**COVID-19 Outbreak Response Coordination Group for the 9 temporary shelters along the Thai-Myanmar border (Kanchanaburi & Ratchaburi Provinces)**

**1st Meeting, 26 March 2020**

**Participants**: **ADRA** (John Smith), **IRC** (Thidaruch Daewa, Min Htike, Myo Htet), **TBC** (Nakarin Vananeetikul), **UNHCR** (James Ferguson, Yuwarat Thipklai)

1. **Situation update**

* Kanchanaburi & Ratchaburi Provinces have both established Provincial COVID-19 Administration Centres chaired by the Governor and including the Provincial Health Officer and staff of Governor’s office. These groups are advising people to remain in their houses.
* In Kanchanaburi & Ratchaburi, there are seven (7) and five (5) confirmed COVID-19 cases, respectively; there are no confirmed cases in Suan Phueng or Sangklaburi districts.
* There are screening/handwashing facilities in place at the main gate of both camps; an infrared thermometer is in use at Tham Hin main gate, procurement still under process for Ban Don Yang.
* MOI Palads have announced NGO staff from other field offices may not enter the camps and no NGO camp-based staff may leave the camps. MOI Palads are advising refugees to avoid large groups, continue to issue camp passes case-by-case. A group of medical students in Tham Hin received camp pass dated 31/03, not clear if it can still be used.
* PPE stocks are limited and are prioritized for clinic staff:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Tham Hin camp | Ban Don Yang camp |
| Gloves size M | 50 boxes | 30 boxes |
| Gloves size L | 50 boxes | 20 boxes |
| Goggle | 40 pcs | 20pcs |
| Disposal Gown | 200 pcs | 90 pcs |
| Mask | 70 boxes | 30 boxes |

1. **Camp Governance**

* At Tham Hin, NGOs/suppliers continue to enter both camps as usual. Or Sors have requested the Camp Committee to refer people entering informal gates to the main gate for screening; families of people who sneak in are requested to inform section leaders who for referral to Or Sors.
* At Ban Don Yang, Camp Committee has formed a multi-functional team (“Camp Health Emergency Team”) with 15 members: 5 clinic staff, 3 Camp Committee members, 7 section leaders. The first meeting was held Monday, 16 March.
* On 24 March, Ban Don Yang Camp Committee called an emergency meeting, decided that every camp resident must stay at their home for two weeks starting 25 March: no one is allowed to go to Hway Malai village, Htee Wah Doh village, Palae Noh village, Yakadee village, Morraka village and to the town, and also no one from outside is allowed to come into the camp. MOI/RTA have also installed new barriers at the Thai Ranger gate and Or Sor gate.

1. **Surveillance, Case Investigation and Outbreak Rapid Response**

* IRC has supported screening/handwashing at main entrance checkpoints and IRC facilities as well as capacity-building on COVID-19 with Or Sors and clinic staff. Screening, handwashing, and triage systems are in place at IRC clinics. There are zero suspected cases in either camp to date.
* Daily awareness-raising using the camp Public Address (PA) system, advise camp residents to avoid gatherings and practice social distancing. Ratchaburi Public Health Officer (PHO) visited Tham Hin to support awareness-raising & training; Kanchanaburi PHO has no plans to visit Ban Don Yang.
* In Tham Hin, an isolation room is in place (8 patient capacity, including 2 severe cases plus 6-7 outbreak cases) but an anteroom is needed for changing PPE & clothing. Camp Committee has agreed to use TJC Hall for quarantine space (10 patient capacity).
* In Ban Don Yang, an isolation room is in place (3 patient capacity) and Camp Committee has agreed to use the Boarding School for a quarantine space (7 patient capacity).

