# PORSEA

The PDRSEA 3
Newsletter is
published quarterly by
ADPC in cooperation
with UNESCAP
and through funding
support from
DIPECHO

Community Based Disaster Risk Management: The Challenge for Sustainable Development in Southeast Asia

The Case of Spanish Red Cross

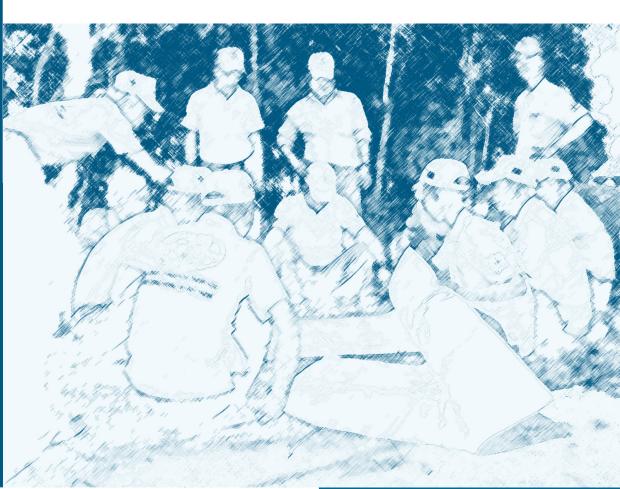








Top: National Day for Disaster Preparedness in Vietnam, 22May 2005 (VRC & DWF)
Middle: Participatory Village Meeting in Cambodia (ACF)
Bottom: Village Flood Marker in Cambodia (ACF)



# Also in this issue...

- a flood preparedness experience in cambodia, acf
- capacity building for flood risk management in the lower mekong basin, adpc 4
  - echo and dipecho activities in sea
  - tools for community risk assessment & action planning
    - pdrsea and partners 6

6

recent & upcoming events 8



It is widely accepted by all national and international organizations dedicated to international cooperation that it is not possible to implement a development policy without affecting, in a cross-sectional way, local conditions, and without a communitarian approach in its implementation. For a truly effective and sustainable development, these factors should be taken into consideration.



Community Based Disaster Risk Management:
The Challenge for Sustainable Development
in Southeast Asia

The Case of Spanish Red Cross

Tomas Lopez de Bufala, DIPECHO Proj. Coordinator, Spanish Red Cross Vietnam

This concept is even much more evident in zones prone to natural disasters such as Southeast Asia, where the development processes are often seriously affected and conditioned by the consequences of a vulnerable population to these phenomena.

In this sense, the **Spanish Red Cross**, making this exposition its working strategy in the zone, is currently supporting the National Societies of the Red Cross in India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The Spanish Red Cross went to these countries through emergency operations, like the typhoon "Babs" in the Philippines in 1998, the earthquake in Gujarat, India in 2001, or the most recent emergency operations in Indonesia and Sri Lanka in 2005, after the 26 December 2004 killer tsunami struck countries along the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. Rehabilitation, reconstruction and development programs are being carried out in areas such as these, where the component of disaster preparedness is fundamental.

The Spanish Red Cross already has commitments in Asia on this component. For example, in Sri Lanka, an ECHO through DIPECHO project, related to disaster preparedness "Strengthening the Disaster Management Capabilities of Vulnerable Communities to Floods" was implemented in 2001. In India, the Spanish Red Cross is supporting the National Program of Disaster Preparedness of the India Red Cross.

Currently we also have a project in Vietnam, also funded by DIPECHO on "Community-Based Disaster Risk Management in Vietnam". This project, framed within the fourth DIPECHO Action Plan for South East Asia, reinforces the "Strategic Plan for Disaster Management by Vietnam Red Cross 2003-2010". At the same time, it complements the "Second National

Strategy and Action Plan for Mitigation and Disaster Management 2001-2020" by the Vietnamese Government. In addition, it extends and reinforces the experiences gained by the Vietnam Red Cross in the field of disaster preparedness at the commune level through its participation in three previous DIPECHO Action Plans for Southeast Asia, carried out with the support of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Vietnam.

The on-going project in Vietnam is directly benefiting a total population of 31,000 people in 20 communes. The project is being implemented in the three central provinces of Quang Ngai, Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hué (where Vietnam Red Cross has been working in disaster preparedness during the last 8 years) and in the northern province of Son La, where no defined effort exists related to disaster preparedness despite its vulnerability to certain risks and disasters.

