

Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – July 2019



In July, during the height of the dengue outbreak, the Cambodian Red Cross Society (CRC) have actively mobilized volunteers and Red Cross Youth from 25 branches in the most affected areas to support communities in dengue prevention and control.

Welcome to our July 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:

Regional Workshop on Migration and Displacement



Photo credit: IFRC

IFRC, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and the Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN) jointly organized the Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Migration and Displacement during 23-25 July in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop aimed to provide a platform for Asia Pacific National Societies, the IFRC and ICRC, alongside external partners, to discuss and exchange views and experiences on the latest humanitarian dimensions of migration and displacement across the region and the globe. Among the expected outcomes of the workshop includes the National and Regional Action Plans on Migration and Displacement for National Societies and the Working Groups of the APMN.

Highlight Updates from National Societies

Brunei

Brunei Red Crescent Discusses Youth Engagement, Volunteers at Annual Meeting



Photo credit: Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent

The Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society (BRC) held its Eighth Annual General Meeting on 14 July 2019. The event was attended by members of its National Council, National Executive Board and representative from its four branches throughout Brunei Darussalam. The meeting discussed the challenge of ensuring youth members are ready to become the next generation's leaders in the society and able to play an importance role in the development of the youth itself as an active volunteer. BRC President stressed that all activities either at national and district level or at the School Cadet (youth training) should incorporate the Seven Fundamentals of Red Cross and Red Crescent and in line with IFRC guidelines on subjects such as First Aid, School Safety, Community Resilience and Disaster Preparedness, Community-Based Health Awareness.

Cambodia

Cambodian Red Cross Helps Communities Prevent Dengue Outbreak



Photo credit: Cambodian Red Cross

Dengue outbreak has started in Cambodia since January 2019 and intensified as the rainy season approaches. By early July, around 15,000 cases have been reported with 25 deaths. Causes of death have been attributed to lack of capacity for dengue treatment and limited access to public health services. The Cambodian Red Cross Society (CRC) have actively mobilized volunteers and Red Cross Youth from 25 branches in the most affected areas to support communities in dengue prevention and control. The volunteers and youth disseminated key preventive messages through village meetings, focus group discussion, home visits, community clean-ups, and campaign, as well as assist the communities in eliminating mosquito breeding grounds.

Lao PDR

Lao Red Cross Youth in Attapeu Raise Awareness on Sexual & Gender-Based Violence to Communities



Photo credit: Lao Red Cross

In July 2019, Lao Red Cross conducted Youth Empowerment Training for 14 Red Cross Youth based in Attapeu Province focusing on the topic of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). After the three-day training, the Red Cross Youth were given the opportunity to share their knowledge and raise awareness on the subject with their communities, many of which have been affected by flash floods since 2018. During 12-13 July, they visited two villages and one camp of temporary shelters and role-played scenarios depicting domestic violence as part of a campaign against SGBV. More than 600 community members participated in the activity.

Review of Flash Floods Emergency Appeal Operation in Attapeu After One Year



Photo credit: Lao Red Cross

Lao Red Cross and IFRC conducted an internal meeting during 8-9 July 2019 to review the work under the Emergency Appeal Operation in Attapeu Province after one year. The meeting was attended by Lao Red Cross officers from Headquarters and Attapeu branch, IFRC delegates and local authorities. Since 23 July 2018 when a hydropower dam collapsed causing massive flash floods, the operation has assisted around 1,500 households in 10 villages to provide relief assistance and, currently, recovery support. The meeting intended to assess best practices, challenges and review the action plan going forward. Click [here](#) to view a video highlighting the activities under the Emergency Appeal to mark one year since the dam collapsed.

Myanmar

Myanmar Red Cross Holds Trainings on Migration and Displacement



Photo credit: Myanmar Red Cross Society

Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) held the first basic training and a training of trainers (ToT) course on Migration and Displacement on 9 – 12 July in Myanmar. The training introduced key concepts and Red Cross principles of migration and displacement and their applications. The findings from the MRCS National Assessment on Migration and Displacement were shared and discussed and served as reference for the development of this training programme. Following the training, taskforce members are expected to plan how Migration and Displacement principles and concepts can be included in the existing training or delivered separately in each department for staff and volunteers. Click [here](#) to read the full story by MRCS.

Philippines

Philippine Red Cross Ensures Adequate Blood Supply Amid Dengue Outbreak



Photo credit: Philippine Red Cross

The Philippine Government has declared many areas in the country under threat of dengue outbreak in July including Iloilo, Aklan, Cavite, Leyte, and South Cotabato. The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) assures the public that it has adequate blood supply for dengue patients. Through its 93 blood service facilities nationwide, PRC is working double-time to ensure the availability of blood supply, especially plasma and cryoprecipitate, which are used to prevent hemorrhagic complications associated with dengue. Aside from blood, PRC is also in the forefront of managing the dengue crisis as it deployed eight sets of emergency medical tents in Western Visayas Region. Click [here](#) to read the full story by PRC.

Philippine Red Cross Disseminate Messages To Prevent Illnesses During Monsoon Season



Photo credit: Philippine Red Cross

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) intensified its information campaign concerning health problems to protect the people and the community from waterborne diseases, influenza, leptospirosis, and dengue the monsoon season. PRC is reminding everyone to take extra precautions as this is the high-risk period during which infectious diseases spread easily. Communication materials, house to house visits and health seminars are part of the awareness campaign of the Red Cross. Residents are encouraged to clean their surroundings especially possible breeding places of mosquitoes to avoid being infected with dengue virus. Click [here](#) to read the full story by PRC.

