

South-East Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

# REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – April 2017



*People fetching water in the makeshift extension to Kutupalong camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar district, south eastern Bangladesh on 9 April, 2017. The UN estimates that 74,000 Rohingyas have crossed the border into Bangladesh since Myanmar began a military crackdown in northern Rakhine State following attacks on border guards on 9 October last year. Photo: Mirva Helenius/IFRC*

Welcome to our April 2017 news updates. In addition to these monthly updates we send to you every month, you may also find South-East Asia Red Cross Red Crescent's resources, tools, events and updates at our online library website at <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org>

8 May was World Red Cross Red Crescent Day. View what we have done to celebrate it [here](#), or read its history [here](#).

## Thematic Updates from South-East Asia

### Disaster Risk Reduction

#### South-East Asia Regional Community Safety and Resilience Forum

From <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/rcsrf-april2017/>

The Regional Community Safety and Resilience Forum 2017 was hosted by Malaysian Red Crescent Society, with the support of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Bangkok, from 18-20 April, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Forum was held with the participation of 32 representatives (Disaster Management, Health, OD and Youth) from 11 National Societies in the South East Asian Region – Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent, Cambodian Red Cross, Indonesian Red Cross, Lao Red Cross, Malaysia Red Crescent, Myanmar Red Cross, Philippines Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, Timor-Leste Red Cross and Viet Nam Red Cross.



The purpose of the Forum is to enhance regional integration, coordination, communication and cooperation between South-East Asia Red Cross Red Crescent members. It is tasked to translate the results of the strategic policy and direction decisions of the Leaders into the operational action to promote the establishment of safer and resilient communities. This Forum is responsible for escorting (i) the global agendas of SDGs, Sendai Framework for DRR and Paris Agreement; (ii) Engaging with ASEAN; (iii) 1 Billion Coalition; (iv) Cross Border Cooperation; (v) School Safety; and (vi) Sustainability of National Societies.

The Forum saw significant increase in terms of participation and ownership of the National Societies in debating and finding better ways to work together as well as to advocate for the key outcomes of the meeting, along with some exchange learning sessions among the National Societies.



The Forum offered an opportunity of visit to two social inclusion centres (i) Anjung Singgah – a temporary transit shelter initiated by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development which provide them a space and opportunity to live independently. The homeless people are able to stay up to two weeks while waiting to secure jobs or a permanent place to live; and (ii) People with Disability Centre run by the Ministry of Welfare, which provides social support and social inclusion to PWDs in Malaysia.

## ASEAN to deepen and broaden cooperation in disaster management and emergency response

From <http://asean.org/asean-deepen-broaden-cooperation-disaster-management-emergency-response/>

Leaders from ASEAN National Disaster Management Organisations gathered in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 4-6 April 2017 for the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), which was convened in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre); 7<sup>th</sup> Joint Task Force Meeting to Promote Synergy with Other Relevant ASEAN Bodies on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (JTF on HADR), and 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Partnership Conference.

The 30<sup>th</sup> ACDM Meeting was opened by H.E Dr. Khampheng Xaysompheng, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR. In his Opening Remarks, the Minister mentioned that “***Disaster management is a critical and cross-sectoral coordination issue. It is therefore important for all ASEAN Member States to discuss on the efficient implementation of the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 and the ASEAN Declaration on ONE ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Response to disaster as one in the region and outside the region.***”

With a view to create a more resilient ASEAN, the development of social protection guidelines was also discussed at the 30<sup>th</sup> ACDM Meeting. The guidelines aims to build disaster resilience and develop instruments that are effective to reduce disaster risks, respond to disasters and recover from the impact of disasters.

In addition, representatives from the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD), Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) and ASEAN Defence Ministerial Meeting (ADMM) also participated at the 7<sup>th</sup> JTF on HADR to explore and to promote closer working partnership between the various ASEAN sectoral bodies. ASEAN’s unified response among sectoral bodies will be salient to further enhance and strengthen ASEAN’s collective response towards disasters. The JTF affirmed the importance that the work of ACDM should be integrated with other sectoral bodies initiatives under disaster management and emergency response.

Similarly, to realise a disaster resilient ASEAN community, the 4<sup>th</sup> AADMER Partnership Conference brought together various stakeholders and partners, including Australia, Canada, China, Japan, IFRC, ICRC, JICA, the Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF), GIZ/Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM), Save the children, and the Swiss Re, all of whom affirmed their commitments and contributions towards the implementation of AADMER Work Programme.

## Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction training

From <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/cbdr-training-april-2017-angthong-thailand/>



*Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) practice by women group. Photo: Thai Red Cross Society*

Under USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) is one component (as a sub-project) which is implemented by Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS). The CBDRR project is to strengthen capacity of community members to be ready in responding to disasters. In addition, the CBDRR process will cover the disaster cycle from preparedness, response and recovery. TRCS conducted the training for the community leaders from 4 communities in Angthong province on 27 April 2017. There were 18 males and 20 females participated in this training. The training focused on Red Cross background, disaster knowledge, vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) tools and VCA practice.

