

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Update – December 2016



Shan migrants in Chiang Mai, Thailand

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

- Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society,
- Cambodian Red Cross Society,
- Lao Red Cross,
- Malaysia Red Crescent Society,
- Myanmar Red Cross Society,
- Indonesian Red Cross Society,
- Philippine Red Cross,
- Singapore Red Cross Society,
- The Thai Red Cross Society,
- Timor-Leste Red Cross Society,
- Viet Nam Red Cross Society.

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:

- [Regional Community Safety and Resilience Forum – TOR](#)
- [South-East Asia Gender and Diversity Network - TOR](#)
- [South-East Asia Youth Network \(SEAYN\) - TOR](#)

Updates from Southeast Asia

Communications and Advocacy

International Volunteer Day Community on the Go by Singapore Red Cross



International Volunteer Day (IVD), usually held every 5 December around the world, is aimed at recognising the role of volunteers in uplifting the humanitarian agenda.

On 4 December, Singapore Red Cross (SRC) commemorated International Volunteer Day (IVD) by creating awareness and re-acquainting volunteers and members with the local humanitarian services of the Singapore Red Cross. Volunteers learnt about SRC's FoodAid, TransportAid, ElderAid and Red Cross Home for the Disabled.

Themed "Community on the Go!", this year's IVD saw volunteers from different walks of life gathering at Red Cross House. They later visited the Red Cross Home for the Disabled (RCHD) at Lengkok Bahru and Red Cross

Training Campsite (RCTC) at Jalan Khairuddin. For the volunteers, it was an opportunity not only to learn more about SRC, but to interact with fellow volunteers.

At the first stop at RCHD, the volunteers received a tutorial on how to make towel lollipops. They also enjoyed signing their names on the banner with the "C.L.A.R.E. @ Tampines" printed on it. C.L.A.R.E, which stands for Community-Led Action for Resilience, is one of SRC's flagship services that mobilises volunteers to care, befriend, and build resilience amongst the vulnerable members of the community. One of the ElderAid volunteers present at the event was 43 year-old Mrs. Ravis Cherry Tan. She has been volunteering for almost three years. She is as dedicated a volunteer as she is a dedicated wife and a mother.

The last stop for the day's tour was at the RCTC. The campsite is used as a platform for the youth to learn, interact, and bond with each others. It is also used to host leadership and instructor training programmes. At the site, the volunteers were treated to a sumptuous spread and photo opportunities, much to the delight of those who brought their families along.

Fifteen year-old Siva Arunachala, who attended IVD with his father, a long-time volunteer, was clearly pleased with the event. He had visited the campsite as a Red Cross Youth, where he learnt first aid. He looks forward to more volunteering opportunities with the Red Cross, such as blood donation drives.

Another volunteer who was very happy to be part of this year's IVD was Johnson Ong, 53. When asked about what motivated him to start volunteering, he said that he has passion for helping people.

Veteran volunteer, Tang Chun Tuck only had good words to say of Johnson, "He doesn't do it (volunteering) alone, he does it with other people. He inspires and encourages others to do it too."

An inspiring man himself, Chun Tuck shared he has been serving the Red Cross since he was twelve years old. Now 64, Chun Tuck said that he still wants to donate blood. However, he comically lamented, "My blood is too old. We want more young blood!"

It was indeed a fun-filled day for the volunteers: a special day for the people who are always on the go, and whose happiness lies in serving the community.

Second Humanitarian Week by Singapore Red Cross

Humanitarian Dialogue “The Advent of New Technologies on Warfare: Challenges in Respecting International Law”

The advancement of modern technologies has paved the way forward for humanity. Yet, they also have the potential to unleash bloodshed and devastation of an unimaginable scale, particularly when they fall into the hands of terrorists intended to waging war on humanity.

This was highlighted at a humanitarian dialogue on “The Advent of New Technologies on Warfare: Challenges in Respecting International Law” at The Atrium at Orchard Road on 23 November 2016.



More than 50 people gathered for the dialogue featuring esteemed panelists Dr. Rohan Gunaratna, Head of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, S. Rajaratnam, School of International Studies and Fiona Barnaby, Regional Legal Adviser of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Chew Lip Heng, Head of Operations Control, International Services, Singapore Red Cross moderated the dialogue. Red Cross News shares some insights from the panelists.

Terrorists have leveraged cyberspace for fundraising, hacking of websites, procurement and recruitment. They have the resources to deploy modern technology like projectiles, drones and nanotechnology to launch large-scale attacks worldwide. And sadly, no one country is spared from the threat of terrorism, since the world today is increasingly global and interconnected.

Given that modern technologies like drones lack emotion or judgement call, the scale of devastation can be unimaginably catastrophic, possibly resulting in widespread bloodshed, loss of plausibly hundreds of thousands of civilian lives and extensive destruction of properties.

The challenge that modern technology poses on International Humanitarian Law cannot be underestimated. Modern technology may complicate the challenges faced by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This is especially true given the potentially wider scale of devastation and the difficulty in negotiating with both the terrorists and politicians to ensure compliance with the International Humanitarian Law.

In recent months, the terrorist attacks have been brought closer to home.

In Singapore, six men in Batam together with Syrian-based Indonesian ISIS militant Bahrun Naim were planning a rocket attack on Marina Bay in August this year. Malaysian Yazid Sufaat is now believed to be one of al-Qaeda’s main anthrax researchers. He was also said to be the same person who conceived attacks in the US.

However, large-scale attacks on civilians are never justified.

The challenge is for governments to build up capabilities to prevent such attacks and to work together to destroy terrorists’ nucleus. Laws, including the International Humanitarian Law, are important and pragmatic. Punitive measures need to be put in place for those who flout the IHL laws. However, that cannot be done in silos. Though it’s often easier said than done, governments, and even terrorists themselves, have to play a role in protecting innocent lives by complying with IHL.

Youth Leadership Humanitarian Camp



Militants from the Deldar Army made perpetual calls for attack. Tumultuous bomb blasts exploded in the air, sending chills down the spines of those who heard them. Continuous gunshots reverberated in the background that fateful Friday morning. The fearful cries of citizens of Haddar, held as hostages by Deldar militants, lingered in the vicinity of the Red Cross Training Campsite.

The earlier scenario was part of a RAID CROSS simulation exercise, held at the second Youth Leadership Humanitarian Camp (YLHC) on 24 and 25 November. It simulated the attack between two fictitious cities, Haddar and Deldar.

For eighteen youth participants, the camp provided them with the first-hand experience of being caught in an armed conflict – a situation that all were unaccustomed to.

Besides RAID CROSS, participants also gleaned insights into Humanitarian Education topics through classroom activities, campfire and team building exercises. Topics learnt included lifesaving and evacuation skills, Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) and modules from the Youths as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) programme by the IFRC.

Participants honed their leadership skills by taking on various key roles and appointments throughout the camp.

At the end of the camp, awards were presented to seven participants who embodied the Movement's Seven Fundamental Principles.