**ACTION POINTS: 1) IRC to follow-up changes in case definition and inform IRC camp-based refugee staff.**

1. **Infection Prevention Control (IPC)**

* Main challenges are with monitoring informal entrances to camps and controlling the movements of camp residents, which will be necessary with suspected cases and Patients Under Investigation (PUIs). At Ban Don Yang, outsiders are being blocked from entering and the Camp Committee is blocking all transit channels; this will be better for IPC purposes.
* TBC has developed food and fuel contingency plan to minimize risk and create prevention control measures. Food Card System (FCS) vendors will: 1) have running water in place; 2) receive hygiene training; 3) be supported with soap, alcohol, hand gel, and chlorine; 4) clean shops twice per day (enforced by daily FCS WG monitoring); 5) lock out password controls on FCS machines (so camp residents do not touch machines). Households will: 1) acknowledge hygiene guidelines; 2) clean cards before use; 3) place orders for food outside shop; 4) be reassessed as “most vulnerable” (MV) for three months (April-June). Warehouses will: 1) cancel RDR for April; 2) provide three months of charcoal rations; 3) implement handwashing; 4) daily cleaning of warehouse. TBC staff will: 1) adopt COVID-19 risk management policy; 2) minimize number of staff entering camps.
* UNHCR and ADRA staff started “work from home” from 23 March; HI will start 28 March.

**ACTION POINTS: 2) UNHCR will share Karen & Burmese translations of WHO COVID-19 Posters after meeting; 3) UNHCR will circulate COVID-19 “Counselling Lines” prepared by CCSDPT, IOM and UNHCR in English, Karen and Burmese after meeting. 4) IRC will meet with Tham Hin Camp Committee to discuss enhanced controls on transit channels and population movements.**

1. **Risk Communication & Community Engagement (RCCE)**

* ADRA maintains communications with Tham Hin (phone) and Ban Don Yang (social media). Camp Committees are aware of prevention guidelines. School exams are completed and schools are closed. VT facilities have handwashing in place and participants cannot attend with fever.
* IRC is conducting announcements over the Public Address (PA) system using information from Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) translated into Karen language. Community teams are providing education and and distributing soap at section-level awareness-raising where social distancing is being advised. IRC is unlikely to conduct future household-level visits except for population monitoring / contact tracing and all mobilization activities will stop. IRC provides daily case numbers, case definition, and other information updates using the PA system.
* Feedback from community is that it is better to make announcements at 9 AM when the camp is quiet and people are alert; there are problems with evening announcements due to lack of electricity.

**ACTION POINTS: 5) ADRA will check whether VT courses are being postponed due to COVID-19. 6) ADRA will consult with Camp Committees about their communication challenges and needs, including issues with PA systems (e.g., power supply).**

1. **Food assistance**

* TBC has developed a “3 + 6 months Strategy” for food and cooking fuel supply contingencies: procuring 3-month supply of three staples (rice, cooking oil, tinned fish) for Tham Hin & Ban Don Yang to be stored with FCS vendors; procuring 6-month supply of staples (rice, oil, tinned fish) for storage at TBC Warehouses. Most of 3-month food supply delivery completed; rice will be delivered to Ban Don Yang on Monday. Other food items will be organized by the FCS vendors.
* TBC is procuring 9-month supply of charcoal for Tham Hin, 3 month of charcoal have been received and distributed. But for the rest of 6 months will be delivered soon, estimate to complete procurement within 2 months. Ban Don Yang no need to order additional charcoal because 7,000 sacks of stock piles are already in place. TBC Warehouse currently has 3-month supply in stock at Tham Hin for distribution next week; 3-month stock already distributed at Ban Don Yang. Distributions schedules are extended over 4-5 days to avoid gatherings.

1. **Protection + Advocacy – RTG Engagement**

* UNHCR has been liaising with Camp Committees, MOI Palads, and NGOs who confirm there are no emerging protection issues or trends arising from COVID-19 at this time.
* Prolonged isolation and lockdowns may increase the possibility of SGBV (in particular, domestic violence) and this issue is being monitored closely along the border.
* TBC anticipates challenges with delivering 6-month supply of food and 9-month supply of charcoal for storage in each camp. There may be a future need for advocacy with MOI/RTG.

1. **AOB**

* IRC will chair 2nd meeting next week on **Monday, 30 March at 10 AM.**