## April 2017 Monthly Update – Building Urban Resilience in South-East Asia

From [http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/disaster-risk-reduction/urban-disaster-risk-reduction/building-urban-resilience-in-southeast-asia-project/?preview\\_id=15248&preview\\_nonce=c288ce0e0e&thumbnail\\_id=15249&preview=true#1494818000720-d4238293-cb81](http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/disaster-risk-reduction/urban-disaster-risk-reduction/building-urban-resilience-in-southeast-asia-project/?preview_id=15248&preview_nonce=c288ce0e0e&thumbnail_id=15249&preview=true#1494818000720-d4238293-cb81)

**At Regional Level:** The regular Skype Meeting for all 4 countries was held on 20 April 2017 and the study plan of ECHO 20 years research has been finalized and agreed by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) in Bangkok, including the data collection plan. The consultant will start to collect the primary data in 3 selected countries; Cambodia, Philippines and Indonesia during 1-20 May 2017.

**In Lao PDR:** The national workshop on Public Awareness and Public Education (PAPE): a guide and key message in Vientiane Capital City was conducted for 5 target schools with 90 students and 5 teachers including Lao Red Cross' staffs on 1 and 2 and 8 and 9 April 2017. The objective of this workshop was to train the students (Red Cross Volunteers) about the guide and tools and key messages of public awareness and public education

for disaster risk reduction, health and hygiene promotion in terms of developing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.



**In the Philippines:** The training on multi-risk maps using QGIS (Quantum Geographical Information System) was conducted during 24-26 April 2017 in Quezon City, Manila. This training was facilitated by three Philippines Red Cross (PRC) staff and the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) Delegate, with a total of 17 participants from Barangay Batasan Hills, Barangay Bagong Silangan, Barangay Tatalon, and Barangay Dona Imelda. Besides, the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey questionnaires for the communities were translated and encoded in Open Data Kit (ODK) program and a mock survey creation was organized on 20-21 April 2017 within the 4 Barangays of District 2 and 4, with 5 respondents each. Prior to the interviews, Purok leaders from the Barangays and PRC staff and volunteers were orientated about the survey.



**In Vietnam:** The Public Awareness and Public Education (PAPE) workshop was held in Quy Nhon during 20 - 22 April 2017. It aimed at planning the communication campaign based on the results of the Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey and on qualitative research (Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and in-depth interviews). The sessions of the workshop included (i) an introduction of project's objective, project indicators and related activities, (ii) the presentation of the results from research on Knowledge-Attitude-Behavior and (iii) a detailed description of the Planning Process. The behaviours selected for the campaign are directly related to the risks of fire in households: (i) Being able to appropriately kill fire in households, (ii) being able to perform appropriately first aid for dealing with burned skin, (iii) calling the right number (and providing the fire brigade with the right information when calling), and (iv) evacuating when there is fire.

## Migration

### **Psychosocial Support in Community training for Shan Migrants in Chiang Mai**

From <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/psychosocial-support-in-community-training-for-shan-migrants-in-chiang-mai-april-2017/>



On 3-5 April 2017 The Life Skills Development Foundation (TLSDF), in tandem with the Thai Red Cross Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC), at Thai Red Cross Health Station No.3 Chiang Mai, organized the training on Psychosocial Support (PSS) in Community for Shan migrants, to help build their capacity to help their own communities when people are in need of psychosocial support.

Among the various migrant communities that live in Thailand, it is estimated that there are approximately 90,000 Shan migrant workers in Chiang Mai. Part of this large, and growing, community, has experienced significant trauma in their journeys emigrating to Thailand and in their vulnerability to legal protection, both in Thailand and in Myanmar. Natural disasters, personal conflicts, painful experiences, traffic accidents and myriad social pressures can cause intense psychological stress on individuals and on larger communities. Currently, there is very little structure in place or resources available to help migrants deal with these issues.

In this training, Thai Red Cross Society provided the technical support with four senior nurses/PSS trainers to facilitate this training for TLSDF/Rak Dek with the technical support from IFRC CCST BKK which facilitated this training. There were 27 community volunteers participating in this PSS trainings.

The training was conducted by using the community-based PSS training materials of IFRC Reference Center for psychosocial support which are toolkits with seven modules, namely,

- Crisis events and PSS
- Stress and coping
- Loss and grief
- Community-based Psychosocial Support
- PSS First Aid and supportive communication
- Children
- Supporting volunteers and staff

The Feedbacks from each trainee were collected and recorded for further analysis. It was found that the results of the participants' expectation were high and reached their expectation. They addressed that they will

be using this PSS knowledge, both technical and practical skills, in helping their family, friends and migrant communities. Certificates of participation were provided to all participants.

