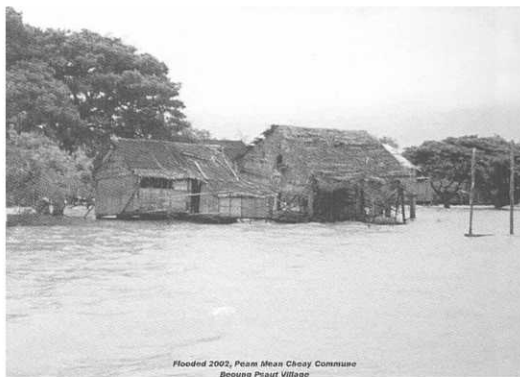


37 Community-Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) Program In Cambodia

BACKGROUND

Based on the serious major flooding disaster events in 1996, 1998 and previous years, the initiation of the CBDP program was made by Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) with financial and technical support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent society (the Federation) since late 1998 in Cambodia. Thus far, it becomes the core program of the CRC and forms the basis for CRC preparedness, Response, and recovery activities. The CRC itself defined the CBDP program as the *initiation of the process of community participation, empowerment and problem solving undertaken by communities to prepare for and respond to natural hazards that affect them*. It involves *reducing vulnerabilities* (damaged to infrastructure, livelihoods & shelter need etc...) and *increasing capacity* (Knowledge and skills etc .) of the natural hazards prone communities to enable them to deal with the potential natural hazards (Mainly focus on flood and drought).



OBJECTIVES

The goal was to improve the quality of life and capacity of the most vulnerabilities in Cambodia. The objectives were:

- To enhance capacity to cope with, and to mitigate the effects of natural disaster.
- To develop capacity of Cambodian Red Cross staff to effectively prepare for and response to natural disaster affecting Cambodia

ACTIVITIES

■ **Capacity Building Training:** The following training components were delivered to the Red Cross Volunteer (the RCVs) and the Commune Council For Disaster Management Committee (the CCDMCs) which known as the local authority: Red Cross movement, Community Based First Aid (CBFA), Disasters and disaster management concept/framework, Community Based Disaster Risk Management concept/framework, Participatory Disaster Risks Assessment and Action (PDRAA), Community Organizing

■ **Community Organizing process:**

• *PDRAA process:* Through the participatory approach, which participated by community-related groups, the trained-RCVs and CCDMCs with technical support from CRC-HQ staffs and Provincial Branch Red Cross, facilitate the PDRAA in order to:

— Identify vulnerabilities, disaster risks resulting from occurrences of natural hazards in the community as well as the capacities/resources available and *potential disaster risk reduction measures (including the small scale mitigation measures namely the Micro-project)* for coping with identified risks.

— Formulate the Community Disaster Management Action Plan (the CDMAP) for long-term activities utilizing the information gathered.

■ **Implementation of the Micro-project:** as a process of testing the CDMAP.

■ **Implementation of the entire CDMAP**

■ **Program monitoring and evaluation**

ACHIEVEMENTS

■ 559 of CCDMC member and 730 RCVs were recruited and trained to be the key people for the program at the community level.

■ The program covers in 23 districts, 94 communes, and 317 villages.

■ A model of the CBDP for Cambodia context/situation was developed and tested.

■ Central to the networking and coordination with other agencies, CRC-CBDP team had provided CBDRM training to other DM bodies in Cambodia.

■ CBDRM training material for Cambodia context is finalized, and distributed to other agencies in Cambodia who engaged in CBDRM intervention.

■ One MoU on coordination and cooperation between the National Committee for Disaster Management (the NCDM) and CRC is developed

LESSONS

■ Community organizing is very complicated process for Cambodia situation/context.

■ Mobilization of the Most Vulnerable group in the program is long-term process. To deal with this, direct support/assistance to them at the starting point of the program is a critical key to built trust and confident with such group as well as to involve them and community as a whole in the program process.

■ Mainstreaming of the CDMAP into the Commune Council's long-term development plan is a key toward sustainability of the CBDRM program at the community level. This needs strong support from the government.

■ CBDRM program needs more coordination with the Royal Government of Cambodia (the RGC) and other relevant NGOs toward sustainability (Clear roles and responsibilities of local authority and DM bodies, resources allocation from RGC to support DM activities).

■ Ownership on the Micro-mitigation project needs to be built

■ The other key issues which can lead to the sustainability of this program are:

- Structure need to be set up especially at the community level
- Leadership and management need to be reinforced and committed.
- Funding/Fundraising issue
- Trust and ownership of the project
- Transparency on the financial management
- Public awareness


- Education
- Monitoring of every activity, which related to the program implementation should be considered
- Evaluation system must be set up and used it as the key tool



FUTURE

■ Improving implementation procedures in Disaster Preparedness

■ Unify all DM Organizations to define a unique strategy Disaster Management and join implementation.



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