

Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – **January 2019**



On 3 January 2019, Tropical Storm Pabuk hit southern provinces of Thailand, affecting almost 1 million people and damaging more than 54,000 houses. The Thai Red Cross Society has been providing immediate support to the affected communities where at least 4,476 families with damaged houses in the most affected areas are repaired and rebuilt.

Welcome to our January 2019 Southeast Asia news updates. In addition to these monthly updates we send to you every month, you could also find Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent's resources, tools, events and updates at Resilience Library at <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org>.

Thematic Updates from Southeast Asia

At Regional Level:

IFRC's Presentation on Challenges to Humanitarian Assistance in Asia Pacific



Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society

Millions of people who need humanitarian assistance are being “left behind” in their moments of greatest need, according to IFRC’s World Disaster report 2018 which was presented by IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Director, Xavier Castellanos, at an event in Bangkok on 24 January 2019. The presentation aimed to highlight the challenges facing humanitarian assistance in the region, including lack of funding, lack of access, and lack of information, for example. The same message was also echoed in an [op-ed](#) by Mr. Castellano, published on the same day. The event was participated by members of the diplomatic communities and implementing partners in Bangkok. Click [here](#) to download the World Disaster Report 2018.

Highlight Updates from National Societies

Indonesia

Wells Contaminated by Tsunami Gets Drained, Brings Back Clean Water



Photo credit: Indonesian Red Cross

On 12 January, the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) team of the Indonesia Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) helped drain five out of 30 wells that belong to the communities in South Lampung to clear the salt water and debris brought by the tsunami that hit the city in late December. Since the tsunami, the community members faced with limited sources of clean water due to the contamination in the wells. Two days after the tsunami hit Lampung, PMI WASH team has set up clean water sources in the evacuation centres. Click [here](#) to read the full story by PMI.

Lao PDR

Lao Red Cross Distributes Cash Grants to Flood Affected Communities



Photo credit: Lao Red Cross

First distribution of cash grants was conducted during 11-18 January in Attapeu Province where as many as 13,000 people were affected by flash floods caused by the dam collapse in July 2018. Cash grants of CHF 70 were distributed to families with up to four members and CHF 105 for families with more than four members. A total of 6,127 people (1,464 households) were able to make use of the grants to obtain necessary items such as meat for cooking and bicycles for their transportation.

Philippines

Philippine Red Cross Continues To Provide Psychosocial Support to Survivors of Usman Tropical Storm



Photo credit: Philippine Red Cross

Almost a month after Usman Tropical Depression hit the southern part of the country, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) welfare team remains on the ground to provide psychosocial support interventions to affected communities, including the population of Iraya and Ipil Barangays in the municipality of Buhi. PRC staff and volunteers from Camarines Sur Chapter provided psychological first aid for adults and psychosocial support activities such as film showing, art, play, and recreational activities for the children. The team has also set up welfare desks to give assistance to stranded passenger and food station to provide hot meals at evacuation centres. Source: PRC [Facebook page](#).

Singapore

Singapore Red Cross Supports Foreign Domestic Workers



Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross

Singapore Red Cross (SRC) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Centre for Domestic Employees (CDE), to provide humanitarian support to foreign domestic workers. As part of the *Last-Mile Assistance Support* initiative, SRC will work closely with CDE to aid injured foreign domestic workers who need medical attention during the repatriation journey and to ensure they get back home safely. SRC will also provide first aid training to domestic workers to enhance their resilience and response in times of emergency. In addition, they get access to SRC's *Community Health on Wheels*, where volunteers provide health checks, physiotherapy services, psychosocial support and health counselling.

Thailand

Thai Red Cross Society Assists Communities Affected by Tropical Storm Pabuk



Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society

Tropical Storm Pabuk made landfall on 3 January 2019 causing heavy rainstorms and prolonged downpour in 23 southern provinces of Thailand. A total of 892,583 people was affected. More than 50,000 houses were damaged by the storms. Throughout January, the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) has provided affected communities with relief items, medical services, hygiene kits, and household items to more than 13,000 households. TRCS continues to work in most affected areas to help repair and rebuild houses. In selected communities, TRCS also conducts Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction trainings for community leaders.

Viet Nam

Ninh Binh Provincial Red Cross Opens First Aid Station



Photo credit: Viet Nam Red Cross Society

On 18 January 2019, Ninh Binh Red Cross cooperated with Hoa Lu district Red Cross branch to open the first aid station in Bo village, Ninh An commune, Hoa Lu district. The first aid station is fully equipped in accordance with the standard set by the Ministry of Health. Also available at the station are volunteers who have been trained in first aid skills and certified by the provincial Red Cross to help victims of traffic accidents and other accidents with first aid before being transferred to health facilities. Click [here](#) to read the full story by the Viet Nam Red Cross Society.

