



Quarterly Report Narrative October 01, 2015 to December 31, 2015

I. Executive Summary

Organization: <u>American Red Cross</u>	Date: <u>January 29, 2016</u>
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Program Title:	<u>Prototyping an Urban Community Resilience Initiative in SE Asia</u>	
Cooperative Agreement No.:	<u>AID-OFDA-A-15-00053</u>	
Country(ies)/Region(s):	<u>Three countries in SE Asia (or the Pacific)</u>	
Sector:	<u>Risk Management Policy and Practice</u>	
Reporting Period:	<u>October 01, 2015</u>	To: <u>December 31, 2015</u>

Project Background:

The American Red Cross (ARC) and the Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC) are working with Red Cross / Red Crescent (RC/RC) National Societies in SE Asia (and potentially the Pacific) to design and test a set of tools and services to assist RC/RC National Societies and their partners to create effective city coalitions on community resilience, targeting climate smart resilience and coastal risk reduction in particular. Phase 1 of the project will focus on piloting in coastal cities in one initial country before wider scaling to up to two other countries in Phase 2.

The first pilot country will be selected after a kick-off workshop to be held with interested RC/RC National societies from eligible countries in SE Asia and the Pacific.

The activities and expected results of the project focus on one primary sector and two associated subsectors:

- Sector: Risk Management Policy and Practice
 - Subsector 1: Building Community Awareness/Mobilization
 - Design and test a model for civic coalitions to guide and support community analysis, problem-solving, and decision-making on coastal resilience
 - Subsector 2: Public-Private Partnerships
 - Strengthen Public-Private Partnerships to enhance public engagement and investment in disaster preparedness and resilience in coastal cities

Building whenever possible on existing approaches, the project is focusing on developing bundles of relevant tools and resources and a model city-wide civic process to build local coalitions to guide and foster work at the community level and tap the wide range of resources available in cities. This coalition-building process draws on the convening power of the RC/RC, but also engages a wider set of interested stakeholders from local government, other civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, and community volunteers to identify and pursue locally developed solutions for resilience and climate change adaptation. The RC/RC is also facilitating coordination between these local coalitions and relevant national climate related focal points and regional institutions to ensure local solutions are considered in the national and international level planning processes.

After an initial set of regional inception activities, the project is prototyping the tools and approaches in selected coastal cities in the first pilot country and will focus in particular on addressing climate-related risks, such as changing precipitation patterns, increased coastal flooding and storm surge, and sea level rise. Based on lessons from the initial prototyping, the project will expand to include additional coastal cities in the pilot and regionally in Phase 2.

Summary of Activities this Quarter:

During this reporting period, project activities have started with the recruitment of the project Technical Advisor to be based regionally in Bangkok during the regional inception of the project.

The kick-off workshop is planned for early March 2016 and initial invitations have been sent to eligible RC/RC National Societies in SE Asia and the Pacific as well as to several potential partner organizations in the region.

SECTOR: Risk Management Policy and Practice

Objective: Design and test a model for civic coalitions to guide and support community analysis, problem-solving, and decision-making on resilience.

Update: *As of the end of December 2015, project activities were focused on the initial start-up for the project. Reporting against indicators will need to wait until project activities start at the city level in the first pilot country.*

Sub-sector: Building Community Awareness/Mobilization

Indicator #1: Coverage rates for campaign activities in each city.

Current Measure: N/A; project still in initiation phase and campaign activities have not yet been conducted.

Indicator #2: Number of city-wide campaigns to promote community resilience.

Current Measure: N/A; project still in initiation phase and campaigns have not yet been conducted.

Indicator #3: Number of community resilience coalitions established or strengthened.

Current Measure: N/A; project still in initiation phase and coalitions have not yet been established.

Indicator #4: Number of people participating in training, by gender.

Current Measure: N/A; project still in initiation phase and trainings have not yet been conducted.

Indicator #5: Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months (and six months).

Current Measure: N/A; project still in initiation phase and trainings have not yet been conducted.

Indicator #6: Percentage of attendees at joint planning meetings who are from the local community.

Current Measure: N/A; project still in initiation phase and planning meetings have not yet been conducted.

Indicator #7: Number of stakeholders with increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change as a result of USG assistance, disaggregated by a) Implementing risk-reducing practices/actions to improve resilience to climate change, b) Using climate information in their decision making, and c) With increased knowledge of climate change impacts and response options.

Current Measure: N/A; project still in initiation phase and local project activities have not yet been conducted.

Sub-sector: Public-Private Partnerships

Indicator #1: Number of private sector businesses engaged in response or DRR-related activities as a result of the program.

Current Measure: N/A; project still in initiation phase.

Indicator #2: Targeted total number of individuals indirectly benefiting from DRR-related activities as a result of the program.

Current Measure: N/A; project still in initiation phase.

Indicator #3: Percentage of businesses in the target business category in the program area incorporated into project activities.

Current Measure: N/A; project still in initiation phase.

Indicator #4: Percentage of government disaster contingency plans that incorporate private-sector aspects.

Current Measure: N/A; project still in initiation phase.

Resources:

Budget for Objective 1 Q1-NTR:	\$ 32,862.50	Expended This Period :	\$ 0
Cumulative Expenditures to Date:	\$ 0	Balance in this Quarter:	\$ 32,862.50

Variance during this quarter was attributed to the scheduling of the kick-off workshop for early March 2016 rather than having the workshop take place within the first 3 months of the project as originally planned. With the October start of the project there was not sufficient time before the end of year and new year holidays to effectively schedule the workshop. Staffing support for headquarters positions was also not accrued by December 2015 and will be expensed in the next quarter.

