



Information Sharing Centres - ISC
Project Update
5th November 2014



Previously:

In 2012, KRC identified a need for a mechanism that promoted information sharing for refugees, in order 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. Following the development of the model for sharing information the project was launched in two pilot camps – Tham Hin and Baan Mai Nai Soi. Following a review of the process of set up, Information Sharing Centres (ISC) and sharing mechanisms have now also commenced operations in Umpiem Mai and Nupo Refugee Camps.

An update on the camps:

Tham Hin:

A community meeting was recently held in Tham Hin seeking feedback from the community about information sharing (more details under 'current situation'). Current staff at the ISC along with CCSDPT and FilmAid then conducted a three day event including film screenings in order to raise awareness about information sharing and assist with the Camp Committee with recruitment. During this three days over 400 people visited the ISC and learnt about its purpose. The Camp Committee have now recruited a full team and CCSDPT will return during the week of the 24th November to deliver more training and re-commence full operations of the ISC. More awareness raising activities such as night time film screenings have been scheduled for November and are expected to attract at least 1000 people over four nights.

Baan Mai Nai Soi

There has been a notable increase in awareness about information sharing in Baan Mai Nai Soi. During October the ISC team received 194 requests for information – which is a large increase from the 72 requests they received during September. Whilst the number of individual visitors to the centre is slowly rising (15 people in September and 22 in October) there is increased support for information sharing via the Section Leaders, CBOS and school communities – both students and teachers. Representatives from DFAT recently visited the ISC in Baan Mai Nai Soi which provided the team with an opportunity to discuss their roles and what they feel have been their successes' and challenges so far. This coupled with the community meeting have provided the scope to reflect on operations and explore ways that different parties can contribute to strengthening information sharing in camp. The ISC in Baan Mai Nai Soi is a great example for the other ISCs that promotion of the centre, information sharing and encouraging the community to get involved does take time and patience but there is great value in the purpose.

Umpiem Mai:

The ISC in Umpiem Mai has been operational for almost two months. The team have focused their monthly work plan on awareness raising activities such as holding public forums in each section, visiting schools and boarding houses as well as CBO and NGO offices. During the month of September the ISC welcomed only 3 visitors to the centre and only had one request for information. During October they had 26 visitors, conducted 40 household visits, but no requests for information were received. The team have requested more training and tools for sharing information. CCSDPT are currently working on developing plans for further training for all ISC teams.

Nupo:

The ISC in Nupo commenced operation at the beginning of October and has had a very productive first month. During the month of October the ISC team conducted four public forums to raise awareness, which reached out to a total of 850 people. They had 112 people visit the centre and received 43 contributions of information from the community. The strong involvement and support from Section Leaders and the Camp Committee has contributed to the interest shown from the community in information sharing.

What is next?

Following on from feedback received from the review that was carried out earlier in the year and requests from the teams at the ISC for increased support and training, opening of the remaining five Information Sharing Centres has been put on hold, temporarily. During the months of October and November a series of community meetings are being held in Tham Hin, Baan Mai Nai Soi, Umpiem Mai and Nupo. The community meetings have explored the following; what were people's expectations of the information



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sharing centres and information sharing itself?; what are the realities?; how might each group represented in these meetings address any gaps that are highlighted? The desired outcome of these meetings is to strengthen the support from all parties in order to support operations in the four centres that are currently open. CCSDPTs immediate plan it to focus efforts on Tham Hin, Baan Mai Nai Soi, Umpiem Mai and Nupo ISCs in order to provide more training to the staff in tools for sharing information as well as increase consistency of the support visits to the teams. It is, at this time, important to have the centres that are open, operating smoothly and to their full capacity before opening anymore centres.

- The Information Sharing Centres and their staff need support -

Please support the teams by visiting the ISCs. All contributions of information are welcome; information about your programs, information about the South East or general information, news or updates to be shared throughout the community.

If you would like further information or have information to share please contact CCSDPT directly – gemma@ccsdpt.org