

# **REA Training Report**

## **REA Training – Colombo, 12 – 14 December 2005**

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### **Overview**

This report covers a three day REA workshop held at the Hotel Janaki in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 12 to 14 December 2005. A separate report covers the Training of Trainers workshop which followed the REA workshop.

The REA workshop was managed cooperatively by RedR India, which handled registration and promotion tasks, and RedR Sri Lanka, which handled local arrangements and local promotion. Funds for the workshop were provided by USAID/OFDA under the REA Project administered by CARE US.

Interworks provided two trainers for the workshops, Prasad Sevekari<sup>2</sup> and Elaine Clark-Hall<sup>3</sup>. The Benfield Hazard Research Centre (University College London) resource person was C. Kelly.

A total of 10 individuals participated in the REA training. All participants passed the learning evaluation test (75% or better correct answers) at the end of the REA training. A REA CD was provided to each participant.

All 8<sup>4</sup> participants who completed a workshop evaluation form found the workshop to be “very good” (50%) or “excellent” (50%). Of the five responding participants, four found the workshop the correct length and one found it too long. Four of six responding participants indicated there were too few participants, while two felt there were “just enough” participants.

Participants came from a range of local and international NGOs and included participants from Thailand and Pakistan. A list of participants is attached.

The workshop included a Community Level Assessment field exercise in the post-tsunami transitional shelter site in Panadura, approximately 40 km south of Colombo. The field exercise was conducted on the morning of 14 December and was arranged with the assistance of Prem Chand and Kumari Welegedara, participants in the workshop.

The workshop was organized very late due to difficulty in identifying an appropriate location for the field work nearer Colombo. While there had been reports of flooding in Colombo in the weeks before the workshop, the organizers could not find partners who could assist in arranging the field work at the reported flooded sites.

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<sup>2</sup> As the training coordinator for RedR India, Mr. Severkari was also involved in the organization of the workshop.

<sup>3</sup> Ms. Clark-Hall attended the workshop as a participant, but also presented some sessions as part of her preparation for serving as a co-trainer during the ToT workshop. Ms. Clark-Hall's learning evaluation results are included in the totals reported.

<sup>4</sup> One participant did not turn in an evaluation form. Ms. Clark-Hall did not complete a form as she had presented sessions in the workshop.

As a result, a decision was made to tap the knowledge of workshop participants with a familiarity with transitional shelter sites near Colombo to assist in arranging the field visit. Mr. Severkari also went with Ms. Welegedara to the Panadura site on the evening before the visit to ensure appropriate arrangements had been made.

The Panadura field visit went well, accomplished the training objectives and fit within the period available for this activity. The contributions of Mr. Chand, Ms. Welegedara and Mr. Severkari to these ends are noted.

The organization of the workshop faced a number of challenges, summarized in the following lessons learned:

- Where several parties are involved in administrative tasks, a clear and written division of responsibilities is needed and this division should be established before the course is announced.
- Details as to course costs and prices need to be established (at least in provisional form) before a course is announced.
- Some level of business continuity planning is needed to address challenges such as equipment failure, strikes, elections and undependable communications systems.
- The REA has a split audience: disaster managers and environmental experts. Either group tends to initially understand the REA as responding to the other group's interests. A very pro-active solicitation of participants from both groups is needed to assure participant numbers are above minimal levels.
- BHRC REA training activity management needs to be more pro-active in following up on administrative details, local arrangements and the pro-active solicitation of participants.

A post-workshop review with RedR Sri Lanka and RedR India indicated an interest to hold an additional two REA+ToT trainings in Sri Lanka in 2006. A proposal covering dates and local arrangements for these events will be provided by RedR Sri Lanka.

It was also noted that the course fee of \$150 (for the REA and ToT courses) was likely too high by local standards. Future REA training, on a non-residential basis, will likely have a lower fee.

### REA Training Evaluation Results

Question	Average Score (8 respondents or as indicated)	Rating Range: Strongly Agree: 5, Agree: 4, Neither Agree or Disagree: 3, Disagree: 2, Strongly Disagree: 1
1. Subject matter was adequately covered	4.5	
2. Content was suitable for my background and experience	4.13	
3. Program was well-paced	4.13	
4. Training materials were relevant	4.63	
5. Participants were encouraged to take an active part	4.88	
6. The program met my individual objectives	4.38	
7. Program was relevant to my job	4.75	
8. I would recommend this program to my colleagues	4.5	
9. I feel prepared to conduct an REA	4.25	
Topic	Average Score	Rating Range: 5=excellent to
10. Lecture method	4.13	

11. Facilitation team	4.63	1=poor.
12. Small group sessions	4.63	
13. Simulation Exercises	4.31	
14. Meeting space	4.13	
15. Overall organization	4.38	
16. Other participants	4.57 (7 respondents)	

Suggestions or comments by participants for on the course

- There was a lot of sitting.
- Perhaps there could be increased “active” participation.
- Incorporating role play might be interesting.
- One book!
- Case studies: Use real life experiences in the place of simulations.
- Time given for some of the exercises were not enough.
- Time factor is important.
- Try to pack up within 6 hours per day.
- Facilities and lecture hall need improvement.
- Suitability of the hotel also needs to be looked at before next (event).
- Field visit should be done randomly or without informing the community.
- Timing of the course should be immediately after disaster, e.g., Pakistan, now.
- If delivered long after the disaster programme may be tailored & advertised as component of future disaster preparedness.

- **Rating of Individual Workshop Sessions**

Scale used: Excellent: 5; Good: 4, Average: 3, Poor: 2, Unacceptable: 1; Does not apply: 0		
<b>Session No. &amp; Title</b>	<b>Session Content (average score)</b> (8 responses or as indicated)	<b>Instructional Methods (average score)</b> (7 responses or as indicated)
1.1 Welcome / Introductions	4 (7 responses)	4.5 (6 responses)
1.2 Disasters and the Environment	4	4.43
1.3 Overview of Disaster Management	4.38	4.17 (6 responses)
1.4 REA Conceptual Framework	4.38	4.43
1.5 Rapid Assessment in Disasters	4	4.29
1.6 Module 1: REA Context Statement	4.38	4.71
1.7 Factors influencing environmental impacts	4.13	4.14
2.1 Simulation Launch – SimEx 1 and SimEx2	4	4.14
2.2 Environmental Threats of Disasters	3.88	4.29
2.3 Unmet Basic Needs	4.5	4.57
2.4 Negative Environmental Consequences of Relief Activities	4.38	4.71
2.5 Presentation / Discussion	4.13	4.29
2.6 Participant Experience Sharing	3.75	4.29
3.1 Module Two: Community Level Assessment	4.63	4.71
3.2 Module Three: Consolidation and Analysis	4.35	4.14
3.3 Module Four: Green Review of Relief Procurement	4	4.43
3.4 REA Implementation Issues	3.86 (7 responses)	4.17 (6 responses)

### Participants List

#	Name	Organization and Contact
1	Elaine Clark-Hall	Interworks. Email: <a href="mailto:clarkhall@interworksmadison.com">clarkhall@interworksmadison.com</a>
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