The project is concentrating efforts and resources in the following action lines:

- HVCA (Hazards, Vulnerabilities, Capacities Assessment), as a tool is necessary at the commune level to raise awareness about the risks that threaten the communes, and to identify vulnerabilities and capacities that allow us to adapt the action plans for disaster preparedness in each commune.
- The Disaster Preparedness School Program. Children are the most vulnerable in the community, and to invest in their education for disaster preparedness is to invest in the future of the communes.
- The Emergency and Shock Brigades, whose main objective is to train and equip the Emergency Brigades at the commune level, since the first ones to respond when disaster strikes are the communes themselves. This also provides equipments and supports training to the Emergency Brigades of the Vietnam Red Cross so they will be capable and equipped to support its communes.
- Support to the Basic Infrastructure and Mitigation Works.
   A great part of our effort and budget is devoted into physically meeting the needs identified during HVCA exercises in each commune. This is one of the greatest challenges the project is facing in its commitment to achieve its objectives.

One of the advantages of this current project is the package of good practices and lessons learnt provided by the previous DIPECHO. For example, they are now allowing us to carry out some activities that at first were conducted separately, as in the case of the training for HVCA facilitators at provincial level, which was independent from the "Training of Trainers" (TOT) for facilitators at the national level. Nowadays they are done at the same time. This is a clear example of the level of appropriation and consolidation of learning the Vietnam Red Cross demonstrates in relation to disaster preparedness through DIPECHO support.

The extensive national network and experience that Vietnam Red Cross has in the country are being used to achieve these goals. Due to the long term confidence ECHO has with the Vietnam Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross, we will continue to invest in disaster preparedness.

Community-based disaster risk management means long term sustainable development. These are the concepts that the Red Cross is totally committed to.

For more information, please contact Tomas Lopez de Bufala, DIPECHO Project Coordinator, Spanish Red Cross at del.tlb@cruzroja.es

EWS village public board and volunte

In the lower Mekong basin, floods are viewed as a normal seasonal event, bringing both positive and negative consequences, which has evolved over many years. The benefits of flooding include the renewal of nutrient laden soil and water supply that sustain agriculture and fish production, for irrigation and livestock, and the distribution of fingerlings in lakes and ponds.

However, it has been observed that in recent years, floods have become more irregular. Exceptional floods have tended to be more frequent, of greater amplitude and/or of longer duration (1996, 1997, 2000 and 2001). The combination of deforestation up-stream, changing regional weather patterns and recent infrastructures (dams, roads, banks protection of the Mekong River) have and will continue to increase the irregularities of the seasonal flooding. This phenomenon, in addition to the physical, socioeconomic and institutional vulnerability of the population exposed to floods, has increased the risk of disaster for the said populations. People are then

caught in a vicious circle as the most significant aspect of these floods is a progressive cumulative impact on the vulnerability of the people at risk. The risks faced by the communities during floods and identified by them (during Hazard, Vulnerability, Capacity Assessment) are 1. Food scarcity (less rice because crops are lost) 2. Exposure to diseases. 3. Loss of shelter (Houses destroyed).

However, the vulnerable communities have evolved various coping mechanisms for both normal and exceptional seasonal flooding: to eat less, to borrow money, to seek for job outside the village/country, to build bamboo barriers and to re-locate to Safe Areas, from I week to several months. The decision to stay or move is crucial to save properties and lives as any movement of persons and property consumes vital household income.

Action contre la Faim (ACF) is an International NGO, working since 1997 in the province of Kampong Cham. The province is located in central east Cambodia within the lower Mekong Basin. It is the most populated Province with 1 690 000 inhabitants living in 16 districts and a high population density along the Mekong River. ACF, in close collaboration with its 2 partners, the Provincial Red Cross (PRC) and the Provincial Committee for Disaster Management (PCDM) implement since 1997 Disaster Preparedness Projects funded by DipECHO and MRC. In the course of the years, ACF focused its Disaster Preparedness Projects on tree main components:

- Strengthening PCDM, DCDM (District Committee for Disaster Management) and CCDM (Commune Committee for Disaster Management).
- Flood Early Warning System for vulnerable communities
- Flood Information management.

