

Regional Resilience Initiative (RRI) Lessons Learned Workshop – Bangkok, 21-23 February 2018 Concept Note

1. Introduction

In April 2014 the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched the Regional Resilience Initiative (RRI), which was a 4-year endeavour funded by the Canadian Government (GAC – Global Affairs Canada) and the Canadian Red Cross (CRC). The Initiative supported eleven National Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Societies (NS) in Southeast Asia with the overarching goal of reducing the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable communities.

Specifically, the Initiative sought to enhance skills and capacities within NS so that they could advocate more strongly at national and regional levels for the needs of communities in disaster risk reduction (DRR). This approach was complemented by the strengthening of regional partnerships, both within RCRC networks and with key partners such as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat and other regional stakeholders.

In August 2017 a consultancy was commissioned to support the RRI Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) to illustrate the overall picture of RRI achievements in terms of intended outcomes, progress towards outcomes, and main achievements secured through the Initiative. A key part of this process was the hosting of a Lessons Learned workshop toward the end of the consultancy aimed at helping validate key findings and promote the learning gained from the RRI experience to a wider stakeholder audience.¹ The workshop will be held over a period of 2 ½ days between 21-23 February 2018.

2. Workshop purpose

The *Lessons Learned* (LL) workshop is the opportunity for project stakeholders to come together and share insights and experiences of working *with* and *on* the project. Stakeholders are facilitated - through a structured analysis approach - to share opinions, perspectives and experiences related to the project. The main LL approach is essentially a project *assessment* that can be framed as key questions as follows:

1. What worked well in the project?
2. What could have been improved in the project?
3. What could and should be done differently next time?

The LL exercise should draw on both positive experiences i.e. good ideas that improve project efficiency and/or effectiveness, as well as negative experiences.

As a good practice rule, lessons learned and comments regarding project assessment should be documented and shared with stakeholders as a means of helping to improve future projects and similar initiatives.

¹ It is important to note that the consultancy was not an evaluation, but a process aimed at validating and generating baseline and endline data.

A key purpose of this RRI Lessons Learned workshop is therefore to document the main lessons learned and to share and use the knowledge derived from experience to help:

- Promote the recurrence of desirable outcomes
- Preclude the recurrence of undesirable outcomes

This knowledge will be documented and shared with all relevant stakeholders as a means of promoting a body of knowledge that others can draw on and incorporate into future projects². The ultimate purpose of documenting lessons learned is to provide future project stakeholders and teams with information that can be used to increase project efficiency and effectiveness.

In addition to the learning aspect of the workshop, key thematic sessions will allow participants to put RRI contributions in perspective, analysing their relevance to the broader humanitarian and development context while reflecting on potential next steps.

3. Workshop Objectives

The Lessons Learned workshop has two objectives:

1. To generate key lessons learned related to the most significant RRI achievements that can be used by stakeholders in future contexts.
2. To identify how key IFRC contributions generated through the RRI can be broadened/up-scaled to the wider humanitarian and development system.

4. Workshop design and method

It is anticipated that approx. 45-50 people will attend the workshop from a range of stakeholder groups as follows:

- National Societies – 2 persons from each NS (20 persons total) comprising Focal Points from G&D, Communications, DM Directors and possibly management representatives such as Secretary Generals.
- Canadian Red Cross – 3-4 persons.
- GAC – 1-3 persons
- IFRC APRO, CCST and Country Offices – 8-10 persons.
- ASEAN representatives (including AHA Centre) – 2-3 persons.
- NDMO representatives from Southeast Asia – 5-8 persons.
- Other key regional partners involved in RRI implementation – 3-5 persons

An important consideration in the workshop design and method is accounting for the fact that not all stakeholders will have a detailed understanding or knowledge of the RRI. With this factor in mind, workshop exercises will purposefully be designed to enable maximum inclusivity i.e. creating a learning environment in which all workshop attendees can participate and contribute fully to workshop purpose and aims. As such, the workshop will be highly interactive in nature and will make considerable use of creative / participatory exercises.

² In the case of this LL workshop, the learning generated will also feed into the formal evaluation being conducted by Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

To facilitate the above requirement, it is proposed that the workshop be broadly structured as follows:

Day 1	Activities
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to LL workshop • 'Getting to know you' exercise • Workshop aims, objectives and expected outputs • Participant presentations of their engagement with RRI • What the RRI was about and stakeholder contributions to it • Baseline/endline presentation
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary: presentation of key change story/case study³ • Group division (approx. 5-6 groups): discussion of studies and documentation of lessons learned from case studies • Summary of Day 1
Day 2	Activities
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of key learning from Day 1 – interactive exercise • Day 2 aims, objectives and expected outputs • Thematic sessions (2-3 parallel groups): <i>to what extent did IFRC/RRI contribute to the broader humanitarian system?</i> Focus on themes (TBC) covered by RRI. In each thematic group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Short panel session to introduce the theme ○ Group discussions and recommendations
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Day 3	Activities
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from each thematic group (day 2) • Summary of recommendations across all previous sessions • Prioritization exercise for recommendations • Closing session

³ Most suitable case studies selected from the range of ones developed as mid-Feb 2018.