



3,130,000

CHF Funding Requirement

77,650

People to be reached

457,400

Volunteers (combined)

4

National Societies

IFRC Country Cluster Support Team in Bangkok

The Mekong region is frequently affected by natural disasters associated with climate change such as floods, droughts and typhoons. Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam often face common challenges and emerging risks, including rapid urbanisation, climate change and environmental pressures along with health risks, rising inequalities, migration, gender discrimination and violence.

Cambodia: Large sections of the country are flood-prone, particularly along the Mekong River and Tonle Sap Lake. It is also one of the least urbanised countries in South East Asia with over 80 per cent of people living in rural areas in extreme poverty. Cambodia has the lowest sanitation coverage of 37 per cent and the second lowest water supply coverage of 77 per cent in the region, resulting in a high child mortality rate directly associated with diarrheal diseases. Focus for 2019 will be on strengthening sustainable access to WASH facilities and positive behavioural change in three target provinces; capacity building in pandemic preparedness; promoting road safety awareness campaigns, healthy aging as well as improved access to antiretroviral treatment (ARV) and care among migrants living with HIV/AIDS.

Lao PDR: Communities across Laos are affected by frequent small-scale, recurrent disasters, thus contributing to the rising level of vulnerability of poor populations and undermining existing coping mechanisms. The Lao Red Cross (LRC) aims to support the most vulnerable people's basic needs by working with communities to improve their health and livelihoods and help them to prepare for and respond to disasters at the community level. The LRC communicates early warning information, provides emergency relief supplies including food and Non Food Items (NFIs), and conducts village level assessments in coordination with the local authorities in times of emergency. The focus remains on the area of community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) and school safety initiatives, youth enhancement in the community, operationalization and dissemination of Lao RC Law, community based health and first aid (CBHFA) and violence prevention in relation to health services as well as strengthen its capacity of the First Aid network in public and communities through promoting first aid services. Support from the CCST Bangkok to the National Society focused on its recovery interventions for the affected population in Attapeu province following the dam collapse in July 2018.

Thailand: While Thailand has comparably strong disaster management systems and structures, the country remains at risk to major disasters, including floods, tropical cyclones, and droughts. The Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) endeavors to alleviate human suffering, promote international humanitarian law, and provide health services to the most vulnerable among children, women and the aged in four areas of medical and healthcare services; disaster preparedness and response; blood transfusion services; and social welfare and quality of life promotion. The CCST's support to TRCS will focus on strengthening community based disaster risk reduction initiatives including school safety interventions; the improvement of GIS system to inform decision makers of disaster relief assistance; the disaster response mechanism and providing technical support for integrating protection, gender and inclusion into its programming, potentially starting with youth-led activities.

Viet Nam: The country is at continuous risk of natural disasters, including floods, typhoons, landslides, and droughts. In addition, climate change threatens the Red and Mekong River deltas. There are needs for interventions in the field of community based disaster risk reduction, CBHFA, as well as water, sanitation, and hygiene which are listed among the top priority for interventions in Viet Nam for 2019 where CCST Bangkok continue to provide support to the Viet Nam Red Cross Society.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Mekong Region Vulnerable to Climate Change Impact

Over the past few years, the impact of climate change on the four Mekong countries has become increasingly visible, with more intense and lengthy rainfalls, flooding, typhoon, and drought. As the region's economies are mainly driven by agriculture, the climate change-led natural disasters result in severe socio-economic impacts on the populations, particularly vulnerable groups including ethnic minorities, migrants, women, children, elderly, and people with disabilities.

The underlying causes of vulnerabilities are linked to development gaps, in particular on health, water and sanitation, social and gender inequalities.

The strong economic and social connectedness among the four countries also translates to increased transboundary risks (Mekong flooding, pandemics and population movements).

STATISTICS

68% of Viet Nam's disaster-related deaths during 1990-2014 were caused by floods.

51% of Lao children living in household with poor WASH facilities are developmentally stunted.

34% of Vietnamese women aged 18-60 years old have experienced sexual-based violence

13% of Cambodia's population still relies on untreated surface water

440,000 of adults and children in Thailand estimated to be living with HIV in 2017.

