

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

14th Meeting, 14 July 2020

Participants: **ADRA** (Stephen Cooper), **BPRM** (Sarinya Moolma), **CDC** (Nuttapong Wongjindanon), **EU** (Khobkun Inieam), **IOM** (Francesco Supit, Sai Aung Lynn), **IRC** (Darren Hertz), **JRS** (Father Joe Hampson), **MoFA** (Khun Kiradit), **TBC** (Sally Thompson), **UNHCR** (Alessandro Nobile, James Ferguson)

1. Situation update

- CDC updated that yesterday there were new cases identified in Thailand and more details will be shared by the Royal Thai Government (RTG) later today. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) noted that discussions are taking place internally about preventing similar future incidents and an RTG public announcement is expected at 11:30 AM today.
- UNHCR updated that there are no significant changes in Mae Hong Son, Tak, or Kanchanaburi provinces, though there are some additional restrictions observed at Tham Hin camp. UNHCR also noted that the headcount lead by the Ministry of Interior (MOI) in Mae La Oon (MLO) was completed.
- IRC noted that travel for IRC staff from Bangkok to Tak and Mae Hong Son provinces is being conducted seamlessly, though there are some additional tracking mechanisms being implemented at airports. TBC and UNHCR indicated they have had similar experiences with travel.

2. Surveillance, Case Investigation and Outbreak Rapid Response

- CDC reported that CDC surveillance guidance has been translated and abridged by the Royal Thai Government (RTG), and this has been shared to Public Health Officers in the four refugee-hosting provinces. The Health Administration Division together with the Department of Disease Control and CDC will be visiting Suan Pheung District, Ratchaburi Province, to meet various government officials and discuss implementation of the guidelines. Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) is currently coordinating with MOI to arrange camp passes and to coordinate meetings with provincial counterparts. A second trip is planned for Sangklaburi District, Kanchanburi Province in August.
- IRC reported that 92 persons arrived in MLA camp, and 67 persons arrived in UMP camp, coincident with reopening of schools. Cases were reported to IRC after they arrived and IRC field staff are following-up with all the cases, who have been placed in home quarantine. IRC also added that in THI camp an individual arrived at the IRC Clinic accompanied by his mother who had been moving in and out of the camp for farming; he had experienced fever that had worsened and the case was referred outside to Suan Pheung Hospital, which further referred the case to Ratchaburi Hospital. The individual passed away on route to Ratchaburi Hospital and tests were conducted on arrival for COVID-19 and dengue. The mother was placed in the IRC quarantine facility at THI Camp pending the results of the COVID-19 test, which were later confirmed negative.
- IRC shared surveillance data from MI, including number of entries into the camp from various locations.
- IRC also reported that IRC, MI, and CDC are collaborating on enhanced surveillance testing of influenza-like illnesses and acute respiratory illnesses that will commence this week. IRC has observed that camp residents are reluctant to report to community surveillance teams for fear of being reported to the camp commander and facing repercussions.
- IRC noted that both IRC and MI continue to conduct simulation exercises in preparation for an outbreak.

3. Infection Prevention Control (IPC)

- CDC updated that a meeting with NGOs on surgical masks took place last week. The first delivery of 15,000 surgical masks was received in the nine camps in April and the second delivery of 14,000 surgical masks was initiated last week. IRC added that masks have been received in Tak Province and Mae Hong Son Province, and confirmation is being sought for Ratchaburi and Kanchanaburi Provinces.
- IRC updated that current stocks of surgical masks are low so in addition to the MoPH/MOI delivery there will need to be additional procurements. MI has noted trends in the proliferation of sub-grade 3-ply surgical masks on the market.
- IRC reported that simulation activities are taking place in the camps to keep people ready in case a Person Under Investigation (PUI) is identified in one or more camps.

4. Case Management

- IRC updated that procedures for transporting specimens to the Shoklo Malaria Research Unit (SMRU) in Tak province are in place and details about managing testing have been agreed with district hospitals.
- IRC updated that all existing and confirmed and suspected isolation beds have been constructed, and additional surge capacity beds are being constructed at UMP camp. Surge capacity has not yet been implemented but would be implemented if a case is identified in one or more camps.
- IRC updated that Malteser international has turned over their facilities to RSC but have plans to immediately take over facilities if infection identified in camps.
- IRC also noted that the Case Management Working Group is developing local guidelines based on IRC global guidelines, in collaboration with CDC and MoPH Officials.
- CDC added that a letter is being prepared to invite a key MoPH advisor to participate in the case management working group.