"My favourite part of the camp would be the RAID CROSS activity. The simulations were well-planned and suited to the actual happenings in the world. The camp also taught me how to be a more effective leader. It is not always easy to be one but the courage to try and carry on is always better than not doing it at all. Overall, it was an enriching experience for me," Andrew Amadeus Susilo, recipient of the 'Medal of Independence' award.

Organised for youths aged between 15 to 18 years old, the camp was aimed at strengthening the leadership capabilities and inculcating humanitarian values among youth leaders. This was achieved by exposing them to the various issues and challenges within the humanitarian field.

Humanitarian Experiential Camp



When some 40 Singapore Red Cross (SRC) adult volunteers and members attended a one-day camp at Red Cross Training Campsite on 26 November, they expected it to be another engagement session to learn more about the work of the Singapore Red Cross. Little did they know that they were about to enter an ongoing conflict zone.

The day started quite peacefully with a series of team bonding activities. They learnt about the Seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) through

brainstorming sessions and classroom activities.

Yet, their quiet Saturday was disrupted when participants entered a simulated Prisoners-of-War (POWs) Camp, where they had to step into the shoes of in-camp prisoners in order to get their lunch.

And the chaos continues.

While moving in groups, participants played the roles of Psychological First Aid providers, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) workers, war hostages and First Aid providers as they underwent a series of obstacle courses to complete their allocated missions.

Some of the missions that they had to complete included clearing “mines” in a field, rendering First Aid to help wounded soldiers, providing psychological first aid to distressed victims and collecting dry food rations for sustainability.

The heavy afternoon showers towards the end of the day did not hamper the participants’ moods. As the day came to a close, the participants bade their farewells to the facilitators and their newly found friends. They also gained knowledge and a deeper sense of appreciation towards global humanitarian issues.

“When I received the invitation to the Humanitarian Education Experience, I was really excited about registering for it. Yet at the same time, I was worried about the (physical) activities that I might have to do. This one-day camp turned out to be a wonderful experience for me. I got the chance to play different roles in situations of war and conflict. I’ve learnt that we must not only be physically prepared for such violence but mentally as well. Further, as a Volunteer and Member of the Movement, the lesson on the Fundamental Principles serves to remind me of the values that I need to uphold,” shared Aubrey Arguelles, a SRC Member.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Indonesian Red Cross deploys emergency teams to Bima

A series of flash floods that hit Bima municipality and Bima regency, both in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), “have displaced over 100,000 local residents and have paralyzed economic activity in the region”, local authorities



said. NTB Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) said the flash floods, which swept through the region on Wednesday and Friday following hours of heavy rainfall, had inundated 33 sub-districts, home to a total of 105,000 people.

Arifin M. Hadi, head of disaster management division of the Indonesian Red Cross added that as many as 250 hygiene kits, 250 tarpaulins, 250 blankets and one rubber boat and additional assistance were sent to the Bima to be given to affected residents of Bima. “Until now, Indonesian Red Cross is still in the service of the distribution of aid, cleaning up public facilities, providing service kitchen and has distributed 50,000 liters of clean water,” he explained.

Timor-Leste Red Cross continues to support communities affected by drought

Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL) distributed family kits and hygiene kits to 1,248 families affected by drought in three districts; Lautem, Viqueque and Baucau. This activity is part of an operation on the effects of El Nino, which was launched in April 2016. In addition to the distribution of family kits and hygiene kits, on December 5-8, CVTL has distributed cash for food to 466 families in Viqueque. Previously, CVTL delivered clean water to communities in those three districts.

Building Urban Resilience in Southeast Asia Project

Updates in December 2016

At the regional level: The recruitment process of the regional consultant for studying two decades of ECHO contribution in South East Asia has been completed. The successful candidate will be on board in the beginning of January.



In the Philippines: ECHO regional coordinator for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) proposed the project site in Quezon City on 6-7 December. The teams are organizing the activity and inviting the primary key partners involved like the QCDDRRMO, Barangays and Department of Education. Besides, the national PAPE Workshop was conducted among 143 Red Cross focal teachers on 6 December 2016 at Philippines Red Cross Social Hall and was attended by RC 143 focal teachers from district 2 and 5 in Barangay. It was a multi-sectoral approach. The focus of the said workshop is to have concrete and strong "key messages" which promote safety of children in schools and in their homes and the community.

In Cambodia: The draft of the PAPE KAP survey, and Survey Implementation Plan (including identification of target population) was finalized. The final draft of the PAPE KAP survey was pending results from the community's VCAs. There was implementation of the school risk assessment in three public high schools making use of the adapted VCA tools. The final draft of the project communication and visibility plan in Finland and Cambodia was presented to Cambodian RC's Management for endorsement. The main general key messages were identified – to be shared with ECHO Bangkok.

In Vietnam: The draft questionnaire for the KAP survey was shared with PAPE national consultant for consultation. She added and revised some questions to get the information related to communication issues. The training on PAPE was held in Quy Nhon from 16 to 18 December 2016. It was co-facilitated by the national consultant, and GRC and VNRC project officers who previously participated in the Regional PAPE training in Manila.

In Laos: The project team coordinated with the Vientiane City branch in order to appoint the district coordinator for implementing the project activities. The target areas in five communities were identified and the team agreed to divided into two clusters including Risk and Hazard in urban and peri-urban, i.e. disaster, road safety, health and hygiene promotion. Besides, the team agreed to hire a KAP consultant to conduct KAP survey in Vientiane capital city.

Gender and Diversity

Dissemination Workshop and Training on Gender and Diversity



With technical and funding supports from IFRC, the Cambodian Red Cross organizes 3-day Dissemination Workshop and Training on Gender and Diversity to all 25 Red Cross Branch Directors, staff and programme managers in total of 47 persons on 13-15 December 2016 in Cambodia.

Objectives of the training:

- To promote gender and diversity policy among Red Cross staff, volunteers and youth in CRC /NHQ and 25 Red Cross Branches.
- To improve the knowledge and capacity of CRC NHQ/ Branch staff in their work to reduce Gender and Diversity inequality.
- To promote the gender and diversity work, engage with other actors as well as establish linkages with other networks.
- To disseminate gender and diversity policy to all branch Directors, staff and programme managers.

The event was co-facilitated by Cambodian Red Cross and the Ministry of Women Affairs.

See the [report](#).

Health

Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) Training for Community Volunteers in the Highest Malaria and Dengue Prevalence District



The training on Epidemic Control for Volunteers for village health volunteers, head of villages, and community school teachers was planned and organized during 19-21 December 2016 in Muang Prathumphone, Champasak Province, the southern part of Lao PDR and Lao-Thailand border crossing area (Pakse, Champasak and Chong Mekm Ubol Ratchathani province).

