

SUMMARY OF SPF ACTIVITIES MAY 2001 TO JUNE 2004

INDONESIA

Data Analysis for Family Needs, SPF# 6

From 19-30 August 2002, Dr Robert Ackland from the Australian National University (ANU) and Dr Rossarin Gray (IPSR, Mahidol University) ran a workshop with the Indonesian National Family Planning Coordination Board (BKKBN) titled 'Improving Data Analysis for the Promotion of Family Welfare in Indonesia'. The goal of the workshop was to help BKKBN in their aim of promoting family welfare in Indonesia via the building of local-level capacity in data analysis. Detailed information on all families in Indonesia is collected from the Family Registration System and the BKKBN wishes to use this data in informing the planning and delivery of a broad range of family support services in addition to family planning programs. The workshop participants included a group of 12 'trainers' from several technical divisions of BKKBN and associated officials at the central office (Directorate for Program Policy Integration), selected by BKKBN as responsible for organizing and overseeing data analysis training at the local level. The key outputs of the August workshop were draft curriculum and training materials focusing on three analytical themes (demography, family welfare and family planning) to be used by BKKBN to train staff at provincial and district levels. The consultants also produced a substantial technical report on the Siduga computer hardware and software. This workshop and technical report led to the development of the later SPF activity #17,18,19.

Theme: Data for needs assessment and policy making

LTA: Dr Robert Ackland, ANU; Dr Rossarin Gray, IPSR;

Advisers: Dr Edith Gray, ANU; Dr Terence Hull, ANU

Participants: 12 (team)

Department: Indonesian National Family Planning Coordination Board (BKKBN)

Dates: 19 – 30 August 2002

Location: Jakarta, Indonesia

Outputs: Training materials in Bahasa Indonesian on 'training the trainers'; technical report on computer hardware and software.

Data Analysis for Family Needs, #17, 18, 19

The August 2002 SPF workshop (SPF#6) identified some technical limitations in the construction of summary data sets that prevented the Indonesian National Family Planning Coordination Board (BKKBN) from fully analysing its family welfare data. Phase II of the SPF program with BKKBN was divided into two parts. In Part 1 (#17, 18), Dr Ackland spent one week in Jakarta in May 2003, providing technical assistance to two IT officials from the Directorate of Data Processing and Information Technology in

BKKBN head office on the construction of summary datasets from the family welfare data. Dr Ackland developed software (PKSAS – Pendataan Keluarga Sejahtera Analytical System) for the construction of summary datasets and this software was provided to BKKBN for its own use.

In Part 2 (Activity #19), a team of eight analysts from several Directorates in BKKBN head office (Directorates of Data Processing and Information Technology, Program Analysis and Evaluation, Statistics and Reporting, Documentation and Information Services, and Program Policy Integration) attended a training workshop and computer laboratory at the Australian National University in Canberra in order to gain practical experience in analysing the summary family welfare data constructed in Part 1. The customised analytical software (PKSAS), developed specially for the analysis of BKKBN family welfare data, was used to develop tables and other materials. This customised analytical software has been made available for use in BKKBN operations. The training program was concluded by a presentation by BKKBN officials on the workshop results to invited ANU academics and AusAID staff.

Theme: Data needs assessment and policy making

Proposal: QPR 15 October 2002

LTA: Dr Robert Ackland, ANU

Advisers: Dr Ann Evans, ANU; Dr Edith Gray, ANU; Dr Trevor Breusch, ANU

Participants: 2 individuals (#17,18), team of 8 (#19)

Department: Indonesian National Family Planning Coordination Board (BKKBN)

Dates: 19-23 May 2003; 9- 18 July 2003

Location: Jakarta; Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

Outputs: Pendataan Keluarga Sejahtera Analytical System (PKSAS) software; statistical analysis of BKKBN family welfare data.

Street Children Support Program, #14/15/15a

This seven-day program held in Manila 9 -15 September 2002 aimed to identify the lessons for Indonesia from the Philippines *Street and Urban Working Children Program (SUWCP)*, which is administered by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). The three Indonesian participants were from the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry for Women's Empowerment and the National Development Agency (BAPPENAS). This program included meetings with government and NGO officials, visits to street children programs around Manila, and a three-day workshop at the Asian Institute of Management held in conjunction with another SPF program for the Philippines Department of Interior and Local Government (SPF #7). The three Indonesian participants explored human rights issues for street children using the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children, and examined the sustainability and relevance for Indonesia of street children programs in the Philippines. The Indonesian participants identified those features of the Philippines model relevant to Indonesia, discussed program delivery in a decentralized system, and in particular, noted that the work with families (rather than just the children) was a positive feature of the Philippines approach. They drew up a plan for a street children program in

Indonesia and also made professional contacts with Filipino counterpart officials. The three Indonesian participants also presented their findings at a later seminar in Jakarta on 21 July 2003 in conjunction with a visiting Filipino group (SPF#20, 21).