5. Risk Communication & Community Engagement (RCCE)

- ADRA updated that camp committees and other camp leaders have received messaging packages developed by the RCCE working group, that a second procurement of hygiene packs for nine camps is underway with distribution planned for early August, and that UNHCR distributed 70,000 masks and NGOs have distributed 53,000 masks, with additional 24,000 masks to be distributed by UNHCR next week. ADRA added that the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey has been completed in 7 camps and will be completed in THI and BDY on 20 & 21 July.
- ADRA updated that a grant of € 500,000 from the European Union is shared between MI and ADRA. The portion going to ADRA is being used primarily for RCCE activities including hygiene packs and IEC materials. Additional CAD 67,000 from the Canadian Embassy and ADRA Canada has been received by ADRA which is being used to compliment hygiene packs and IEC materials.
- ADRA shared details of the fourth report prepared by UNHCR on the feedback mechanism. In total 9,660 persons have been consulted, a high proportion from MLA (23%) and UMP (21%). Findings indicate that 59% of respondents have received enough information, though 25% indicate they've received little or no information and 44% of persons with disabilities (PwD) indicate they've received little or no information. HI is looking into the situation of PwD in more detail through their home visits.
- ADRA updated that post-distribution monitoring (PDM) is being finalized by ACTED and the results will be shared when available. ADRA is also looking at ways to equip religious leaders with more

information, including message packages that have been prepared by the RCCE working group. RCCE Working Group will also be meeting with camp leaders on the importance of mask wearing.

- ADRA updated that an inventory budget for the loudspeaker systems is still being finalized.
- UNHCR also reported that four months' supply sanitary materials are being procured in collaboration with COERR targeting 28,500 women and girls of reproductive age. Distribution plans are still being developed, noting that procurements will be monthly due to supplier requests.

ACTION POINT: 1) ADRA will share a copy of the fourth report on the survey mechanism.

6. Food assistance

- TBC updated that food supply deliveries and distributions have continued without disruptions and food prices remain stable. Rice and cooking oil prices have stabilized. Generally, purchases in Food Card System (FCS) shops are conducted through contactless transactions.
- TBC has completed training for camp staff to provide food to persons in quarantine but no requests for food support in quarantine has been received this month.
- TBC updated that the full consumption value will be received by all camp residents in July but starting in August the amounts will change for Standard and Self-Reliant camp residents. These amounts will continue through the rest of 2020, subject to appeals by camp residents on their assessed categories.
- TBC reported that results from the nutrition surveys indicate that stunting rates have been consistently coming down over the past six years and the population's nutritional position remains stable.
- TBC has completed an art competition about COVID-19 and a COVID-19 song has also been produced by a Karen youth group, which has a video dubbed into Karen and Burmese.

7. Protection / Advocacy

- UNHCR updated that the Protection Working Group (PWG) for Tak convened in July to complete a Protection Risk Analysis. PWG members indicated that it remains difficult for UNHCR and NGOs to get a clear picture of protection issues, with SGBV underreported and sex work and other instances of sexual violence increasing. Child protection issues are also increasing though underreported. Similar analyses are being developed by PWGs in Mae Hong Son, Mae Sariang, and Kanchanaburi.
- On trends of population movements, IRC indicated that field staff perceive increases in movements in and out of camps, while MI have placed camp staff at camp entrances where they have observed increasing numbers of persons moving informally, both camp residents and Thai villagers. TBC has observed that there have been heightened restrictions on the movements of migrant workers in border areas, which may increase demand for labour by camp residents in agriculture. IRC also noted there is a relatively new camp commander at THI who has been taking a stricter approach to movements, which has also impacted medical referrals outside of the camp.
- JRS updated that school re-opening at BMN & BMS commenced yesterday, with re-opening in the remaining camps planned for 20 July but currently on hold due to issues with camp access. There has been variable success with handwashing station installation partly due to procurement issues, though installation is complete, and infrastructure is in place at BMN & BMS. The Education Sub-Committee wants to flag that there are funds for two months' supply of IPC materials for schools for all nine camps but after that there will be a shortage. ADRA is seeking to secure additional funds from other donors to address the shortfall. One of the potential donors ADRA has been in contact with is the Swiss Embassy. Education partners are waiting on information from SCI on current funding needs, standard operating

procedures, and training for the remaining seven camps or what support may be needed from health actors.

- JRS also noted that Boarding Houses at BMN & BMS are observed to housing primarily children who have remained in the two camps, rather than children entering camps specifically for education.

8. AOB

- UNHCR will chair the 15th meeting on Wednesday, 29 July.