Obviously, Dr Bounma Xayasouk, Director of Department of Health Promotion, Lao Red Cross reported that the epidemics in the southern

provinces have been happening since late 2011 in Attapeu, Champasack, Saravan, Sekong and Savannakhet. In 2013 and 2014, Lao Red Cross implemented the malaria prevention project in 20 villages in 3 districts of 2 provinces (Champasak and Sekong). Previously, in 2013, the Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) training course has been organized by Lao Red Cross for healthcare staff from the headquarter and other 15 provinces. The training documents were translated into Lao language for the said training. After that, the training could not be extended to other staff at district level due lack of financial support and staff turnover rate.

The Ministry of Public Health estimated that without immediate interventions and effective actions for health promotion and control, Lao PDR could have 61,000-120,000 dengue cases in every year. Meanwhile, in 2013,

dengue cases were reported in Champasak Province. From about 5,404 cases, the populations in 7 cases were found dead. As of November 2015, 1,313 dengue fever cases were diagnosed in this epidemic area.

This year in 2016 Lao Red Cross considered to urgently provide health interventions and reach the local communities and vulnerable populations in these affected and high epidemic areas with effective communication and health-education strategies. The tools of ECV have been implemented and useful for the community volunteers in the previous years.



There were 31 village health volunteers, head of villages, and community school teachers invited to participate in this ECV training (Male 21, Female 10). The four sessions of epidemic response cycle, principle of epidemiology, community tools, action tools, and disease tools with ECV manual in Lao language were employed. The group work discussions, “Zap that mosquito” game and home-visit health-education role plays and health education practices using the community tool focusing on four diseases – Dengue & Zika, Malaria, Diarrhea, and Respiratory infections

were highlighted and demonstrated to all participants, and community mappings and epidemics seasonal calendar were trained. The results of the pre/post-test of True /False/Not Sure quiz showed that the participants’ knowledge were significantly improved from 66% to 98% respectively. The expectations of the participants were met and satisfied.

At the end of the training, Mr. May Sisouvong, Head of Nakham village said, “This training is very useful and easy to follow up by a group of community volunteers, especially the head of the villages and village health volunteers by using it during the diseases epidemics. I understood more about the epidemics’ cycle and he committed to bring all the new knowledge and new health interventions learned from the facilitators back to my village and community by communicating and educating via a loud speaker to our local villagers in order to improve their behavior to prevent and control malaria and dengue in the village.”

Mr. Thongphoun Phothivong, Teacher, Nakham Village School, said, “I really like the facilitation methods and training materials. The training package of ECV manual will be very useful to apply for school curriculums, especially for the subject of health education and environmental study and society. This will benefit our students in the school as they will get to know the information about the diseases, transmission and prevention and control. Hand cleaning steps and information about mosquito-breeding sites to avoid mosquito bites using nets are very useful for the students and local communities to do it to prevent them from malaria and dengue and Zika diseases.”

Miss. Sengphachanh Zaizanapanhya, Teacher, Oudomphanh Village School mentioned, “This is good timing for ECV training and we are waiting for this kind of training and workshop. I have never been involved in a training like this, this is my first time and I like it. I have learned a lots during the past three days. I will take all the new skills and updated knowledge back home and talk to our students and villages. I will help our community to prevent and stop malaria and dengue for the poor people in the communities.”

Last but not least, Dr Bounma Xayasouk highlighted, “Next year we are proposing and requesting the support from IFRC about the CBHFA Mosquito-Borne Diseases and Vector Control in helping the vulnerable populations in affected areas, particularly in Champasak Province. This initiative scale-up will be useful for the villagers and communities in preparing for community health preparedness and response to the epidemics and the outbreaks beforehand. We really appreciate the great support and contribution from IFRC which continues the assistance to their people as always. If the resources will be available for the next fiscal year 2017, we will scale up the ECV again to cover more affected local communities.”

Copies of the Dengue, Zika, and Chikungunya Toolkit consisting of 3 modules can be downloaded from [here](#)

Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA): Mosquito Borne Diseases and Vector Control and Epidemic Control for Volunteers | 14-16 December 2016 | Lao PDR



their responsibility.

This is the first roll out of CBHFA Mosquito-Borne Diseases and Vector Control and Epidemic Control for Volunteers in Lao PDR to provide and increase the capacity building of Red Cross health personnel working in four provinces located in the deep south of Lao PDR i.e. Sekong, Saravane, Attapeu and Champasak provinces. These four provinces are the risk-prone areas of dengue and malaria epidemics.



The Ministry of Public Health reported in 2015 that there was high coverage of malaria and dengue fever outbreak in Lao PDR, in particular in the southern provinces of Lao PDR, among these, Champasak Province had the highest situation. In order to prevent the incidence of these diseases outbreak, Lao Red Cross has organized a training to build capacity for Lao Red Cross staff at district and provincial levels in epidemic control for them to transfer these knowledge and skills to communities in the areas under

In the four key topics of ECV there were group-work discussion, “Zap that mosquito” game and role plays, health-education practices and community mappings using a community tool focusing on three diseases – Dengue and Zika, Diarrhea and Polio, which were highlighted and demonstrated to the participants. The results of True/False/Not Sure pre-test and post-test showed that the participants’ knowledge was significantly improved from 73% to 96% respectively.

There were 15 health personnel from the health divisions of four Red Cross provincial branches actively participating in this first roll-out training course. There were ten female and five male representatives from the four provinces. The theory and practical sessions were employed with ECV manual, epidemic’s response cycle, principle of epidemiology, community tools, action tools, and disease tools, in Lao language.



For the next step, Lao Red Cross is planning to organize the ECV training for community volunteers in Muang Pathoumphone District, Champasak Province, during 19-21 December 2016. There will be 20 community volunteers and 10 teachers participating in the ECV training in the district level. This initiative scale-up will be useful for the villagers and communities in preparing for community health preparedness and response to the epidemics and the outbreaks beforehand.

Especially, the community volunteers will be familiarized and conceptualized themselves with the ECV manual and disease tools, action tools, and community tools before the epidemics occur in their communities.

Copies of the Dengue, Zika, and Chikungunya Toolkit consisting of 3 modules can be downloaded from [here](#)

Mosquito-Borne Diseases Workshop for Red Cross Health Workers | 6-8 December 2016 | Viet Nam

Dengue, Chikungunya and more recently the Zika virus pose an increasing threat to vulnerable populations worldwide. All of these vector-borne diseases are endemic to various countries in Asia and Pacific and in some countries infection rates, particularly of Dengue, have reached alarming proportions.



On 6 to 8 December 2016, the Viet Nam Red Cross Society, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organized a mosquito-borne diseases workshop for Red Cross health workers from four National Societies of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam. The workshop, which was supported by the Finnish and New Zealand Red Cross Societies, focused on improving the participants' knowledge around vector-borne diseases and exploring solutions to issues faced by the health workers in their

respective communities. The workshop was also an opportunity to pilot the Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya Prevention Toolkit recently developed by the IFRC.

The four Southeast Asia countries have seen a similar rise in dengue cases. In Viet Nam, nearly 99,000 dengue cases were reported in 2016, as opposed to around 83,000 cases in 2015. There have been reports of 93 Zika virus cases in the country, 77 of which occurred in Ho Chi Minh City, the country's largest city.

