

# REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – **March 2017**



**Peer-to-peer learning** is one of the key approaches for regional cooperation in South East Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, which is consisted 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](#)
- [Sout -East Asia Gender and Diversity Network - TOR](#)
- [South East Asia Youth Network \(SEAYN\) - TOR](#)

## Thematic Updates from South-East Asia

### Communication and Advocacy

#### Radio Training | 20-23 March 2017 | Lao PDR

From: <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/radio-training-march-2017-laos/>



The training was held in Thalad, Lao PDR on 20-23 March 2017 by Lao Red Cross' Communications and Fundraising Department (CFD) with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

This training was a follow-up from IFRC's review and recommendations to strengthen the radio programme in August 2016. The CFD had identified the need to build the capacity in radio programming at the headquarters level through a radio training for CFD and technical department staff and radio volunteers and to enhance the collaboration between the CFD and technical departments to allow more effective

sharing of information. The training helped other departments understand the need to raise community voices through the radio programme and how they could contribute contents to the CFD. Following the training, the CFD consolidated activity updates from the technical departments to develop a radio programme plan.

### Disaster Risk Reduction

#### National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) training with a focus on gender and diversity | 27-31 March 2017 | Lao PDR

From: <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/ndrt-trainings-focus-on-gender-and-diversity-march-2017/>

NDRT is a key response tools of National Societies (NSs) and the training was an opportunity to focus on the assessment templates and assess which tools to extend to take into consideration gender and diversity.



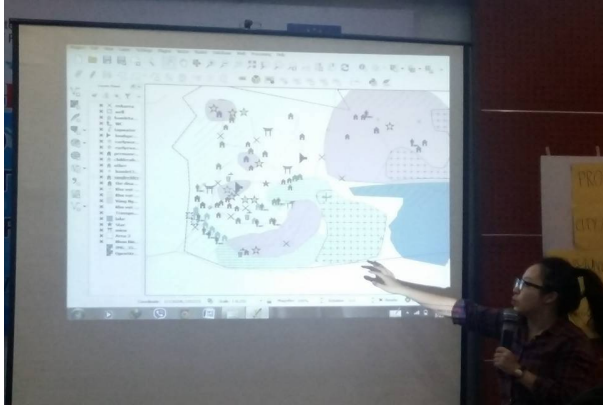
The agenda consisted of the topics such as needs assessment with gender and diversity analysis, logistics and relief management as well as lessons learned from Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) operation in 2016. There also was the session on applying the theory and lessons learned to a scenario on flood response. A colleague from the Relief and Community Health Bureau of Thai Red Cross Society also joined this table-top exercise to co-facilitate the session, give technical advice and share experiences from Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) deployment. The 5-day training was completed

successfully thank to the contribution of staff from Lao Red Cross, Thai Red Cross Society, International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as well as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Lao PDR.

## Training on Participatory Development of Multi-Disaster Risk Map using QGIS | 21-23 March 2017 | Viet Nam

From: <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/training-participatory-development-of-multi-disaster-risk-map-using-qgis-march-2017-vietnam/>

During the workshop, the project team members from Cambodia, the Philippines, and Lao PDR discussed and worked in group to practise and draw maps through the software. The development process of these community maps was based on paper mapping and importing of the data from paper mapping into the QGIS programme.



After the workshop completion, the project team and participants from VNRC and the government partners provided feedback and comment about the utilization and practice of QGIS software including the handout/manual which provided the step-by-step procedure.

### Next Steps

At the end of the project, in October 2017, a second Regional event will take place. Lesson learned from the use of this participatory multi-disaster risks mapping method in support to DRM planning will be gathered and documented as inputs for

the finalization of the method.

## National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) training for Thai Red Cross Society | 15-17 March 2017 | Bangkok, Thailand

From: <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/ndrt-training-march2017-thailand-2/>

### Background and Rationale

The Thai Red Cross Society (TRC) has 3 minimum standards to assist victims when disasters occur as follow:

1. The relief kit items will be distributed to the victims after 6 hours that a disaster has happened
2. TRC will set up the tent to assist the victims within 4 hours after a disaster strikes
3. The victims will receive food and beverage within 4 hours after a disaster strikes

In the past 2 years, TRC has been conducting the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) which the participants were from Red Cross Chapters, Red Cross health stations and relevant networks. There were 149 TRC's staffs from different regions of Thailand who have been trained and are ready to be deployed for disaster responses. TRC would like to expand the knowledge of disaster response to new-comer staff, in order to deploy them for disaster reliefs and responses both at the national and regional levels.



### Key outcomes

- Participants gained the knowledge of disaster response and understood the TRCS's disaster response mechanism
- Participants understood the assessment cycle and can identify the plan of action
- Participants understood the coordination and communication during disaster

### Next steps

- The second and third NDRT training will be conducted in Q2 and Q3 of 2017
- The next NDRT training will focus on the specialized training such as Disaster Assessment, Water and

Sanitation, and Psychosocial Support

## Health

### Workshop on Communication Strategy for Blood Donation of Lao National Blood Transfusion Centre | 13-17 March 2017 | Lao PDR

From: <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/workshop-communication-strategy-for-blood-donation-of-lao-national-blood-transfusion-centre-march2017/>



According to the commitment between Thai Red Cross Society and Lao Red Cross summarized from the bilateral coordinating meeting in Nong Khai Province in 2015, Thai Red Cross agreed in principle to help improving the capacities of Lao National Blood Transfusion Centre (NBTC) in increasing number of new blood donors to achieve the target set for the year 2020. Every year, 60,000 blood units are needed in Lao PDR but only 40,000 blood units are collected from voluntary blood donors.

Regarding to NBTC's marketing and communications strategy, increasing the visibility of communication campaigns and improving the public awareness campaigns of NBTC are the key important processes to broadly reach out to the new targeted audiences and new blood donors and young generations and general

populations in communities. The peer-to-peer technical support in developing the communication strategy on blood recruitment and blood donation and community and public awareness campaigns was held during 13-17 March 2017 with the support from German Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, Country Cluster Support Team (IFRC CCST) in Bangkok.



