Focus countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Timor Leste and Viet Nam (Myanmar and Thailand).

Operational timeframe: 15 Sept 2008 – 14 January 2010

The project consists of 6 major results:

1. Development of standardized DRR framework:

The Framework leads national societies to find answers to the question of “why DRR and how to work together to scale up DRR activities in the region” using the existing network of RDMC together with key partners and donors. The draft Framework outlines can be summarized as below:

- What is DRR and why DRR is needed for the Red Cross Red Crescent movement;
- Red Cross Red Crescent commitments to DRR;
- Hazard and vulnerability trends in the region;
- Where we are now in the region reflecting to the global framework for community safety and resilience
- How will we scale up to achieve the goal of building safer and more resilient communities in Southeast Asia

Four of six training courses/workshops for RCRC staff and volunteers on its use of the framework and DRR as a whole have been conducted in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Timor Leste.

2. Integrating DRR into informal education:

The priority of the guideline is to provide guidance to national societies on effectively engaging in informal disaster risk reduction (DRR) educational initiatives. The publication is meant, in relation to DRR and education, to promote relevant initiatives in the region, identify the current roles and responsibilities of the national society, and encourage the promotion of effective child and youth-centred DRR educational activities.

Guideline contributions:

- Contextualization of regional risk and DRR informal education
- Mapping of current roles and responsibilities of DRR and education actors
- Identification of relevant roles and responsibilities of national society from headquarters to community levels and Red Cross volunteers, including suggestions for future actions
- Discussion of background, drivers and challenges for effective DRR informal education initiatives
- Stories from the field: outcomes of field visits to national societies of Cambodia, Viet Nam and Indonesia
- Suggested actions for identified stages of involvement in DRR education, including understanding the DRR arena of each country, coordinating activities and partnerships, conducting capacity building and training exercises, identifying and implementing programme activities, promoting monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy and awareness-raising activities
- Guideline on how to promote effective youth participation
- Outlining, according to the priorities of the HFA, the role of national societies and examples of corresponding education and DRR activities
- Identification of key messages for national societies
3. Improving Community based EWS by developing the regional guideline:

The guidelines provide guidance to the national societies on effectively enhancing early warning systems (EWS) in their respective countries, particularly at the community level. The publication is meant to identify the current roles and responsibilities of national societies at different levels, including volunteers, relating to EWS and identify ways in which these positions could be enhanced to promote the effectiveness of EWS. The guideline is also meant to promote EWS advocacy and awareness-raising; identify challenges and drivers for effective end-to-end EWS systems; and encourage the building of capacity for community-level EWS activities.

Guideline Contributions:

- Mapping of current roles and responsibilities of actors relating to EWS
- Identification of relevant roles and responsibilities of national societies at different levels and Red Cross volunteers, including suggestions for future actions
- Discussion of drivers and challenges for end-to-end EWS
- Stories from the field: outcomes of field visits to national societies of Cambodia, Viet Nam, Philippines and Indonesia
- Suggested actions for identified stages of involvement in EWS, including risk knowledge, monitoring and warning systems, dissemination and communication strategies, response capabilities and training, coordinating of efforts and partnerships, and conducting monitoring and evaluation, advocacy and awareness-raising activities
- Guideline on community-based EWS, including information on people-centred EWS systems, cross-cutting considerations, and involving actors from the community upwards and outwards
- Outlining, according to the priorities of the HFA, the role of national societies and examples of corresponding EWS activities
- Identification of key messages for national societies

The guideline will be in place by the end of this year

4. Improving VCA as community based planning tool

In consultation with national societies and the in-country Federation representation, the regional practical step-by-step VCA guidelines have been developed with the aim to help national society field practitioners have the same common approaches and apply this tool in community planning.

The guideline will be translated into some local languages of Khmer, Lao, Thai and Myanmar.

5. Strengthening coordination and networking

- Regional Disaster Management Committee network
- Promote NS to join National Platforms for DRR
- Exchange from NS to RDMU versus, NS to NS, NSs and RDMU to training events as part of capacity building
- RCRC with other stakeholders: governments; UNs, donors etc.

6. Case-studies and knowledge sharing

- Document good practices within and cross-regions and circulate to NSs for better programming and application
- A cross-regional and inter-agency DRR Practitioner workshop (SA, SEA, EA and the Pacific) hosted by SEA and jointly organized by IFRC and ADPC in Phuket, Thailand from 15-17 September 2009.