## Youth and Volunteering

### **17<sup>th</sup> South-East Asia Youth Network Online Meeting**

<http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/17th-seayn-online-meeting-april-2017/>

17<sup>th</sup> SEAYN online meeting was held on 27 April 2017 with attendance of 10 participants from 8 National Societies (NS). The agenda was as follows:

- 1) Cooperation with Plan International; Youth Digital System was presented by Plan international
- 2) Asia-Pacific Youth Network (APYN) Work Plan 2017-2018
- 3) 5th SEAYN Annual Meeting outline
- 4) Community Safety and Resilience Forum (CSRf) outcome
- 5) NS updates on Youth in School Safety (YSS) implementation, and School Safety mapping updates

The Digital Officer of Plan International was invited as a guest speaker and presented about the youth employment ecosystem run by Plan International. It was decided to have a brainstorm among the members to collaborate with Plan International to initiate the future's youth employment programme. The 5th SEAYN annual meeting will be held in the Philippines in September and its outline was explained by Youth and Volunteering Officer in a close discussion with the Chair of SEAYN. This online meeting took place after the online coordination team meeting on 11 April 2017.

## **Highlight Updates from National Societies**

### Brunei Darussalam

#### **Presentation of badges to Brunei Red Crescent Society members**



The presentation of badges to 65 Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society's members was held following the completion of the Henry Dunant Leadership and Junior First-Aider Camp. Brunei Red Crescent Advisor Datin Hajjah Siti Hajar presented the badges to 65 BRC members. Earlier Datin Hajjah Siti Hajar inspected the parade line and affixed insignia onto the uniforms of two newly promoted officer.

## Cambodia

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

From: <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/health/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-promotion/cambodia-wash-programme/#1493783789632-91d16487-7d84>

#### **Boseleau commune, Chitr Borei district, Kratie Province**

**20-24 April, 2017:** Organizing of hygiene promotion awareness and education session on treatment methods for safe water and environment cleaning awareness at the communities.

Awareness sessions were conducted during four days at the following four villages:

- Boseleau Leu and Prek Tatheoung villages: Hygiene promotion session on F Diagram (fecal transmission route, health hazards and associated diseases, barriers for fecal transmission route and suggested measure to prevent the diseases), and safe storage of water at the household level, occurred during the rainy season. Approximately 65 Households participated.



*Hygiene promotion awareness on water treatment at Por village, Chit-borei district, Kratie, Photo: Cambodian Red Cross Society/Kratie*

- Por and Lovea villages: Red Cross Volunteer (RCV) home visit to create awareness regarding the treatment of water and safe storage. There was also monitoring of water infrastructure (hardware) and discussion with village WASH committee for coverage of household sanitation.





*Village cleaning by households, Photo: Cambodian Red Cross Society/Kratie*

- Village cleaning exercise: The village communities participated in the village cleaning exercise and cleaned their surroundings to prevent diseases like malaria, dengue, etc. in Por and Lovea villages. Approximately 40 households from Por and 30 from Lovea participated.



**5-26 April 2017:** Construction of water facilities was started for 4 shallow tube wells in Por and Lovea villages in Boseleau commune, Chitr Borei district, Kratie province. The time schedule for completion of the activity is in July 2017 and it is going to benefit approximately 280 households. Currently the water source, location and land have been identified and drilling has started.



*Hygiene Promotion awareness on water treatment at Chit-Borei district, Kratie, Photo: Cambodian Red Cross Society/Kratie*

**12-13 April 2017:** Organizing of hygiene promotion awareness and education session on treatment methods for safe water and environment cleaning awareness the communities. 2-day home visit was conducted to create awareness regarding the treatment of water and safe storage at Talus, Boseleau Krom village, Boseleau commune, Chitr Borei district. Approximately 120 households visit conducted and 82 households participated in the village cleaning exercise.

### **Svay Rieng province**



Operation and Maintenance training for Red Cross Volunteers, staff and WASH committee members: O&M training was conducted for RCV, staff and WASH committee members on the following modules:

1. Deep Tube mechanics – How water uplift from aquifer
2. Solar mechanics – How array charges and works for uplifting the water
3. Components of solar pump and solar converter
4. Maintenance requirement – Standard
5. Role of WASH committee and nearby market availability of spare parts

45 participants were trained in 3 different sessions in 4 villages of Chantrea district. *Photo: Cambodian Red Cross Society/Svay Rieng branch*

RCV quarterly meeting on programme issues and achievements: RCV meeting was organised to understand the issues regarding the programme and various achievements and quarterly progress of the programme. The following issues were identified: –

- a) Accessibility of the villages during the rainy season, the condition of road is inaccessible
- b) Progress of water sources was delayed due to rainy season

Quarterly progress was discussed with RCVs and staff of the sub-provincial branch and recommendation and additional Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and Hygiene Promotion (HP) toolkits were provided to RCVs.

