



April - June 2015

Towards Disability Inclusive Development



Disability Training of Trainers Participants with International Inclusive Sign

AZEECON members received a week Disability Training of Trainers (ToT) in Yangon, Myanmar from 11 to 16 May 2015. It is a series of training and two times were completed; first in Indonesia and second in Laos. Two resource persons were Ms. Lauren Kathage, Program Officer from Australian Lutheran World Service and Ms. Briana Ruth Wilson, Technical Advisor from CBM Australia. Altogether 24 participants were from seven AZEECON member countries; RDRS Bangladesh, LWD Cambodia, LWS India Trust, CDRM & CDS Indonesia, Laos, LWF Myanmar and LWF Nepal.

Training was funded by Australian Lutheran World Service and Australian Aid and jointly implemented by AZEECON and LWF Myanmar in collaboration with Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI) organization. It aims to understand

key messages of Disability Inclusive development and how to raise awareness about them, understand key principles and actions for implementing Disability Inclusive Development and how to implement these within the project management cycle and applying this understanding to own

work context.

Ms. Naing Soe Aye working in the emergency response program of LWF Myanmar as a Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCCM Officer) in Rakhine State shared her action plans for PwD. "Currently, we are doing community need assessment for PwD in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP camps) in our project area. Through this training, I realize how we can add disability inclusive activities in Community Service program. In the same time, I am also worried that my organization cannot fulfill all gaps as needs are everywhere. For example, special education for PwD, providing wheelchairs for PwD, how they will use wheelchairs inside IDP camps and so on."

On the last day, participants implemented Disability Inclusive Development action plan for their specific country program. ■



Ms. Naing Soe Aye from LWF Myanmar

CDRM&CDS Indonesia Supports Survivors of Sinabung Eruption

Sinabung volcano in Northern Sumatra, Indonesia, has been erupting from time to time since 2010, after more than 400 years of being dormant. In 2014, at least 17 people were killed by eruptions from Sinabung. Since the danger alert for Mount Sinabung was raised again to its highest level on 2 June 2015, it has prompted 10,000 people to evacuate to 10 safe IDPs' camps around the volcano.

CDRM&CDS together with Local Emergency Assessment and Response Network (LEARN) has supported the survivors of the Sinabung's eruption by providing masks, hygiene kits, and conducting psychosocial activity for kids in one of the ten IDPs' camps, the "Tanjung Mbelang" camp. The aid was distributed after the team performed 4 days deep assessment to assess urgent priority needs of the 945 evacuees in the camp. CDRM&CDS and LEARN Network has also initiated a Joint Secretariat for NGOs, governments, and concerned parties on Sinabung.

Prior to the emergency response, CDRM&CDS had facilitated a 4-day Training of Trainers on IDP Camp Management in April 2015 to strengthen humanitar-



Aid distribution to one of IDPs camp.



Training participants explained IDPs Camp prototype that they created

ian workers capacity in emergency situation. This training was attended by 13 CDRM&CDS' partner church representatives. On this training, the participant learned about Sphere standards, IDPs protection, logistic management, and other camp-related manage-

ment sectors.

Mr. Budi Aman Gea, one of the participating Diaconal workers of AMIN Church from Nias Islands shared his opinion about this training. "I have been working in humanitarian since 2005, and this is my first time to attend IDPs Camp Management

training. Before, I did not know that there is a lot of things to prepare to manage IDPs camp. As diaconal workers, we are happy to participate in this this training. We plan to facilitate the same training for the community in Nias Island, together with CDRM&CDS," he said. ■

A Resilient Community



Koraiborishal village, Chilmari is one of many settlements on the banks of the Brahmaputra River that are vulnerable to annual flooding and erosion. In the past, families displaced by this inundation of their homesteads had no alternative than to start again on poor quality char land elsewhere.

With problems expected to worsen in the future due to climate change, RDRS set up Climate Change Adaptation Groups (CCAG); the one Koraiborishal involves 56

displaced households. The Group's first task was to identify their main risks and find ways to counter these. Because of their location, RDRS supported plinth-raising underneath their houses.

At the same time, the householders developed their ideas and learnt new skills such as how to make organic compost, rear goats in stalls and cultivate vegetables on raised ground. When the plinths were ready, the families rebuilt their homes and RDRS installed an improved

cooking stove, latrine and tubewell, and a solar panel for electricity in each of the 56 houses.

When the floods came in 2014, these houses survived, as did the people, their livestock and other assets. These householders also gave shelter to less-fortunate neighbors whose low-lying homes had been submerged. This year, those victims from flooding are determined to put their houses on plinths and are keen to join the CCAGs.