"Having this type of training is crucial at this point in time, as it will help us as health workers to address the situation before it worsens," said Dao Thi Thanh Tam, Under-Secretary General and the Director of Healthcare Department for the Viet Nam Red Cross Society.

"This was a very participatory training where everyone got the chance to be involved," said Sok Long, the Director of the Healthcare Department at the Cambodian Red Cross. "Throughout the workshop, there were a lot of practical sessions, that will help us apply theory into practice for our work in the community."

Kym Blechynden, the IFRC's Regional Emergency Health Coordinator for Asia Pacific, says that mosquito-borne diseases including Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya kill more than 725,000 people globally each year.

"These diseases are largely preventable and we must do more to stop what has become a silent disaster," she says. "The IFRC is partnering with National Societies across Asia-Pacific to roll out a new Zika-Dengue-Chikungunya (ZDC) Toolkit which enables communities to take action to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and prevent transmission."



The Toolkit contains Community and School Prevention Modules and a toolkit of resources and games to print out and use. It can be used by Red Cross volunteers and anyone working with communities to pass on knowledge and skills in prevention and response on Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya. It helps volunteers and communities to understand the cause, symptoms, treatment and the prevention of these diseases. The resource can be adapted and used in existing community health programmes and activities, integrated with other sector

activities and it can also be adapted for use in emergencies and after disasters.

As climate change shifts the distribution of mosquitoes to new areas, mosquito control programmes, community empowerment and awareness campaigns are proven strategies to reduce the impacts of vector-borne diseases. Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers play a key role in their community, particularly in school outreach programmes and activities targeted around prevention efforts. These community-based activities need to be sustained to ensure long-lasting disease control.

During the workshop the participants took part in piloting the Toolkit's usability and effectiveness. On the last day participants worked in their National Society groups to plan how they could integrate mosquito-borne disease prevention activities into core business and how the Toolkit activities could be included into current or proposed programmes and activities.

Copies of the Dengue, Zika, and Chikungunya Toolkit consisting of 3 modules can be downloaded from [here](#)

Philippine Red Cross Joins World AIDS Day 2016

According to UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS) fact sheet of 2016, globally, roughly 78 million people have become infected with HIV since the start of the epidemic. While approximately 39.8 Million people were living with HIV, and only 17 million of them were accessing antiretroviral therapy. Moreover, about 40.8 million people have died from AIDS-related illnesses since the start of the epidemic.

In the Philippines, as of October 2016, a total of 38,114 cases were recorded since the first case of HIV was diagnosed in January 1984. Of the total cases, 84% were reported from January 2011 to October 2016.

Based on the epidemic trends of National HIV/AIDS & STI Surveillance and Strategic Information Unit, Epidemiology Bureau of the Department of Health (DOH), 26 individuals are estimated to be newly diagnosed with HIV per day.

People Living with HIV do not transmit the virus by handshakes, casual talks, staying in the same room and/or even sharing of utensils while eating. People Living with HIV (PLHIV) are facing bigger issues other than the disease they have acquired but the discrimination and stigma they are encountering.

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) continues to uphold one of its missions as an advocate to halt the spread of HIV and AIDS by raising public awareness. And this resulted in a great number of individuals having already been educated about HIV and AIDS, as well as the process of how to get tested.

Moreover, the PRC fully supports the anti-stigma campaign and conducts programs and activities for its implementation around the organization’s programs and services. As part of moving forward, the PRC foresees that aside from HIV/AIDS knowledge-dissemination campaign, the anti-discrimination and anti-stigma should also be given emphasis. This campaign will protect the rights and privileges of all PLHIVs.

The Movement already has initiated several activities that promote the Zero Discrimination Campaign on HIV/AIDS. Also, the PRC adopts the “Workplace Policy” in accordance with the National and International Law and Conferences that creates a chance for the PLHIV to work and live as usual in PRC environment.



In celebration of World AIDS Day, the PRC initiates activities that aims to amplify national awareness and issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. A total of 171 participated during the HIV/AIDS symposium held at 2nd Floor of PRC tower. The symposium started with giving trivia about HIV/AIDS and World AIDS Day. It was then followed by the launching of “Workplace Policy” on HIV/AIDS and an audio-visual campaign-presentation was also shown. The resource speaker discussed the topics of HIV/AIDS within the community and PLHIVs’ chances and challenges. A message from PRC Chairman Richard Gordon ended the symposium.



The countdown for **15,000** hands for #HIVPREVENTION starts now!

#HIVPrevention



f phredcross @philredcross www.redcross.org.ph

Starting end of November, PRC Chapters nationwide participated in the countdown for 15,000 Hands Up for #HIVprevention. The mechanism of the campaign was on their palms where they wrote their advocacy messages to show support to PLHIVs and to commemorate the people who have died because of HIV and AIDS. They rose their hands up and had their photographs taken, then posted them on their different social media accounts. Also, the Chapters conducted different initiatives in celebration of World AIDS Day such as candle lighting, human ribbon

formation, information dissemination on HIV/AIDS, parade/walk, run for a cause, masquerade party, participation in different local HIV/AIDS sector activities.



In this endeavour of the PRC, this battle is not only against the spread of HIV/AIDS, but as well as the issues surrounding it and community involvement is the best method to win it. The PRC will continuously mobilize the Red Cross' 143 volunteers to visit communities and disseminate information about HIV/AIDS, promote preventive measures, as well as distribute condoms to promote safe sex. Also, PRC will integrate counselling sessions for pre- and post-HIV/AIDS testing on its program. This mission will not only require putting our hands up for HIV prevention but standing up for what the humanity needs.

Cambodian Red Cross celebrates World AIDS Day 2016

The Cambodian Red Cross always celebrates the World AIDS Day event every year to support the effort of the government and the profound HIV and AIDS activity of its president as the National Champion of the Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum in response to HIV and AIDS in Cambodia. For 2016 World AIDS Day, the CRC celebrated the event with the theme, "Early Test and Early Treat toward stopping AIDS by 2025".

According to the above-mentioned theme, CRC organized 2016 World AIDS day event in several activities which included:

- a. Key message from the CRC's President for nationally dissemination.
- b. 25 Red Cross Branches were encouraged to conduct home visits to PLHIV families by Red Cross Youth and Volunteers.
- c. Youth debate at the National TV studio and aired through the National TV before and on 1 December 2016.
- d. The health team from the NHQ visited 3 Red Cross branches (Siem Reap, Svay Rieng and Koh Kong provinces) and joined the branches' activities.
- e. The CRC's NHQ health team conducted HIV/AIDS awareness sessions to several universities in Phnom Penh and Svay Rieng.