Construction of sanitation for households: Construction of sanitation for 132 households was started and expected to complete in July 2017.

### **Bantey Mean Chey province**

Construction of sanitation households: 143 vulnerable households were selected for sanitation support. 4 villages for water source development and 1 school for sanitation support were identified and the construction was started and expected to complete in August 2017.

## **Indonesia**

### **PMI focuses on Disaster Risk Reduction**

From <http://www.pmi.or.id/index.php/berita-dan-media/peristiwa/item/1014-pmi-fokus-pada-pengurangan-resiko-bencana.html>



To increase the capacity of Red Cross volunteers in the field of disaster preparedness and risk reduction and community-based disaster risk reduction in schools, PMI in Aceh province held the training on Disaster Risk Reduction to 17 PMI volunteers in Pidie Jaya. The training took place from 4-7 April 2017 in the District PNPM, with an opening speech by PMI Pidie Jaya District Secretary Dr. H. Burhan Sulaiman.

"PMI seeks to provide services quickly to the affected communities. With this training, PMI volunteers are expected to improve the science and knowledge and pass on his knowledge to others," said Burhan.

## PMI's landslides responses

From <http://www.pmi.or.id/index.php/berita-dan-media/peristiwa/item/1018-pmi-respon-tanah-longsor-banaran-ponorogo.html>



In responding to the landslides in Banaran-Ponorogo that occurred on 1 April 2017, the Indonesian Red Cross Society (PMI) Ponorogo mobilized 50 volunteers to help search for the residents affected by landslides. In addition, PMI also opened Disaster Command Post-Ponorogo - a 24-hour standby in PMI Ponorogo Headquarters and Command Post-Banaran Village Square since 2 April 2017.

M. Nur Amin Zabidi, PMI Ponorogo, stated that PMI which coordinates with BPBDs Ponorogo seeks to help search for survivors, bodies evacuation, providing health care and public catering services as well as provide psychological support (Psychosocial Support Programme).

## Philippines

### Philippine Red Cross first in action after Batangas earthquake

From <http://redcross.org.ph/press/news/philippine-red-cross-first-in-action-after-batangas-earthquake>



The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) Welfare Services and medical teams were first on the scene to give relief and rescue assistance to the people of Batangas after a magnitude 5.5 earthquake shook the province on Tuesday, April 4.

According to PRC Operations Center, PRC first aid and welfare staff and volunteers were immediately deployed to assess the area and help the affected families. In response, PRC Batangas Chapter provided First Aid to two students who had suffered from hyperventilation and dizziness, transported one student from Batangas National High School to the Ospital ng Lipa, assisted 19 intubated babies to PRC tents, provided psychosocial support to 50 individuals, and set up welfare desks, three tents, three units of generators, five folding beds, and five cot beds at the Batangas Medical Center. Nearby PRC chapters (NCR and Southern Luzon) were immediately alerted and are currently on standby for monitoring and further assistance, should it be necessary.

In anticipation of the “Big One,” PRC, with its trained 143 volunteers, has been preparing for years, and is fine-tuning its current response strategies to predicted large-scale disaster. Rubb halls, ambulances, emergency field hospitals (EFH), rescue trucks, pay loaders, water tankers, generators, and thousands of doctors, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), surgeons, trained first aiders, and Red Cross 143 volunteers are prepositioned in case a mass casualty incident happens.

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.

Should said earthquake also take place, PRC also has its own humanitarian ship at its disposal, a twin-hulled vessel that cuts through extremely choppy seas. It runs at 20 knots, can accommodate 120 evacuees, together with 20 vehicles. It can be used 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.

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, PRC created the Hazard App and the First Aid PH app, both available for free at the App Store and Google Play Store

## **Singapore**

### **Nepal earthquake: Two years on**

From <https://www.redcross.sg/media-centre/press-releases/544-nepal-earthquake-two-year-on.html>

Nepal Earthquake: Two Year On

Singapore Red Cross on track to deliver Nepal rebuilding projects by year-end

- 60 education and healthcare facilities
- 100,000 people in 16 districts to benefit

Singapore, 24 April 2017 - Charting progress on rebuilding efforts in Nepal on the second anniversary of the 2015 earthquake, the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) has completed 28 community facilities comprising schools, mobile clinics, health posts and a community hall. 32 other rebuilding projects are well underway, slated for completion by the end of 2017. All these projects - funded by the S\$11 million in donations from the Government and People of Singapore - are expected to directly support close to 100,000 people in Nepal.



SRC Secretary General/CEO, Mr Benjamin William said, "To maximise the impact of the donations, we worked with over 15 partners on some 60 projects across 16 districts. The majority of projects are in Sindhupalchok

and Gorkha (ground zero). We are committed to make most meaningful use of the donations entrusted to us, as well as to make a sustainable and lasting impact on vulnerable communities affected by the earthquake.”

