*Previously:*

In 2012, KRC identified a need for a mechanism that promoted information sharing for refugees; for refugees to be able to make informed decisions about their futures. With CCSDPTs assistance, a model for information sharing in camps has been developed by the community through a series of camp based consultations and community meetings. The same process has enabled us to develop a terms of reference – these set out what the information centres are for, and also a set of guidelines – that help people understand how to use the information centres. These have both been translated and circulated however, if you have not seen these and would like to, please email CCSDPT and a copy will be sent to you. Please state if you wish to receive by email or a hard copy sent to camp.

Documents:

- TOR (English, Burmese, Karen)

- Guidelines (English, Burmese, Karen)

*Meetings:*

Working closely with both KRC and KnRC, the processes required for operating the information sharing centre have been developed and agreed. These include a staffing structure and job descriptions for each position to be appointed to the Information Committees who will be responsible for managing the information sharing centres. The staffing structures are slightly different between the Karen and Karenni camps according to their requests based on differing needs.

Documents:

- KnRC staff structure (English, Burmese, Karen)

- KRC staff structure (English, Burmese, Karen)

- Job Descriptions (English, Burmese, Karen)

- Process for information coming from the common service (English, Burmese, Karen)

- Process for information coming from the refugee community (English, Burmese, Karen)

*Briefing sessions for NGO staff:*

Over the last 2 months (September and October ’13) CCSDPT has held briefings for NGO staff based in Kanchanaburi, Mae Sot and Mae Sariang. It is important that all NGO staff understand what the information sharing centres are and how they work, in order to i) assist refugees if needed with any questions relating to the information sharing centres, ii) to provide information to the common service where relevant, and iii) to avoid any overlap of sharing information / services. If any NGO staff have not been able to attend an information session and would like more information please contact CCSDPT directly.

*Training of Information Committees:*

From 15th October KRC facilitated a 3 day training session with support from CCSDPT and UNHCR. The training session was held at Mae La camp and was attended by people from Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang, Mae La, Umpiem Mai, Nu Po and Ban Don Yang. The training was an introductory session to principles of information sharing and a good opportunity to promote and raise awareness about information sharing centres. A training pack consisting of all documents regarding the information sharing centres that have been developed throughout the process was given to each group / camp. This training will be carried out in Tham Hin from the 17th December and dates for training in Ban Mai Nai Soi and Ban Mae Surin are yet to be scheduled.

*Funding of the Information Sharing Centres:*

CCSDPT had applied for funding for the project through Australian Aid funding. It was confirmed in November that the funding has been approved. The funding is for a period of two years and will cover such things as set up costs, operational costs, stipends for workers, a CCSDPT Field Liaison position that provides coordination of the 9 information sharing centres, translation and some camp based activities.

CCSDPT is currently working to get more funding for the project in order to increase the budget per camp and possibly hire another staff person to assist with support to the information sharing centres in all camps.

*CCSDPT Field Liaison:*

CCSDPT has recruited a new staff member in the role of Field Liaison. This person will commence work on the 2nd January and initially be based in Kanchanaburi. The Field Liaison officer will contribute to the implementation, efficiency and effectiveness of information sharing mechanisms in the camps, providing support and presence for CCSDPT in the field.

They will also help to ensure Information Committees in all 9 camps have the capacity and skills to support and equip the information sharing centres with the necessary skills and resources to carry out their duties effectively, in close collaboration with CCSDPT personnel.

*Chosen pilot sites:*

Tham Hin and Ban Mai Nai Soi have been agreed by both KRC and KnRC as the pilot sites for the project. The camp committee in Tham Hin have selected the Information Committee staff and have agreed on a location in camp where the information sharing centre will operate. An assessment of this space has been carried out and details of materials and labour needed has been submitted. The pilot is scheduled to begin in January.

KnRC have advertised the positions for the Information Committee staff in Ban Mai Nai Soi. They have also identified a space for the information sharing centre and hope to begin the pilot in January.

The pilot will run for a period of two/three months . These will be reviewed and if agreed they have been successful, a schedule for roll out to the other camps will be discussed and agreed in March.

*If you have any questions or would like further information please contact CCSDPT directly – gemma@ccsdpt.org*