Being united we stand, we saved our homes from destruction, say Bharatnagar villagers

During last week of December 2014, there was ethnic conflict situation erupted in LWSIT operational communities in Kokrajhar district of Assam (a north-east state of India). The state is prone to insurgency by several outfits by which maintaining normal life and living with peace was challenging. While local police and armed personnel were agile to the situation and tried to ensure peace among local community for which they captured few members of the insurgency group, this triggered to further killings of human beings, livestock, houses and property of local community. As a result, there are 85 persons being killed among them majority are from Adivasi (Tribal) community those are socially and economically backward in the state.

Though local police and armed personnel tried their best to handle the situation appropriately, it was not that easy. In the process, people from the local communities utterly afraid and felt insecure to live at their homes. Hence, there are as many as 72,675 persons left their homes and fled to neighboring towns for shelter at schools, community infrastructure and other relief camps. Meanwhile, the miscreants looted the property and ablaze fire to several houses. While some livestock being looted, the food grains stored by the families being destroyed without considering any sympathy. Nevertheless, there are some young and energetic Tribal persons those lived in the villages dare to face the miscreants with their indigenous weapons like bow and arrow and disallowed these miscreants for further destruction to houses. The Adivasi young persons chased down the miscreants and saved the rest of the houses from being further plundered and looted.

Since 2007, LWSIT extending support to these communities in the form of livelihood, social empowerment including peace and reconciliation measures by organizing communities and forming various community based institutions like Village Development Committee, Women Self-Help Groups and Youth Club. However, the primary focus of LWSIT Project is to establish peace



Miscreants burnt down the houses



Relief Materials being distributed by LWSIT

and reconciliation through community empowerment process. In order to ensure peace and reconciliation at community level, there are several Peace Committees being formed involving different ethnic groups having gender representation of both women and men. The community based organization (CBO) members are trained on "Do NO Harm" principles facilitated by LWSIT and the role of "connector" was extremely visible and played the significant role during crisis situation. Training and capacity building on peace and reconciliation

yield result while different ethnic groups listen to each other and promised for peaceful life. However, such efforts of LWSIT will reinforced further and sensitized among the young masses to take the lead and ensure peace at their respective communities and set examples for others to emulate.

Looking at the dire needs among ethnic affected families in Assam, LWSIT provided relief support in the form of food, non-food items and shelter materials with financial support received from ACT Alliance and ELCA. ■

Village health volunteers play key roles in promoting the community's health care



Health issue is considered as one of the most challenges in operation areas of LWF in Vieng Phoukha district Laos, especially concerning to access to local dispensary, hospital and insufficient medicine to provide when needed. Most of the cases are frequently transferred to provincial hospital or capital hospital however this is only possible for some conditional cases.

To help to avoid emergency or seriously circumstances, LWF had supported relevant capacity building for Village Health Volunteer (VHV) who is eligible in

basic medical assistance so they aware of seasonal diseases especially initial symptoms, preventative measures and how to provide practical suggestions and provide local counseling to community when required. Apart of this, LWF additionally supports village medicine boxes to targeted communities, this also helps poor families who are not affordable for a whole payment in communities that already restricted.

Ms Manvong , 59 years old a resident in Non-gkham village said that “My husband had died for more than 20 years,

I’m living with my niece and nephew, whose parents left them behind. I always consult with VHV Mr Ounkham when I’m sick. I sometimes received medicine for free” In addition to this, Ms Manvong’s niece and nephew also benefit from provision of scholarship from LWF to further their primary education.

This intervention helps communities to ensure readiness is in place when in needs, access to initial basic treatment await for further transferring, access to appropriate treatment and help poor families to lessen their medical cost.

About AZEECON

AZEECON is an informal, member-led regional network of field programs and Associate Programs of Lutheran World Federation/Dept of World Service active in promoting disaster risk reduction in seven countries.

AZEECON's primary role is primarily capacity-building - facilitating practical, peer-to-peer learning in the broad field of LRRD (Linking Relief, Rehabilitation & Development) responding to mem-

bers' needs and priorities. AZEECON offers a convenient and cost-effective platform for member organisations and staff to gain knowledge, exchange ideas and interact regionally.

Over the past 5 years, over 500 staff have participated in the range of capacity-building activities conducted in topics such as Trafficking, Food Security, Climate Change, HAP, SPHERE Standards, Youth, Advocacy, RBA etc.

Country Members



ASIAN ZONE EMERGENCY AND ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION NETWORK



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