Since October 2013, IFRC, LRC, UNDP and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MoNRE) have been working together as key partners in the development of a new disaster risk management and climate change law in Lao PDR. The development of the new law is a central component of the ‘Integrated Disaster and Climate Risk Management Project’ (ICDRM) currently being carried out in Lao PDR by UNDP and MoNRE, with IFRC and LRC as key implementing partners. Over the past 12 months, these four partners have achieved several milestones which have marked the progress of this work.

Building upon these milestones, the project partners held a “Disaster and Climate Change Law Workshop” in Vientiane, to bring together key national and local stakeholders to discuss progress to date, key thematic/technical components to consider when developing the new law, and to solicit their feedback and inputs in this process. The workshop was also in line with international commitments made by the government of Lao PDR and the Lao Red Cross at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in 2011, where a resolution was adopted calling upon states to review their existing legislative frameworks at all levels (or develop new ones) to adequately establish key disaster risk reduction measures, and to promote community level action.

For more information, see the concept note, agenda, and published article about the workshop in Vientiane Times.

Seven Moves: Gender and Diversity in Emergency Programming

IFRC is currently rolling out a new training, the Seven Moves: Gender and Diversity in Emergency Programming. Last month Ms Norwina Eclarinal, Gender and Diversity Focal Point for the Philippines Red Cross, took part in the training hosted by the Australian Red Cross in Melbourne.

Between 6-7th July, IFRC representative participated in the training in Paris, hosted by the French Red Cross. The training is structured around the seven fundamental principles and draws on the DAPS Framework outlined in IFRC’s Minimum Standard Commitments to Gender and Diversity in Emergency Programming. The DAPS Framework stands for Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety and provides a set of standards designed to assist in the analysis of and response to the distinct needs of females and males of all ages and backgrounds during disasters. Through a diverse range of participatory activities and practical approaches, the training highlights key ways for addressing gender and diversity in emergencies. Key elements of this training will now be incorporated into the Regional Gender and Diversity Training of Trainers that is planned to take place in October 2015.
RSIS-ICRC Roundtable on Challenges to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief in the Asia-Pacific

Between 21st -23rd July 2015, IFRC participated in the RSIS-ICRC Roundtable on Challenges to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief in the Asia-Pacific. This two-part Roundtable was organized through the HADR Programme at the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). IFRC Gender and Diversity Representative was invited to present on a panel session aimed at addressing the issue of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in disasters and conflict settings. The presentation focused on IFRC’s definition of SGBV, exacerbating factors to SGBV during disasters, as well as some existing frameworks in the region and ways to address SGBV during disasters. See IFRC presentation. The session also provided the opportunity to introduce some current IFRC initiatives in this area, including a mapping exercise and a 10-country research project on SGBV in disasters.

SGBV in disasters is of high priority for the IFRC and it is important that increased advocacy is placed on the issue. This is particularly important in the lead up to the International Conference 2015, where violence is one of the key agenda topics.

A joint resolution between IFRC and ICRC has been drafted in advance of the International Conference.

During the visit to Singapore, IFRC’s representative met with Mr Benjamin William, Secretary General of the Singapore Red Cross to discuss gender and diversity in the National Society. The Singapore Red Cross has some excellent programmes to ensure the dignity and safety of the elderly and people with disabilities. An example being the Singapore Red Cross’ CLARE Programme. Community Led Action for REsilience (CLARE) aims to build the resilience of vulnerable people in the community, particularly the elderly by working with Singapore Red Cross’ volunteer networks; building their knowledge and skills so that they have the capacity to provide support to the elderly in their communities. Mr Benjamin William also endorsed the SEA Regional Gender and Diversity Network, which will provide greater opportunities for the work the Singapore Red Cross is doing to be shared and for increased peer to peer learning between National Societies in South East Asia.

Bi-Regional Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on the Asia pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases

IFRC health representative participated in the Bi-Regional Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases, 21-23 July 2015, Manila, Philippines.

The Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (2010) (APSED), serves as a regional tool to help Member States in the Asia Pacific region meet the core capacity requirements of the International Health Regulations (2005)(IHR). APSED aims to build sustainable national and regional capacities and partnerships to ensure public health security through preparedness planning, prevention,
early detection and rapid response to emerging diseases and other public health emergencies. A regional/bi-regional meeting of the Asia Pacific Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on APSED is convened annually to monitor implementation of APSED in meeting IHR (2005) and to provide technical advice on priority actions. For more information, please see the website.

The objectives of the Bi-Regional Meeting of the TAG on the APSED were:

- to update on the regional and global situation of emerging diseases and public health emergencies, including Ebola virus disease (EVD);
- to review the progress of APSED (2010) implementation, including the national status towards fulfilling the IHR (2005) core capacity requirements;
- to update on the status of national and regional preparedness for EVD; and discuss regional contributions to global actions for EVD and beyond;
- to present and discuss the preliminary findings of the APSED evaluation to inform the future direction of IHR work; and
- to recommend common priority activities for the next 12 months until the next Technical Advisory Group meeting in 2016.

For more information, see Conclusions and Recommendations of the meeting.

**Post Emergency – Flood Preparedness Programme**

**Activity 1.29-1.33 Pilot Community Safety and Resilience (CSR) Initiative**

On 16 July 2015, Thai RC conducted the community leader training on disaster preparedness. The training topics include:

- basic knowledge about community disaster,
- roles and responsibilities of the communities in disaster preparedness,
- draft of disaster preparedness plan for Ratchasarn district.

At the end of the training session the Ratchasarn district generated a draft plan for disaster preparedness for flood and drought situation, with the emphasis on drought, as the people are concerned on their livelihood/financial and drought very much affect local primary occupation, which is rice/fish-shrimp farming.
Activity 2015-1.5 Water Sanitation and Hygiene Operational Workshop

Thai RC conducted the Water Sanitation and Hygiene Operational workshop during 20-24 July 2015 at Monsanae River Kwai Resort, Tharmuang, Kanchanaburi province. There were 25 participants with the prerequisite in Rapid Action Team (RAT) and NDRT workshops. The participants consist of following details:
1. 19 participants are from Thai RC Health Station
2. 5 participants from RCHB’s Administrative Division
3. 1 participant from Provincial Red Cross Chapter of Kanchanaburi

The learning process was conducted through presentation, practice exercise (lab test), and scenario exercise. The contents covered during the training include:
1. WATSAN in emergency
2. Sanitation during emergency
3. Excreta disposal and sanitation
4. SPHERE
5. Water Treatment
6. Quality test/laboratory
7. Water related disease
8. Hygiene promotion
9. Assessment
10. Action plan and monitoring

Key impact:
1. Participants understand more about water sanitation and hygiene promotion and know how to apply the skills and knowledge in their work. The evidence is from the 50 percent increase in post evaluation scores compared to pre-test.
2. Participants develop the skills on water purification process including the lab testing for chemical in water source.
3. Participants put their learnings into practice through scenario exercise.

Activity 2015-1.7 Community Disaster Preparedness program in Phang-nga Province
Thai RC and Community committee conducted Table Top Exercise on 27 July 2015, with 20 participants – 65 percent female and 35 percent male.

The table top exercise was conducted with the following scenario: there is an earthquake, then tsunami hits the coastal area of Phang Nga province and Andaman provinces.

The Key impact:
1. The disaster committee from Baan Thongdhab knows their roles and responsibilities.
2. All divisions under the committee can command the situation and execute the disaster plan.
3. Participants feel excited and nervous as this is the first time for table top exercise.
4. HS 12, Pang Nga branch reach its objective, and able to implement the community disaster preparedness program at Baan Thongdhab according to plan.
5. The disaster preparedness committee wants to have emergency evacuation drill in June 2016, the drill may takes 2-3 days.

**School-based Disaster Risk Reduction (SBDRR) and Youth as Agent of Behavior Change (YABC) Training in Myanmar**

IFRC conducted SBDRR and YABC training in Myanmar from 8-10 July 2015. The School Based Disaster Risk Reduction (SBDRR) project provided the pilot curriculum workshop to one school under pilot project of Myanmar Red Cross. This curriculum is the combination of Youth Empowerment and SBDRR tool, in order to empower children and youths to join the SBDRR program with their ownership and in an autonomous peer supporting.