In its efforts to build back better, the SRC faced challenges such as the closing of the Nepal-India border, which cut off fuel and construction supplies for some time. The border was eventually re-opened but the mountainous terrain and blockage from earthquake debris made it difficult to access and evaluate the affected areas.

Mr William explained, “Some sites were so remote that our staff and partners had to literally trek rivers and climb hills to access. In areas too mountainous and hard to access on foot, donkeys had to be deployed to transport construction; and in others, only human porters walking on feet could reach the site. Our partners had to brave the elements to lay the foundation for buildings.”

United by a common goal to help Nepal’s disaster-struck communities, SRC employed the “many helping hands” approach, and rallied its partners to share best practices and resources in rebuilding. The collective wisdom increased productivity and expedited the rebuilding process. SRC also leveraged its network to understand the requirements of the Nepalese authorities, and worked with its rebuilding partners to obtain the necessary local approvals.

Mr William said, “A number of our partners are Singaporean, and they serve as excellent ambassadors for Singapore through their rebuilding work in Nepal. Their dedication, perseverance, and integrity in helping the Nepalese community to bounce back from disaster has established a positive connection to Singapore. Working with Nepali partners and communities also mean that we have now added a new dimension to the friendly relations that exist between the two countries.”

In honour of its partners and the friendship that has been built, SRC has invited the partners to present their rebuilding projects in an exhibition, to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 4 May, 2017. Entitled Partnerships for Humanity - Rebuilding in Nepal, the exhibition acknowledges the contribution of SRC’s partners to Nepal’s road to recovery and celebrates the collaborative, “many helping hands” approach that has enabled SRC and its partners to build back better.

Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Maliki Osman will grace the exhibition as the Guest-of-Honour. Dr Maliki will be accompanied by Singapore’s High Commissioner to Nepal, Mr Lim Thuan Kuan, and SRC Chairman, Mr Tee Tua Ba. The delegation will visit Nepal from 2 to 5 May 2017.

Dr Maliki will also attend a dinner reception with Nepalese officials, Singaporeans in Nepal, and SRC’s rebuilding partners in Kathmandu, in conjunction with the exhibition. During his visit to Nepal, Dr Maliki will also visit one of the schools that SRC helped rebuild in Kalika, Sindhupulchok, one of the worst affected districts in the 2015 earthquake. 90 children aged between 5 to 10 study in the school, which serves a community of 160 families.

Dr Maliki will tour the school and unveil a plaque to celebrate the friendship between Nepal and Singapore. A collection of Singapore books and back-to-school kits will also be presented to the schools and students respectively.

## Thailand

### 33 years of Thai Red Cross Society's Organ Donation Centre

From <http://www.redcross.or.th/news/information/59390>



On 1 April 2017 Thai Red Cross Society organized an event, "23 years of Thai Red Cross Society's Organ Donation Centre" to make merit to the deceased organ donors of whom the organs were transplanted to patients. The event was also held to persuade more Thai people to make their wills to donate their organs.

The director of the centre revealed that in 2016 there were 5,581 patients who registered to receive organs but only 512 people were transplanted organs which were donated by 220 people who passed away from dead brains. There are many more patients awaiting organ transplant and need to pay a large sum of money to treat themselves. Photo: TRCS

### Thai Red Cross Society's Youth Movement Office inaugurates "Do good for the land" project

From <http://www.redcross.or.th/news/information/59389>



The Thai Red Cross Youth Movement Office of the Thai Red Cross Society inaugurated the project, "Do good for the land" by organizing a ceremony of handing out "Red Cross kits bag and a special speech, along with asking youth from more than 23 universities to jointly announce their wills to do good for the land to inherit His Majesty King Bhumibhol's ideas. Photo: TRCS



## Viet Nam

### Unconditional cash grant and livelihood recovery in Viet Nam



*Mr. Nguyen Van Ngoc, one of beneficiaries in Tay Vinh commune, Tay Son district. Cash distribution in Tay Vinh commune on 26 April. Photo: Ha Thai Binh/VNRC*

Between November and December 2016, the central part of Viet Nam was seriously affected by flooding as result of torrential rains. Among provinces affected, Binh Dinh was most hit. To support Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) to respond to the needs of affected population, New Zealand government released USD 250,000 through IFRC, focusing on addressing basic needs through unconditional cash grant and livelihood recovery by providing cows through conditional cash grant. To carry this forward, a training on beneficiary targeting were carried out on 8 and 9 in the districts of Tay Son and Tuy Phuoc, respectively. In total, 107 people (22 female) representing local departments of agriculture and rural development, veterinary, fatherland front, local authorities, head of hamlets and Red Cross staff at branches participated in the training to get familiarize with the VNRC's guidelines cash transfer programming (unconditional cash grant) and cow distribution through conditional cash grant focusing on beneficiary selection criteria, selection process and beneficiary communications.