At the end of a workshop, a team from the National Blood Transfusion Center of Lao Red Cross (LRC) committed to move forward with the ideas, resources, guidance and suggestions from Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) in applying to fit with Laos' local context. The posters, short films, TV spot, radio spot, IEC material produced by TRSC are very helpful and useful for LRC to modify and adapt to Laos' local context. The strategic communication action plan 2017 onwards, a new logo of NBTC, four TV and Radio spots and some selected posters have been developed during the five-day workshop. The new key message of NBTC is "Give blood

every 3-4 months makes you healthy." The peer-to-peer technical support from TRSC is very useful for LRC as observed. German Red Cross very appreciated this peer-to-peer support and thanked TRC and IFRC for this peer-to-peer support that came from bilateral cooperation agreement.

## Migration

### **Regional Consultations for Rights of Migrants in Action | 1-2 March 2017 | Bangkok, Thailand**

From: <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/regional-consultations-for-rights-of-migrants-in-action-march-2017-bangkok/>



The purpose each Regional Consultation was to facilitate networking opportunities, strengthen collaboration and exchange between implementing partners, harness the collective experiences of partner civil society organizations (CSOs) and develop a set of recommendations linked to the implementation and objectives of the Rights of Migrants in Action project. More in details, programme managers from partner CSOs and National Society's Focal Points had the possibility to strengthen synergies, share and analyse key achievements and challenges, exchange good practices. Furthermore, discussions related to existing and missing regional policies with regard to targeted populations helped identify regional recommendations for development of

Rights of Migrants in Action's global policy papers on human rights of migrants, human trafficking and domestic labour migration.

This meeting constitutes a series of five Regional Conferences which will take place in the Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Central Asia, and Middle East and North Africa regions.

## Youth and Volunteering

### **Lao Red Cross Youth Empowerment Programme in Social Inclusion | 22-24 March 2017 | Lao PDR**

From: <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/lao-red-cross-youth-empowerment-programme-march2017-laos/>



Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) Youths in Lao Red Cross Society successfully implemented the youth empowerment programme on the theme of social inclusion at the National University of Lao with the attendance of 200 students.

This activity inspired 200 youths to change their mindset and attitude about the discrimination, exclusion and stereotyped opinions against their marginalised friends. It became more significant to Lao Youth since this was the first time of the youth-designed activity and it was totally led by

themselves from planning to implementation.

20 core group youths, overwhelmed and being confident of their achievements, decided to carry on more activities with the same approach targeting communities and universities by their own planning and efforts starting from May.

## Updates from National Societies

### Cambodia

#### Cambodian Red Cross' Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH) programme – March 2017 Updates

From: <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/health/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-promotion/cambodia-wash-programme/#1491201640355-ff0cb137-78df>

#### 22 March 2017: Celebration of World Water Day, Svay Rieng province



Svay Rieng province's WASH team celebrated and created awareness on World Water Day in the theme of "Why waste water?"

On 22 March, 2017 Svay Rieng province's red cross volunteers and staff celebrated the World Water Day and created awareness on the actions to improve wastewater management under '4Rs', namely:

- Reducing pollution at the source
- Removing contaminants from wastewater flows
- Reusing reclaimed water
- Recovering useful by-products.

The Cambodian Red Cross volunteers also conducted the practical sessions on hand washing for children and on the waste water usage by watering of plants.



*Photos credit: Cambodian Red Cross, Svay Rieng chapter*

#### 9-15 March 2017: Hygiene promotion and education session on fecal transmission route, diseases and environmental cleaning at a school and community

On 9-11 March 2017, there was a hygiene promotion and education session on personnel hygiene and benefits of latrine which was briefed to two schools in Boseleav commune, Chitr Borei district and the villages. The provincial staff explained the new facility provided to the schools, i.e. school latrines, water facilities for drinking. They also disseminated the information regarding fecal transmission route, diseases and environmental cleaning.

The dissemination session contained:

- F Diagram – fecal transmission route, health hazards and associated diseases
- Barriers for fecal transmission route.
- Suggested measure to prevent diseases at the household level and community level



Photos credit: Cambodian Red Cross Society, Kratie province chapter

#### 14-15 March 2017: Village Cleaning Exercise

The village community participated in the village cleaning exercise and cleaned their surroundings to prevent diseases like malaria, dengue, etc. in Prek Tatheoung village, Boseleau leav, Boseleau Krom, Ta lus of Boseleav commune, Chitr Borei district.



Photos credit: Cambodian Red Cross Society, Kratie province chapter

#### 21-22 March 2017: Home visit by Red Cross Volunteers and awareness raising regarding water treatment and disease transmission

The Red Cross Volunteers home visit was conducted in 4 villages and the information regarding fecal transmission route and diseases was disseminated in Prek Tatheoung village, Boseleau Leav, Boseleav commune, Chitr Borei district.

The dissemination session contained”

- F Diagram – Fecal transmission route and health hazards
- Barriers for fecal transmission route
- Suggested measure at the household level and community level
- Treatment methods of water – Sodis , pur, etc.
- Safe storage of water
- Rain water harvesting importance



Photos credit: Cambodian Red Cross Society, Kratie province chapter

## Viet Nam

### Gender equality – We all can

From: <http://redcross.org.vn/redcross2/en2/home/InfoDetail.jsp?ID=2915&area=1&cat=1128>

The modern Vietnam society, despite many improvements, remains gender full of stereotypes, creating bias perspectives of what men and women are supposed to and can/can't do. Actually, women can do things that are considered to be implemented by men while men can and are encouraged to take on works that are generally taken on by women.

