**COVID-19 Outbreak Response Coordination Group for the 9 temporary shelters along the Thai-Myanmar border (Provincial Level) Tak**

**3rd Meeting, 2 April 2020 10:00 - 11:50am**

**Participants**: Madalena Hogg, Nikola Errington (UNHCR), Somsak Thanaborikan (Chair), Preeyaluk Sataranon, Atchara, Jo (IRC) Maggie Quadrini (KWO), Art Srikeeratikarn (TBC), Jacqueline Nyunt, Kelly Labrorekksasuk (ADRA).

1. Situation update (IRC)

* 22 people in group quarantine currently in Mae La. Food is being provided by families. Not clear when the 14 day period will end.
* Palad has given greenlight for ADRA and COERR to enter the camp for activities and they should share their schedule ahead of time so the Palad can inform the Or Sors at the checkpoints.
* IRC confirmed that it will support quarantine areas by doing a medical screening at the beginning and end of the quarantine period in each area. Currently one area next to “coffee shop” in Umpium and have asked to use TBC warehouse in Nupo (WASH facilities being prepared).
* One student cam back to Nupo camp and was not allowed to re-enter the camp and they are now staying in the school. UNHCR highlighted the inconsistent approach that continues between camps on re-entry and quarantine - others have been allowed to re-enter and either group quarantine or self-quarantine at home. Group quarantine areas are very limited and there is some doubt that people will observe fully self-quarantine measures at home. The message to refugees from the Palads and Camp Committees is that they should report when they have returned for pre-screening/temperature check.
* KWO raised concerns over adequate space being available for small group quarantine if necessary - according to IRC, the Palad says the decision has to be made by the Camp Committee, the OPE space was suggested by KRC. The Palad is concerned about the lack of capacity at the OPE since 22 is the most that it can hold.

AP: KWO will share the pictures of house examples in Shan/Wa State of small group quarantine.

* Previous Umpium who was reportedly temporarily reassigned is back in Umpium camp.
* TBC highlighted that there are lots of questions about shops closing in the camps (other than FCS shops which are still operational). There was confusion earlier in the week about the announcement by the Provincial Office/Tak Governor about the need for shops to close - for now, fresh markets are suspended and others may be closing due to lack of supplies or increase in prices. This will be discussed in more detail in the PWG meeting.
  + Feedback on overview of shops closing across the camps to be shared by PWG/IRC.

1. Surveillance, Case investigation and Outbreak Rapid Response + Infection Prevention Control

* Current trend in Thailand is around 100 new cases /day. Current total cases today is 1771 and 12 deaths.
* No suspected cases in the camps, some people with influenza but when compared with COVID-19 case definition and consultation with District Hospital they have not been considered as PUI in need of referral.
* Meeting with Mae Sot General Hospital convened by MOPH/CDC was on Tuesday - case definition is still unclear as to how is applies to refugees, matter for ongoing discussion.
* Referral pathway is clear that we should refer to the District Hospital in the district where the camp is (ie. Mae La/Tha Song Yang, Umpium/Phro Pha, Nupo/Umphang), Mae Sot Genreal Hospital will not accept the cases directly but will be available for consultation from district hospital .
* In meantime will use the MOPH case definition for lab referral purposes, for the provision of health services it will remain the same.
* PUI criteria for lab investigation - for the payment of the treatment not clear whether it will be covered by the Thai government or not - understood previously that anyone who is PUI/confirmed will be covered - the National Health Security Council has announced now that only those who are documented will be covered by the national system. CDC will take the leading role advocating with MOPH, IRC is prepared to cover the costs.
* SMRU is now certified to do lab investigation. Not clear how the reporting system will be done - so IRC will keep working with the District hospitals for the lab tests
* IRC is now looking to do more community case surveillance, hasn’t been done because no suspected/confirmed cases to date. Community health workers will take leading role.
* For health quarantine only in suspected cases, only isolation for patients. IUI or suspected cases need different isolation practices. For isolation is ready in all 7 camps just need to improve the prevention and control measures and started to train camp-based assistants on case investigation.
* UNHCR raised that a gap has been identified for those refugees who are stranded outside of camps and may be in need of access to healthcare (amongst other needs). In Umpium, there are reports of more than 50 people who were recently working who are not permitted to re-enter Umpium and are reportedly staying in surrounding Thai villages.
* IRC indicated that they are unable to do any work outside of the camps, but they do not refuse anyone who access for medical care inside the camp the status of anyone who accesses their services within the camps. The Palad may have to negotiate with the District Health Officer/Health Post on what the options are for these people.
  + AP: More information needed to know what arrangements have been made between the Umpium Palad and the District Office re access to health care for those stranded outside of the camp. Advocacy may be needed at national level to ensure that refugees caught outside of the camps are able to access healthcare if need and receive adequate information so they self-report if they are unwell.
* Strict access to Umpium has also created a problem for IRC WASH staff who need to do necessary maintenance and waste management.
* IRC will do a training in Thai with MOI/Or Sors on basic COVID-19 prevention measures. Tomorrow in Nupo, next week in Mae La and Umpium.
* Are also able to provide training to camp-based staff, may organize a TOT style training.

1. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (ADRA)

* Overview of the condition of the loudspeakers in each camp:
  + In Mae La Zone A - sections 2,3 and A5 are not good, Zone B - 8 sections, 5 sections aren’t good. Zone C - 8 sections, 1 not good (C1B) so the messages can’t get through.
  + Umpium loudspeakers are all good - but messages are not clear.
  + Nupo - only 4 loudspekers are good, 6 are not good.\
  + Some are not functioning at all, some are functioning but they are poor quality and are being categorized.
* UNHCR raised that it would be good to have the information where new loudspeakers have to be procured or where repair is a solution. ADRA is talking to the section leaders, they were trying to find out the price. Not sure if the camp committee will purchase or not, so will revert when more details are available.
  + AP: ADRA to inform group of needs for loudspeaker procurement/maintenance.
* Efrectiveness of loudspeakers to communicate with the community will be clarified through the rapid assessment process.
* Not clear yet the timeline for the finalization of the communications strategy, assumption that the draft by Emily will be circulated to the Provincial level for comment before the national level and then the comments will be discussed at the national level.
* UNHCR offered support for the rapid-needs assessment as camp-based staff are available. ADRA welcomed this support.
  + AP: UNHCR to follow-up directly with ADRA on support to rapid-needs assessment.
* The messages themselves will now include the source (ie. CCSDPT/UNHCR) so refugees are clear where the information is coming from.
* Have now included two messages from TBC, 1) FCS will be ongoing as usual and that 2) charcoal will be suppliedas usual.
* Voice messages are recorded on a SD card and can be given to the Camp Committee/Section Leaders to broadcast over the loudspeakers, or a written message shared over Messenger.
* IRC raised that there should be a timeline for IEC materials, and provide inputs to the messages that are currently being formulated. They will have a bi-lateral call on the handover of some activities.
* UNHCR suggested that all IEC materials should be stored in a central place for all to access and distribute as necessary.
* Messages will go out twice a day - suggestion that music be added to grab attention. ADRA looking for anyone with technical skills to assist in this aspect.

1. Food Assistance (TBC)

* Delivery of food as normal - aware of concerns about prices rising.
* SOP still in process - will be for the 9 camps. Not sure will be tomorrow but will update when completed.
* Messages already shared with ADRA (mentioned above)
* On the issue of maximum prices of goods - TBC confirmed that every shop is required to put a price tag on items. The device held by the vendor cannot charge more than the max price.
* Monitoring mechanism is in place through the FCS WG (115 people in Mae La) if the prices are increasing then they have to meet with the vendors and ask why the increase - then they have to talk to community to explain the price increase if aligned with market price in Thailand. If situation is not normal then they would have a public forum, now can’t do that due to social distancing so they will use the loudspeakers to communicate the price increases.
* Very difficult to get the rice from the rice mill - usually have a lot of suppliers, but now it’s difficult. BKK logistics team asked them to check with local suppliers so for the contingency 3+ 6/months that we have to ensure that supplies are in camp. Reason for shortage of suppliers is that Cambodia and Laos don’t do any exports ND Thai rice mills are increasing the costs since there is no competition.

1. Protection & Advocacy (UNHCR)

* UNHCR was asked to translate Governor Announcements #6-9 by the Mae La Palad into Karen/Burmese for display outside of his office to avoid confusion from other translations prepared in the camp.
* There have been over 7,000 people leave through the 2nd Friendship Bridge since it’s closure on 23rd March, no reports of refugees spontaneously leaving through this route - risks of refoulement continue to be monitored.
* Likely to see less traffic now at the 2nd Friendship Bridge after most recent announcement by the Governor that migrant workers should not be transported through the Province.
* Water supply was reported to be a key concern in Umpium this week prompting a security threat on Tuesday. IRC confirmed that this has been resolved and water supply is back to normal. They understand many refugees becoming anxious.
* Given the strict measures for re-entry, need to continuously send the message that it is not a good time for refugees to leave the camp, even temporarily as they run the risk of not being able to come back. In total 62 cases have been flagged to UNHCR’s attention so far.
* Home-made alcohol going up in Umpium and resulted in a rise of cases to the MAT.
* IRC access to justice, still operating. CBA, have not received any cases relevant to COVID-19, but people still coming to the centre following guidelines for hygiene/social distancing. Have around 7 cases need to be monitored closely at police/court level. No serious new cases.
* UNHCR confirmed no new serious cases, just follow-up being done on existing cases.

AOB

* New District Chiefs will be in place next week in Tha Song Yang, Phro Pha and Umphang.

**Next meeting: 10am 6 April**