyze, administer the disaster risk data and report the disaster situation to the Royal Government for issuing principles, policies, circulars, guidelines and measures undertaken for disaster management.
- To put forward a proposal to the Royal Government the needs of resources such as, funds, fuel, means of working, equipment and human resources for disaster management and intervention in Emergency Response operation for affected people by natural or man-made disasters.
- To develop human resource through technical training. To enhance the capacities of persons-in-charge of disaster management from National level (Ministries / Institutions concerned) to the Provincial/ Municipal/ District/ Precinct/Commune and village levels and disseminate, educate to the public the awareness of natural and man-made disaster risks.
- To collaborate with ministries, institutions, United Nation agencies, International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and donors to implement the National Disaster Management Policies including, disaster prevention, disaster response preparedness and disaster mitigation, for coping with the hazards of natural or man-made disaster.
- To coordinate and cooperate with national agencies, regional and international communities in sharing the disaster-related information to reduce the adverse impacts of disasters.
- To coordinate with the ministries, institutions, UN agencies, IOs, NGOs, International Communities, and Local Donors for seeking assistances in term of Emergency Response and Rehabilitation in the aftermath of disasters.

The organizational structure and functioning of the NCDM was recognized and endorsed by Prime Minister of the RGC with a sub-decree . The NCDM structure consists of 19 relevant Ministries and Civil Organisation, CRC is included. This structure is aligned from national to commune levels with a mission to lead the Disaster Management (DM) in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The NCDM is a Governmental coordinating body ensuring the continuity and functioning of the DM administration, information and relation, emergency response and rehabilitation, disaster preparedness and training and search and rescue activities.

NCDM is now, a member of Asean Committee for Disaster Management (ACDM), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Asia-Pacific Regional Consultative Committee (AP-RCC), Cambodia Disaster Risk Reduction Forum (CDRR), Emergency Response Group and United Nations for Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) member.

3.2- Mandate of the Cambodian Red Cross

- The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) was recognized since 1958, by the Royal Government of Cambodia, as a voluntary aid society and it is the only National Society of the Red Cross in Cambodia that carries out the humanitarian activities throughout the entire territory of Cambodia.
- It has also been recognized by the International Red Cross Committee (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) since 1960.

It has the same mandate as the other National Societies of Red Cross/Red Crescent in the Region and across the world; in particular being an auxiliary of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in providing humanitarian services to prevent and alleviate suffering and to assist vulnerable groups in Cambodia with complete impartiality and with no discrimination to nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class, political opinions or other conditions.

The CRC's 2003-2010 Strategy clearly identifies 4 core areas for the National Societies' commitment to improving the lives of vulnerable people. The 2nd of the 4 core areas is "Disaster Response and Disaster Preparedness. CRC's Disaster Management Department (DMD) is charged with responsibility for delivering this – and does so through disaster preparedness and mitigation, and emergency response activities, targeted to provide assistance (in kind and capacity building) to the most vulnerable people.

CRC is now, a member of Asia-Pacific Regional Disaster Management Committee; ASEAN Disaster Management Committee in which CRC is appointed as the chairman of the DP sub-group. Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member, Cambodia Disaster Risk Reduction Forum (CDRR). United Nations for Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) member.

4. Cooperation and Coordination

4.1- General/ Mutual perspective

In light of their respective missions and the common goal to reduce the loss of life and property from natural or man made disasters, NCDM and CRC recognize the need to promote & maintain coordination at a level that ensures efficient use of organizational resources, consistent with the mandate and principles of each agency. Overall, NCDM and CRC agree, to the extent set forth below, to coordinate their activities and programs as they relate to areas such as:

- Coordinate, collect and share information with stakeholders,
- Assess damages and needs for the disaster affected areas,
- Map the plan of action for disaster preparedness, and disaster response preparedness (including contingency planning), emergency response, recovery and rehabilitation after the disaster events,
- Develop the mitigation plan for disasters and carry out at a most appropriate measure,
- Build and promote capacities, capabilities in disaster management to line agencies, partners and disaster affected communities,
- Appeal, for resources of assistance, nationally and internationally, for coping with and mitigate the negative impacts of disaster(s).

Nevertheless, this MoU is not directly related to the operational Disaster Response interventions carried out by individual agency with their approachable resources.

4.2- Coordination of Specific Activities

NCDM and CRC agree to encourage, coordinate, and enhance ongoing relationships between both agencies and to hold periodic partnership meetings both at the national and community levels. Efforts in this area will focus on, but are not limited to, identifying and assessing natural hazards and associated risks, particularly as they related to:

Community Based Disaster Preparedness programme, Disaster Response, Disaster Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction project (Water/ Sanitation, HIV/ AIDs, Avian Influenza, CMVIS, Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) etc...