*Participants were practicing scoring households in the training on beneficiary targeting on 9 April. Photo: Ly Nauven/IFRC*

Participants were divided in pairs to practice using the guidelines' templates, particularly scoring identified households. Selection of beneficiaries and validation of the proposed lists of beneficiaries were carried out by Red Cross staff of provincial chapter and branches between 10 to 21 April. Distribution of cash grant (unconditional) were undertaken between 26 and 28 April. In total, 899 households in communes of Binh Nghi, Tay Vinh and Tay Binh, Tay Son district, received unconditional cash grant in which 91 families receiving VND 500,000 (CHF 21.5) for one-member family, 199 families receiving VND 1,000,000 (CHF 43) for two-member family, and 609 families receiving VND 1,500,000 (CHF 64) for families from/more than three members. In parallel with cash distribution, the training on cow management has been given to households selected for cow support. The training started on 26 April and will complete on 5

May. Distribution of conditional cash grant is planned on 12 to 15 May, followed by post distribution monitoring. Lesson learned workshop is scheduled on 25 May 2017.

## KOICA and Korean Red Cross visit Viet Nam Red Cross Society

From <http://redcross.org.vn/redcross2/en2/home/InfoDetail.jsp?ID=2916&area=1&cat=1128>



*Marwan Jilani, Head of the IFRC Country Cluster Support Team, Bangkok, gives remarks at the meeting (Photo: Thanh Quang)*

Between 19 and 21 April 2017, representatives from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Korean Red Cross visited the Viet Nam Red Cross Society and Ben Tre province, where the Viet Nam Red Cross Society is implementing the KOICA-funded project “Building Community Resilience for Climate Change and Disaster Reduction in Vietnam” from 2015 to December 2017.

Marwan Jilani, Head of the IFRC Country Cluster Support Team, Bangkok, gives remarks at the meeting (Photo: Thanh Quang)

The delegation was also accompanied by Head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Bangkok and IFRC representative in Vietnam. The IFRC has been providing technical support to the Viet Nam Red Cross Society in the project.

“We highly appreciate the support from KOICA,” said Madame Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu, Viet Nam Red Cross Society President, at the meeting. “The Viet Nam Red Cross Society’s commitment to support communities in need is a demonstration of our gratitude for your support.”

With a budget of US dollars 1 million, the project is implemented in 10 provinces, providing trainings and services in the areas of disaster preparedness and response, road safety and first aid, epidemic control and water and sanitation to some 205,900 beneficiaries. The selected provinces are among those most susceptible to climate change and natural disasters in the Northwestern mountainous provinces and Mekong Delta region.

Since the start of the project, hundreds of volunteers have been trained in behaviour change communication and epidemic control, 7,200 households and 13,650 school children have received behaviour change communication on dengue fever and hand, foot and mouth disease.

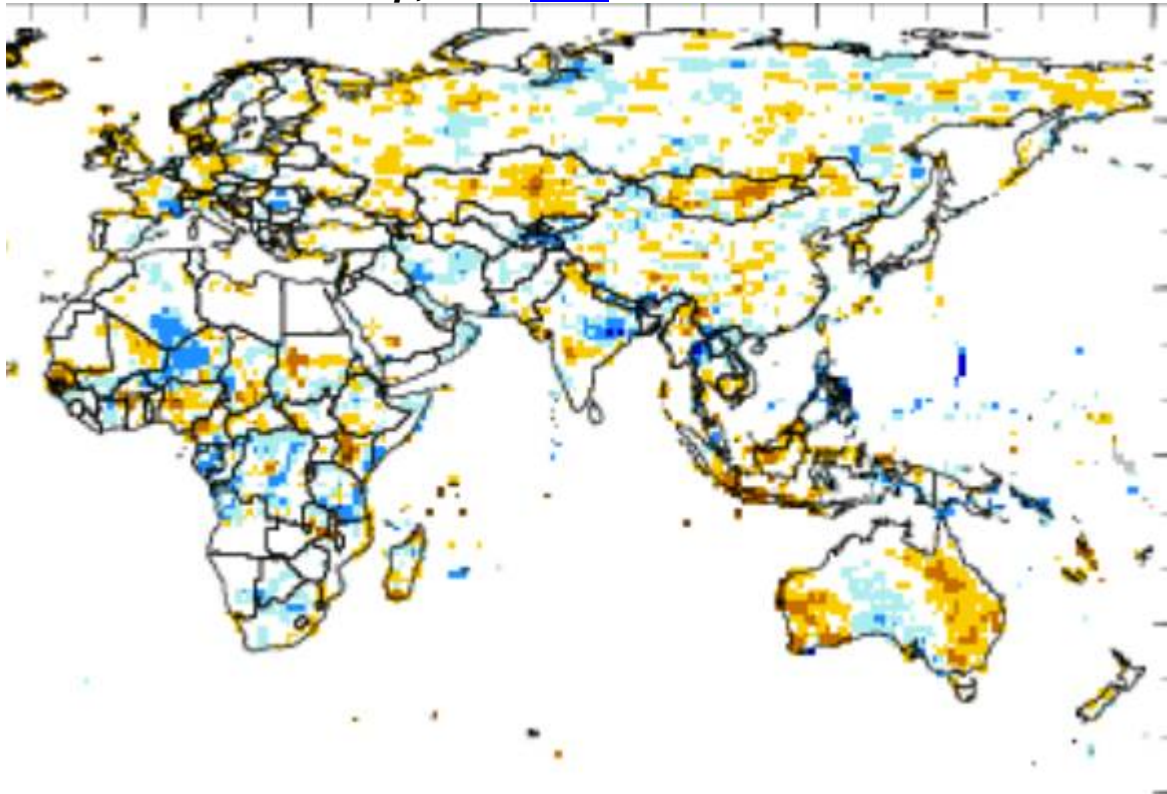
“This initiative has contributed to strengthening the relationship between Vietnam and Korea,” said Kim Byoung-Kwan, Director General of the Multilateral Partnership and Humanitarian Assistance Department, KOICA. “I hope the outcomes of the project will be scaled up to other communities in Vietnam.”