# Early Warning System for vulnerable communities along the Mekong River and flood information management

The Early Warning System (EWS) is a very promising activity in term of relevance and sustainability. Using the daily forecast of the Mekong River Commission, received by e-mail at the PRC office around 12.00 pm, the PRC radio operator send at 2.00 pm by VHF radio the forecast to each village volunteer (47 villages today and 25 more in 2005). The village volunteer (Village chief or Red-Cross Volunteer) display the current and 3-days forecast water level on a specially-designed public board. Blue and green arrows show the trend of the water level in the village (increase or decrease) for the present day and the 3 next days. Finally, a warning sign (green, orange or red) inform the villagers if the village is near to be flooded or will be flooded in the coming days. The warning level is specific to each village and defined by the villagers through participatory meeting.

The implementation of EWS activity in a village starts by a participatory meeting where, after a hazard-capacity-vulnerability assessment, villagers expressed their knowledge on prediction

# A Flood Preparedness Experience in Cambodia

Elizabeth Lictevout, Program Manager, Action Contre la Faim



and forecast and their preferred way to receive the forecast. The warning levels specific to each village are defined, as well as the way and person responsible for warning dissemination. Then, the actions to be taken when the warning level has been reached are discussed. A public place is identified where a flood mark with the warning levels (green, orange, red) is painted. Finally, facilitators present the public board where the forecast will be displayed. Villagers decide its location and the responsible of the reception/display of information. The equipment (board, flood mark) is later on installed and training is given to the volunteers. Close monitoring during the flood season enable to give the necessary support to the volunteers.

The volunteer also daily observed the water level on the flood mark and record it. The records are collected at the end of the flood season, together with a flood damage survey. All the information is compiled in a flood data base which contains data from more than 600 villages since the year 2000. A set of maps is then produced. Besides serving as unique historical record for the province, the database and maps are essential tools for the local authorities in decision making and development planning.

#### **Lessons Learned**

The main success of this activity is the autonomous and efficient communication between MRC and the villages, through the PRC and village volunteers. The water level forecast for the Mekong River is received and displayed correctly in each village targeted by the project. Moreover, the I-day forecast from the MRC is accurate and credible to the villagers. All the villagers interviewed affirm that access to the water level forecast is really useful for them, even if they have never seen the board or even if they don't use it to get the information. Finally, this is a low cost, sustainable and easy-to-replicate system. All stakeholders strongly support this activity.

However, the method has shown also limitations and there were some difficulties that limited the achievement of the planned objectives:

Although the dissemination of the information is optimal from national level down to the village, we observed however that the dissemination of the information within the village (from EWS village volunteer to the villagers) is not as expected. Evaluations showed that the information doesn't reach all the villagers, especially the households far from the board, illiterate people and women head of family.

The volunteer fulfils its responsibilities displaying the information on the board but doesn't undertake any other dissemination activities such as meeting with villagers, visits to vulnerable household, etc. Social barriers and the absence of economic compensation for the volunteer are believed to be important limitations.

For centuries, the communities in the Lower Mekong Basin countries have lived with the annual floods in the region. Flood has become a part of their lives. The floods, though devastating at times, also provide them with abundant aquatic resources and fertile lands, and easy transportation. These available resources and the destructive impacts of floods have always been a regional rather than a national issue.

In recognition of these unique circumstances, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the Mekong River Commission (MRC) have jointly implemented a number of projects in the countries of the Lower Mekong Basin, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, on enhancing the flood preparedness planning capacities of the district and provincial disaster management committees and the community at large, under the shared objective of "Emergency management systems in the Riparian countries more effectively dealing with Mekong floods".

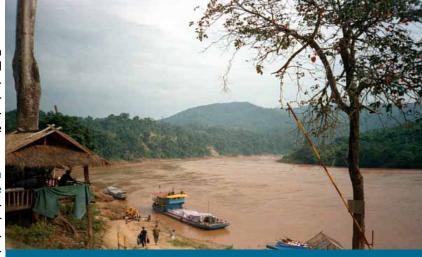
Since September 2003, one project has been successfully implemented and two are still being implementated, as follows:

- I. Capacity Building for Planning and Implementation of Flood Preparedness Programs at District and Provincial Levels in the Lower Mekong Basin (Phase I), with financial support from ECHO (from September '03 to June '04).
- 2. Capacity Building for Planning and Implementation of Flood Preparedness Programs at District and Provincial Levels in the Lower Mekong Basin (Phase II), with financial support from ECHO (from April '05 to May '06).
- 3. Flood Emergency Management Strengthening, with financial support from GTZ (from September 04 to June '07).

