# REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Update – January 2016



School drill exercise as part of School-Based Risk Reduction conducted in Myanmar

**Peer-to-peer learning** is one of the key approaches for regional cooperation in South-East Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, which consist of:

- Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent:
- Cambodian Red Cross,
- Lao Red Cross,
- Malaysia Red Crescent,
- Myanmar Red Cross,
- Palang Merah Indonesia,
- Philippines Red Cross,
- Singapore Red Cross,
- Thai Red Cross,
- Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste,
- Viet Nam Red Cross

The regional Red Cross and Red Crescent societies have been taking part in networks for regional cooperation.

The Regional Community Safety and Resilience Forum (RCSRF), Gender and Diversity network, South-East Asia Youth Network as well as Disaster Law network are key for this regional cooperation. IFRC is also providing inputs for sharing information with Asia Pacific Migration Network. Terms of Reference (TOR) of some of these networks are:

- <u>Regional Community Safety and Resilience Forum –</u> <u>TOR</u>
- South-East Asia Gender and Diversity Network TOR
- South-East Asia Youth Network (SEAYN) TOR

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Information on Zika virus in South-East Asian context



IFRC Factsheet on Zika virus (click to download)

#### Introduction /Symptoms<sup>1</sup>

The Zika virus is transmitted by the Aedes aegypti mosquito, which is also known to carry the dengue, yellow fever and Chikungunya viruses. First detected in Africa in 1947, it baffled health experts in the second half of 2015 by spreading quickly through Central and South America. The Zika virus is spreading rapidly in Latin America, and Asian governments have issued advisories in a bid to contain. Zika virus is a member of Flavivirus, divided into African and Asian linage. *Symptoms of Zika fever commonly present with fevers, mild headaches, skin rashes, conjunctivitis and joint pain* and it is transmitted by Aedes mosquito (the mosquito-borne disease) which could be linked to birth defects and can cause temporary paralysis. Incubation period in human is 4-7 days. Extrinsic incubation period in Aedes species is about 10 days. While lacking complete clinical evidence, doctors and researchers increasingly suspect Zika is connected to cases of microcephaly -- a neurological disorder in which infants are born with smaller craniums and brains. Generally, Zika is rarely fatal, with patients usually recovering on their own in about a week. There is no vaccine or specific cure for the disease.

#### **Risks analysis focusing South-East Asia**

World Health Organization (WHO) officials say the disease is likely to have spread far more widely in South-east Asia than the number of cases suggests. Meanwhile, The WHO's Western Pacific Region Office in Manila said as long as Aedes mosquitoes

circulated in the region "it can be anticipated that the virus will emerge". Additionally, Asian governments have issued advisories in a bid to contain the mosquito-borne disease.<sup>2</sup> Thailand is the worst-hit country in South-east Asia, with seven Zika cases uncovered between 2012 and 2014 in various provinces. The Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia each have had one Zika-related case since 2010.<sup>3</sup>

#### Measure for preventions/ Preparedness notes: "Protect Yourself, Your Family, and Community from Mosquitoes" Some measurements and warnings have been raised:

- Advised pregnant women to consider deferring non-essential travel to Zika-hit countries and reiterated its warning to the public to destroy all breeding places of mosquitoes, which can spread dengue, Zika, and other tropical diseases.
- Worked to raise public awareness about ways to prevent infections, including by using insect repellents and wearing
  protective clothing, keep their surroundings clean and mosquito-free.
- Warned people coming from countries with the Zika virus to monitor their health for 14 days and if they develop fever to report to medical facilities.
- Asked travelers from South and Central America who display symptoms such as fever and rashes to immediately report to health centers.
- Suggested wearing long sleeves and pants, using mosquito sprays and avoid leaving out buckets and other containers that can catch water, destroy mosquito-breeding places, and report to medical institutions in case of developing suspected symptoms.
- The health authorities asked medical facilities to test suspected patients returning from affected areas and send samples to the national lab and also warned people to empty water containers and use mosquito nets to prevent the possible spread of the virus.