Theme: Safety net for vulnerable groups

Proposal: QPR 31 July 2002

LTA: Dr Sharon Bessell, ANU; Dr Ramon Sevilla, IPSR

Advisers/mentors: Mr Geoff Hyles, ANU; Dr Judith Ennew, Bangkok

Participants: 3 Indonesians (individual programs)

Departments: Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry for Women's Empowerment and the National Development Agency (BAPPENAS).

Dates: 9 - 15 September 2002

Location: Manila, Philippines

Outputs: Development of a written strategy for a street children program in Indonesia; professional contacts with Filipino counterpart officials; presentation to senior officials in Jakarta.

Interventions to Support Street Girls, #31

This program in September-Oct 2003 involved a workshop in Canberra followed by a study visit to Manila. The six Indonesian participants were from the Ministry of Social Affairs, one from head office and two from the Makassar regional office and three people from NGOs. In the Australian National University workshop, the participants developed a strategy for a program for street children in Makassar using the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children. The aim of the Manila visit was to identify the lessons for Indonesia from the Philippines Street and Urban Working Children Exchange Program (SUWCP), which is administered by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). The group visited a Social Development Centre (SDC) run under the auspices of the Street and Urban Working Children Project and also an NGO, ChildHope. The aim was to see rights-based approaches in action, to make connections between the principles discussed in the workshop and practice, and to learn from the two Filipino approaches. The group drew up a plan for a street children program in Makassar and also made useful professional contacts with Filipino counterpart officials.

Theme: Safety net for vulnerable groups

Proposal: QPR October 2002

LTA: Dr Sharon Bessell, ANU

Advisers: Dr Judith Ennew, Bangkok; Dr Iwu Utomo, ANU

Participants: 6

Department: Ministry of Social Affairs, NGOs

Dates: 22-26 September 2003 Canberra, 28 Sept-3 October 2003 Manila

Location: Canberra, Manila

Outputs: Development of a plan for a street children program in Makassar Indonesia (strategy complete, rationale being finalised); professional contacts with Filipino counterpart officials.

Increasing Retention Rates from Primary to Secondary School, #32 (being planned)

Approved in the July 2003 QPR, the study tour itinerary is in the process of being planned. The government of Indonesia is concerned about the rising drop-out rate after primary school. Eight officials from the Indonesian Department of Social Affairs are to visit Thailand to study programs to retain children after primary school and to study educational programs that reconnect with school leavers and working children.

Theme: Safety net for vulnerable groups

Proposal: QPR July 2003

LTA: Dr Rossarin Gray, IPSR; Dr John Maxwell, ANU,

Advisers: Thailand government departments and universities

Participants: 8

Department: Department of Social Affairs

Dates: 10 days during 3-14 May 2004

Location: Thailand

Indonesian Exchange Visit on Poverty Alleviation Programs in the Philippines, #40

A team from the Indonesian poverty alleviation programs, from Bappenas, Directorate for Sectoral and Regional Development Cooperation, who work on the Kecamatan Development Program (KDP) visited the Philippines to study similar programs in that country. The hosts were the Philippines Department of Social Welfare Development in a reverse activity to SPF#16 when a Filipino group visited Indonesia.

Theme: Safety net for vulnerable groups

Proposal: QPR January 2004

LTA: Dr Ramon Sevilla, IPSR; Dr John Maxwell, ANU,

Advisers: Philippines Department of Social Welfare and Development

Participants: 6-8

Department: Indonesia: Bappenas

Dates: 15-27 February 2004

Location: Philippines

PHILIPPINES

Review of Street and Urban Working Children Program, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG 1) (SPF Stage 1, # 2)

The Street and Urban Working Children Program (SUWCP) addresses the growing problem of street and urban working children by providing services in 25 cities around the country through Local Government Units in partnership with non-government organizations (NGOs) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). Since the SUWCP intended to apply for an extension of assistance from the AusAID Vulnerable Groups Facility (VGF), the goal of this SPF activity was to assist DILG to undertake a review and to make recommendations for the future. The six participants comprised two from the Food for Work Project Management Office of DILG, the Director of the Lagazpi City Social Welfare Office, the Director of General Santos City Social Welfare Office, and two NGO people: the Directors of Papa John Centre and DEOS (Development Endeavors for Organized Sustainability). The group spent two weeks in Bangkok visiting offices and project sites of the Bangkok Street Children Network and other NGOs. The final three days of the activity was spent at the Asian Institute of Management in Manila writing a review of the Street and Urban Working Children Program. This was presented to a workshop on the final day attended by representatives from Filipino government departments and NGOs.