The projects were designed and developed focusing on three major areas:

- Capacity building of disaster management personnel on flood preparedness planning;
- Raising public awareness on flood risk management; and
- Sharing information and lessons learned on flood management practices among the lower Mekong Basin Countries.

The key implementing partners are disaster management com-



# Capacity Building for Flood Risk Management in the Lower Mekong Basin

Hnin Nwe Win, Project Manager, DMS, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

mittees at commune, district and provincial levels, to develop and implement flood preparedness planning activities, based on the assessed needs of the communities.

The on-going ECHO-MRC-ADPC Capacity Building project (Phase I) will provide support to these partner institutions in the preparation and initial implementation of flood preparedness programs in a pilot district of one high-risk province in Cambodia. It will look at the available resources at various levels and will undertake the implementation of selected priority action areas (e.g., early warning systems, evacuation, management and maintenance of safe areas, stockpiles of relief and response resources, construction of raised roads, and flood proofing measures), determined by these committees in collaboration with the community.

It is envisaged that through a river basin approach focusing on active participation and capacity building of all stakeholders, enhanced coordination and improved sustainability will be accomplished in managing flood risks in the lower Mekong Basin Countries.

For more information, please contact Hnin Nwe Win, Project Manager, Disaster Management Systems, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center at mahnin@adpc.net

Contd. from page 3, A Flood Preparedness Experience in Cambodia

Moreover, the board remains complicated: even using colours and arrows, illiterate people have more difficulties to access the information. People living far from the board have difficulties to reach the board during flood season, problem affecting especially the women head of families.

#### Conclusion and way forward:

A too technical top-down approach, which, however, allowed setting up the system, has certainly some part of responsibility in the difficulties encountered.

A more systematic participatory approach with the villagers, the possibility for the villagers to choose their preferred way to receive the forecast and the simplification of the board will certainly improve the access of everybody to the information (reception, understanding).

The use of other communication channel (FM radio, television) is now investigated and will be the key to reach all the population

especially vulnerable groups. Messages should be simplified as much as possible.

Success will also depend on the improvement of the communication within the village. A special work with children in the schools will be undertaken. Children are an essential vector of transmission and dissemination of awareness messages between the outside and the household.

Effort will be made to set up community action plan after the reception and understanding of the warning message. Finally, next steps focus now on the handover of the dissemination of the forecast and the flood information management to the PCDM.

For more information, please contact Elisabeth Lictevout, Flood Preparedness Project Manager, Action contre la Faim Cambodia at elictevout@aupa.net or acf.kcham@laposte.net



DIPECHO, the natural disaster preparedness, mitigation and prevention programme of Humanitarian Aid General Directorate (ECHO) of the European Commission is at the vanguard of the Commission's natural disaster risk reduction approach. It attempts to reduce the vulnerability of people at risk such that the resilience of the perennially exposed is reinforced to reduce the loss to life and assets that so plagues the region.

Following the success of the dialogue undertaken as part of the strategic planning process for the 4th DIPECHO Action Plan for South East Asia, DIPECHO re-engaged with partners, practitioners, government agencies and donor institutions in March and April 2005 in a process of review and exchange of ideas.

#### **National Consultative Meetings**

One-day National Consultative Meetings (NCM) were held in each of the five DIPECHO SEA countries, namely:

- · Cambodia, I I March
- · East Timor, 23 March
- Indonesia, 21 March
- · Lao PDR, 30 March
- · Vietnam, I April

Representatives of the aforementioned key stakeholder groups in natural disaster risk reduction in those countries attended the meetings.

The meetings facilitated a dialogue on natural disaster risk reduction in the context of sustainable development. It highlighted the challenges, successes, and lessons learned in each country. They came up with recommendations for enhanced disaster risk reduction, and, where possible presented this in the context of improved national development and poverty alleviation strategies of respective countries.