#### IFRC reference resources on Zika virus:

- IFRC Factsheet on Zika virus: which also highlights activities that Red Cross Red Crescent societies can do
- IFRC Health Watch Zika Brief

## **Gender and Diversity**

## IFRC gender and diversity training

On the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 the IFRC team in Bangkok, together with representatives from American Red Cross and Thai Red Cross took part in a one-day gender and diversity awareness training. The training was based on the IFRC 7 Moves to gender and diversity and was structured around the DAPS (Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety) Framework in the <u>Minimum Standard</u> <u>Commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming</u>. The primary objective of the training was to build on the

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>WHO Factsheet, accessible from <u>http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/zika/en/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> News, accessible from <u>http://www.1310news.com/2016/01/30/asian-countries-urge-sick-travellers-to-report-zika-symptoms/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> News, accessible from http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/thailand-has-most-zika-cases in terration

team's integrated approach in supporting National Societies in Southeast Asia, through strengthening colleagues' capacity and understanding of gender and diversity and its practical application.

The training sessions focused on understanding the core concepts of gender, diversity and sexual and gender based violence, as well as how to conduct a gender and diversity analysis and to apply a gender and diversity lens to our work in disaster risk reduction and throughout the emergency programme cycle. There was also a focus on our responsibilities to ensure we protect staff, volunteers and the communities we work with from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Similar trainings will be conducted with National Societies in Southeast Asia during 2016. For all the materials from the training please go to the gender and diversity page of the online library.



## **Climate Change Adaptation**

## **Climate Smart Community and Resilience Project**

Key findings from community discussions conducted in the three countries: An Giang - Vietnam, Kampong Thom - Cambodia and Vang Vieng, Vientienne - Lao PDR

In An Giang – Vietnam: 11-15 Jan 2016



#### What do we know?

- Several climate change related projects are being implemented in various locations in the country including from Red Cross, Government and other Civil Society Organizations.
- Red Cross Red Crescent (through German Red Cross) has developed guidance on incorporating climate change in the risk assessment process (VCA).

#### What can be improved?

- Better documentation of pilot projects and processes will greatly inform current knowledge and practice.
- Viet Nam Red Cross needs to review and explore link of VCA with risk assessment approaches of other organizations, especially with Government which has rolled-out a policy guidance and manual on community based disaster risk assessment that will be adopted at all levels of Government.





#### What do we know?

- Climate change is being incorporated in current CBDRR programs/projects, usually in riverine and flood prone villages.
- Community, staff and government counterpart's lack of knowledge on climate change (and DRR) affects the quality of risk assessment and eventual type of community risk reduction measures identified.

#### What can be improved?

- Review of VCA methodology and tools incorporating clearly climate change needed.
- Expand pilot areas in villages further away from rivers where impact of drought (climate change) is more pronounced.
- Explore implementing / piloting climate smart programming in urban context.

#### Vang Vieng, Vientienne - Lao PDR: 25-28 Jan 2016





#### What do we know?

- Capacity for DRR and climate change needs enhancement especially at subnational levels
- There is disconnect between DRR/climate change interventions and other programs (e.g. health) being implemented in the same villages

#### What can be improved?

- Capacity (training and learning) for climate change and DRR needs to be enhanced and programmed.
- Clearer and more practical guidance on integrating and mainstreaming climate change (and DRR) across program sectors needed.

## Youth and Volunteering

## **10<sup>th</sup> SEAYN online meeting**



The 10th South-East Asia Youth Network (SEAYN) online meeting has been held on Jan 12 and 25 participants from NS including youths at grass roots level attended the meeting. Each NS presented 2016 youth action plans and events and called all South-East Asian countries to focus more on youth development and peer to peer support. They also discussed the implementation plan of regional 5 key actions developed in the 3rd annual meeting. Youth leaders presented their outcomes from the General Assembly held in December 2015. The newly developed <u>SEAYN newsletter 3</u> and <u>a case study</u> for youth volunteer development and confirmed to have more close cooperation within members in the transition period of IFRC secretariat.

### **Support to Vietnam RC**

Vietnam RC was supported by the IFRC youth and volunteering officer. OD, youth and volunteer development have been discussed and it was confirmed to hold the YABC Training in June for youth development, BoCA in September for branch development.