Theme: Safety net for vulnerable groups

LTAs: Dr Robert Ackland ANU, Dr Ramon Sevilla IPSR

Advisers: Dr Judith Ennew, Professor Ernesto Garilao

Participants: 6

Department: Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Dates: 18 November-1 December 2001 Bangkok, 3-5 December 2001 Manila

Location: Bangkok and Manila

Outputs: Report of a review of the Street and Urban Working Children Exchange Program; presentation of key findings at a workshop of Filipino government departments and NGOs.

Operations Manual for Street Children Program, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG 2), # 7

Eight participants from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) attended a workshop spread over 10 working days in the period from 9-17 September 2002 in Manila at the Asian Institute of Management. The goal was to produce a Manual of Operations based on the experiences of the Street and Urban Working Children Program (SUWCP) and the lessons learned in the study tour of similar programs in Thailand. The activity included a three-day workshop focusing on incorporating the human rights of children into interventions and policies for street and urban working children. This complemented # 14, 15, 15a as the three Indonesian participants, from

BAPPENAS, the Ministry for Social Affairs and the Ministry for Women's Empowerment, attended the workshop run by DILG. The workshop aimed to increase the participants understanding and knowledge of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Children and its practical application. The activity provided an invaluable opportunity to share knowledge and experience, and to promote professional networks within the *Street and Urban Working Children Program (SUWCP)*. The final output from this activity was a substantial 47-page operations manual and a 27-page guide for rolling out the SUWC program to other geographic areas.

Theme: Safety net for vulnerable children.

Proposal: QTPR: May 2002

LTA: Dr Sharon Bessel, ANU; Dr Ramon Sevilla, IPSR

Advisers: Mr Geoff Hyles, ANU; Dr Judith Ennew, Bangkok; Professor Ernesto Garilao, Asian Institute of Management

Participants: 8

Department: Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)

Dates: 9 – 17 September 2002

Location: Manila, Philippines

Output: 47-page operations manual and 27-page guide for rolling out the SUWC program to other geographic areas.

Health Sector Reform, # 13

Six participants from the Philippines Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) attended a workshop at the Australian National University, Canberra in June 2003. This workshop on health sector reform considered health system funding models and strategies for extending social health insurance cover for the poor in various countries and the relevance of these models for the Philippines. The group visited the Australian Health Insurance Commission, discussed insurance issues with speakers from the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, and with the advisers, examined a range of strategies for improving the coverage, equity and effectiveness and feasibility of health insurance in the Philippines. Participants produced a draft plan for extending insurance cover to low-income groups. The substantial 30-page report canvassed 10 strategies for increasing coverage and promoting equity, which was finalized in August 2003 by Dr Jim Butler during series of meetings in Manila.

Theme: Access to basic services

Proposal: QPR 31 July 2002

LTA: Dr Judith Healy, ANU; Dr Ramon Sevilla, IPSR

Advisers: Dr Jim Butler, ANU; Professor John Deeble, ANU; Dr Soonman Kwon, Seoul National University.

Participants: 6

Department: Philippines Health Insurance Corporation

Dates: 7-12 June 2003, 25-29 August 2003

Location: Canberra, Manila

Output: 30-page report on PhilHealth strategies for increasing coverage and promoting equity

Community-Based Poverty Alleviation, # 16

A three-week study tour of local poverty alleviation programs in Indonesia and Thailand was arranged for seven participants from the Philippines Department of Social Welfare and Development. This department is responsible for implementing the KALAHI-CIDSS pilot program in 11 municipalities supported by a World Bank loan. This program aims to alleviate poverty by offering seed funding, by promoting collaboration between local government agencies and NGOs, and by facilitating community participation in funding and running social programs. The first week, 8 -15 June 2002, was spent visiting projects in Indonesia with a successful record on community-based poverty alleviation activities. The second week, 16 - 22 June, was spent in Thailand visiting community development projects in and around Bangkok. These visits enabled comparisons between the different approaches to local poverty alleviation projects in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand. During the third week, the team wrote up a draft report on their conclusions with guidance from academic advisors from the SPF partner in Bangkok, the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, which report was later finalised with the help of comments from the LTAs.

Theme: Community-based poverty alleviation

Proposal: QPR 15 October 2002

LTAs: Dr Ramon Sevilla, IPSR; Dr Sharon Bessell, ANU

Participants: 7

Department: Department of Social Welfare and Development

Dates: 9 - 28 June 2003

Location: Indonesia, Thailand

Output: Report (over 40 pages) on lessons from Indonesia and Thailand for Filipino community-based poverty alleviation activities.

Street and Urban Working Children Program, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG 3), # 20/21

The third SPF activity 'Learning Opportunities: Alternative Approaches to SUWCP Sustainability' with the Street and Urban Working Children Program under the Department of Interior and Local Government involved two individual programs run

concurrently and completed in two phases. In the first phase in Jakarta from 20-28 July 2003, the two participants examined the management and implementation of Indonesia's social assistance programs for street children, and participated in a one-day workshop on programs for street children (SPF#14,15,15a). The second phase in Canberra from 29 July -8 August 2003 undertook intensive work with academic mentors at the Australian National University. Key findings from the report on the policy issues and insights gained on the Jakarta trip was presented in a seminar. The report includes a strategy for dissemination of lessons learned and the feasibility of implementing and practical application.