This was also the message of the photo storytelling contest “We all can”, that was organized by the Vietnam Red Cross, in the framework the project “*Gender-sensitive community-based disaster risk management in ethnic minority areas of North-West Vietnam* (Lai Chai and Son La provinces)” implemented with the support from the French Red Cross, the American Red Cross and the French Development Agency (AFD), on the occasion of International Women’s Day.

The contest “We all can” focused on two topics: Gender equality in work and Gender equality in daily life. It aimed to raising gender awareness for Vietnam Red Cross staff and volunteers at all levels, who directly implement humanitarian projects and it is a vital factor for creating positive impacts in the development of communities. In addition, the contest encourages and inspires public audiences on gender equality with good examples from photos and stories collected, creates platform for everyone for thought sharing on gender issue in work and in daily life.

2-month after the contest launching (23/11/2016 – 23/01/2017), 136 entries were received, including photos and the stories behind. The contest attracted 15 provincial chapters of Vietnam Red Cross. Some of them submitted numerous entries such as Ha Tinh (50), NgheAn (10), Thai Binh (10) and Lai Chau (10)

“We the organizer received various entries telling about the activities of Vietnam Red Cross, in which both men and women were enthusiastically participating the humanitarian activities. It means that Vietnam Red Cross staff and volunteers start to consider gender factor in the activities. The contest is good chance for good lessons and examples to be encouraged and spread out in the movement.” – Mr. Đoàn Văn Thái, Vice president of Vietnam Red Cross, Head of the judging panel

“More important than the contest’s results, the main goal of the contest was to contribute to raise awareness about gender within VNRC. The ‘We all can’ contest created a chance for Vietnam Red Cross staff and volunteers at all level to reflect on the gender sensitiveness and promote gender inclusion and mainstreaming in current and future activities” – Mr. Eric Legendre, Head of Delegation, the French Red Cross in Vietnam, member of judging panel.

“Although the target contestant is Vietnam Red Cross staff and volunteers, ‘We all can got much attention from public audience with many interactions on social media. For example, the most interactive entry got 930 likes, 237 shares, and 20,698 views. However, some entries did not reflect gender equality perspective. The contest was also a chance for Vietnam Red Cross to assess gender-sensitiveness in the RC movement and base on that to implement more gender awareness activities for its staff and volunteers.” – Mrs. Tran Thi Quy, Focal person in Gender and Diversity, Vietnam Red Cross, Member of judging panel.

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, the organizer of “We all can” wishes all gender bias perspectives could be erased, social stereotypes barriers would be eliminated so that fair environment and equal opportunities for women would be created.

**First prize: Gender equality in daily life: A Father’s Sun**





Sung Quang Dung, from Chi Cai commune, Xi Man district, Ha Giang, was a Hmong father. His main work was farming and hunting. But in his freetime, he carried his children and played with them to lessen his wife's burden. Even though Dung was only 33, he already had 4 children; the oldest one was 9 years old and the youngest one was 1 year old. Today, Dung carried their youngest daughter to as far as Bac Ha market, Lao Cai and also took his wife to the hospital. His wife, Giang Thi So, 31 years old, often felt dizzy and dazzled and had difficulties in breathing. After So was examined, it was said that she was weak because of many pregnancies and suffered from iron deficiency. Dung felt sorry for his wife and said they wouldn't have any more children. They would just work to raise their children.

### First prize: Gender equality in work life: A Teacher and Repair Woman



Her name was Ta Thi Thu Huong, born in 1985, and her husband was born in 1984. They had two sons and lived in Son La city. In her free time, she helped her husband repair motorbikes and electric bikes at home and at different locations. At the beginning, she was just an assistant. But then, Huong learned how to repair motorbikes and electric bikes, to install and change motorbike and electric bike parts by herself. She had been doing so skilfully since 2013. She said: "Wherever you are, whatever you do (whether teaching or repairing) and however difficult it is, as long as you make effort, learn it and love it, you can do it," "Repairing bikes is not too difficult and heavy work. The

main thing is to research. The most difficult task is to take the inner tube out of the tire because it requires strength" and "Today, women and men are fairly equal when it comes to work."

## Singapore

### Red Cross Youth to ramp up first aid efforts in community

From: <https://www.redcross.sg/media-centre/press-releases/540-red-cross-youth-to-ramp-up-first-aid-efforts-in-community.html>

On 25 March 2017, the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) launched a new initiative to increase the level of community first aid their youths perform. Today, 6,000 of the 10,000 Red Cross Youth aged between 9 and 35 learn first aid in their curriculum in RCY. SRC hopes to see a 20 percent increase in the number of youth providing first aid in the community this year.



Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence, launched the initiative - Resilient Youth@Community, as the Guest-of-Honour at RCY's World Red Cross Day celebrations at the Sports Hub.

Minister Ong said, "Through the Red Cross Youth, our young learn first aid and disaster management skills, and experience the spirit of humanitarianism. These are valuable lessons that will guide their development as caring and responsible citizens."

The new initiative will see Red Cross Youth providing first aid to the community on three weekends every month.

SRC will provide a basic first aid course and three first aid workshops throughout the year to equip youths with the necessary lifesaving skills.

The youths will start providing first aid to the community through First Aiders on Wheels, an SRC Community FirstAid programme where first aid trained volunteers patrol parks on bicycles on weekends and public holidays, to render first aid to those in need.

Mr Benjamin William, Secretary-General/CEO of the Singapore Red Cross, said "The Red Cross Youth have firmly established themselves as competent leaders for first aid and disaster preparedness in their schools. Their knowledge and experience will also be useful for dealing with injuries and emergencies in the community.

"It is our hope that the programme will encourage them to embrace community service as a lifelong journey, pressing on even beyond school life. They can also inspire other youths to get involved in community service." The Singapore Red Cross Youth also celebrated their 65th anniversary at the event, with a cake cutting ceremony officiated by Minister Ong. 1,000 new Red Cross Youth members also participated in a welcome ceremony where their parents or teachers pinned the Red Cross badge on them. Awards for the most outstanding Red Cross Youth cadets and units were also presented at the event.

*Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross Society*

## Young lifesavers champion first aid and emergency preparedness

From: <https://www.redcross.sg/media-centre/press-releases/534-young-lifesavers-champion-first-aid-and-emergency-preparedness.html>

On 4 March 2017, Over 1,200 students from 52 schools and tertiary institutions across Singapore put their first aid skills to test in the National Youth First Aid Competition organised by the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) today.

Dr Mohamed Maliki bin Osman, Senior Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs and Mayor of South East District officiated the event, which was held at Bedok Town Square.



Dr Maliki said, “First aid is an essential part of our SG Secure efforts to keep Singapore resilient and strong. The Red Cross Youth First Aid Competition contributes to our national goal to have a first - aider in every home, by educating and mobilising youth on the need to learn and advocate these life-saving skills in a fun and effective way.”

The competition saw youths applying their first aid skills in a scenario where an elderly person falls at home. The champion team received their prize from Dr Maliki.

Some of the students from the competition will be amongst 40 Red Cross Youth who will join SRC’s First Aiders on Wheels programme, where first aid trained volunteers

patrol parks on bicycles on weekends and public holidays, to render first aid to those in need.

The Singapore Red Cross also presented 77 schools with emergency preparedness boxes. Each box contains two first aid bags and a standard operating procedure, which equips schools with step-by-step guides to deal with emergencies such as fires, and conduct mass evacuations. The Red Cross Youth will lead these emergency preparedness efforts in their schools by conducting training workshops for their teachers and fellow students.

Benjamin William, Secretary General/CEO of Singapore Red Cross, said “In the face of the ageing population, there is a need for more people to step up in the area of community service. This will help Singapore stay strong and resilient. To achieve this, all of us must embrace the mindset that ensuring Singapore’s resilience is our shared responsibility. We have to start instilling this mindset at a young age. Our youth can be a powerful catalyst to bring about greater community involvement through their own service at school and in the community.”

*Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross Society*

## Thailand

### 2nd Training on Basic First Aid for GRAB taxi drivers in Thailand

From: <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/2nd-training-first-aid-for-grab-taxi-drivers-thailand-march2017/>



On 30 March 2017 there were 23 GRAB taxi, GRAB cars and GRAB bikes drivers actively participated in first aid training which included basic first aid theory and practical sessions provided by the Thai Red Cross Training Centre for First Aid and Health Care. This second training included first aid, CPR – cardiopulmonary resuscitation, choking, fractures and dislocations, legs injuries, preparing and referring to hospitals. Three senior first aid instructors were facilitating according to the standard first aid training course of IFRC. Based on the results of this

training, all of the participants mentioned that the levels of confidence to use and practise CPR and choking in the real situation significantly increased to 75-80 percent. All participants appreciated the training methods, facilitations and six practical sessions which will be useful to help other people and their families. They mentioned the training reached to more than their expectation. The post-test evaluation was applied for all the trainees before distributing the certificates. Additionally, GRAB Thailand is planning to conduct nine trainings for Grab taxi drivers in Bangkok and in Chiang Mai, Phuket and Khon Kaen provinces in 2017. It is expected that there will be more than 300 Grab taxi drivers receiving knowledge and skills about basic first aid to improve road safety and save lives while working and driving on the streets in this year.

### Annual Blood Donation Campaign 2017: “Good Health begins with donating blood every 3 month”

From: <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/annual-blood-donation-campaign-march2017-thailand/>



This blood donation campaign on 27-18 March 2017 was organized by The National Blood Donation Centre in accordance with the National Blood Donation Plan 2017 of Thai Red Cross Society. This event was held in Khon Kaen province of Thailand on 27-28 March 2017 to demonstrate the capacity of the Mobile Blood Donation Unit/Service with medical equipment/installations, the processes of operating Mobile Blood Donation Unit and Medical equipment maintenance of Mobile Blood Donation Unit/Service. There was also visiting of the Fix station (the extended blood service in the community at Kosa Hotel). The theme of this campaign is “Good health begins with donating blood every 3 month”.

Six participants from Lao Red Cross National Blood Transfusion Centre were cordially invited to take part in the Biennial Blood Campaign 2017 as scheduled. Additionally, with this campaign, there were 155 provincial Red Cross committee members from 13 provinces located in the North-Eastern part of Thailand actively attended in this important event. This biennial campaign is not only improving the capacity of the members of Red Cross at the provincial level but also increasing knowledge and public awareness raising in communities in understanding the need of blood to save lives. It was anticipated that this would be a great opportunity for Lao Red Cross National Blood Transfusion Centre to learn and then share the experience for increasing the visibility and the capacities to scale up “the quality of blood services in Laos PDR.”

## 25th Annual Academic Meeting of National Blood Centre in Remembrance of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej

From: <http://www.redcross.or.th/news/information/59083> (in Thai)



On 21-24 March 2017, the 25th Annual Academic Meeting of National Blood Centre 2017 in Remembrance of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej was organized under the theme National Blood Service Towards Thailand 4.0. Commander MD Ubonwan Jaroonreungrit, Director of The National Blood Centre of Thai Red Cross Society explained that the said academic meeting was for the attendees involved in blood service pathological work, hematological work and blood banks in hospitals across the country to gain new knowledge and scientific knowledge on blood service pathology and hematology which have progressed continuously, and it was also an

opportunity for them to meet and exchange knowledge, experiences, promote and support their academic knowledge, present their researches and disseminate their blood service knowledge. These encourage studies and researches beneficial to blood service work and keeping updated of modern blood service innovations leading the attendees to apply the knowledge and new sciences in their blood service work creating the most benefits to the nation's blood service work.

*Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society*

## Thai Red Cross Society joins Dow Group Thailand in providing clean and safe water for remote rural students

From: <http://www.redcross.or.th/news/information/59209> (in Thai)



On 22 March 2017, the Relief and Community Health Bureau of Thai Red Cross Society, with Dow Group Thailand, Dow Water and Process Solutions, Unitech Co., Ltd. and Waternet Public Company Limited, established "Clean Water by Red Cross-Dow for Students" project to install water filtration machine and install efficient maintenance system for schools in fifty remote rural schools across the country using the world-class water filtration innovation that Dow developed. The objective is to help Thai students have access to clean water, thus reducing diseases from drinking dirty water in order to increase their studying capacity.

*Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society*

## Project of taking care of patients under the king's patronage of Provincial Red Cross Chapters and project of building work capacity for sustainability of Red Cross

From: <http://www.redcross.or.th/news/information/59065> (in Thai)



On 9-10 March 2017, Mr. Tech Boonnak, Thai Red Cross' Assistant Secretary General, Administration Office, was a President who inaugurated the project of taking care of patients under the King's patronage of the Provincial Red Cross chapters, and the project of building work capacity for sustainability of the provincial Red Cross Chapters project. The meeting was organized to rejuvenate and drive the system for taking care of patients under the king's patronage to become concrete, providing knowledge and understanding about Red Cross Societies, Red Cross' principles and Red Cross logos, and providing knowledge on roles and responsibilities to the Provincial Red Cross Chapters' staff who attended the meeting for the

Provincial Red Cross Chapters to have more efficiency in their works. *Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society*

## Philippines

### Philippines Red Cross Ready for the Big One

From: <http://www.redcross.org.ph/press/news/philippine-red-cross-ready-for-the-big-one>



Ambulances, emergency field hospitals, rescue trucks, pay loaders, water tankers, generators, and thousands of doctors, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), surgeons, trained first aiders, and Red Cross 143 volunteers—the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has mobilized its entire system in anticipation of the “Big One.”

The West Valley Fault, which traverses Metro Manila through Quezon City, Marikina, Makati, Pasig, Taguig, Muntinlupa, Bulacan, Laguna, and Cavite, as well as the nearby Rizal province, is ripe for movement, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

The West Valley Fault moves roughly every 400 years, the last of which happened in 1658, or 359 years ago. According to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, should the magnitude 7.2 earthquake strike the metro, it could cause 34,000 deaths and 114,000 injuries due to collapsed buildings.

PRC, with its trained 143 volunteers, has been preparing for the “Big One” for years, and the organization is fine-tuning its current response strategies to said large-scale disaster.

By the end of March, PRC will conduct an earthquake simulation involving PRC chapters in cities that lie on the West Valley Fault. The simulation, where PRC will apply its formula of volunteers + logistics + information technology, also aims to help the organization determine other areas where the PRC can maximize its volunteers and logistics.

“We are prepositioning all our resources—logistics like ambulances and rescue trucks, and volunteers such as doctors and trained first aiders—in case of a mass casualty incident that could result from the big earthquake,” said PRC Chairman Richard Gordon.

The PRC also has fire trucks and Humvees in its emergency fleet, as well as equipment that are necessary for surviving the first few days of the aftermath of the disaster, such as generators, satellite phones, portable comfort rooms, water bladders, and tents that can be used as temporary shelters.

Since hospitals would surely be packed after the disasters, the PRC has Emergency Field Hospitals (EFH) that can cater to those who could no longer be accommodated in hospitals. PRC’s EFH has a maximum bed capacity of 100. The EFH can also be expanded for maternal and surgical procedures.

The PRC is reminding the public to be informed about what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. To help equip the public with life-saving skills, the PRC created the Hazard App and the First Aid PH app, both available for free at the App Store and Google Play Store.

As residents living in the West Valley Fault line are getting ready for the “Big One,” survivors of the recent magnitude 6.7 Surigao earthquake are still experiencing aftershocks. As of this writing, over 140 aftershocks have been recorded.

“The PRC still has assets and personnel deployed in Surigao to provide health and welfare assistance, relief items, and potable water to the victims of the Surigao earthquake,” said Gordon.

To date, 156,000 liters of water have been distributed, 495 families, or approximately 2,475 individuals, have received sleeping kits, and almost three thousand individuals have received psychosocial support.

*Photo credit: Philippine Red Cross*

## Red Cross Gives Psychosocial Support to Affected Families of Surigao

From: <http://www.redcross.org.ph/press/news/red-cross-gives-psychosocial-support-to-family-of-surigao-quake-victim>



Marie’s husband, a construction worker, was working in Surigao City when the magnitude 6.7 earthquake hit the city on the night of Feb. 10, 2017. She tried calling him to check on him, but he didn’t answer.

“I was at home with our children while my husband was at work,” Marie (not her real name), 39, recalled. “I kept calling him but he never answered. Around midnight, I called the wife of his nephew who was a co-worker of his. I rushed to Caraga Regional Hospital in Surigao City to see my husband. I already knew what had happened but I still couldn’t believe it. I almost collapsed when I saw him there, lying in the morgue.”

Marie’s husband fell from the third floor of a construction site. He was rushed to the emergency room of the Caraga Regional Hospital, but he died shortly after due to internal hemorrhage. He is survived by his wife, Marie, and their three children.

To help Marie cope with her loss and to alleviate her suffering, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) gave her and her family psychosocial support, one of PRC Welfare Service’s main programs. Psychosocial support helps mitigate the impact of disasters and helps survivors cope by offering them psychological first-aid (practical assistance, such as helping them get in touch with family members), guidance, and counseling.

“We at the Red Cross, with the help of our trained social workers and volunteers, assist the immediate family members of victims in the aftermath of disasters, by helping them cope and giving them hope,” said PRC

Chairman Richard Gordon. “It is in times like this that define our mission to alleviate the suffering of those who are in greatest need. We do not just provide relief assistance, we also address the psychological and social needs of individuals and families to help ease their physical and emotional pain.”