Key Activities

1. Key message from CRC's President

The contents of the CRC's President message to the public can be summarized as follow:

- Try to understand about the fact of HIV and AIDS and to prevent yourself from HIV infection, in particular all youth and you have to remember that "preventing HIV starts from you".
- For those who are suspecting of infecting HIV and those who are living with HIV, you have to hurry to have blood test and accept treatment and health services from health centers and hospital. You have to commit not passing HIV to others.
- For pregnant women, you have to hurry to and to regularly have your pregnancy check-up so that you can take ARV preventing spreading HIV to your baby.
- Do not discriminate and look down on the people who are living with HIV. We have to create a supporting environment for risk groups so that they can get health services, social support lawful protection.
- "I would like to appeal for all, in particular youth, that we have to commit ourselves to contribute to HIV prevention and all the times we have to avoid any actions which lead us to be risky to HIV. Everywhere you are, you have to educate your friends to know how to prevent HIV like you do."

2. Youth debate



For the youth debate, the Cambodian Red Cross held it at the National TV Studio in Phnom Penh on 22 November 2016 and then aired the video spot via all local TV channels from the 25 November to 1 December 2016. This youth debate was held under the specific topic, “Cambodian Youth commit to prevent HIV.” The contents of the youth debate include: Contributing to the achievement of the 90-90-90 by 2020, highlight the youth role model in preventing HIV and AIDS, with the focus on self-esteem and social value, and the joint effort in fighting against HIV and AIDS in

Cambodia so far. There were 200 people who attended this youth debate, including 40 Red Cross Volunteers and CRC’s staff. Student representatives from two universities debated on the key questions posted by the speaker panel. The speaker panel includes PLHIV representative, National AIDS Authority, Red Cross people and the media.

3. Home visit to PLHIV families orphanage center



- Totally 435 food packages, including 60 packages supported by the Federation via ART Network, were distributed to PLHIV’s families at their homes within the three provinces of Hoh Kong, Svay Rieng and Siem Reap during November to December 2016.
- Four staff of the CD/NCD sub-department of the National Head Quarters directly went to the three mentioned Red Cross Branches above.

4. CRC's NHQ health team conducted HIV/AIDS awareness sessions to several universities in Phnom Penh and Svay Rieng



At least six universities, with a total of 4,842 students, were reached during November to December 2016. The six universities include 5 universities in Phnom Penh namely Royal University of Phnom Penh, Asia-Europe University, Royal University of Agriculture, University of Cambodia and Western University and the other university in Svay Rieng which was University of Svay Rieng. Over 60% of the students were females. Deans of each university, and teachers and students were very active and

supporting the HIV sessions, plus thanking the Red Cross for such HIV messages dissemination.

World AIDS Day 2016 by Thai Red Cross

For World AIDS Day 2016, Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre (TRCARC) brought World AIDS Day to life in the communities by organizing special events to raise awareness of the role that individuals and communities could play in preventing the spread of HIV. The events promoted Free HIV testing and encourage individuals and their partners to know their HIV status at Anonymous Clinic and in the prison in Pathumthani province, and screening and discussion of VD, TB and Hepatitis B & C. Also occurred was activities to disseminate HIV/AIDS information to the public following the UN's theme for this year's World AIDS Day which is Hands Up for #HIV Prevention.

Activities

1. Communication through the social media outlets about HIV prevention, testing and treatment
 - Online HIV risk reduction message to communicate accurate information about HIV, HIV risk, and ways to prevent both acquisition and transmission
 - = Promotion of free HIV Testing on World AIDS Day
2. On 1 December 2016, TRCARC joined the official World AIDS Day Celebration at Anonymous Clinic.
 - Booth exhibition
 - Free HIV testing was offered on World AIDS Day on 1 December
 - Black ribbons were distributed



3. Students Debate & Debunk HIV Myths at Tassaban 2 Wat Saneha School in Nakhon Pathom province. This province, located approximately 70 kilometers away to the South of Thailand from Bangkok was chosen for several reasons; the first being that it is one of the zones where TRCARC presently work for Harm Reduction, and the second being that TRCARC wanted to bring our message of HIV/AIDS education to an area with low socio-economic.



4. Prisoners Debate & Debunk HIV Myths at the prison in Prathumthani Province. This province, located approximately 60 kilometers to the North of Thailand from Bangkok was chosen for several reasons; the first being that it is one of the zones where TRCARC presently works for Harm Reduction, and the second being that TRCARC wanted to bring our message of HIV/AIDS education to an area where there is drug use. There were a debate, an exhibition and a quiz session.

Outcomes

- Using of the social networking sites to bridge communication among a diverse range of users, in various geographic and social contexts, leveraged through pre-existing platforms and with attention to the roles of anonymity and confidentiality in communication about HIV prevention and treatment, continues to increase and becomes more widespread.
- 172 people got free HIV testing on World AIDS Day.
- The event was well attended. A total of 1,714 students in the school came including upper secondary school students, teachers, villagers authorities, district government staff and TRCARC staff.
- 100 students and 100 prisoners were able to identify and discuss basic truths and myths surrounding HIV. They highlighted the importance of education as a preventive measure against HIV/AIDS.
- Distributed condoms and lubricant, printed with “PrEP helps prevent HIV” message with the key facts about HIV/AIDS on the back, which promoted practical link between HIV/AIDS and safe sex.
- Students campaigned for World AIDS Day in public by wearing the campaign t-shirts especially produced for the occasion.
- The audience actively engaged with the debate showing laughter and applause. It was expected that this activity helped to increase HIV/AIDS knowledge. It is hoped that people change their attitude and behavior towards people living with HIV (PLHIV) as the drama performance showed people how to support PLHIV.
- Participants in the quiz session demonstrated good knowledge of the HIV/AIDS information presented.
- The materials distributed to the audience and displayed in the exhibition were well received. We hope that the provision of this information helps to provide ongoing support to increase knowledge and change individuals and communities behaviors and attitudes.

Migration

Resource Centres for Migrants in Chiang Mai

Resource centres for migrants have been established in Chiang Mai. Everyday these centres open their doors to offer migrants trainings in Thai, English and Shan languages as well as workshops to build self-esteem and motivation, leadership, organisational, computer and planning skills. The beauty of this program is that the trainings are designed and delivered by migrants for migrants. The centres are supported by the Life Skills Development Foundation, the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO)

These centres are part of the Rights of Migrants in Action, a 42-month project co-funded by the European Union, which aims to promote and protect the human rights of migrants in the targeted countries, migration corridors and regions through a globally coordinated civil society action, with a specific focus on migrant workers and victims of human trafficking.



Fifteen villages makeshift migrant villages are located on the outskirts of Chiang Mai. The villages, which locals call “a camp”, is a maze of metal shacks lined along the sides of dark little paths. The iridescent sheen of small hand-made shrines scattered across unnamed empty streets is the only sign of human presence.

Of the estimated 3-4 million Myanmar migrants in Thailand, close to 300,000 live in Chiang Mai; the majority of them ethnic Shan who came to Thailand in search for safety, work opportunities and better prospects for themselves and their families, both in Thailand and back home.

Chiang Mai, the Rose of the North, is not only a hot spot for tourists but also a thriving centre for construction, agriculture, garment and hospitality industries seeking cheap labour.