Theme: Safety net for vulnerable groups

Proposal: QPR October 2002

LTAs: Dr Sharon Bessell, ANU; Dr Ramon Sevilla, IPSR

Participants: 2

Department: Department of Interior and Local Government

Advisers: Geoff Hyles, ANU

Dates: 20 – 28 July, 29 July - 8 August 2003

Location: Jakarta, Canberra

Output: Report on lessons learned from Indonesia and practical application in the Philippines.

Rural Health Care Systems, Bureau of Local Health Development, #30

Five participants from the Bureau of Local Health Development in the Department of Health and one participant from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) attended a ten-day workshop at James Cook University, Townsville. This included a five-day tour of community health services facilities (local hospitals, health centres, mobile services and indigenous health services) in rural North Queensland and meetings with local health service providers. The workshop discussed principles and methods for developing and maintaining access to sustainable health services for the people who live in rural and remote areas of the Philippines. The participants produced a guide for developing an operations manual for localised health systems, which they presented at a videoconference hook-up between advisers at the James Cook University, Australian National University and Monash University. The manual will be used to identify the basic components of primary health care services in remote areas of the Philippines.

Theme: Safety net for vulnerable groups

Proposal: QPR October 2002

LTAs: Dr Judith Healy, ANU; Dr Ramon Sevilla, IPSR

Participants: 6

Department: Bureau of Local Health Development, and Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao

Advisers: Dr Craig Veitch, Dr Shona Wynd, James Cook University; Dr John Togno, Monash University

Dates: 26 October-6 November 2003

Location: James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland

Outputs: Plan for an operations manual for localised health system.

Strengthening Local Capacity in Poverty Alleviation Programs, Department for Social Welfare Development, # 35 (being planned)

This Philippines-based activity will offer a workshop for 4 DSWD managers and 8 social workers from Local Government Units. Drawing on the experience of the DSWD and the initial lessons from pilot KALAHI-CIDSS poverty alleviation programs, they will produce a guide for implementing poverty alleviation programs at the local level.

Theme: Community based poverty alleviation

Proposal: QPR October 2003

LTAs: Dr Ramon Sevilla, IPSR; Dr Judith Healy, ANU

STAs: Dr Patrick Kilby

Advisers: Filipino adviser (Dr Victoria Bautista)

Participants: 12

Department: Department of Social Welfare Development (DSWD); Local Government Units

Dates: 19-29 May 2004

Location: Philippines

THAILAND

Thai Rural Health Service Delivery, # 5

The Thai Rural Medical Services (TRMS) aims to improve health service access and strengthen community participation in primary health care in rural areas of Thailand. Six Thai participants were trained in three stages with a mix of teleconferences, workshops and rural visits in Thailand and Far North Queensland. The School of Rural Health, Monash University and the James Cook University in Townsville ran the activity. Stage 1 involved the delivery of an on-line training module using distance learning for rural general medical practitioners on specifically rural issues. Stage 2 involved a two-day workshop in Thailand a consultation with the Ministry of Public Health staff. Stage 3

over 16 days involved study tour of community and indigenous health care services in remote communities in far north Queensland and a workshop at the James Cook University. The participants discussed the skills required in health management for delivery of rural health services and the challenges in delivering health services in a diverse range of rural settings. They produced a training manual for rural practitioners in Thailand and a strategic plan for developing sustainable health care programs in rural areas.

Theme: Access to basic services

Proposal: QTPR May 2002

LTA: Dr David Rosalky, ANU; Dr Rossarin Gray, IPSR

Advisers: Professor Roger Strasser, Di Wyatt, Dr John Togno (Monash University); Dr Craig Veitch (James Cook University)

Participants: 6

Department: Ministry of Public Health, Rural Medical Service

Dates: February 2002

Location: Bangkok, and Townsville, Queensland

Outputs: training manual for rural practitioners in Thailand; a strategic plan for developing sustainable health care programs in rural areas.

Evaluation Disability Statistics, # 24, #24a

Meetings and a workshop were held over three blocks of time over May to July 2003 at the SPF Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR) at Mahidol University, Bangkok with six participants from the National Statistical Office (NSO) and two from the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) Bangkok. The NSO is responsible for data collection while the MSDHS is responsible for disability policy. The aim was to assist the NSO to improve the quality of disability statistics for policy makers and to enhance the ability of NSO staff in carrying out disability surveys. This requires improved coordination among statistical agencies and improved practices of gathering, producing and using disability statistics. The last workshop was run with expert technical assistance provided by mentors from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and from Ratchasuda College, Mahidol University.