#### **Regional Consultative Meetings**

The series of National Consultative Meetings culminated in the Regional Consultative Meeting (RCM) which brought together regional representatives of DIPECHO partners, other primary INGOs, IOs and donor institutions working in the field of natural disaster risk reduction. The meeting, held on April 22 at the Banyan Tree Hotel in Bangkok sought to:

 Inform the wider risk reduction community of how the DIPECHO strategy that they assisted in determining had manifested itself for the period 2004-2006. Provide an opportunity for other disaster risk management practitio-



ners in the South East Asian region to share their experiences and current strategies.

- Enable discussion vis-à-vis the disaster management strategy in South East Asia.
- Invite bilateral donors and IFIs to communicate their disaster reduction strategies to the wider community in the region.

The one-day RCM was attended by about 40 representatives of key organisations working in the field of natural disaster risk reduction, especially in the South East Asian region, namely, ADPC, ADRC, ASEAN Secretariat / ACDM, DFID, FAO, GTZ, German Embassy, IFRC, ISTED / ASIA ITC, JICA, MRC, OHCA, PDC, Royal Danish Embassy, SIDA, USAID-OFDA, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNESCO-IOC-WESTPAC, UNISDR, WFP, WHO, World Bank, and World Vision.

Strategic priorities and difficulties encountered / lessons learned were discussed. Recommendations made included the following:

- Promote better understanding of the linkages between disaster risk reduction, development and environment; advance practical engagement with partners from different sectors/ministries.
- Build professional skills for developing and implementing risk reduction programs; hire and train technically qualified staff; build analytical capacity.
- Build capacity for public awareness; work with media.
- Pursue strategic planning to identify priority activities in Disaster Risk Reduction and Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Promote and strengthen partnerships.
- Continue to promote Community-Based Disaster Risk Management; ensure that the most vulnerable populations are included in assessments and programs.
- Critically evaluate and apply "Best Practices".
- Set performance targets and develop indicators.

#### ECHO and DIPECHO Activities in Southeast Asia March to May 2005

- Encourage donors to fund longer term programs (5 years).
- Support both social and technical inputs to disaster risk reduction.
- Draw on sound scientific knowledge / support research.
- · Use markets wherever possible.
- Keep individuals in focus.
- Shift from focus on Tsunami to multihazard focus.
- Shift from focus on Early Warning Systems to Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction.
- · Invest in education at all levels.
- Build baseline data on risk and vulnerability; improve information management systems.
- Realign the balance of funding from response to preparedness.

#### **FPA Training Workshop**

A training workshop on the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) was organized by ECHO/Regional Support Office on May 30 and 31 at the Sofitel Hotel in Bangkok.

The FPA's purpose is to define roles and responsibilities in the implementation of humanitarian operations financed by ECHO / DIPECHO. A thorough understanding of the FPA is a must for implementing ECHO funded projects, or for submitting proposals to ECHO.

The training workshop was attended by representatives of ECHO and DIPECHO funded partners in South East Asia.

For further details on the FPA, please visit: http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/partners/fpa\_en.htm

For more information, please contact DIPECHO SEA via Thearat Touch, Programme Assistant, at program01@echo-bangkok.org

# Partnerships for Disaster Reduction in Southeast Asia (Phase 3) PDRSEA3



The Partnerships for Disaster Reduction-Southeast Asia (PDRSEA) program was initiated in 2001 to promote community based approaches to disaster risk management.

The Third Phase of Partnerships for Disaster Reduction-Southeast Asia (PDRSEA 3), funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) under the DIPECHO Fourth Action Plan for Southeast Asia, and implemented through the partnership of ADPC and UNESCAP, focusses on institutionalizing Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) in government policy, planning and implementation. PDRSEA 3 is working closely with National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs), local government departments and other key ministries and departments, and assisting government agencies in developing strategies and action plans to support and mobilize community action for disaster risk management.

The project is also working closely with international donors, the media, and business entities in selected countries to mobilize support for community based approaches and activities. The 15 month project is being implemented from February 2005 to April 2006, in five project countries: Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Vietnam.

The project strategy of institutionalizing CBDRM in government policy, planning and implementation is being carried out through three major activities: framework development and action planning; research and development of tools to support decision-making; and strengthening networking.