KOICA was established in 1991. Since then, it has supported development and humanitarian initiatives in over 170 countries including Vietnam.

## Weather Forecast

May-July 2017

For the interactive map, click [here](#)



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)

Meteorological agency in the respective South-East Asian countries:  
[Brunei](#)  
[Darussalam](#) |  
[Cambodia](#) |  
[Indonesia](#)  
[Laos](#) |  
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 Timor-Leste |  
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Source:  
[IFRC IRI's weather forecast May-July 2017](#)

### Weather Forecast

See [weather forecast for Brunei](#)

See [weather forecast for Cambodia](#)

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## Featured Videos

### World Red Cross Red Crescent Day



Around the world, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is providing a wide range of services to the most vulnerable in all types of contexts - from responding to needs in disaster and conflict situations, to providing assistance in urban centres and hard to reach areas, and advocating on behalf of those in need in policy circles and to governments.

» [Click here to watch](#)

### Nepal Earthquake – Second Anniversary



On 25 April and May 12, 2015, the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in Nepal were transformed by two earthquakes. A total of 5.6 million people were affected; 8,856 people were killed and more than 800,000 houses were damaged or destroyed. Two years later, the Red Cross has helped thousands of people to recover and rebuild their lives. Staff and volunteers of the Nepal Red Cross working in the 14 worst-affected districts have been at the forefront of recovery efforts.

» [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 May to July 2017			
May	9-15	Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) research – Initial trainings for the field research	Lao PDR
	16	Training on Basic First Aid for Grab Taxi drivers	Chiang Mai, Thailand
	17	Regional Resilience Initiative (RRI) - Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting	Jakarta, Indonesia
	17-18	ASEAN Regional Peer to Peer Workshop – Strengthening Community Resilience through peer to peer learning	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
	18-19	Youth, Peace and Security in Asia Pacific by UNDP	Bangkok, Thailand
	21-26	Gender and Diversity for Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) field school	Ayutthaya, Thailand
	29-31	Training for Trainers on Healthy Ageing	Cambodia
	29 May – 1 June	Youth Empowerment Programme on social inclusion	Lao PDR
	TBC	Review of Communications Curriculum workshop	Indonesia
June	6-7	Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on Migration and Health	Kuala Lumpur
	8	Annual General Meeting of Asia-Pacific Migration Network (APMN)	Kuala Lumpur
	TBC	Provincial Disaster Law dissemination workshop	Cambodia
	28 June – 2 July	2nd IFRC Youth Commission Meeting	Bangkok, Thailand
	TBC	Provincial and national consultations on Disaster Law	Vientiane, Lao PDR
	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
July	2-3	South-East Asia Model IFRC General Assembly (MIGA) Youth Forum	Singapore
	Philippines: 6-11 Indonesia: 17-22 July	Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) research – Initial trainings for the field research	Philippines and Indonesia
	TBC	Lao-Thai Cross-border workshop	TBC

## Global News

### The 'silent crisis' of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

From <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/04/18/asia/rohingya-camps-bangladesh-ifrc/index.html>

Story by Rebecca Wright, CNN; Photos by Mirva Helenius, IFRC

(CNN)They say they ran from murder and persecution. They've ended up in mud huts on the Bay of Bengal.

And with the torrential rains of the monsoon season approaching, along with the threat of cyclones and floods, the fate of tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees living in overcrowded camps in Bangladesh looks as precarious as their makeshift shelters.

"It's becoming a silent crisis which does not have the international attention that it deserves, given the scale of the needs of the people and the uncertain future they are facing," says Ezekiel Simperingham, Asia Pacific Regional Migration Coordinator for the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC).

New photographs of the refugees show only the fortunate have tarpaulins for a roof, the rest stretch black plastic over bamboo frames. Mats on the hard ground are beds.