## Thailand

## **Post Emergency – Flood Preparedness Programme**

#### **School Based Risk Reduction**

On 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016, IFRC invited Save the Children to join the <u>RCRC's handbook of school based disaster risk reduction (SBRR)</u> presentation to the Thai Red Cross. Save the children has shared the school safety program from Laos PDR that can be the guideline for Thai Red Cross Society (Thai RC) to start the School-Based Risk Reduction pilot project. However, Thai RC has not implemented a long-term SBRR project, there was only 1-day session about raising awareness in schools in Kanchanaburi province. Thai RC has joined the "Thailand school safety network " and attend regularly in network meeting or workshop. This marks a good start of Thai RC to gain access to education system, and this network would facilitate it to implement the SBRR project in the near future

#### **GIS Project**

GIS meeting was held on 19 January 2016. Thai RC and local governments agencies such as Provincial Department of Disaster Risk Reduction (DDPM) and the district office conducted the GIS meeting to finalize the workflow of phase 4 which will be the pilot system in 3 districts namely Pakhai, Bangban and Sena in Ayudthaya province. The population of these 3 districts is approximated 47,000 households, with approximate 200,000 people. The pilot user will be: Sub district Administrative Organization (SAO) and Provincial Administrative Organization (PAO)



Thai RC collaborates in an alliance of 13 members such as Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA), Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), Ministry of Public Health, etc. The role of each alliance member can be divided in to 3 categories: 1) Providing information, 2) User 3) Development and maintenance system.

Thai RC and King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL) are the main actors who developed the system, and Thai RC maintains this system collectively with the users from provincial and district levels.

As the pilot project will not be completed in March, Thai RC requested IFRC to extend the project agreement until June 2016.

## **Knowledge and Information Management – Online Library**



A snapshot of First ASEAN Conference on School Safety on the IFRC South-East Asia Regional Delegation in Thailand

The SEA RCRC societies online library at <u>https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia</u> is being improved with more participatory and user-friendly features, including crowdsourcing, different levels of accessibility allowing contributors, mobile device compatibility, embedding disaster alert and automatic translation tool. This is done in close collaboration with IFRC Geneva. The new domain address will be announced at the training and launching scheduled to take place in the coming months.

New additions in the current online library:

- RRI Retreat
- IFRC 7 Moves to Gender and Diversity
- <u>National Society Profiles</u> (as of January 2016)
- First ASEAN Conference on School Safety, 16-17 Dec 205

## **Publications**



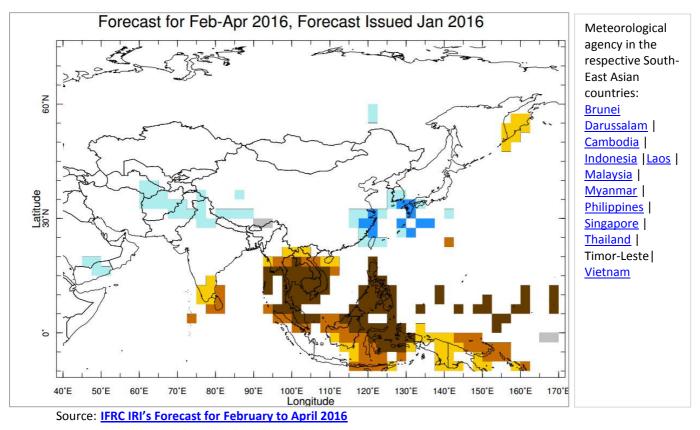
- <u>Cambodian Red Cross Society</u> More info ...
- Indonesian Red Cross Society (Palang Merah Indonesia) | More info
- Lao Red Cross | More info ...
- Malaysia Red Crescent Society | More info ...
- Myanmar Red Cross Society More info ...



- Philippine Red Cross | More info ...
- Singapore Red Cross Society | More info ...
- Thai Red Cross Society More info ...
- <u>Timor-Leste Red Cross Society (Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste)</u> <u>More info ...</u>
- <u>Viet Nam Red Cross Society</u> <u>More info</u> ...
- National Societies Survey Findings Report 2015

Thank you for providing us with resources which we could share in the online library from the National Societies and other partners. To reach us, please contact <u>angeline.tandiono@ifrc.org</u>