CAMBODIA

CHF 215,000 REQUIRED

CCST Bangkok plans to support CRC in integrating the Healthy Aging interventions through volunteer training to contribute to positive outcome on the quality of life of Cambodia's elderly people in rural community by restoring hope and dignity via non-communicable disease (NCD) and health promotion education. Implementation of community based health and first aid (CBHFA) and violence prevention approach are planned for 2019 following the research on Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) prevention before, during, and after disaster that was conducted in 2018. Promotion of access to antiretroviral treatment (ARV) and care among migrants living with HIV/AIDS will also be planned. Strengthening CRC capacity through implementation of the Minimum Standard Commitments (MSC) to Gender and Diversity in disaster risk reduction and health programming will also be a focus. CRC will be supported to draft its Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy as well as in conducting PSEA orientation for CRC leadership. Other activities are also including:

- Implementing of the community-based management of water and sanitation facilities and promoting positive behavioral change in personal hygiene;
- Promoting the use of the IFRC Volunteer Framework and Youth Engagement;
- Dialogue with the CRC in launching 1 Billion Coalition in the country.

LAO PDR

CHF 530,000 REQUIRED

Rolling out community-based interventions (risk reduction, school safety, CBHFA and violence prevention); installation and maintenance of water purification units in strategic locations; mainstreaming of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) into the on-going disaster emergency response operation; and to continue to advocate for protection of migrants' right to basic services. In addition, priority will be given to the implementation of the new Red Cross Law which entails drafting and endorsing a series of technical regulations related to the legal base and structure of the organization (Red Ready) and technical support to recovery interventions for the affected people in Attapeu province. Other activities include, but not limited to:

- Strengthening LRC's position on first aid through capacity building and expanding its first aid (FA) network;
- Conducting training for volunteers on epidemic control for volunteers (ECV) and first aid;
- Promotion of access to antiretroviral treatment (ARV) and care among migrants living with HIV/AIDS;
- Supporting LRC to engage national authorities in addressing SGBV issues and to implement SGBV research recommendations.

THAILAND

CHF 340,000 REQUIRED

CCST Bangkok is promoting an integrated approach in supporting the TRCS not only in terms of thematic integration, but also in integrating its planned support within the overall plans of TRCS. For instance, peer-to-peer support is prioritized and will be fully utilized as the most effective and efficient working modality within the region. Focus will be on implementing community based disaster risk reduction measures including school safety interventions, improvement of GIS system (hardware and software) to inform decision makers of disaster relief assistance, and providing technical support for integrating protection, gender and inclusion into its programming. Other activities include, but not limited to:

- Use of mobile clinic to provide health services to communities in mountainous & remote areas;
- Development of youth engagement plan and national society disaster response system;
- Advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy, particularly during Thailand's leadership of ASEAN in 2019

VIET NAM

CHF 470,000 REQUIRED

Support to VNRC in implementing CBDRR and School Safety initiatives will continue in 2019, with a strong link with the support for institutional preparedness at national level and capacity building for branches under the "Red Ready" initiative. In addition, CBHFA and violence prevention and pandemic preparedness through ECV trainings to VNRC staff and volunteers as well as mosquito borne disease prevention at community level will be potentially implemented. Target communities will be equipped with disaster knowledge and WASH safety equipment to prepare for emergencies. CCST will also support VNRC in exploring opportunity of reviewing and adapting its program to reflect on the research on SGBV prevention and response conducted in 2018. Community-based activities or interventions will be carried out through awareness raising activities related to SGBV prevention as well as reinforcement of existing SGBV referral system at the local level. Other activities also include, but not limited to:

- Promoting Cash-based Intervention during emergencies through training, review of past operations, and case study development
- Supporting VNRC in engaging with the national disaster management office on disaster law dissemination, and in integrating the results of the SGBV research into VNRC operation.
- Supporting VNRC in strengthening communication and advocacy efforts.

CCST BANGKOK

CHF 2,100,000 REQUIRED

CCST Bangkok will support the National Societies in building community-level capacity in disaster preparedness and response, as well as disaster risk reduction and resilience programmes. Capacity building in CBI will be provided to target countries (i.e. Lao PDR and Viet Nam) for livelihoods and basic needs intervention via peer to peer learning and operational capacity building. More effort will be seen in the area of road safety to reduce the number of accidents, injuries and fatalities, which is one of the main causes for the region's economic losses. Building on the results of the research on SGBV prevention before, during and after disasters conducted in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam, CCST will work with respective National Societies to incorporate the research recommendations into their policies and operations. In addition, the emergency operation in Attapeu Province of Lao PDR will continue in 2019 where issues related to DRR, Shelter, Livelihoods, Health, WASH, and PGI will be addressed with the support from the Emergency Appeal and CCST Bangkok.

CONTACTS

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