



The Training for Red Cross Volunteers on Emergency Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Promotion for Response and Preparedness (E-WASH for RCVs), During 25-26 September 2017, Muang Houn District , Oudomxay Province, Lao PDR



Muang Houn District, Oudomxay Province is located in the remote mountainous areas in the disaster-prone zone with 92 km far from the urban city. There are 79,300 populations living in this agriculture, rice and corn fields with hilltribes and several ethnic minority groups . In August 2016, the torrential heavy rain has triggered flood and flash flood in this area and affected at least 800-900 poor villagers. The flood has submerged several villages in Muang Houn Districts.



This E-WASH training for Red Cross Volunteers was organized in two days in Muang Houn Districts , Oudomxay Province in preparedness of disaster management and risk reduction and

health & hygiene promotion in this disaster affected area.

The objectives of this red cross volunteers training:

1. To improve the knowledge and skills about E-WASH related disease in Emergency and Importance of Hygiene promotion of Red Cross Volunteers in four disaster -prone districts and 7 community leaders from the villages located in Muang Houn District.
2. To demonstrate the Drinking water quality, water treatment and sanitation, hygiene promotion in emergencies.
3. To familiarize with technical and practical on the processes of water treatment and water quality by using AP700 Man-Packs and practical on temporary emergency latrine / permanent latrine constructions during emergencies.
4. To develop and discuss about E-WASH Planning at district and community levels in preparedness and response in emergencies.
5. Latrine construction for Sivilay Primary School with 155 students and six teachers



The training was conducted in two days in Houn District Health Office, Muang Houn, Oudomxay Province. There were 7 community leaders and 11 district WASH focal persons from 4 districts- Muang La, Muang Houn, Muang Pak Bang and Muang Xay purposively invited to participate in this RCV E-WASH training (Male 16, Female 1).



The five key topics of Emergency WASH, water treatment demonstration by using AP700 Man-Packs, hygiene promotion, group work discussion, “Chlorine Water Treatment, Filtration, Chemical Water treatment”, temporary / permanent latrine construction, health education practices using community tool focusing on three diseases – 7 steps of hand washing were highlighted and demonstrated to participants. The results of True & False pre- test and post- test with 13 questions shown that the participants’ knowledge and skills were significantly increased from 78% to 83% respectively. The expectations of participants have been totally satisfied with this organized E-WASH for RCVs training.



Mr. Sipheung Somyalana , Head of Village, Baan Phan Village Red Cross provided the feedback with the appreciation to Lao Red Cross and IFRC and the facilitation team for conducting this important training in Muang Houn District. “I have never been involved with E-WASH training.

This is my first time to work with Red Cross. I will bring back the knowledge and skills captured from this training to communicate with our villagers and prepare for the disaster. The AP700 Man-Packs, the plastic tube of turbidity measuring, the Alum jar test and latrine construction are very useful for villagers.”



Mr. Soukmani Ounthason, WASH officer, Houn District Health Office was providing his feedback to Lao Red Cross and IFRC in supporting the latrine construction for Sivilay primary school and demonstration of water treatment and Alum testing .



An additional latrine will be very useful for 155 students and 6 teachers to improve our sanitation and hygiene promotion in school. And thank you so much to all of training participants for their great contributions in constructing both latrines and water system and hand washing point.



At the end of training, all of 17 participants was providing their feedback. Mr. Kham Soavinkhom, WASH focal person, Muang La District said that this is a great time to take part in this training course for community volunteers. I like to Alum testing with six bottles. It is very easy to show and increase water quality in the disaster.



I confident that I will bring back and contribute my skills and knowledges gained to help our communities and affected people in our districts. One more request from the facilitation team is about the turbidity tube. It would be great if Lao Red Cross and IFRC are going to give us the turbidity tube for each district for using in communities when needed.



The AP700 Man-Packs is the best way to help people in communities. I believed that the We appreciate the great support and contributions that IFRC continues assistance to our people as always especially in Oudomxay Province and Muang Houn District. If the resources available for the next fiscal year 2018, we will be scale up the E-WASH program again to cover more disaster-prone affected provinces as our priority technique, practical skills and the technical knowledge of Emergency Sanitation, water treatment and hygiene health promotion and latrine construction captured from this training will be applied to fit with local contexts.



Mr. Khamphu Tosiphang, Head of Muang Houn Red Cross sub-branch, Ministry of Labor reported that this training would have not been successful without the great contributions from all of participants from 4 districts and 7 villages. We would like to request the technical and financial supports from Central level and IFRC Bangkok Office in implementing E-WASH program and community hygiene and sanitation activities in helping the vulnerable population in disaster affected areas.

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