II. Program Overview

Goal: To enhance disaster preparedness and resilience in coastal cities in up to three countries in Southeast Asia – especially in response to the risks associated with climate change – through improved public engagement on resilience. The project will do this by helping the participating coastal cities to identify and address their top risks to community resilience and by strengthening household resilience city- and township-wide.

Result 1: Stakeholders in coastal cities have easy access to tools and guidance to help them form civic coalitions to guide and support community analysis, problem-solving, and decision-making on coastal resilience

Result 2: Public-Private Partnerships to advance civic engagement on coastal resilience are significantly strengthened in coastal cities.

Needs: Communities worldwide have greater opportunities for growth and connectedness than ever before; yet the number of people exposed to hazards, shocks, and stresses is rapidly increasing, especially in coastal cities, leading to increased fragility and vulnerability. At the same time, people living in cities are themselves agents of change and have significant resources, skills, and capacities to bring to resilience efforts in their own communities and across their cities and districts.

Numerous community organizations do significant humanitarian and development work in vulnerable neighborhoods, and this is helping to build social capital and local capacity. However they are not able to address the full range of needs related to resilience and are also frequently unable to relay unaddressed

concerns – including many related to disaster risks – to corresponding municipal or national authorities, or to other potential partners.

To strengthen their resilience in the face of climate change, cities need an enhanced level of civic engagement that draws on the strength and growing diversity of urban communities and that can effectively complement formal governance structures by engaging a wider set of stakeholders to focus on resilience at the community and household level. Combined with the community-based, neighborhood approaches that the RC/RC and community organizations have long invested in, this type of civic engagement in urban settings will provide a bottom-up push to accelerate local risk-sensitive decision-making and influence development, governance and investment for effective community resilience outcomes. This civic engagement would also provide a platform for community organizations to connect with existing urban resilience campaigns such as the UN-ISDR Making Cities Resilient campaign and the Rockefeller Foundation’s 100 Resilient Cities challenge.

Targeted Population:

- 250,000 people in Phase 1 in and 250,000 people in Phase 2. This includes 25,000 people/households in each of 20 cities/townships (10 in the first pilot country and 10 more total in up to 2 other countries in Southeast Asia) as part of city-wide campaigns to promote community safety and resilience.
- Creation of a community resilience coalition with a diverse range of partner organizations in each city.
- Creation of a set of support services to support the work of the coalitions.

Stakeholders:

- RC/RC National Societies in SE Asia and the Pacific: Lead implementing agencies (with one National Society serving as the lead implementing agency for the first pilot)
- Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre: Providing technical assistance in analysis and application of climate change scenarios and adaptation solutions
- ARC: Provide funding and technical assistance
- IFRC: Provide technical input as appropriate to complement and link with ongoing climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction programs in the participating countries.

III. Program Performance

Actual Accomplishments (compared to stated objectives, indicators, and targets):

During the quarter, the Prototyping an Urban Community Resilience Initiative in SE Asia project has achieved the following:

- The GPCP has initiated the project and started to recruit a Technical Advisor to serve as the regional project coordinator for the project.
- Planning was also started for the kick-off workshop with eligible RC/RC National Societies in SE Asia and the Pacific. Preliminary invitations were sent to those National Societies describing the project and the planned country selection process. Announcements of the workshop were also sent several potential partner organizations in the region. The workshop is scheduled for early March 2016.

Staffing: Project activities commenced with support from headquarters staff working on the project. Additional staff support for the project is being initiated through the hiring of a Technical Advisor to serve as regional project coordinator. The hiring process is expected to be completed early in the 1st quarter of 2016.

Reasons why established targets were not met, if applicable, and how it will impact the objective.

Project activities are on pace with the exception of the kick-off workshop with eligible RC/RC National Societies in SE Asia and the Pacific which has been scheduled for the next quarter, rather than taking place in the current quarter as originally planned. With the October start of the project there was not sufficient time before the end of year and new year holidays to effectively schedule the workshop.

Work Plan for Next Quarter:

Activity	January				February				March			
	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4
Outreach to RCRC National Societies in region			X	X	X	X				X		
Conduct regional inception workshop									X			
Interested RCRC national societies apply to participate						X	X	X	X	X		
Select 1st set of pilot countries											X	X
Hire Technical Advisor to serve as regional project coordinator	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Review existing tools for City-wide Risk Assessment									X	X	X	X

Comments: During the upcoming quarter, major activities will focus on orienting the eligible RC/RC National Societies through the planned kick-off workshop and identifying the first pilot country based on review of the concept notes to be developed by those National Societies that are interested to participate in the project. The selection of the first pilot country will be made in consultation with USAID/OFDA staff both in Washington and in the region.

Success Stories: N/A

The project is still in the initiation phase to set up implementation at country and city level which will take place in subsequent quarters.

Programmatic Changes: N/A

There were no unforeseen circumstances affecting overall program performance compared to original assumptions during this quarter. No changes have been made to activities as a result.

Explanation of Any Unexpected Financial Deviations:

The financial report currently shows an under-spend due to delays in the certain project activities as outlined above and in the accrual of headquarters staff costs which will be expensed next quarter.

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