Theme: Data needs assessment and policy making

Proposal: QPR January 2003

LTA: Dr Rossarin Gray, IPSR; Dr David Rosalky, ANU

Advisers: Dr Rossarin Gray, IPSR; Mr Chris Spencer, Australian Bureau of Statistics; Dr Pimpa Kachorndam, Ratchasuda College, Mahidol University

Participants: 8

Department: National Statistical Office (NSO, Ministry of Social Development & Human Security (MSDHS)

Dates: 26 May-6 June, 9 -20 June, 7-11 July 2003

Location: Bangkok

Output: Identification of improvements required to gather, produce and use disability statistics; stronger links between the relevant Thai government agencies.

Improving Disability Statistics, #25, 25a

Six participants from the Thai National Statistical Office (NSO) and two from the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) visited Canberra in November 2003, in the second phase of a capacity building project for the NSO and MSDH in the production and application of statistics on people with disability, following on from SPF activity #24/24. This activity involved Australian government agencies namely the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in discussions with participants from the NSO and MSDHS. Discussions focused on the design and collection of disability statistics for policy purposes, the form and value of communication with community-based stakeholder groups, and the use of statistics in policy development and monitoring. The participants produced a written strategic plan designed to improve disability statistics in Thailand based on the lessons learnt from the Australian experience, and presented the key points at a seminar at the Australian National University.

Theme: Data needs assessment and policy making

Proposal: QPR January 2003

LTA: Dr Rossarin Gray, IPSR; Dr David Rosalky, ANU; Mr Geoff Sims, ANU

Advisers: Joanne Hillermann, Australian Bureau of Statistics; Ros Madden and Xing-yan Wenay, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Participants: 8

Department: National Statistical Office (NSO, Ministry of Social Development & Human Security (MSDHS)

Dates: 17 - 25 November 2003

Location: Canberra

Outputs: A written strategic plan for improving disability statistics in Thailand; collaboration between Thai National Statistical Office and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security; links with counterpart Australian agencies.

Health Insurance Scheme, # 26

The Royal Thai Government is committed to expanding health insurance cover and integrating the several existing schemes. The aim of the activity was for participants to gain an understanding of Australian health insurance schemes (government and private schemes) and to study strategic information management including the type of standard data sets needed for processing claims and payments. The team met for a one-day workshop on 5 July 2003 at the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, Bangkok in order to agree on the issues that they wanted to explore and to develop their learning objectives. The workshop held at the Australian National University from 20-29 July 2003 included sessions with economist health insurance experts from the Australian National University, sessions with the Australian Health Insurance Commission in Canberra and a visit to Commission offices in Sydney.

Theme: Data needs assessment and policy making

Proposal: QPR January 2003

LTA: Dr Kusol Soonthorndhada, IPSR; Dr David Rosalky, ANU

Advisers: Dr John Deeble, ANU; Dr Kusol Soonthorndhada, IPSR; Australian Health Insurance Commission

Participants: 6

Department: Ministry of Public Health

Dates: 21-30 July 2003

Location: Canberra

Outputs: Report in the form of powerpoint presentations on reform proposals for Thailand health insurance schemes.

Workshop on Rural Medicine, Thai Rural Medical Service, #29

This two-day workshop, arranged by the Thai Rural Medical Service (TRMS) with the help of SPF coordinators, included 45 health professionals from central office and rural doctors mainly from the south of Thailand. The Thai Rural Medical Service discussed issues in delivering health care services to rural area and also reflected on their workshop and visit to Australia (SPF#5). Dr Craig Veitch participated in the workshop, consulted further with the TRMS, and made a one-day visit to four rural health programs in Songkhla.

Theme: Access to basic services
Proposal: QPR January 2003
LTA: Dr Rossarin Gray, IPSR; Dr David Rosalky, ANU
Advisers: Professor Dr Wicharn Panich, Thailand Research Fund; Professor Dr Thada Yibinsoi, Prince Songkhla University; Dr Craig Veitch, James Cook University.
Participants: 6 from TRMS plus 45 audience
Department: Ministry of Public Health
Dates: 2-6 September 2003
Location: Bangkok and Songkhla
Outputs: Workshop presentations; an evaluation report by Dr Craig Veitch of the outcomes from #5.

Information Systems for Social Policy, #33

This study tour to Australia by 12 senior officials from two Thai government agencies studied the use of social statistics in formulating, monitoring and evaluating social programs. The group visited national government agencies (in Canberra) and state agencies (in Adelaide, South Australia).