For more information, please contact Mr. Zubair Murshed, Project Manager, PDRSEA 3, ADPC, at mzubair@adpc.net PDRSEA Site: http://www.adpc.net/pdrsea/index.php

# PDRSEA 3 Partners World Vision Care World Vision ACTION Care Care

# Tools for Community Risk Assessment and Action Planning

The ProVention Consortium in collaboration with regional partners from all over the world has been implementing the project "Tools for Community Risk Assessment and Action Planning". The project is focused on compiling, comparing and analyzing community risk assessment methodologies from as many countries as possible. Under this initiative, cases, methodologies and tools on community risk assessment were collected from all over the globe. These include frameworks, guidelines, handbooks, manuals, and questionnaires. The project has addressed a major need of both policy makers and practitioners and policy makers alike. In total, around 20 cases and a number of guidebooks, manuals and tool kits have been collected.

The consortium aims that the tools can contribute to:

- the mainstreaming of the application of community risk assessment at local, provincial and national levels; and
- change practice and policy of the governments through leading towards action planning on the basis of community risk assessment.

If you are a local government official, development worker or senior decision maker who wants to know various innovative methods for risk assessment in your community, in either urban or rural setting and use them for disaster risk reduction, you will find a wealth of materials at the following website:

http://www.proventionconsortium.org/toolkit.htm Go under "C.Vulnerability and Risk Assessment"

#### Information is Power.

Share with us your experiences on community-based disaster risk management, to empower more communities in other regions and countries.

- Zubair Murshed, Project Manager, PDRSEA 3



#### National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)

#### **CAMBODIA**

H.E.Dr.Nhim Vanda First Vice President National Committee for Disaster Management No.274, Monivong Road Phnom Penh, Cambodia Tel: +855-23211171 Fax +855-23987719

#### **EASTTIMOR**

Mr. Francisco Rosario
Chief, Emergency Services
& National Disaster
Management Office
GPA Kobe House 4
Civil Protection
Ministry of Interior
Dili, East Timor
Tel: +670-3322597 / 7231552
Fax: +670-3322535
francisco\_ndmo@yahoo.com

#### **INDONESIA**

Dr. Indrawadi Tamin Vice Secretary BAKORNAB PBP Jalan Jr. Juanda 36, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia Tel: +62-21-3458000 Fax: +62-21-3458500

#### **LAO PDR**

Mr. Phetsavang Sounnalath Director, National Disaster Management Office Pangkham Road, PO.BOX 347, Vientiane, Lao PDR Tel: +856-21-213011 Fax: +856-21-219525 ndmo@laopdr.com

#### **VIETNAM**

Dr. Dang Quang Tinh
Director
Department of Dike
Management, Flood and
Storm Control (DDMFSC)
Central Committee for
Flood and Storm Control
No.2 Ngoc Ha Street,
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: +844-7335686
Fax:: +844-7336647
pclbtw@fpt.vn

#### CAMBODIA

#### **Action Against Hunger**

Mr. Laurent Romagny #8, Street 328, Toul Svay Prey I, Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA Tel: +855-23-993-002 Fax: +855-23-361291 acf-laurent.romagny@libertysurf.fr Flood disaster preparedness and mitigation in Kampong Cham

#### **ZOA Cambodia**

Mr. Bernard Jasper Faijer PO Box 559, #41, Street 476, Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA Tel:+855-23-362-134 Fax:+855-23-213-460 bernard@zoacambodia.org Reducing the impact of drought in Oddar Meanchey province

#### **Dan Church Aid**

Mr. Alan D. Jensen c/o LWF, #37, Street 592, Sagkat Beung Kak II, Khan Toul Kork, Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA Tel: +855-23-881-100 Fax: +855-23-881-616 dcaglobalfunding@everyday.com.kh Community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation

#### **Danish Red Cross**

Mr. Andrew Oliver Smith #17 Street 180 (Red Cross St) Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA Phone::+855-12-654247 danishrc08@online.com.kh A model for community-based disaster risk reduction in Cambodia

#### **EAST TIMOR**

#### CARE

Mr. Jill Umbach Dili, EAST TIMOR Tel: +670 390 321 407 Fax: +670 390 321 407 cd.careet@bigpond.com Community-managed food banks for disaster preparedness

#### CONCERN

Ms. Danny Harvey
Dili, EAST TIMOR
Tel: +670 390 312 039
Fax: +670 390 312 039
cd@concerneast-timor.tp
Capacity building for disaster risk
reduction, Lautem district