The workshop included the components of DRR concept (including Hazard, Vulnerably and capacity), comprehensive school safety concept, SBDRR concept and activities for fun learning, scenario practice and DRR plan in school.

Key impact :
- Students have learned and recognized that DRR is important for all level, community and school. This learning was thought YABC's activities, and it was fun and learn for students.
- Students increased a basic knowledge about hazard, vulnerability and capacity which are the important component of DRR
- Role and responsibility of each taskforce under module 4 have been practiced by participants during the scenario exercise
- Linkage between youth empowerment and SBDRR- Myanmar, that YABC integrated SBDRR Training Module, which is a children friendly tool in an aim to empower youths and children to join the SBDRR program with their ownership and in an autonomous peer supporting way, ideally able to prepare and deliver alone any SBDRR activities after the training.
- Youths and teachers who joined the workshop took the ownership of the SBDRR and developed their own action plans to cope with any emergencies and respond in an effective and timely manner. Red Cross Volunteers also joined the workshop and found their roles and responsibilities.

**China Red Cross exchange visit in Thailand and Myanmar**

China Red Cross visited IFRC SEARD and Myanmar Red Cross during 19-24 July 2015. The objective of this visit was to grasp the concept, programming methodology and implementation experience of the IFRC SBDRR model through exchange sessions with various RCRC units in Thailand and Myanmar as well as field visits.

The meeting with IFRC SEARD on 19 July 2015 focused on how IFRC supports the implementation of SBDRR program in Myanmar. IFRC has developed SBDRR tool and methodology and tested it with the support of Myanmar Red
Cross, the project is ongoing. IFRC also provided the overall of role and responsibility of regional office as well as the new structure.

The field visit in Myanmar during 21-24 July offered a good overview to China RC for SBDRR project. The team visited 4 schools to understand the activities implemented under SBDRR project, as they will implement the SBDRR project in China in close collaboration with IFRC for technical support.

THAILAND

Thailand Safe School Network Meeting at Save the Children Office, Bangkok, 9 July 2015

Save the Children and UNICEF Thailand were working together to create a tool on “Comprehensive School Safety” for Office of The Basic Education Commission (OBEC) to be used as a manual to train teachers and as a teaching material for them. Thus, the 2 organizations invited Safe School Network partners to meet and discuss about their related works and potential collaboration in order to produce a comprehensive tool which could be widely used. See the meeting minutes.

Academic Seminar “Towards Risk-Informed Development and Resilient Thailand”

On 23 July, the team attended the academic seminar entitled “Towards Risk-Informed Development and Resilient Thailand” as part of the project “mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (MADRID) Project. The seminar was co-organized by the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), UNDP, Thammasat University and the Thai Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board. During the seminar, 3 technical documents as well as several videos were launched, including:

- the Disaster Risk Management Glossary of Terms
- the Disaster Risk Reduction in Development Guideline
- The Disaster Risk Reduction Handbook

Such documents were developed after intensive consultations with in-country partners. They can be downloaded (Thai version only) at this link.

LAOS

Gender and Diversity in the Laos Red Cross
Between 27-29th July, a team from the South East Asia Regional Delegation visited the Laos Red Cross. One of the objectives of the mission was to meet with the National Society’s technical teams and discuss upcoming plans related with Disaster Management, Communications and Gender and Diversity. The Laos Red Cross Leadership has recently endorsed the SEA Regional Gender and Diversity Network and appointed Ms Ket Keo as the National Society’s Gender and Diversity Focal Point. Ms Ket Keo works as the Technical Lead in the Department for the Advancement for Women – Mother and Child Work Division. Discussions focused on plans for 2015-16 which included the development of the new Advancement of Women Strategy 2015-2020, with an emphasis on violence prevention, as well as tools development and training for gender-sensitive DRR.

CAMBODIA

New DM Law was passed in Cambodia

For more details, please see this [link](#).

Gender and Diversity for Resilience Toolkit

A new snapshot has been produced for Gender and Diversity. This outlines the main objectives, intended audience and the launch of the Southeast Asia Gender and Diversity for Resilience Toolkit. The Toolkit will comprise a comprehensive but selective set of around 150 resources that will be available to National Societies and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Resources have been sourced both from the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement as well as linking with excellent resources that exist externally. The toolkit will include practical information, approaches, guidelines and tools to facilitate the integration of gender and diversity to build the safety and resilience of communities.