## **Weather Forecast**



Country	Weather Forecast (Dry or wet)	Likelihood	
Brunei	Exceptionally dry	More than 50 % chance	
Cambodia	Exceptionally dry	More than 50 % chance	
Indonesia	Exceptionally dry	Depending on the areas, from 0 to 50 % chance. Higher chance of dry weather in northern part.	
Laos	Exceptionally dry	Depending on the areas, from 0 to 50 % chance. Higher chance of dry weather in southern part.	
Malaysia	Exceptionally dry	From 25-50 % chance	
Myanmar	Exceptionally dry (in some part)	Depending on the areas, from 0 to more than 50 % chance. Higher chance of dry weather in southern part.	
Philippines	Exceptionally dry	More than 50% chance	
Singapore	Exceptionally dry	40 to 50% chance (moderate likelihood)	
Thailand	Exceptionally dry	More than 50% chance	
Timor Leste	Exceptionally dry	25 to 40% chance (slight likelihood)	
Vietnam	Exceptionally dry	0 to more than 50% chance. Higher chance of dry weather in southern part.	

Please sign up for the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre's **Seasonal Climate Forecast Email Notification System**. To sign up: visit the Forecast and Notifications page at <u>http://www.climatecentre.org/cl.../forecasts-and-notifications</u> - then follow the links to register. Please use the code: ifrc\_74892374920192830\_IRI

Upcoming events for February to April 2016				
Feb	8-13	MRCS SBRR Field exchange Visit to PRC	Philippines	
	9-10	Community Radio Program Workshop	Lao PDR	
	15	APMN teleconference	Online	
	29	Regional SEA Gender and Diversity Network Teleconference	Online	
	21-28 YABC PE Training		Philippines	
	24-26	Gender and Diversity Workshop on Strategy for Advancement of Women (part 2)	Lao PDR	
	25-27	Climate Change Training	Viet Nam	
	ТВС	Consultation Workshop for DRR Law Project	Indonesia	
	TBC	Consultative meeting with Ministry of Women Advancement	Cambodia	
	TBC	Training on Climate Change	Lao PDR	
	TBC	Lessons Learnt Workshop on School Safety	Lao PDR	
	12-19	Cartier Visits in Cambodia and Myanmar	Cambodia/Myanmar	
	20	Theory of Change –WASH workshop	Myanmar	
	20-22	Refresher training on PHAST - KTE	Cambodia	
	27-29	Advocacy Meeting - Kachin	Myanmar	
	29 – 4 Mar	Training of Trainers on ECV	Vietnam	
March	7-11	TOT on Climate Change	Myanmar	
in a ch	7-11	Training on Trainers on BCC	Vietnam	
	14-17	Training on Climate Change	Cambodia	
	TBC	Consultative meeting with Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women	Bangkok	
	14-16	AP Social Media Summit	S. Korea	
	14-10	(National Societies are encouraged to coordinate internally to register their participation and complete the survey (link included in invitation))	5. 10120	
	16-20	YABC PE Training	Singapore	
	ТВС	Mid-term meeting on VNRC contribution to HFA / ADDMER Work Plan as baseline for SFDRR	Vietnam	
	ТВС	Gender and Diversity Workshop on Strategy for Advancement of Women (part 3)	Lao PDR	
	ТВС	Partners coordination meeting (UN Women IOM, ILO, RCRC)	Bangkok	
	ТВС	Refresher training on PHAST -BMC	Cambodia	
	TBC	Water week	Cambodia and Myanmar	
April	1	11th SEAYN Meeting	online	
	11-13 TPC	Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Gender and DRR	Viet Nam	
	TBC	IDRL workshops/ trainings (RRI project)	Vietnam	
	11-16 15	Youth leadership training APMN online teleconference	Philippines	
	19-23	YABC PE training	Indonesia	
	28-30	Migration meeting co-organised by APMN, IFRC and ICRC	Malaysia	
	23-27	RCRC Induction for AHA Centre Executive Programme	Indonesia	
	25 27	Note induction for AnA centre Executive Fregramme	maonesia	

## **Opportunity of Funding**

Regional Resilience Initiative - launch of the in-country planning process

As part of the Regional Resilience Initiative (RRI), the annual in-country planning process was sent to National Societies on 27 January 2016. The due date for the in-country plan is 19 February 2016. The tam stands ready to support the process if requested. This process will provide an opportunity for each NS in Southeast Asia to identify key priority actions within each technical component of the Initiative, based on the needs and priorities among countries. The requests from countries will be compiled in Bangkok early March 2016 for submission to the Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian government (the RRI donors). The implementation period for the validated activities will start from April 2016 and will be completed in March 2017.



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