“Red Cross gave me and my children comfort during our loss,” said Marie. “They helped ease the pain and sadness through their psychosocial support.”

To date, PRC has provided psychosocial support to more than 2,000 individuals and established three welfare desks in Caraga Regional Hospital, Capitol Grounds Surigao City, and Surigao City Auditorium to provide their Psychosocial Support Program (PSP), Restoring Family Links (RFL), and Referral Service.

## Philippine Red Cross observes World Water Day 2017

From: <http://www.redcross.org.ph/press/news/philippine-red-cross-observes-world-water-day-2017>



**WHY WASTE WATER?**

Every time we use water, we produce wastewater. And oftentimes, instead of reusing it, we let 80% of the wastewater just flow down the drain.

Here are three **Tipid Tubig Tips** to reduce and reuse wastewater:

- While brushing your teeth, doing the dishes, or washing food such as meats, fruits, and vegetables, turn off the tap when you're not using the water.
- Put trash, oils, chemicals, and food in the garbage bin, not down the drain. The dirtier your wastewater, the more energy and money it costs to treat it.
- Collect used water from your kitchen sink or bathtub and use it to water plants, or to wash your bike or car.

#WorldWaterDay  
Source: [worldwaterday.org](http://worldwaterday.org)

 [phredcross](https://www.facebook.com/phredcross)
 [@philredcross](https://twitter.com/philredcross)
 [@philredcross](https://www.youtube.com/philredcross)
 [www.redcross.org.ph](http://www.redcross.org.ph)


The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) joins the observance of World Water Day 2017, highlighting its commitment on proper allocation and use of water resources as well as providing safe water in identified communities in the country.

With this year's theme “Why waste water?,” PRC continuously spread awareness not only in promoting hygiene and improving access to clean water and sanitation facilities, but as well as on simple and basic strategies on re-using and reducing wastewater.

“To fulfill our commitment to deliver essential health care services, part of the PRC's Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) program is the provision of access to safe water and basic water facilities to different communities in the country,” said PRC Chairman Richard Gordon.

In 2016, PRC supported different priority areas to improved and provide basic water facilities such as Handpump, Spring Development, Rainwater Harvester, School water system and community water system that greatly help their daily living and livelihood.

“As to date, the Red Cross has WASH resources in different regions in the country that include 12, WASH Hubs, 13 Water Tankers, 26 Water Treatment Units and 189 Water Bladders to provide safe water to the most vulnerable,” added Chairman Gordon.



PRC also successfully supported 11, 409, 326 liters of safe water in six major operations in 2016. Different communities in the country were provided access to safe water during disasters and emergency responses during the social disturbance in Surigao Del Sur, typhoon Nona in Northern Samar and Oriental Mindoro, El Niño drought operations in Zamboanga City and General Santos City, increased diarrheal cases in Eastern Visayas, Typhoon Ferdie in Batanes, Typhoon Lawin in North Luzon and Typhoon Nina in Bicol Region. In the Philippines, only 10% of wastewater is treated while 58% of the groundwater is contaminated; and also only 5 % of the total population is connected to a sewer network.

In line with the World Water Day, all PRC chapters nationwide take part in the promotion of safe water and spread awareness of water conservation in their respective areas.

PRC Health Services programs is one of the service arms of the PRC that focuses on Water and Sanitation, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition, HIV, Disaster Nursing, Communicable and Non Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control, Surveillance Harm Reduction.

To know more about re-using and reducing wastewater as well as Tipid Tubig Tips, visit our website [www.redcross.org.ph](http://www.redcross.org.ph) or like our Facebook page @PhilippineRedCross.

## New Red Cross Ship to Serve as Ambulance and Disaster Response Vessel

From: <http://www.redcross.org.ph/press/news/new-red-cross-ship-to-serve-as-ambulance-and-disaster-response-vessel>



Now on its 70<sup>th</sup> year, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has welcomed the newest—and biggest—member of its family: a 195-foot military prototype vessel the PRC will use as its ambulance and disaster response ship.

But as with any new member of a family, the ship needs to be christened with its own name.

From April 1 to April 15, PRC is holding the #NameThatRedCrossShip contest to encourage the public to be part of Philippine history by helping name the country's only humanitarian ship.

### The name

To join the contest, one must first sign up to become a PRC volunteer. Participants can inquire about this through the PRC chapters in their own communities, or they can log on to the #NameThatRedCrossShip microsite at [www.redcross.org.ph/name-that-ship](http://www.redcross.org.ph/name-that-ship).

Below are the guidelines for the #NameThatRedCrossShip contest.

1. On PRC's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/phredcross/](http://www.facebook.com/phredcross/)), click the button "Name That Red Cross Ship." The participant will be redirected to the microsite where he/she can proceed with naming the ship.
2. To name the ship, participant must fill out the form with proposed name and the reason behind the name. Following traditional naming conventions for ships, proposed name must be female in form. Proposed ship must also reflect PRC's fundamental principles and/or be named after a PRC heroine.
3. The participant can share his/her humanitarianism with friends by sharing the logo of the contest on his/her own Facebook page.

Proposed names must follow these criteria: originality – 30%; relevance to the organization – 30%; and impact – 40%.

The participant who comes up with the chosen name will win a special prize, and will be invited to the ship's grand launch, tentatively scheduled for next month.

## **The ship**

Three years ago, when Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) hit the Philippines, it took some time for aid to arrive in the hard hit areas in Eastern Visayas due to impassable roads and the closure of airports and seaports, which made it difficult for the government and humanitarian actors like the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) to bring relief to the affected areas. Trucks carrying humanitarian aid had to line up for days to be accommodated in seaports and sea vessels going to the affected areas.

That experience compelled PRC to think of a way forward to ensure that life-saving services and goods reach affected populations in the fastest possible time and in the most efficient manner.