Unfortunately, in their pursuit of high profits local recruiters do not always afford migrant workers the benefits, rights and protections enshrined in Thai labour laws.

In addition to the material infringements, Shan migrants frequently face a high level of prejudice, isolation and discrimination on the basis of their ethnicity and legal status in Thailand.

As in many other countries, migrants in Thailand are often left to cope with their problems alone. In spite of a complaints mechanism for migrant workers recently established in Chiang Mai, Shan people, especially those lacking legal papers and Thai language skills, still opt for help from the civil society and migrant communities.



Developing leadership skills and empowering migrants is more important now than ever.

“Migrant leaders with proper skills and knowledge can help Shan communities understand their rights, entitlements and support them in difficult situations. They are the best resources for developing services for migrants because being part of the community gives them the best knowledge about real needs and concerns of migrants”, explains Kreangkrai Chaimuangdee, Executive Director of the Life Skills Development Foundation.

“Originally this project was developed for migrants. But today it has evolved into a project owned and run by the migrants themselves.”

Twenty-three years ago, after five days spent crashing through a heavy jungle, a heavily pregnant Shan girl set foot on Thai soil for the first time. Fleeing unrest and poverty in Myanmar, Nang Ou was exhausted and frightened. She did not know what the future would bring.

Fortunately, it brought something good – her son Tee. But the confused young mother knew nothing about the importance of civil registration. She had crossed the border illegally and was too afraid to go to the hospital to register Tee’s birth.



Nang Ou's life has been marked by hard work and a daily struggle to provide for her family. All she has wanted is for her son to be safe.

Today Nang Ou glows with pride.

"In the very beginning I was not very positive about Tee's engagement in this project, because I was worried that he was doing something risky", reflects Nang Ou. "But today I am very proud of my son. He is a good person and works hard to help other migrants.

Prior to joining this project, Tee worked as a labourer carrying bags of rice for a few Thai Baht every day – just enough to make ends meet.

"That work was purely physical and required no

thinking. I simply followed my boss's orders", recalls Tee.

"Working on this project has prompted me to think about larger topics that impact myself, my family and my community. This has been a big positive change for me."

Pattama, 22, is one of the migrants attending the free Thai lessons at the resource centre. She came to Thailand six years ago together with her sister, while their mother stayed behind in Shan state. Pattama would love to go back home, but knows that there are no job opportunities there.

"When I arrived in Thailand I could not speak any Thai, so my first purchase was a pocket dictionary. I always wanted to do Thai language courses but I could not afford them, so I really appreciate these free lessons. With better language skills I hope to get a better paid and less physically demanding job", Pattama says.

"Originally this project was developed for migrants. But today it has evolved into a project owned and run by the migrants themselves."



In keeping with new best practices of community engagement, civil society organisations like the Life Skills Development Foundation and MAP foundation run radio programs in Shan language at the resource centres. In addition to receiving important information, migrants can phone in and discuss issues of importance for their communities.

Migrants can also suggest and benefit from bespoke trainings. They simply come to the field offices to discuss their ideas with the project core team. Then the trained fellow migrants help them turn their ideas into reality.

"Two-way communication is very important for this marginalised group", says Marwan Jilani, head of the IFRC's country cluster support team in Bangkok.

"When they are consulted and included as important actors in the program, not just as receivers, then everyone benefits – the migrants, their families, host communities and society as a whole. It is the most effective way to

empower the most vulnerable to become agents of change and development.”

Youth and Volunteering

Youth Empowerment Programme | 17-19 December 2016 | Ho Chi Min City Chapter, Viet Nam RC

Ho Chi Minh chapter, Viet Nam Red Cross, inspired by Da Nang chapter, has initiated Youth Empowerment programme from 17-19 December. Their main theme of the activity was gender equality in community. Youth and Volunteering Officer from IFRC supported this activity by coaching and guiding 20 students (12 females, 8 males) from Quang Trung College. Those 20 youths made awareness raising activity by the creation of a drama targeting 100 community people including college students.



Key Outcomes of the Activity

- Awareness raising for 100 people in HCM about gender equality.
- 20 youths were motivated to conduct this activity further in their college. As a side technical discussion, Youth Director of VNRC requested an expansion of this programme into other provinces with different topics of social inclusion.

Singapore Red Cross Youth Red Wave Rising – Pledge to Build Community Resilience



On 17 December 2016, to commemorate its 65th anniversary, the Singapore Red Cross Youth pledged to boost community resilience in Singapore by championing blood donation, helping the disadvantaged, and educating their community on emergency and disaster preparedness, through a series of activities over the next year.

Inspired by SG Secure and themed “Red Wave Rising”, the pledge was launched by Mr. Baey Yam Keng, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Culture, Community and Sports at the Tampines Hub.

Mr. Baey said, “In light of security attacks across the world, the need for Singapore to be vigilant and prepared has never been more urgent. It is crucial that all of us do our part to build emergency preparedness

in our community. I hope the Red Cross Youth will serve as catalysts in engaging citizens to contribute to community resilience by donating blood, practicing first-aid, and looking out for one another.”

The 10,000-strong Red Cross Youth movement aged 9 to 35 kicked off their 65th anniversary celebrations with a commitment to rally the community to donate 6,500 units of blood over the next year.



Highlighting the significance of the blood donation pledge, Mr Sahari Ani, Director of the Singapore Red Cross Youth, said, “A robust blood supply is critical to saving lives during everyday emergencies, and more so in times of crisis. With the ageing population in Singapore, our aim is to increase the percentage of youth blood donors from the current 28 percent to 35 percent, in order to have a sustainable blood supply. As passionate youth leaders, the Red Cross Youth are in a good position to encourage and inspire their peers and fellow citizens to become blood donors.”

Wasting no time in taking action, the 250 Red Cross Youth present at the outreach distributed blood donation pledge cards to Tampines residents, and engaged some 74 retail merchants and hawkers in Tampines to display a blood donation

sticker in support of the lifesaving cause.

In line with their commitment to prepare the community for emergencies, the Red Cross Youth also distributed 100 Food Aid packs to needy households in Tampines, gave out SG Secure information packs and held first-aid demonstrations, to equip residents with knowledge and supplies for emergencies.



people around the world will take steps towards strengthening resilience.”