"We are surviving mostly with some help from relatives. We would like to return, but it is not safe. Some of our neighbors were killed, and we had to flee to save our lives," he says.

Senuara, 27, says that four months ago she still lived in Rakhine and her due date was fast approaching, but the upsurge of violence forced her to flee to save the life of herself and her family. Soon after arriving, Senuara gave birth.

"It is very difficult for me to take care of my small baby here, because we don't have enough clean water to bathe her. We hardly have enough water for drinking," she said.

Tarniz Sultana Sweety, a volunteer from the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, during a tarpaulin distribution.  
 Hide Caption



A makeshift extension to the Kutupalong camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar district, southeastern Bangladesh on April 7.

"Their shelters are not strong enough to withstand these extreme weather patterns," Simperingham says. The UN estimates that 74,000 Rohingyas have crossed the border into Bangladesh since Myanmar began a military crackdown in northern Rakhine State following attacks on border guards [on October 9 last year](#). Many of those fleeing have made [allegations of murder and rape](#) by Myanmar's security forces inside Rakhine State.

[Aung San Suu Kyi](#), Myanmar's State Counselor and de-facto leader, denied any ethnic cleansing in an interview with the BBC.

And while Bangladesh offers refuge, there is little else available for the Rohingya. Aid agencies have been distributing food, tarpaulins and other essentials in the camps, but they are struggling to keep up with the demand.

"We barely have enough food to survive," Mohsena, a 22-year-old Rohingya mother living in a makeshift shelter in Bangladesh, said. "If we have a meal once, we don't know when we can have the next one. Feeding my children is my main concern."



*Mohsena, 22, is seen in front of her shelter with her two children.*

## Dire needs

An estimated one million Muslim Rohingyas live in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State, where they are a persecuted, stateless ethnic minority in the Buddhist-majority country, analysts say.

Most of the new arrivals to Bangladesh are living in makeshift shelters outside two United Nations-administered refugee camps, along with hundreds of thousands of other Rohingyas who were already there after fleeing previous spates of violence.

"We are hearing reports that 180 people are sharing one latrine," says Simperingham.

The Rohingyas were in a desperate situation even before [the most recent round of violence broke out](#). The IFRC says 150,000 people in northern Rakhine State were receiving humanitarian support before October 9.

The aid group has now launched an urgent appeal for \$3.2 million to help meet the needs of 25,000 of the most vulnerable people in the Bangladesh camps over the next nine months.

"People don't have enough food, enough water," Mirva Helenius, a photographer for the IFRC, tells CNN. "These people are living without any kind of status, and without any services."

Last week, Helenius traveled to refugee camps in and around Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, to take photographs of the living conditions and gather testimonies from some of the families living there.

CNN cannot independently verify the stories of those who have arrived in Bangladesh, as access to media in Rakhine State is heavily restricted.

## 'Now, we have nothing'

Mohsena says she fled Myanmar, also known as Burma, three months ago with her 4-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter after her husband was killed.

Mohsena's son is disabled, which means she struggles to earn any income.

"Because my son can't walk or sit or eat, I have to stay close to him all the time," she says. "I got some money by begging. I don't know how we will survive after that money is gone."

There are thousands of families in the camps with stories just like Mohsena's, Helenius says.

Rabeya, 25, says she arrived in the Balukhali makeshift camp four months ago, fleeing Myanmar with her husband and children after she was attacked by a group of men.

"I lost consciousness because of the pain," she says. "My neighbors found me on the ground and dragged me to the jungle. I was bleeding a lot. All my clothes were torn."

Rabeya says she later miscarried a baby she was carrying. She also heard that her mother and sister had been killed.

"We had a wealthy and happy life there before," she says. "Now, we have nothing. We have to worry about surviving. We don't even have enough money for food."

In February, the [United Nations released a report](#) that alleged widespread brutal killings and rapes taking place inside Rakhine State, and in March, the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva announced that an "urgent" fact-finding mission will be sent to Myanmar to investigate the claims of human rights abuses.

Nobel Prize Winner Aung San Suu Kyi insisted that those who fled Myanmar are "safe" to come back, adding that "we will welcome them back."

But in Bangladesh, the future for the Rohingya refugees is still looking increasingly uncertain.

"My first priority is the safety of my family," Rabeya says. "If peace returns to our home, if it is safe for us to be there, we want to go back. But if not, how can we survive here?"

» Please consider supporting our RCRC colleagues' missions in Bangladesh and share with your networks.

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## Publications

### World Disasters Report



The World Disasters Report is an annual independent publication commissioned by the IFRC, contributing evidence-based research on the challenges, trends and innovations in disaster risk reduction and crisis management. The report is an important body of research, which builds on discussions at the 2015 UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals. It makes a direct contribution to next year's World Humanitarian Summit where the localization of aid is one of the key thematic areas of focus.

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