Hence, last year, PRC made one of its boldest moves to date—the purchase of a ship that ensures it can effectively perform its humanitarian work in the Philippines and the Asia Pacific Region.

"The ship is the realization of our vision to establish the Philippine Red Cross as the foremost humanitarian organization in the country, capable of delivering timely humanitarian services that save lives and restore the dignity of the most vulnerable," said PRC Chairman Richard Gordon.

With the hard work of Chairman Gordon and PRC Secretary General Oscar Palabyab, who shared his vision, and with the support and funding of partners in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, like the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, British Red Cross, German Red Cross, and Japanese Red Cross, the purchase of the ship was completed and it finally arrived in the country last Dec. 2, 2016. It is currently docked at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Olongapo City. Since the ship's arrival, the spirit of volunteerism has been truly felt with the outpour of support from various stakeholders.

## **The mission**

Originally called M/V Susitna, PRC's humanitarian originated from Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the US state of Alaska.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly unanimously approved the plan to sell the ferry to the PRC for USD 1.75 million (approximately PHP 88 million), a fraction of what the borough originally hoped to get for it.

Capable of operating both as cargo-loaded barge that can haul itself onto shore and a twin-hulled vessel that cuts through choppy seas, M/V Susitna will be the country's first humanitarian ship and disaster response vessel.

The PRC plans to use the ship as rapid transport and landing vessel for Red Cross' emergency units. It will also serve as relief supply transport ship, medical facility deployment ship, sea rescue and mass evacuation vessel, humanitarian logistics ship, mobile operations command post, and humanitarian education and training ship.

The ship's space can hold up to 120 passengers, 20 vehicles, and has a 35-ton overall freight capacity. Its main deck can be lowered to offload equipment and land on beaches in as little as four feet of water.

Without cargo, the ship is capable of evacuating a thousand people to safety during large-scale disasters. Without that many people, the ship can carry 6x6 trucks, ambulances, and relief goods to people affected by disasters in one relief mission.

"Aside from being used to respond to future disasters, the ship will also be used in our current operations in response to previous disasters that hit our country last year, such as typhoons Ferdie, Karen, Lawin, Nina, and most recently, the magnitude 6.7 earthquake in Surigao," said Secretary General Palabyab.

The ship needs only a maximum of six personnel as crew, and last year, PRC entered into an agreement with the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific for the provision of crew and maintenance for the ship. However, the PRC is urging the public for volunteers who wanted to help maintain the ship, especially during disaster operations.

## The Challenge

The fuel cost to complete a relief and rescue mission (from origin to destination and back) using the ship can reach as high as P 2.4 million.

To help the ship fulfill its humanitarian mission, PRC needs more volunteers, partners, and donors. Anyone interested to help out can reach PRC through their website at [www.redcross.org.ph](http://www.redcross.org.ph).

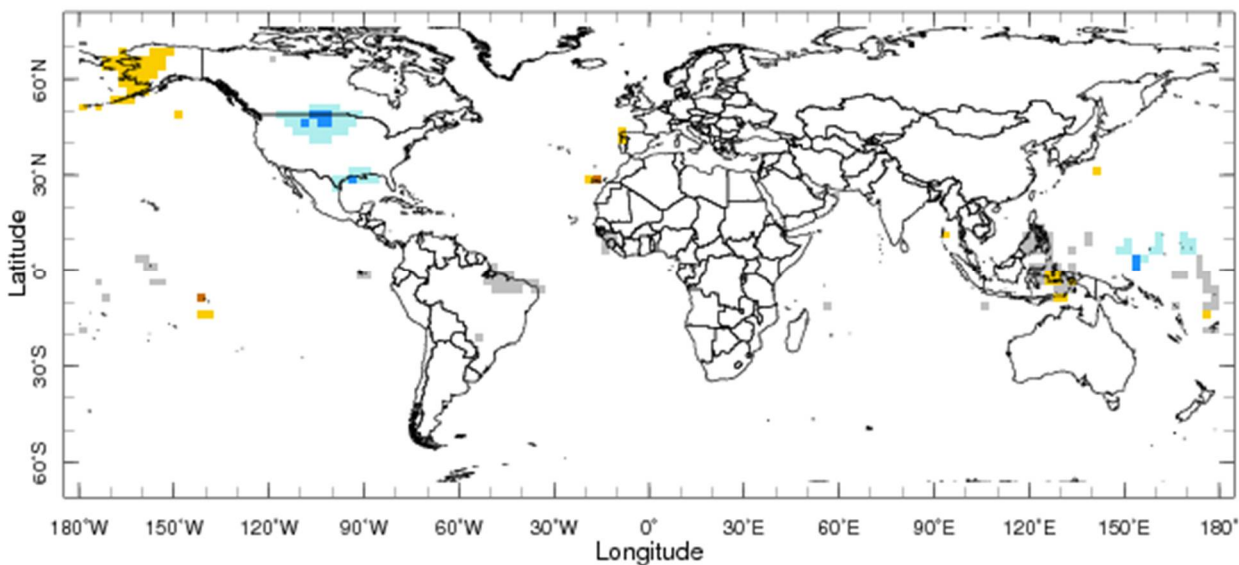
“No cost is greater than the value of lives that we can save,” said Gordon.

## Indonesia

For latest news stories from the Indonesian Red Cross, click [here](#) (in Bahasa, with English translation option at the top right)

## Weather Forecast

Forecast for Apr-Jun 2017, Forecast Issued Mar 2017



Meteorological agency in the respective South-East Asian countries:  
[Brunei](#)  
[Darussalam](#) |  
[Cambodia](#) |  
[Indonesia](#)  
[Laos](#) |  
[Malaysia](#) |  
[Myanmar](#) |  
[Philippines](#) |  
[Singapore](#) |  
[Thailand](#) |  
[Timor-Leste](#) |  
[Vietnam](#)

Are the next 3 months likely to be exceptionally wet?