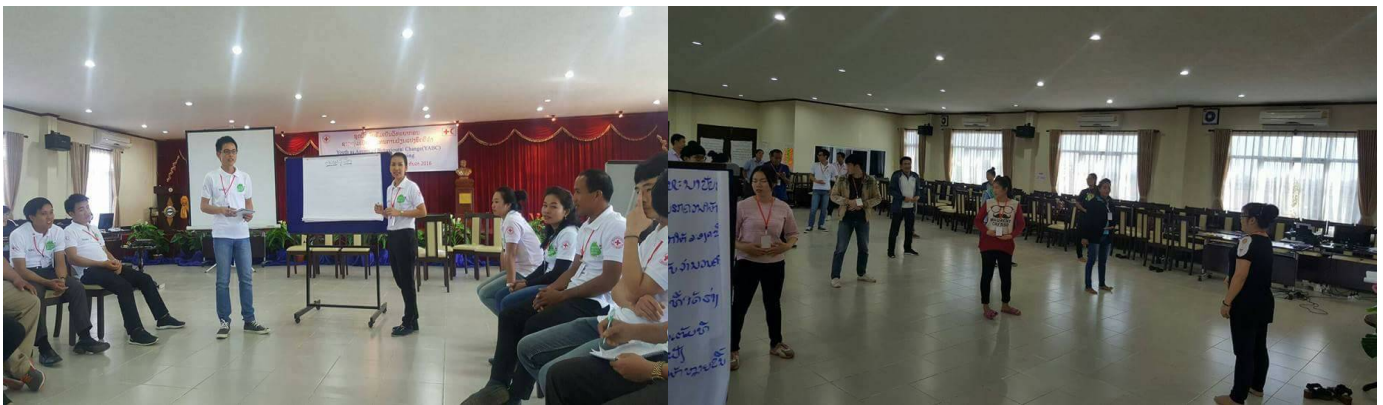
As part of their 65th anniversary celebrations, the Red Cross Youth will also be launching the sale of four limited edition teddy bears, to raise funds for local community services run by the Singapore Red Cross. Public can call 6664 0500 or email admin.rcy@redcross.sg to purchase the bears.

Noting that the efforts of the Singapore Red Cross Youth align with global and national initiatives for resilience, Mr Sahari said, “In the last 65 years, the Red Cross Youth have significantly expanded the scope of their service, from a CCA in school to a platform for humanitarian leadership in the community. It is timely for the Red Cross Youth to play an active part in driving SG Secure’s call to strengthen our defence against crisis.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), of which the Singapore Red Cross is a member, has also adopted the vision of One Billion Coalition for Resilience. It is a transformative initiative to scale up community and civic action to strengthen resilience. By 2025, the global Red Cross Movement hopes that at least one billion

Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) Peer Educators Training

The Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) Peer Educators training in Laos was held by facilitation of Youth and Volunteering Officer from IFRC together with two Thai Red Cross facilitators (one staff and one volunteer) on 12-16 December 2016 targeting 20 participants from the Ministry of Education, Red Cross HQ (DM, Health and Youth), Red Cross Youth Clubs from the high school and university, Youth Union and one staff from Thai Red Cross Youth Bureau. The training was supported by the IFRC CCST budget and inaugurated with the attendance of Vice President of Lao Red Cross, Thongphachanh.



Key Outcomes of the Training

- Participants had a clear understanding of YABC with knowledge, skills and practices.
- Participants developed their action plans and discussed about the collaboration between different stakeholders.
- Youth empowerment action for the community was planned for 2017 and IFRC will support this.



This training had two impacts:

- 1) Thai Red Cross YABC youth were mobilised to be co-facilitators under the coach of Youth and Volunteering Officer and gained facilitation experience and decided to roll out this programme in Thai RC youth activities.
- 2) It became one opportunity of partnership and advocacy between all youth stakeholders in Laos such as the Ministry of Education, Youth Union and RCY. They developed their joint actions to motivate the other youth to join the RC and

community actions with high zeal.

Youth in School Safety Programme | 5-8 December 2016 | Myanmar Red Cross

In order to add value to the School Based Disaster Risk Reduction project in Myanmar funded by Hong Kong Red Cross, Myanmar Red Cross has conducted **Youth in School Safety Facilitators training** for a purpose of integration between Disaster Management and Organizational Development/Youth as the youth empowerment initiative.

Objectives of the Workshop

- To enhance the capacity of Myanmar Red Cross School Safety with meaningful involvement of youth volunteers to be facilitators in order to roll out school safety initiative into all schools over the country through the Regional Youth in School Safety tool.
- To provide an opportunity to youth and volunteers to expand Red Cross Youth clubs and junior Red Cross youth members to join the Red Cross programmes with a children-friendly training module.

The Youth in School Safety Facilitators training in Myanmar was held on 5-8 December 2016. It was facilitated by Youth and Volunteering Officer, DRR Officer and two Myanmar RC youth facilitators as co-facilitators in close cooperation with the OD and DM department of MRCS.



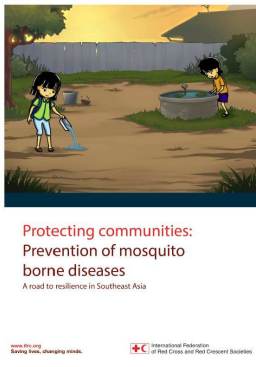
Key Outcomes of the Training

- Participants had clear understanding of the school safety framework with 3 pillars, and the concept of school safety action.
- Participants became the first-time facilitators in school safety through the demonstration at school and built confidence to continue to be youth facilitators
- Participants developed their action plans to extend this programme to their communities/towns with their own resources and with the practice of the guide.

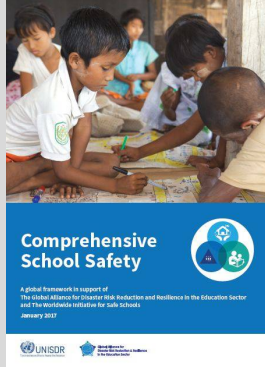
Finally, the OD and DM department recognized the youth facilitators as key players for their School Safety programme and appreciated the training module and would like to integrate this module into School Safety programme from 2017 onwards.

Please see the [report](#) and [agenda](#).

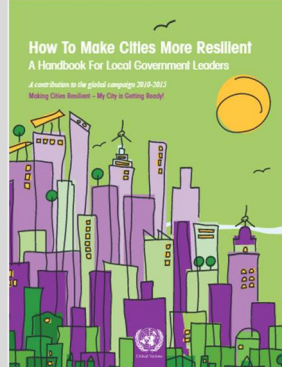
Publications



Comic Book: Protecting communities – Prevention of mosquito-borne diseases



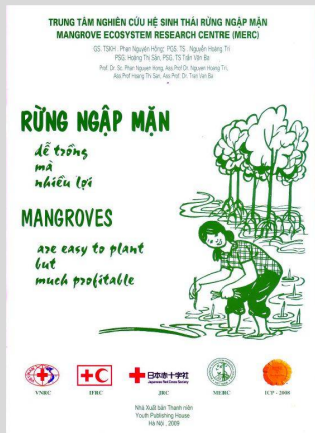
Comprehensive School Safety



How To Make Cities More Resilient: A Handbook for Local Government Leaders



Information Brochure on Water Purification Unit in Thai and English languages



Mangrove plantation is easy but many benefits (in English and Vietnamese)

