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

**4th Meeting, 6 April 2020 10:00 – 12:00**

**Participants**: Madalena Hogg (Chair), Nikola Errington (UNHCR), Somsak Thanaborikan, Preeyaluk Sataranon, Atchara, Jo (IRC) Hayso, Pastor Robert (KRC) Art Srikeeratikarn (TBC), Kelly Labrorekksasuk (ADRA), Sajith Gunaratne (IOM)

1. Situation update

* Number of people crossing over the 2nd Friendship Bridge has significantly declined - only 17 on Friday.
* 1 other confirmed case of COVID-19 in Mae Sot.
* National curfew - Mae La has also announced the curfew in camp on Friday and was shared through loudspeaker announcements.
* 22 people in group quarantine in OPE - today is the due date for quarantine to end, tomorrow or this evening will return to the camp as confirmed by the Camp Commander.

1. Camp Governance

* KRC has received donations from individuals for the distribution of facemasks, they were accepted and in the process of distributing the face masks. Will distribute 300 in Mae La, 100 each for Nupo, Umpium MLO, MRML, THI/BDY.
* Will share to the KnRC camps as well.
* They will prioritise camp committees, zone/section leaders and security staff for distribution of the facemasks.
* Other individuals would like to donate and KRC will facilitate and would like to prioritise teachers/students.
* Keep reminding the Camp Committees of the key messages and to follow the instructions of the Camp Committees.
* Some concerns from refugees about why only the leadership is receiving facemasks, they will continue to seek donations and address concerns.

1. Surveillance, Case investigation and Outbreak Rapid Response +

* No suspected or confirmed cases in the camps.
* Second case confirmed in Mae Sot in Friday - Pakistani national living in Muslim area in Mae Sot. Some concern because the Muslim community in the camps has a strong connection with this community.
* Number of cases in Thailand is stable, around 100 cases/day.
* Numbers of deaths and serious conditions are increasing every day. New trends of deaths of people below 50 years old. One case of death has no contact of traveling, but is the father of someone who went to the outbreak area so many people can be carriers and are not symptomatic.
* IRC looking at community surveillance and contact training. Training in all three camps next week.

People are panicking about cases of deaths - Friday was a case in Mae La, but the death was not related to COVID-19, Cerebrovascular accident due to Hypertension

1. Infection Prevention Control

* Training for MOI staff has begun in Nupo for MOI staff on Friday. Talked about facility cleanliness in quarantine areas. Will start this week in Mae la and Umpium.
* New articles from CDC, in the past they did not recommend the cloth mask, but now it is suggested that it may slow down the transmission.
* Not recommended to clean disposable masks, IRC looking for guidance on this. Cloth masks need to be cleaned regularly - KRC will need to give the key messages to the community - IRC will circulate key messages when available.
* MOI has issued letter to MOPH requesting masks - there will be some issued - 15,000/month and being discussed at national level.
* IRC informed that small sewing group in the camp that produces facemasks and before was selling outside the camps. Still easy to get the material outside of the camps - one sewer can produce around 30/day using the sewing machine. Using hand sewing will be slow.
* Community will need to have training on how to clean cloth face masksas well - IRC will have an internal discussion between health and livelihoods team and if will feed back.
* REgarding requests for training - IRC are now thinking how to work with ADRA on this as it can be delivered by non-medical people. Training package can be out together including simple IPC. IRC to provide feedback once discussed with ADRA.
* IRC will conduct a simulation exercise out in the camps soon, the pilot will be in Mae La. It is to conduct scenario planning for an outbreak response - from receiving patients to referring outside the camps. Will send a letter to each camp commander to request permission.
* IOM suggested that refugees could offer support to the existing MOPH hotline system by providing coiusneling in Karen/Burmese - to be flagged to the attention of the national coordination group.

1. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (ADRA)

* ADRA sent out voice messages already this week.
* No update on strategy.
* Handover process with IRC/MI this week on health messaging.
* ADRA shared the questionnaire for their initial information to camp committees and confirmed that the rapid assessment has not started yet.
* ADRA agreed to hold a separate call to discuss the details of the RNA and support that can be offered by other organisations (UNHCR, TBC, IRC, others). ADRA will share a suggested time for a meeting on 7/4. UPDATE 7/4: ADRA will use the Knowledge Attitudes and Perception (KAP) survey and so the separate call will not be organised.
* FilmAid can provide support for editing the messages and including music
* ADRA now has a lot of information from other agencies and the issue is how to consolidate it for dissemination.
* Overview of loudspeakers - ADRA will provide a break-down of financial needs for support to repair/procure new loudspeakers.
* IRC suggests that its useful to send the Camp Commanders the schedule of when they plan to visit the camps ahead of time.
* TBC has tried to establish communication through social media, they need to do a short training on how we do infection control and need to refresh training with vendors and will be thinking to prepare a short video to send to the camp and ask them to copy and share with camp committee/warehouse. Challeng is delivering this training and ensuring social distancing - to be discussed further in side meeting which ADRA will convene. Suggestion that Health agencies should review the content as well.

1. Food Assistance (TBC)

* Price of food isn’t stable right now so difficult to circulate the maximum prices. On Friday, in Nupo the price increased again - price of eggs, oil, rice increases everyday.
* Most goods come from outside the camp at the moment and TBC cannot control prices. We are working on the 3+6 months strategy. This week the goods for 3 months will be delivered.
* To respond to price increases during the crisis, TBC is looking to increase the amount by the end of this month (next top up), information to be shared with community.
* SOP for the food, being followed up.
* Food for quarantine - Maria is in touch with Pearl (IRC).
* IRC - livelihood programme is doing the market monitoring, confirm what Art is saying, increase in rice, cooking oil and eggs which has increased in all camps. Price of meat also increasing. Also monitor the businesses/shops and how the are running. Have not received reports of shops closing for those supported by IRC but income is lower. IRC will share monitoring reports.

1. Protection & Advocacy (UNHCR)

* Refugees stranded outside fo the camps continues to be a key concern - approximately 60 including those in surrounding Thai villages and in Mae Sot (including those in boarding schools).
* A clear advocacy strategy needs to be formulated to ensure quarantine is available and re-admission to the camps as the are at risk outside of the camp as they are not legal, and are unable to meet their basic needs.
* Former Camp Commander has spoken to village heads for Mae Klong Noi and Mae Klong Yai - but there is no clear plan for this group who have now reported to the camp committee that they have not gotten access to food.
* TBC said it can be discussed with employer what food needs there are if needed.
* UNHCR highlighted that there needs to be a clear position from the RTG on how MOPH guidance is applied in the camps when self-isolation is not seen as realistic. The Umpium Palad has also flagged that there is a need for support to construct a separate shelter but no request has been made.
* UNHCR will continue to raise the issue with the Umpium Camp Commander - if nothing moves then it will be raised to the Provincial level.
* K. Somsak spoke to assistant camp commander, new returnees are meant to report to section leaders and section leaders check with the returnees in their section. He is aware, at least some of them have had temperature screening, but not all. Some stayed in IRC clinic one night and were taken back to their sections. There are currently , 10-11 in the IRC building in front of the MOI office. No-one in the coffee shop, last 2 people have left. - not clear how many can fit in the IRC building.
* It was also flagged that permission from the Governor may be needed for refugees to legally travel even across the province given the current instructions.
* Home visis guidance was circulated - it was raised that home visits were contemplated for awareness raising for COVID-19 and this is discrouaged. Key message is that only essential home visits should be carried out during this period.
* MAT have raised concerns over mediation being undertaken by security/camp affairs and not going through MDRG process. UNHCR/IRC is following up.
* IRC raised that refugees staying in Mae Sot are of particular concern as there are strong links between the muslim community where now 2 cases have been reportsed - UNHCR will share the breakdown of locations where it is known that refugees are residing.
* IRC- concerned about sanctions being applied for breaking curfew - 7:30pm - 6am Mae La, the sanction for those that don’t follow 1) warning, 2) they are put in detention, in Umpium the curfew is from 8pm - 5am if don’t follow will be put in detention Nupo - follow govt time and sanctions will be decision of community. This should also be shared with ADRA so that the community knows. ADRA can send out the message quickly if message is provided - IRC will get the confirmed message today and share with ADRA.

AOB

Will continue with meetings twice a week.

**Next meeting: Thursday 9 April @ 10am**