#### **INDONESIA**

#### CARE

Mr. Bud Crandall Jl. Pattimura No. 33, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta 12110, INDONESIA Tel: +62-21-7279-6661 Fax: +62-21-7222-552 budc@cbn.net.id Strengthening of initiatives in PEAT areas to increase preparedness for disaster

### Danish Red Cross

Mr. Lars Moller Gedung Palang Merah Indonesia Jl. Jend. Gatot Subroto Kav. 96 Jakarta 12790,INDONESIA Phone::+62-21-79195921 Fax:+856-21-79193270 lam@con21.dk Community-based risk reduction (CBRR) in Indonesia

#### **LAO PDR**

#### CARE

Ms. Geraldine Zwack
P.O.Box 4328, 217/18
Sibounheaung Rd
Ban Sibounheaung, Vientiane,
LAO PDR
Tel: +856-21-212-991
Fax: +856-21-214-415
Geraldine@carelaos.org
Remote area disaster preparedness
and response project (RADPRP)

#### **World Vision**

Mr. Stephen Rozario
P.O. Box 312,
01005 Vientiane
LAO PDR
Tel: +856-21-412-933
Fax: +856-21-452-101
Stephen\_rozario@wvi.org
Community-based disaster
management (CBDM) project for
Pakkading and Soukhouma districts

#### **VIETNAM**

## **Development Workshop France**

Mr. Guillaume Chantry 91/44 A, Phanh Dinh Phung, Thua Thien Hue, Hue, VIETNAM Tel: +84-54-848-23 I dwvn@dng.vnn.vn Reduction of the material and economic vulnerability of families and communities caused by natural disaster in central Vietnam

#### Spanish Red Cross (Cruz Roja Espanola)

Mr. Luis Lechiguero
15 Thien Quang Street,
Hanoi, VIETNAM
Tel: +844-9423-146
Fax: +844-9423-146
cruzroja1@fpt.vn
Community-based disaster risk
management in Vietnam

#### Save the Children

Mr. Bill Tod 218 Doi Can Street, Ba Dinh District, Hanoi, VIETNAM Tel: +844-8325-319 Fax: +844-8325-073 billtod@scuk.org.vn Continued strengthening of community capacity in child-focused disaster preparedness and response

#### CARE

PDRSEA 3 Partners in the Fourth DIPECHO Action Plan

for Southeast Asia

Ms. Carol Sherman
25 Hang Bun Street,
Ba Dinh Dist., Hanoi, VIETNAM
Tel: +84-4-716-1930
Fax: +844-716-1935
csherman@care.org.vn
Getting prepared: enhancing
community-based disaster
preparedness and coping capacity in
vulnerable communities of Binh
Dinh province, Vietnam

#### **Action Aid International**

Mr. Ramesh Khadka
Floor 5, HEAC Building
14 -16 Ham Long street
Hoan Kiem District
Hanoi, VIETNAM
Tel: +844-771-7692
Fax: +844-771-7693
RameshK@actionaidvietnam.org
Pilot project on CBDRRM in three
long-term programme locations in
Vietnam

#### **REGIONAL**

#### **Mekong River Commission**

Dr. Olivier Cogels P.O. Box 6101 Vientiane, LAO PDR Tel: +856-21-263-263 Fax: +856-21-263-264 cogels@mrcmekong.org Capacity building for prepar

Capacity building for preparedness planning and response through the use of flood information products in the lower Mekong basin (in partnership with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center)

#### **UNESCAP**

Dr. Le Huu Ti
United Nations Building,
Rajadamnern Avenue,
Bangkok 10200, THAILAND
Tel: +66-2-288-1450
Fax: +66-2-288-1059
ti.unescap@un.org
Partnerships for Disaster Reduction
in Southeast Asia Phase 3
(in partnership with the Asian
Disaster Preparedness Center)

#### ISDR / OCHA

Mr. John Harding
UN/ISDR
Palais des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva 10,
SWITZERLAND
Tel: +41-229-172-785
Fax: +41-229-170-563
harding@un.org
Coordination and facilitation in
support of the assessment,
evaluation and strengthening of early
warning systems and disaster risk
reduction in countries affected by
the 26 December 2004 Tsunami.