Slightly Increased Likelihood  
(25% to 40% Chance)



Moderately Increased Likelihood  
(40% to 50% Chance)



Greatly Increased Likelihood  
(Greater than 50% Chance)

Are the next 3 months likely to be exceptionally dry?



Slightly Increased Likelihood  
(25% to 40% Chance)



Moderately Increased Likelihood  
(40% to 50% Chance)



Greatly Increased Likelihood  
(Greater than 50% Chance)

Source:  
[IFRC IRI's weather forecast April to June 2017](#)

### Weather Forecast

See [weather forecast for Brunei](#)

See [weather forecast for Cambodia](#)

See [weather forecast for Indonesia](#)

See [weather forecast for Lao PDR](#)

See [weather forecast for Malaysia](#)

See [weather forecast for Myanmar](#)

### Weather Forecast

See [weather forecast for the Philippines](#)

See [weather forecast for Singapore](#)

See [3-month weather forecast \(March-May 2017\) for Thailand](#)

See [weather forecast for Timor-Leste](#)

See [weather forecast for Vietnam](#)

## Featured Video

### The Roadmap to Community Resilience



For the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) the concept of community resilience captures the totality of what the IFRC is working to achieve. Many National Societies have been engaged in strengthening community resilience for several decades, even though these efforts may not have been characterized as such.

Over the years, IFRC's understanding of community resilience has grown to recognize the evolving and dynamic nature of communities and the underlying vulnerabilities that challenge them. IFRC developed the revised Framework for Community Resilience in 2014. Its objective is to establish a foundation on which all IFRC action to strengthen community resilience can be created, developed or sustained. IFRC developed the Road Map to community resilience to provide National Societies with step-by-step guidance on how to operationalize the framework. This video introduces the main concepts and stages of this guide, as an introduction and sensitization to this approach.

» [Click here to watch](#)

## Upcoming Events

» See the details of some upcoming events below at <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/events/>

Upcoming events for April to June 2017				
<b>April</b>	18-20	Regional Community Safety and Resilience Forum	Malaysia	
	24-27	Disaster Law field school	Sydney, Australia	
	24 Apr-1 May	Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ERAT) training	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	
<b>May</b>	7-8	Lao Red Cross National Strategic Partnership Meeting	Vientiane, Lao PDR	
	18-21 (CEA) 22-23 (CDAC)	Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) training and Communicating with Disaster-Affected Communities (CDAC) forum	Bangkok, Thailand	
	21-26	Gender and diversity approaches to Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) field school	Ayutthaya, Thailand	
	TBC	Review of Communications Curriculum workshop	Indonesia	
	TBC	Provincial and national consultations on Disaster Law	Vientiane, Lao PDR	
	TBC	Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) research – Initial trainings for the field research	Lao PDR, Indonesia and Philippines	
	TBC	National review workshop on Gender and Diversity self-assessment	Viet Nam	
	TBC	UNDP/ IFRC Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Law Subsidiary Legislation Report Launch in Cambodia	Cambodia	
	TBC	International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) research report launch and phase II roadmap in Myanmar	Myanmar	
	TBC	Audio-visual storytelling workshop / training	Philippines	
	TBC	Viet Nam Red Cross Society's 5-year WASH framework	Viet Nam	
	<b>June</b>	TBC	Workshop on the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Bangkok, Thailand
		TBC	Lao-Thai Cross-border workshop	TBC
TBC		Provincial Disaster Law dissemination workshop	Cambodia	
TBC		Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) advocacy Training of Trainers (ToT) for key IFRC and National Societies staff members	Bangkok, Thailand	

## Publications



## Mainstreaming Gender and Diversity in Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives

This four-page case study, launched on the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8 March 2017, showcases the importance of Gender and Diversity mainstreaming within Disaster Risk Reduction policies, strategies and programmes, with a focus on South East Asian countries.

### Overview

- IFRC's approaches on Gender and Diversity
- The South-East Asia Regional Gender and Diversity Network
- Gender and Diversity and Disaster Law
- Key achievements from the Regional Resilience Initiative (RRI), a four-year initiative supported by Canada

» [Click here to download](#)



## Supporting National Societies to Contribute to Disaster Law Development

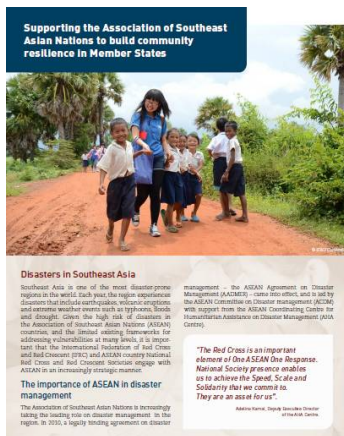
This four-page case study describes IFRC's works on disaster law development in South-East Asia, with the highlight focus in the progress in Indonesia and Lao PDR. It also discusses an inclusion of gender and diversity issue in the country's draft disaster law and the way forward to implement the work in region.

### Overview

- The importance of Disaster Law in Southeast Asia
- Disaster Law in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Improving disaster law in Indonesia and Lao PDR
- Inclusion of gender and diversity in disaster law

– Key achievements from the Regional Resilience Initiative (RRI), a four-year initiative supported by Canada

» [Click here to download](#)



## Supporting the Association of South-East Asian Nations to build community Resilience in Member States

This four-page case study describes IFRC's works to support the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to build community resilience. It highlights the importance of ASEAN in disaster management and key component of IFRC's work at the national and regional levels. It also discusses IFRC's support to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management (AADMER) Work Plan and the way forward to implement the work in the region.

### Overview

- The importance of ASEAN in disaster management
- IFRC and ASEAN – a strategic partnership
- The unique contribution of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies

– IFRC's support to the implementation of the AADMER Work Plan

– Celebrating success with ASEAN

» [Click here to download](#)