Featured Story

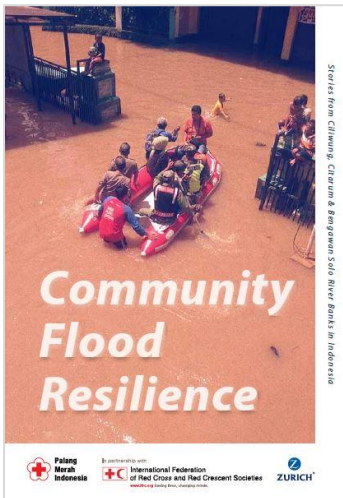
Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste Gives First Aid Training to Media Partners



Photo credit: Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste

In late 2018, Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste (Timor Leste Red Cross or CVTL) held its third Media Dialogue Workshop with the aim to strengthen partnerships and share information about the work of CVTL and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. In the effort to build relations with journalists from distant municipalities, CVTL specifically invited journalists from Municipalities of Manatutu, Baucau, Viqueque and Lautem to attend the workshop held in Baucau City. CVTL took the opportunity to provide basic first aid training to the participants which made activities even more meaningful as these journalists are known to work in difficult conditions and in remote areas. At the first aid training session, the participants took part in a simulation exercise where they were required to provide emergency first aid to multiple accident victims. Click [here](#) to read the full story.

New Publications



Community Flood Resilience – Stories from Ciliwung, Citarum, and Bengawan Solo River Banks in Indonesia

The Community Flood Resilience (CFR) programme has been implemented by the Palang Merah Indonesia (Indonesian Red Cross) since 2013 in three major river systems in Java (Bengawan Solo, Ciliwung, and Citarum). The program tries to increase the community's tenacity and resilience in facing the impacts of flood through holistic intervention by using the resilience framework, based on five capital (human, financial, natural, physical, and social).

This document presents the success stories of the CFR program, in whole and chronological, with testimonies from the parties involved and the community beneficiaries. Click [here](#) to download.



2018 Disaster Risk Governance Academic Seminar Proceeding

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), IFRC, Thammasat University and other academic and research institutions based in Southeast Asia organized the 2018 Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Governance Academic Seminar from 24-25 September 2018, with a closed-door partners' session on 26 September 2018. The Seminar aimed to enhance knowledge sharing on different climate-smart disaster risk management policies and tools implemented across ASEAN, based on best practices in the region, for the benefit of policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders. The seminar proceeding provides highlights from the discussion and the academic papers presented at the seminar. Click [here](#) to download.