Theme: Data for needs assessment and policy-making
Proposal: QPR July 2003
LTA: Dr Rossarin Gray, IPSR; Mr Geoff Sims, ANU; Dr David Rosalky, ANU
Advisers: Thai government agencies and universities; Australian Bureau of Statistics; South Australian government agencies; Professor Peter Travers, Flinders University; John Glover, Adelaide University
Participants: 12
Department: Ministry of Social Development and Human Security; National Statistical Office
Dates: 23-25 February Bangkok; 10-19 March 2004 Australia
Location: Bangkok, Canberra, Adelaide

Strengthening Thai Old Age Pension Fund, #41 (being planned)

This workshop in Bangkok for up to 20 senior officials from the Thai Social Security Office will examine the use of actuarial projections in formulating social security schemes. The workshop will be conducted by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) University of Canberra and the Office of the Australian Government Actuary.

Theme: Data for needs assessment and policy-making
Proposal: QPR January 2004
LTA: Dr Kusol Soonthorndhada, IPSR; Mr Geoff Sims, ANU
Advisers: Australian Government Actuary; NATSEM
Participants: 6 senior managers, 12 middle managers
Department: Social Security Office; National Statistical Office
Dates: 7-11 May 2004
Location: Bangkok

Thai Aged Care Study Tour to Australia, #39

This study tour involved program managers from a mix of Thai government agencies and NGOs. The group studied aged care health and welfare community services run by government, NGOs and community groups in the State of Victoria, Australia.

Theme: Access to basic services
Proposal: QPR January 2004
LTA: Dr Kusol Soonthorndhada, IPSR; Dr Judith Healy, ANU
Advisers: Dr Anna Howe, Ms Jean Elder, Australia
Participants: 7
Department: Ban-Paew Hospital; Ministry of Social Development and Human Security;
Ministry of Public Health; Foundation for Older Persons' Development.
Dates: 10-19 March 2004
Location: Melbourne, Australia

VIETNAM

Vietnam Health Insurance (VNHI), SPF Stage 1, #1

The first activity with Vietnam National Health Insurance was run in September 2001. Six people from the agency were trained in workshops and a study tour in Bangkok, Sydney and Canberra over a three-week period. The aim was to investigate how Vietnam might develop a financially viable private health insurance scheme. VNHI hoped to learn how resources for the health care system could be tapped through private health insurance schemes for higher income families and individuals and thus free public money for health care for the poor. One workshop was run with the Australian Health Insurance Commission where the participants learned about health insurance schemes in Australia, and a second workshop was run in December 2001. This activity led on to a further activity with two individuals, #10 & 11, in December 2002.

Theme: Access to basic services

LTAs: Dr Deborah Mitchell, ANU; Dr Kusol Soonthorndhrda, IPSR

Advisers: Australian Health Insurance Commission

Participants: 6; Mr Khang (interoreter)

Department: Vietnam National Health Insurance

Dates: 9-28 Sept 2001, 10-22 December 2001

Location: Bangkok, Sydney and Canberra

Output: Report on Vietnam National Health Insurance

Curriculum Development for HEPR Social Workers, SPF Stage 1, # 3

This 10-day workshop at Mahidol University between the mentors and five participants from the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA) Vietnam developed a curriculum for this Ministry to train its social workers. These social workers are required to implement the Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction Program (HEPR) in Vietnam. This workshop and the resulting manual served to establish the feasibility of a long-running project over three phases for training social workers (SPF#11).

Theme: Access to basic services

LTA: Dr Bencha Yoddumnern-Attig, IPSR; Dr Deborah Mitchell, ANU; Dr Kusol Soonthorndhada, IPSR

Adviser: Dr Pattamaporn Busapathumrong, Faculty of Social Work, Thammasat University

Participants: 5

Department: Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA)

Date: 25 November - 5 December 2001

Location: IPSR, Mahidol University, Bangkok

Output: Social work curriculum; training manual

Basic Health Care in Vietnam, #9, #10

The Vietnam National Health Insurance agency had a mandate to extend insurance cover to the whole population, and in particular, to find ways of covering the poor. To monitor progress, the agency needed a good management information system. The first stage of this activity was a one-week visit by Mr Colin Freeman to the Vietnam National Health Insurance agency to study the IT system and to discuss strategies for setting up a new Management Information System. In the second stage, the Director of VHHI and the Head of IT visited Australia to study the level of automation and IT applications in the Australian Health Insurance Commission. The Vietnamese officials also held roundtable discussion with ANU academics, AusAID, the Health Insurance Commission and the Department Health and Ageing. In consultation with Vietnam National Health Insurance staff, the consultant produced a detailed technical report proposing new hardware (VSAT and ADSL technologies) and a new database management system.

Theme: Access to basic services.

Proposal: QPR May 2002

LTA: Dr Deborah Mitchell ANU; Dr Kusol Soonthornhadha, IPSR

Adviser: Mr Colin Freeman

Participants: 2

Department: Vietnam National Health Insurance

Date: 25 November -6 December 2002 Vietnam, and 9 - 12 December 2002 Canberra

Location: Canberra and Sydney

Outputs: Technical report on new hardware technologies.

