

CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES

Professional Development Programme

“The job placement helped me better understand and identify the minimum child protection activities in emergencies. I got the opportunity to support inclusive CPiE programming and advocate for child protection mainstreaming in emergency preparedness plans.”



As part of the Child Protection in Emergencies Professional Development Programme (CPiE PDP), Khem completed a job placement as Child Protection Coordinator for the Nakhon Si Thammarat province of Thailand. **Job placements are an opportunity for participants to apply their learning from the programme to new contexts and reflect and grow as practitioners.** Job placements have the additional double benefit of strengthening the work of ‘hosting’ and ‘sending’ organisations, as participants bring fresh insights and new skills to both.

In December 2016, continuous heavy rains caused widespread flooding across 11 provinces of southern Thailand. Nakhon Si Thammarat was the hardest hit province with approximately 49,000 households affected and some districts remaining inundated for over 2 months.

“We were prompt to respond to this emergency: the field team conducted a needs assessment and organised distributions to ensure the population’s basic needs were met.” Using skills and knowledge learnt on the CPiE PDP, Khem felt well positioned to **“help the response team design a child protection risk assessment to be able to complement existing activities.”**

“After reviewing the data, I identified two key gaps: the rapid assessment tools did not show disaggregated data on age and disability and the weak evidence on child protection risks meant there wasn’t enough qualified staff on the ground to identify and address these. **The PDP adequately equipped me to be in a better position to effectively advocate for and support a separate child protection assessment.** This new assessment indicated several child protection risks, such as signs of substance abuse in adolescents and children without parental care. **Results were shared with the response team manager prompting them to strengthen community child protection mechanisms.”**

The Training of Trainer and capacity strengthening elements of the CPiE PDP empowered Khem to **“deliver a child protection in emergencies training for local staff and volunteers”**, contributing to a more impactful response. “The job placement experience allowed me to **consider and practice alternative options to strengthen the capacity of local staff.** I got the opportunity to integrate child protection activities into other sectors, and to build the capacity of other emergency team members. **I believe I contributed to strengthening the response plan to strategically include child protection concerns in other sectors’ implementation plans.”**

“I now want to focus on building the capacity of the child protection team who work on development programmes to be able to adequately respond to emergencies.”