NCDM and CRC identify three general types of coordination and cooperation in their activities, which are:

- (1) In fact of the Emergency early warning or Disaster Catastrophic declared by NCDM, CRC must be responsible to publicize through its network.
- (2) Independent activities of one agency that may be of interest or consequence to the other agency. For these activities, each agency agrees to provide prior notification,

in writing or electronic message, and periodic status reports to the other agency to the extent practicable.

- (3) Joint activities agreed to, planned, and executed by both NCDM and CRC to address common objectives within the interests and missions of both. Each agency shall provide the support required to meet its commitments to these joint activities.
- (4) Activities that are consistent with the mission objectives of each agency, in which participation of both agencies is optimal for completion of the activity, but such participation may not be a program priority for one agency and is reimbursed by the other agency. The supportive documents (cooperative agreement) shall be required for such participation.

5. Implementation

5.1- Addenda

Activities/ programs indicated in this MOU shall be implemented through addenda that describe specific activities, programs, projects, and financial arrangements. These addenda shall be incorporated into this Bi-agency Agreement in the future based upon mutual agreement between NCDM and CRC.

5.2- Points of Contact

Each agency shall appoint an individual representative to serve as a point of contact for matters relevant to this MOU.

The focal person designated with full contact details shall be annexed herewith.

5.3- Notification

Each agency must inform its employees and constituents of this MOU through its declaration notice, newsletters, internet networks, and other communications methods and tools.

6. Legal Authority

The legal base for NCDM to enter into this MOU include:

Royal Decree No.NS/RKT/0202/040, dated 20 February 2002 and the reviewed Royal Decree No. NS/RKT/0804/263, dated 31 August 2004 on the establishment of the National Committee for Disaster Management.

Sub-Decree No. 30 ANKr.BK, dated 09 April, 2002 on the organisation and functioning of the National Committee for Disaster management.

Decision No. 536 NCDM, dated 03 December, 2002 and the reviewed No. 413 NCDM, dated 23 November, 2004 on the formation of working group on disaster coordination, response and recovery.

Sub Decree No. 61 ANKr.BK, dated 29 June, 2006 on the The Establishment of Commune/ Sangkat Committee For Disaster Management in Kingdom of Cambodia (CCDM).

The legal base for CRC to enter into this MOU include:

The Royal Decree No. 378/NS, dated June 16, 1958 and the reviewed Royal decree No. NS/RKT/ 0502/113, dd May 6, 2002 on the recognition of the Cambodian Red Cross.

Royal Decree No.NS/RKT/0202/040, dated 20 February 2002 and the reviewed Royal Decree No. NS/RKT/0804/263, dated 31 August 2004 on the establishment of the National Committee for Disaster Management.

Decision dated 29 September, 2006 on the organization and the functioning of the fourth mandate of the Cambodian Red Cross.

Decision No. 536 NCDM, dated 03 December, 2002 and the reviewed No. 413 NCDM, dated 23 November, 2004 on the formation of working group on disaster coordination, response and recovery.

Sub Decree No. 61 ANKr.BK, dated 29 June, 2006 on the organisation and functioning of the Commune Committee for Disaster Management (CCDM).

7. Publications and Release of Information

7.1- Publication and Review of Manuscripts

Publications documenting cooperative efforts may be prepared by either NCDM or CRC, or jointly, provided that both agencies have an opportunity to review manuscripts prior to publication. To the extent possible, decisions involving authorship, review of reports, and other conditions and circumstances will be addressed during the preparation of addenda on specific activities under this MOU.

7.2- Resolution of Differences

Should differences arise, both agencies shall make an effort to reconcile them. However, this shall not prohibit either agency from publishing data or information provided it assumes sole responsibility and gives appropriate credit to the other agency.

7.3- Citation and Attribution

The agencies agree that sharing credit is mutually beneficial and will make every effort to assure that appropriate citation and attribution, including the use of official agency visual identifiers, is given for work performed under this MOU.

8. Duration and Termination

This MOU becomes effective on the date of execution, and shall remain in effect for years unless terminated by written notification by either agency to the other. This MOU may be amended or extended by written mutual agreements. This MOU supersedes all previous MOUs between NCDM and CRC.

Phnom Penh, 25 October 2007

National Committee for Disaster Management Cambodian Red Cross



The image shows two red circular official seals. The seal on the left is for the National Committee for Disaster Management and features a central emblem of a temple. The seal on the right is for the Cambodian Red Cross and features a red cross in the center. Two blue ink signatures are written across the seals. Below the seals, the name 'OUK-DAMRY' is printed in blue capital letters.

OUK-DAMRY

Insertion for 3.2

- The Cambodian Red Cross shall act in accordance with the seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which are: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality.
- In times of armed conflict, the Cambodian Red Cross is hereby recognized and authorized to render assistance to the medical services of the armed forces in times of armed conflict, on the basis of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 (acceded to by the Kingdom of Cambodia on 08.12.1958) and their Additional Protocols of June 8, 1977 (acceded to by the Kingdom of Cambodia on 14.01.1998).