#### National Consultation Workshop in Lao PDR

In cooperation with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) of Lao PDR, and PDRSEA3 / ADPC, a national consultation meeting was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 26-27 May 2005. A total of 29 participants from government ministries and departments, INGOs, DIPECHO partners, UN and donor agencies attended the workshop. Two concept papers - "Institutionalizing community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) in the government policy-making and planning" and "Importance of networking and partnerships among disaster risk management practitioners" were presented at the workshop. In addition, the experiences of CARE, Concern, Lao Red Cross, and World Vision, were also shared.

From the discussions, it was deduced that drought, fire, flood, landslides, local storm, and slash and burn, have been the major hazards in Lao PDR. Agencies such as ADPC, CARE, Concern, Lao Red Cross, Mekong River Commission, Oxfam, Urban Research Institute (URI/Laos) and the NDMO are working in the field of disaster risk management in the country. These organizations have organized training and study tours, established village units, developed small-scale hazard maps and community-based early warning systems, introduced new drought resistant crops, and established micro-finance activities which benefited about 44% of the provinces and 12% of the districts. Very few organizations have launched projects of an integrated nature covering all types of disasters and livelihoods. However, communities have been involved in decision-making and implementation, with the government agencies and project implementing agencies providing technical advice, M&E, design and facilitation. These activities have had a positive impact on the livelihood and coping capacities of local communities. However, the scale of intervention has been insignificant.

Furthermore, it was concluded that:

- The scale of natural disasters in Lao PDR is very high.
- Both the non-governmental sector and government departments and ministries should be involved in managing such disasters.
- · Involving other government aencies in mobilizing resources for community capacity building to institutionalize CBDRM in the country should continue to be a high priority.

A detailed framework for institutionalizing CBDRM, and strengthening of national level networking and partnerships among disaster risk management practitioners has been developed. These will be disseminated to various stakeholders in the country and in the region, and will be the basis for the following National Collaborative Planning Workshop to be held in Lao PDR on July

National Consultation Workshops in 5 project countries are being organized as part of PDRSEA3's strategy on framework development and action planning to institutionalize CBDRM in government policy, planning and implementation. These workshops will see the formation of strategies to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones amongst government ministries and departments, NDMOs, relevant NGOs, DIPECHO partner organizations, UN agencies, donors and community leaders from disaster prone regions. The workshop will discuss the need for and the role of regional networking and partnerships. With the inputs of multiple stakeholders, a framework will also be developed on institutionalizing Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) in the country.

National Consultation Meetings in other countries (Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, and Vietnam) will be held in June 2005.



Participants of the National Consultation Meeting in Vientiane

#### **Recent and Upcoming Events in** Disaster Risk Management in Southeast Asia

#### 5th Meeting of the ADPC Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management in Vietnam

The 5th Meeting of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC5) took place in Hanoi on 18-20 May 2005. The meeting was attended by 64 participants representing the NDMOs of 18 RCC Member Countries and observers from local and regional organizations, UN Agencies, and bilateral and multilateral funding agencies.

The main theme of the meeting focussed on the AusAID-funded RCC Initiative on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development (MDRD) Policy, Planning and Implementation in Asia. This initaitive seeks to integrate disaster risk management into national development plans of RCC member countries as well

as focusing on specific priority sectors such as agriculture, education, financial services, health, housing, and infrastructure. There are strong synergies between this RCC program and PDRSEA3 as the focus of the latter is to institutionalize CBDRM in government policy, planning and implementation in the five target countries.

The meeting also included a Special Consultative Session for the Asian Region on the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR, 18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Japan). It provided an overview of current actions and initiatives related to the WCDR follow-up.

#### upcoming events june-july 2005

#### National Consultation Workshops

Cambodia, June 27-28 East Timor, June 29-30 Indonesia, to be confirmed Vietnam, June 23-24

#### **DRM** Database Training Bangkok, July 7-8

#### **National Strategic Collaborative** Planning Workshops

(tentative dates) Cambodia, July 14-15 East Timor, July 28-29 Indonesia, July 25-26 Lao PDR, July 11-12 Vietnam, July 18-19

13th Community Based Disaster Risk Management Course ADPC, Bangkok, July 4-15

To submit articles or to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Vicky Diopenes, Information Manager, PDRSEA3 at vicky@adpc.net