Training for Social Workers, # 11 (underway)

This ongoing activity involves four phases to be completed by early 2004. This capacity building activity involves 90 social workers from district and commune levels as well as staff from social protection centres from the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA), Vietnam. These social workers are required to implement the Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction Program (HEPR) in Vietnam. The objectives are to increase participants' knowledge in socio-economic development and social protection trends; equip participants with appropriate skills; facilitate an exchange of experiences between practitioners and participating institutions; and to improve institutional capacity in planning, organization, coordination and implementation. As part of this activity, the HEPR needs assessment survey across 10 provinces is in the process of being analysed: the social work survey yielded 250 cases and the beneficiary household survey yielded 420 households. The survey results will be used for three main purposes: to provide feedback to the government on the effectiveness of HEPR; to improve the training of social workers; and to provide a background paper in the Social Protection handbook (SPF#22).

Theme: Data for needs assessment and policy making

Proposal: QTPR May 2002

LTA: Dr Bencha Yoddumnern-Attig, IPSR; Dr Kusol Soonthorndhada, IPSR; Dr Deborah Mitchell, ANU;

Advisers: Thailand Department of Social Welfare; Thammasat University

Participants: 90 social workers from regional, district and commune levels

Department: Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA),

Date: 13-24 April 20043 (last phase)

Location: Vietnam

Outputs: report on needs assessment survey in 10 provinces (draft report received).

Development of a Social Protection Handbook (MoLISA), #22

The two participants from the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA) worked with advisers at the Australian National University in early January 2004. The goal was to produce a paper on the needs assessment survey across 10 provinces for the social protection handbook for social workers involved in the Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction Program (HEPR) in Vietnam and to write the first draft of the Social Protection Handbook.

Theme: Data for needs assessment and policy making

Proposal: QPR January 2003

LTA: Dr Deborah Mitchell, ANU; Dr Kusol Soonthorndhada, IPSR

Adviser: Dr Ann Evans, ANU; Mr Lewis Hawke, Consultant

Participants: 2

Department: Social Protection, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs

Dates: 9-18 January 2004

Location: Australian National University, Canberra

Social Protection Training, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (MoLISA), #23

Using the Social Protection Handbook as the training manual (completed in #22), a two-day training program will be delivered in Hanoi and then repeated in Ho Chi Minh City. The training program will be facilitated by the two officials from the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA). These two officials participated in the earlier SPF program (#22). They will be supported by SPF STAs and LTAs. The program aims to ensure that the scope and goals of social protection are understood especially by teams of managers from core ministries and agencies involved in social protection.

Theme: Data for needs assessment and policy making

Proposal: QPR January 2003

LTA: Dr Deborah Mitchell, ANU; Dr Kusol Soonthorndhada, IPSR

Adviser:

Participants: 24

Department: Department of Social Protection; Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs

Dates: 25-26 April 2004, Hanoi; 28-29 April, Ho Chi Minh City

Location: Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City

Managing Health Provider Payments, Vietnam Social Security, # 36

This five-day Bangkok-based workshop worked with four Vietnam participants from Vietnam Social Security on methods of calculating health care costs and methods of making payments to health care providers. The workshop was run by experts from the Ministry of Health and the Thai National Health Insurance Office.

Theme: Access to basic health services

Proposal: QPR October 2003

LTA: Dr Kusol Soonthorndhada, IPSR; Dr Deborah Mitchell, ANU

Adviser: Thai Health Insurance Office; Ministry of Public Health

Participants: 4

Department: Vietnam Social Security

Dates: 8-14 February 2004

Location: Thailand

REGIONAL FORUMS

Regional Forum 1 - Social Protection for Vulnerable Children, # 27

The first forum was held from 23-27 June 2003 at the Rose Garden Aprime Resort, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand. Six participants were invited from each of the four focus countries: Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The aim of the forum was to increase the knowledge of participants about the UN Convention on Children's Rights, to impart policy skills for improving child protection programs, and to share lessons and experiences between the countries. The forum included a mix of presentations, workshops, group exercises and site visits. Each country team came prepared with a presentation on child rights and on the last day of the workshop developed recommendations on strengthening child protection programs in their countries.

Theme: Safety net for vulnerable groups

Proposal: QPR January 2003

LTA: Dr Bencha Yoddumnern-Attig IPSR, Dr Rossarin Gray IPSR, Dr Kusol Soonthorndhada IPSR, Dr Boonlert Leoprai, IPSR; Dr Sharon Bessell ANU.

