Experiences in crisis and emergency situations activities in current flood situation in Thailand

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Thailand’s flooding 2011

Time: 25 July – now
Flooded area: 30 provinces (central part)
Affected people: ~5 million
Death: ~560 people
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Environmental Health problems

At household in flooded areas:
- Garbage and waste management
- Solid waste management
- Safe drinking water
- Food safety
- Personal hygiene

Environmental Health response and functions (DOH)

1. Immediate phase
   - assess the situation
   - contact key EH personnel
   - develop EH response team and action plan
   - establish communication with EH agencies and public
2. Intermediate phase
   - set up risk communication activities
   - collaborate with state and local government for activities and assistance
   - address request for assistance and information

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Environmental Health response and functions (DOH)

3. Recovery phase
   - assess the situation
   - follow up EH activities
   - health education and public relation
   - set up monitoring system

Responses and activities (DOH)

1. Special response teams (SRT)
2. Test kits for monitoring system
3. Public information

Target areas: - household
              - evacuation center
Special response team (SRT)

- Advice on good sanitation practices at household and evacuation centers
- Survey on environmental situation at evacuation center (e.g. toilets, garbage bin, cleanliness, food & water safety)
- Monitor safety of food and water supplies at evacuation center

At household

Supplies

1. Mr. Clean package:
   - Garbage bags
   - Defecation bags
   - Chlorine solution
   - Alcohol gel
   - Detergent
   - Soap
   - Effective microorganisms (EM)
At household

2. Ready-to-eat food (central kitchen)
3. Bottled water (donation)
4. Alum and chlorine (water treatment)

Evacuation centers

Total: 1,734 centers (for 900,000 p.)
Bangkok: 186 (for 60,000 p.)
Other provinces: 1,548 (for 760,000 p.)
Sanitation facilities at evacuation centers

Activities at evacuation centers

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Test kits for food and water safety

- Coliform bacteria in drinking water
- Residual chlorine in water
- Coliform bacteria in ready-to-eat food

Public information for hygienic practices

Mass media: radio. Newspaper, TV, interviewing
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Support from domestic and International agencies

Domestic:
Private agencies: Funding, foods, water, others

International:
WHO & UNICEF: - Medical supplies
- Garbage bags
- Soaps (liquid & bar)
- Alcohol gel
- Shower cream

China: water filtration

Lesson learned

- Preparation & public education
- Risk communication management
- Crisis management
- Collaboration between public, private and government agencies
Thank you
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Sanitation supplies

- Mr. Clean package
- Alum & chlorine
- Apron & hair net, plastic gloves
- Detergent & soap
- Facial mask