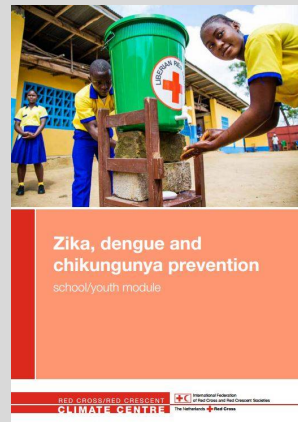


School Safety in Myanmar infographics

[Click here to download Why school safety is important in Myanmar?](#)

[Click here to download How school safety can be improved?](#)

[Click here to download School-Based Disaster Risk Reduction: A project by Myanmar Red Cross](#)



Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya Toolkit

[Click here to download Community Module](#)

[Click here to download Prevention Toolkit](#)

[Click here to download School/Youth Module](#)

Featured Video



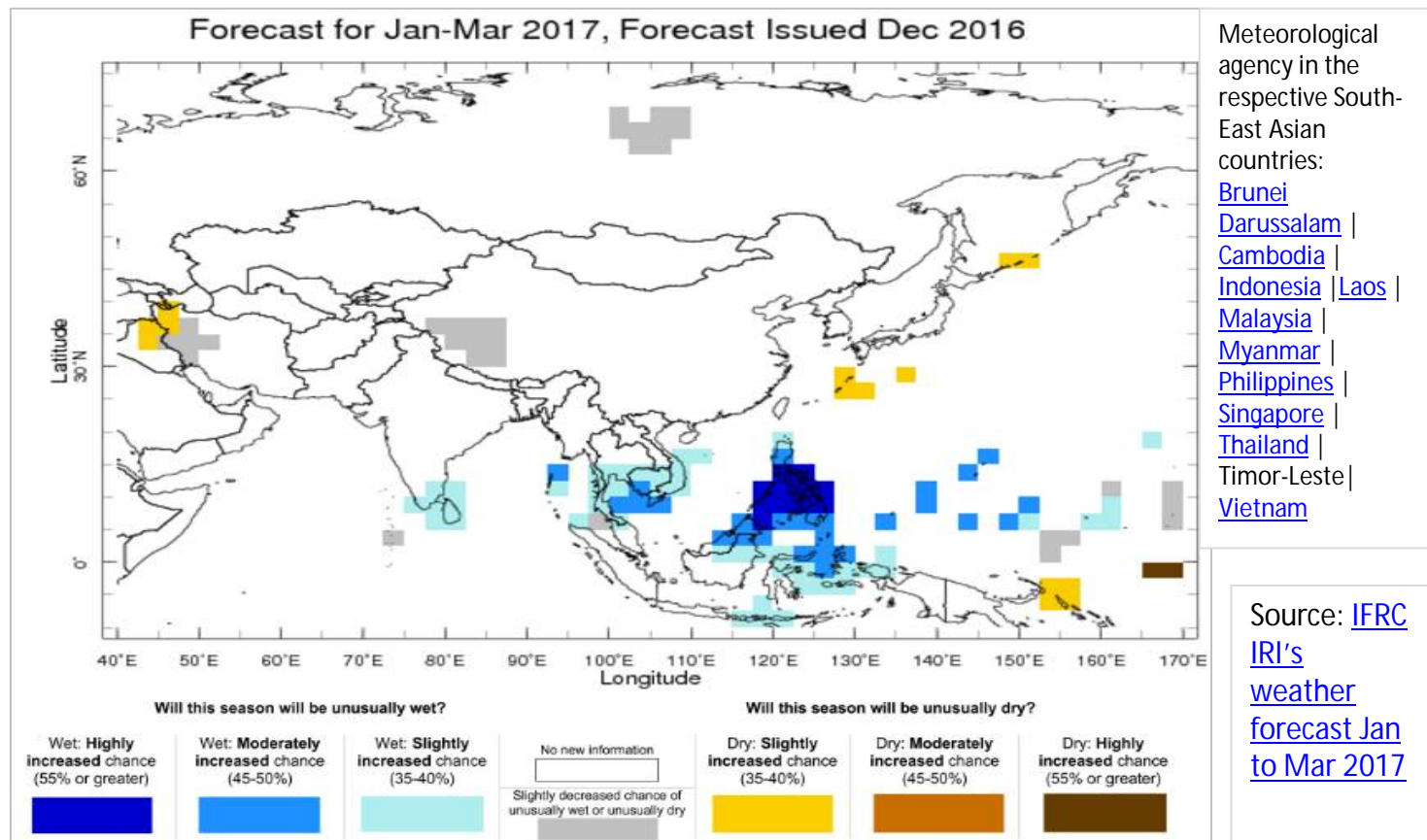
World AIDS Day 2016

A new video campaign by Philippines Red Cross features being against discrimination of HIV-infected people in workplaces [Click here to watch](#)

Knowledge and Information Management – Resilience Library

We are migrating the Southeast Asia RCRC societies online library at <https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia> to the **Southeast Asia Resilience Library** at <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/> with more participatory and user-friendly features, more updates will be informed at a later stage. With this change going, BOTH of the platforms are active and in use at present. 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 nuntanit.bumrungsap@ifrc.org

Weather Forecast



Country	Weather Forecast (Dry or wet)	Likelihood
Brunei	Unusually wet	45-50 % (moderate) likelihood of wet weather
Cambodia	Unusually wet	35-40% (slight likelihood) of wet weather in the northern part of the country and higher (moderate likelihood) of wet weather in south Cambodia.
Indonesia	Unusually wet (depending on the areas)	Some areas have 45-50% (moderate likelihood) of wet weather in the northern part of Indonesia.
Laos	Not dry nor wet	-
Malaysia	Unusually wet	45 to 50% (moderate likelihood) of wet weather in easternmost part of the country
Myanmar	Not dry nor wet	-
Philippines	Unusually wet	Mostly 55% or greater (high likelihood) of wet weather in most part of the country.
Singapore	Not dry nor wet	-
Thailand	Unusually wet	Slight likelihood (35-40%) of wet weather in the southern half of the country.
Timor-Leste	Not dry nor wet	-
Vietnam	Unusually wet	35-40% (slight) likelihood of wet weather in the southern half of the country.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming events for January to March 2017			
Jan	4	Technical working group meeting to prepare for CSR Forum	Bangkok
	6-8	Workshop for facilitation skills to collect information for mapping tool	Vietnam
	11 (TBC)	South East Asia Youth Network Coordination Team meeting	Bangkok
	12	Launch of PMI Recovery Operation for community affected by earthquake in Aceh	Indonesia
	14-15	Orientation of KAP survey workshop	Lao PDR
	TBC	Radio Training	
	TBC	NDRT Training	Lao PDR
	TBC	Peer-to-peer exchange visit of Lao Red Cross to Nepal Red Cross on radio programming and community engagement	Nepal
	TBC	National Dissemination on Disaster Law	Cambodia
	TBC	VCA implementation	Philippines
Feb	1-3 (TBC)	Lao Youth Empowerment Program	Lao PDR
	TBC	Provincial level Dissemination on Disaster Law	Cambodia
	TBC	International Conference on Flood Resilience	Indonesia