See the [Gender and Diversity for Resilience Toolkit snapshot](#).
The SEA RCRC societies online library at https://sites.google.com/site/ddrtoolsinsoutheastasia/regional-csr-forum is work in progress with constant updating. There is an increase of number of users visiting the library, now reaching 272 users and 1,174 page views during the month of July.

A snapshot to introduce the online library has been published, see the opposite picture.

Additionally, the office hard copy/CD library (including books/guides/manuals/overview booklets) inventory list is now available to help users to search through our office library here.

Publication

Social Capital Infographics
The complete series of 4 is now available for download from the Online Library at https://sites.google.com/site/ddrtoolsinsoutheastasia/regional-csr-forum/how-we-get-to-resilience

Community Safety and Resilience ‘Resilience House’ graphic has been re-designed. Feedback from all National Societies is welcomed – please contact Sanjeev Kafley at sanjeev.kafley@ifrc.org

Report on Southeast Asia Leadership Meeting (Phnom Penh, Cambodia) will soon be made available online.

Report on Manila Conference for Labor Migration now available.

Snapshot on Migration in Southeast Asia now available.

South-East Asian National Societies Survey Findings 2015 COMPLETE REPORT and Charts
In preparation of the Community Safety and Resilience Forum 2015 in Jakarta, the IFRC has prepared National Societies Survey, and the result of this survey has been captured in the South-East Asian National Societies Survey Findings Report 2015.

Southeast Asia Quarterly E-Newsletter covering the period of April to June 2015

Read about Southeast Asia’s RDRT contribution in Nepal: "Helping each other: Personal reports from Southeast Asia’s Regional Disaster Response Team members in Nepal".

The translation of the Sphere Handbook text in Thai is still on the proof reading step.
Weather Forecast

Forecast for July until September 2015 (see IFRC IRI’s Forecast for August to October 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Forecast Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Highly Increased chance of <strong>dry conditions</strong> during the rainy season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Highly Increased chance of <strong>dry conditions</strong> during end of the rainy season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
<td>Highly Increased chance of <strong>dry conditions</strong> during end of the rainy season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Moderately increased chance in parts of the Philippines of <strong>dry conditions</strong> during the rainy season.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meteorological agency in the respective South-East Asian countries:

Brunei Darussalam | Cambodia | Indonesia | Laos | Malaysia | Myanmar | Philippines | Singapore | Thailand | Timor-Leste | Vietnam

Upcoming Events for August, September and October 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-3 August</td>
<td>South-East Asia Youth Network Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Jakarta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6 August</td>
<td>Regional CSR Forum</td>
<td>Jakarta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14 August</td>
<td>Induction for Youth, Staff, Branch Coordinators and Board Members on Gender of Diversity of CVTL</td>
<td>Dili</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 September</td>
<td>Meeting with AHA Center to Review Implementation of 2015 and Plan for Collaboration in 2016</td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-22 September</td>
<td>Visit of Canadian RC / RRI Technical Working Group Meeting</td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-25 September</td>
<td>Planning Meeting (Mekong Countries) tbc</td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September (date tbc)</td>
<td>Climate change training in Vietnam</td>
<td>Hanoi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9 October</td>
<td>TOT Gender and Diversity</td>
<td>tbc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 October</td>
<td>DRR Day</td>
<td>All countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postponed to November 2015</td>
<td>Climate change training in Myanmar</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-25 November 2015</td>
<td>8th Practitioners’ Workshop on Risk Reduction &amp; Resilience in Asia</td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Highly increased chance: probability is 55% or greater
*Moderately increased chance: probability is 45-50%
In July, two funding opportunities were sent to National Societies including:

- Funding for publication, through which National Societies can request support for advocacy publications related to community resilience
- Funding for the celebration of Disaster Risk Reduction Day in October 2015. For more details, please see the concept note for ASEAN Day of Disaster Management (ADDM) 2015 and concept note for International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction UNISDR

Funds are available with SEARO in Bangkok.

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