

## HEALTH AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: *Strengthening Health systems for Resilient Communities*

### Rationale

*Health, especially of the poor, needs to be protected, promoted and improved<sup>1</sup> as it is a basic human right. Health is the foundation of individual's security and safety; therefore it is everyone's responsibility. With the advent of disasters and changing environment, demands for health care services have been increasing. This justifies the need for establishing and sustaining a community health system that can strengthen the foundation of safety and reduce health risks, particularly of the most marginalized section of the society. Sustaining a community health system for the poor is strategic to attaining the "Health for All" and the goal of "building resilient communities". It calls for a more integrated approach that promotes people's participation in the management of their own health.*



### Course Description

This two-week course is designed for health practitioners (doctors, nurses, midwives, and other professionals that deal with health issues in the community) and representatives of development organizations, non-government and government, engaged in promoting health and strengthening health systems to build resilient communities. It focuses on demonstrated models and strategies that aim to sustain efforts in community-health. Participants are provided opportunities to examine community-based models and strategies that have worked within the context of resource-poor environments, in the face of hazards and changing climate.




### Course Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will have:

1. demonstrated better understanding of the current health issues and their links to development, disasters and climate change;
2. discussed health trends and initiatives on Health in DRR at the global, country and community levels;
3. analyzed different health models, participatory and integrated strategies in promoting community health, especially for DRR.
4. compared strategies which have worked and those which have not worked in strengthening people's efforts to manage their health;
5. identified the different roles of the community, government, non-government organizations and other institutions and sectors in advocating for health in development and DRR;



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6. drawn practical lessons from field based experiences on people's role and control of community health systems for resiliency; and,
  7. prepared an action plan to apply lessons learned within their context.

## Module Descriptions

### Module 1: Challenges and Initiatives for Better Health

This module provides an overview of the global health situation and initiatives at various levels. It also discusses the wide-ranging factors affecting health, including the link of Health to Development, Disasters and Climate change. This provides the context towards the discussion of the concepts and dimensions of a community-managed health system.

### Module 2: Facilitating Community-managed Health (CMH): Methods and Process.

This module introduces participants to the processes involved in strengthening health systems for community resiliency. It would walk participants through and discusses the principles and techniques of conducting a participatory health risk assessment, including an emphasis to health issues that relates to hazard events i.e increasing demand for health services, emergency health and strong referral system. Employing a guided field practicum approach, this module equips participants with the tools and methodologies to facilitate communities to assess and plan for Community health program to promote community resiliency. It also equips participants with the skills as well as appropriate methods and tools to facilitate communities to design and conduct self-monitoring, evaluation and learning activities.

### Module 3: The Role of Support Organizations

This module discusses on the role of the support organizations in establishing and strengthening community managed health system for resiliency. The facilitating role of the development organizations like NGOs, the academe and the role of the government to provide service, continuous technical support and resources are also discussed. It will focus on lessons learned in utilizing the various strategies, in health program management in general, and specifically in identified health conditions and problems, including those that relate to hazard occurrence and climate change.

Through agency visits, participants would draw lessons from the experiences of selected health organizations, government and non-government, and other institutions and sectors. Various roles of development organizations as well as their strategies and approaches in promoting people's participation in health, are critically analyzed.

### Module 4: Action Planning

This module provides participants the opportunity to reflect on, synthesize their learning from the course and examine opportunities for adaptation and/or innovation in their respective health programs, projects and activities.

## When and Where

The two-week course will be held on **September 13-24, 2010** at IIRR's Y.C. James Yen Center in Cavite, Philippines. IIRR is an ideal environment for learning and reflection. Courses are held in IIRR's 54-hectare campus in Silang, Cavite, about an hour's drive from Manila. Facilities include air-conditioned training rooms, open-air centers for outdoor sessions, a dining hall, and participants' hostel and dormitories, swimming pool, and other sport and leisure facilities.

## Course Fees and Related Terms

The course fee of US\$2,200 covers the registration fee of \$200, training costs, course-related local travel, materials, meals, accident insurance and shared double room accommodation (single room accommodation can be requested for an additional fee of US\$10 per day of stay). It does not include international airfare, laundry and incidental expenses (a minimum pocket allowance of US\$100 per week is suggested for

incidental and personal expenses). Applicants are encouraged to secure financial support from their organizations or donor agencies.

## How to apply

For more information and to receive an application form, contact:

### Education and Training Program

International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)  
Y.C. James Yen Center, Silang, Cavite 4118, Philippines  
Tel: (63-46) 414-3216  
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## INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) works with the rural poor in developing countries to improve their lives by building on their unique assets and strengths. IIRR achieves this through field research, training, publications and field programs with rural communities and in partnership with other development organizations. Rural reconstruction is a development strategy first advanced by the Mass Education and Rural Reconstruction Movement founded by Dr. Y.C. James Yen in 1923. The strategy is sustainable, integrated and people-centered.

One of IIRR's thrusts is the sharing of its rural development experience and insights with development organizations and practitioners. IIRR is one of the few organizations offering development training that has its own field operations. IIRR has 40 years of experience in offering international training courses. In developing these courses, it draws from its 80 years of experience working with the rural poor.

IIRR is a recipient of various awards in recognition of its contributions to development. Among these are the 1995 World Hunger Award in recognition of "IIRR's exceptional work to provide opportunities for small rural farmers throughout the developing world to prevent and reduce hunger and malnutrition in their communities." IIRR received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding twice for Dr. James Yen's work in rural reconstruction (1960), and for the institute's work in rural Asia (1986).

IIRR was incorporated in the United States in 1960 as a research and training institute in rural reconstruction for development workers in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Its headquarters is in the Philippines. It operates two regional centers in Africa (for East Africa) and Asia (for Southeast Asia and Southern China)