Advisers: Dr Amara Ponsapith, Dr Judith Ennew, Dr Kamaline Pinitpuvadol,

Participants: 24

Dates: 23-27 June 2003

Location: Bangkok

Outputs: Country group reports and recommendations; opportunities for inter-country contacts

Regional Forum 2 - Health Access for the Poor, #28

The second forum addressed 'health access for the poor' and was held from 4-7 August 2003 at the Rose Garden Aprime Resort, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand. The participants included senior policy makers and managers from the four focus countries: Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The aims were to identify strategies being tried in different countries in the region for improving access to health services for the poor, to exchange information across the region, to discuss the factors involved in implementing successful programs, and to produce recommendations on key strategies. The topic addressed on Day 1 was 'can the poor afford health care? Day 2 discussed delivering services to poor and rural areas. Day 3 on 'listening to the voices of the poor' discussed community participation in primary health care. The forum included a mix of presentations, workshops and group exercises. Each of the country groups made several presentations throughout the workshop. The final day was spent in formulating and presenting a key strategy for each country.

Theme: Access to basic services

Proposal: QPR January 2003

LTA: Dr Judith Healy ANU, Dr Kusol Soonthorndhada IPSR, Dr David Rosalky ANU

Advisers: Dr Adrian Sleight, ANU; Dr Craig Veitch, James Cook University; Dr Phua Kai Hong, National University of Singapore; Dr Aparnaa Somanathan, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka;

Prof Alejandro Herrin, School of Economics, University of the Philippines; Dr Supattra Srivanichakorn, Thailand Ministry of Public Health, Thailand; Dr Piya Hanvoravongchai, Thailand Ministry of Public Health; Dr Poldej Pinprateep, Thailand Local Development Institute.

Participants: 27

Dates: 4-7 August 2003

Location: Thailand

Outputs: Country group reports and strategies; opportunities for inter-country contacts.

Regional Forum 3 – Family and Community Care for Ageing Populations #34

The third forum addressed ‘family and community care for older people’ and was held from 8-11 December 2003 at the Rose Garden Aprime Resort, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand. The participants included senior policy makers and managers from the four focus countries: Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The forum included a mix of presentations, workshops and group exercises. The aims were to identify strategies for supporting families and communities in caring for older people, to exchange information across the region, to identify and discuss successful community care programs, and to produce recommendations on key strategies. Day 1 considered population ageing and family trends across SE Asia and each country team made a presentation on state strategies in their country. Day 2 discussed the WHO ‘active ageing’ framework and heard about community care programs in several countries. Day 3 included a site visit to home care services organised by Ban-paew Hospital and the afternoon was spent discussing volunteer programs in several countries. On the final day each of the country groups finalised and then presented a key strategy for developing a particular type of community care program in their country.

Theme: Access to basic services

Proposal: QPR October 2003

LTA: Dr Judith Healy ANU, Dr Kusol Soonthornharda IPSR

Advisers: Dr Anna Howe; Dr Pramote Prasatkul; Dr Chai Podhista; Mr Jerry Huguet; Mrs Pathinya Stoeckert; Ms Susan Mende; Dr Witit Artavetkun; Mr Christopher Eldridge; Dr Geoffrey Castillo; Ms Joan Hughes; Mr Sawang Kaewkantha.

Participants: 27

Dates: 8-11 December 2003

Location: Thailand

Regional Forum 4 – Social Protection for People with Disabilities, #37 (being planned)

The fourth forum will address ‘social protection for people with disabilities’ and will be held in April 2004 at the Rose Garden Resort, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand. The participants will include senior policy makers and managers from the four focus countries: Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The forum will involve a mix of presentations, workshops, site visits and group exercises. The focus will be upon employment services and upon making the environment enabling rather than disabling and improving access to services and facilities for adults with physical disabilities.

Theme: Access to basic services

Proposal: QPR October 2003

LTA: Dr Bencha Yoddumnern-Attig, IPSR; Dr Rossarin Gray, IPSR; Mr Geoff Sims, ANU

Advisers: Professor Poonpis Amatayakul, Chairman, Ratchasuda Foundation; Ltc. Topong Kulkanchit, Disabled Peoples’ International Asia and Pacific Region; Ratchasuda College, Mahidol University; WHO Geneva; Australian Family and Community Services; Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Participants: 24
Dates: 19-23 April 2004
Location: Thailand

Country Evaluation Visits

Country Evaluation to the Four Focus Countries: *Indonesia (#42), Philippine (#43), Thailand (#44) and Vietnam (#45)*

ANU and IPSR Long Term Advisers will conduct follow-up interviews in April and May 2004 with key informants involved in Indonesian, Filipino, Thai and Vietnamese Social Protection Facility (SPF) programs, in order to evaluate the impact and sustainability of these activities, as required in the Project Completion Report for AusAID.

Theme: N/A

Proposal: QPR January 2004

ANU LTAs: Dr Judith Healy, Dr John Maxwell, Dr Deb Mitchell and Mr Geoff Sims.

IPSR Team: Dr Bencha Yoddumnern-Attig, Dr Rossarin Gray, Dr Ramon Sevilla and Dr Kusol Soonthorndhada.

Participants: N/A

Dates: April-May 2004

Location: Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam