มูลนิธิรักษ์ไทย
Raks Thai
Foundation

Harm Reduction and Health Services for PUD (Inject and Non-Injection) During Flood Emergency in Chiang Rai, Northern Thailand

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Raks Thai Foundation has implemented STAR2024-26 supported by The Global Fund. The project adopts the RRTTPR (Reach- Recruit- Test -Treat-Prevent-Retain) cascade of service for integrated health and harm reduction among people who use drug (PUD) (Inject and non-injection) in rural - high risk areas.

Objective

To minimize obstacle of People Who Inject Drug (PWID) in accessing harm reduction and health services during severe flooding in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand.

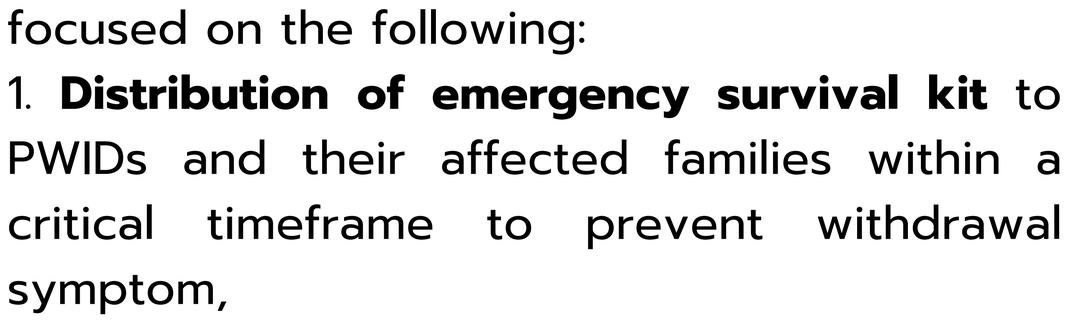
Methodology

A rapid response addressed the impact of flooding in September 2024 that **affected 2,066 drug users and their families**. In the remoted community where flooding has destroyed infrastructure, an assistance focused on the following:

1. **Distribution of emergency survival kit** to PWIDs and their affected families within a critical timeframe to prevent withdrawal symptom,
2. **Adaptation of mobile services and home-delivery** model of harm reduction and health in community, especially on daily methadone provision and needle and syringe package (N&S) distribution to maintain PWID on the services.

Results

1. **405 PWIDs** continue receives harm reduction and health services during emergency situation, despite logistic challenges and infrastructure damaged by flood,
2. **Established guidelines and standard** operating procedures (SOPs to ensure PUD (inject and non-injection) access to harm reduction and health services during disaster,
3. **Set up a team to support delivery** of harm reduction and health services to PUD (inject and non-injection), collaboration with government and non-governmental agencies, and PUD (inject and non-injection).



Conclusion

The emergency response supports in maintaining harm reduction and health services for PUD (inject and non-injection) during severe flooding, overcoming significant infrastructural obstacles. The adapted service delivery model ensured continuity of services, particularly for methadone substitution and N&S provision, in a context where PWID is at high risk of treatment disruption