Upcoming Events

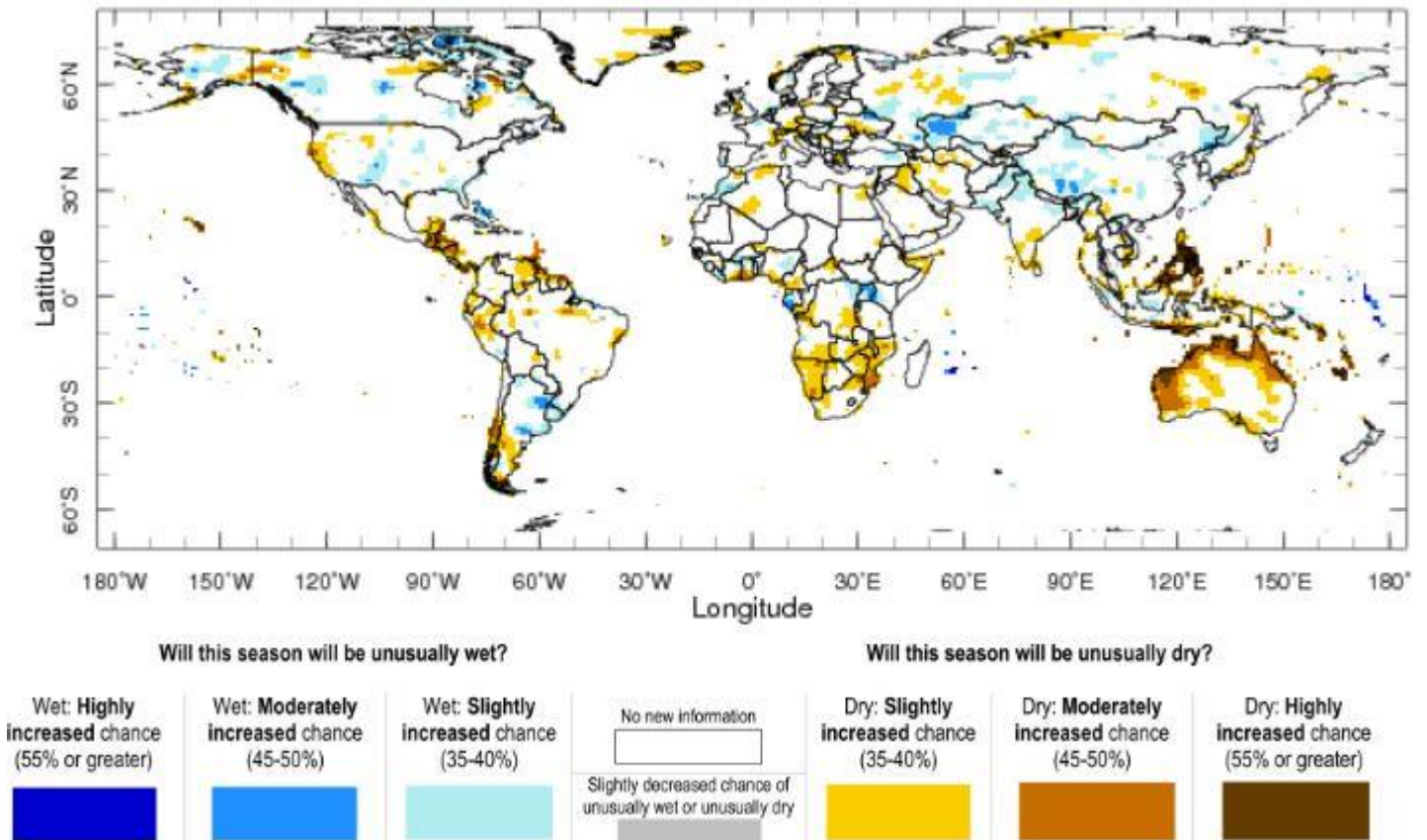
Upcoming events for February – April 2019			
February	14- 15	Emergency WASH Lessons Learned Workshop	Vientiane, Laos
	26-27	Joint Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation (VNRBD) Workshop for Asia and Middle East and Northern Africa Regions	Bangkok, Thailand
	26-27	Humanitarian Diplomacy in Emergencies Roundtable	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	27	Protection, Gender and Inclusion capacity building for Lao Red Cross staff	Vientiane, Lao PDR
March	13-15	Asia Pacific Cooperation Meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	27-29	UNESCAP's Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	Bangkok, Thailand
	TBC	Indonesian Red Cross Partnership Meeting	Jakarta, Indonesia
April	2-4	3 rd ASEAN Regional Conference on School Safety	Bangkok, Thailand
	10-12	RDRT Training of Trainers	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Seasonal Forecast

February - April 2019

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

Forecast for Feb-Apr 2019, Forecast Issued Jan 2019



The SST forecast shows weak El Niño conditions ($>0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $<1.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ for the Niño3.4 SST index) from Feb-Apr through Apr-Jun, becoming warm-neutral for May-Jul. Much of the extratropical North Atlantic and North Pacific SSTs, as well as the SSTs in much of the tropical and southern subtropical Indian Ocean and part of the high latitude south Pacific, are predicted to be above-average during most of the four forecast seasons. Below-average SST is predicted in the very high latitudes in the vicinity of Greenland for Feb-Apr and Mar-May, and south of South America for all four forecast seasons. A positive Indian Ocean Dipole is predicted weakly for Mar-May and more strongly for Apr-Jun and May-Jul. Above-average SST is predicted for the north and south tropical Atlantic mainly for Feb-Apr and Mar-May, and weakly off the equator for Apr-Jun and May-Jul. If you would like further guidance on how to interpret this forecast, please contact the IFRC Helpdesk at ifrc@iri.columbia.edu. The seasonal forecast below reflects the best available information of likely shifts in rainfall in the coming 3 months. This seasonal forecast should be closely monitored in conjunction with short-term, local forecasts from your national meteorological agency, which can provide more detailed information on what extreme events might happen during this season.

Meteorological agency in the respective Southeast Asian countries:

[Brunei Darussalam](#) | [Cambodia](#) | [Indonesia](#) | [Laos](#) | [Malaysia](#) | [Myanmar](#) | [Philippines](#) | [Singapore](#) | [Thailand](#) | [Timor-Leste](#) | [Vietnam](#)