Singapore

Singapore Red Cross Trains Youth To Become First Aid Advocates



Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross

As part of the Red Cross Youth - SAFE STEPS First Aid Outreach, 23 youth from Singapore Red Cross learnt about first aid services for common emergencies at the Red Cross Training Campsite on 10 July. They were trained to provide first aid for bleeding, broken bones, cardiac arrest, choking, stroke and burns. Moving forward, these youth will take on bigger roles such as first aid advocates within their schools and community, supporting SRC in first aid advocacy and emergency preparedness.

Red Cross Staff, Volunteers Complete Singapore Civil Defence Force Emergency Exercise



Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross

Seven staff members and volunteers from the Singapore Red Cross successfully completed an operational exercise conducted by the Singapore Civil Defence Force on 24 July. Held at the Padang, the operational exercise put the test 400 emergency responders' response to fire and chemical agent release.

Singapore Red Cross Holds Humanitarian Conference 'Partnerships & Volunteerism for Humanity'



Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross

Over 320 participants attended the Singapore Red Cross' (SRC) fifth Humanitarian Conference themed 'Partnerships & Volunteerism for Humanity' at Grand Copthorne Waterfront on 20 July 2019. The speakers included [IFRC's Mr Jan Gelfand](#), [ICRC's Dr Hugo Slim](#), [Hong Kong Red Cross Ms Bonnie So](#), [Indian Red Cross - Tamil Nadu Branch Dr Harish L Metha](#) and [Mr Thiru M. S. M. Nasruddin](#), [Aviva Singapore's Mr Nishit Majmudar](#) whilst media personality Augustine Anthuvan moderated the session. Learn more about the conference [here](#).

Thailand

Thai Red Cross Conducts Academic Seminar on Disaster Management



Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society

Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) organized an academic seminar on the topic of disaster management. Participated at the seminar were Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement members and other implementing agencies including Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation and representatives from communities working with TRCS. The event invited practitioners to share their experiences in Disaster Management, the experts to share approaches and innovations in building disaster resilience, and community members to discuss real-life application of disaster management/preparedness/risk reduction approaches. Source: [TRCS Facebook](#).

Thai Red Cross Discusses Community Outreach at 126th Anniversary Event



Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society

To celebrate its 126th anniversary, the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) held "Kachad Talks" (or "Red Cross Talks" in English) which was participated by all departments that provide services to the public including the National Blood Centre, the Relief and Community Health Bureau, and the Organ Donation Centre. The event discussed about how, going forward, TRCS is committed to improving public knowledge about all services that TRCS offer. For example, TRCS has developed a mobile application "PhonPhai" (or "safe from harm" in English where users can report disasters to disaster management agencies and request for assistance.

Thai Red Cross Holds Meetings To Introduce GIS Based Disaster Reporting Application



Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society

The Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) held a number of meetings and trainings in July for local partners including national and local administration, Emergency Department of the Ministry of Health, and Red Cross Headquarters and its provincial health station to introduce the GIS application called "PhonPhai" (locally translated as "safe from harm" that has been developed since 2018 and launched in April 2019 to limited users. At the final stage of development, the application will allow public users to report disaster and request for assistance. The alert will be channeled to relevant implementing agencies from local to national level, including TRCS. The application is expected to ensure quick and coordinated responses to disaster.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam Red Cross Conducts Heatwave Early Action Test in Hanoi



Photo credit: Viet Nam Red Cross Society

From 18-21 July 2019, Hanoi was affected by a heatwave with a heat index peaking at 47.5 °C. Three days before, alerted by early warnings issued by the Vietnam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change (IMHEN), the Viet Nam Red Cross Society (VNRC) and German Red Cross took preemptive actions in establishing the Red Cross cooling centres in anticipation of the heatwave. The communal cooling centres is one of the Early Actions selected for the “Forecast based Financing Ready” project which also include roof shading in slums, cash distribution to subsidize utility bills. The measures taken reached the targeted groups and were socially well accepted by the local population and authorities. Click [here](#) to read the full report.

Featured Stories



Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross

Singapore: Home is where security is

Diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa when he was seven, Zamry Bin Abdul Karim suffered from partial vision and later lost his vision completely. However, Zamry never let this stop him from pursuing his passions in sports. Unfortunately, Zamry’s active life came crashing down when he was involved in an accident with a taxi in June 2017 which has left him physically unfit to work for life. Living alone, Zamry sought the help of the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) to install the Home Monitoring and Eldercare (HoME+) system, a monitoring and alert system service initially designed to help seniors living on their own. “It makes me feel better. I know that there will always be someone looking out for me and helping me,” he explained. Read Zamry’s full story [here](#).



Photo credit: Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste

Climate Change in Timor-Leste

“Timor-Leste is facing (the impact of) climate change,” said Emidia Below, Disaster Risk Reduction Manager for the Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL or Timor-Leste Red Cross). Local communities have become more aware of its effects which became especially evident during 2015-2017 when Eastern Timor-Leste went through an extended period of dry spell. CVTL is gearing up to help the communities prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change through various initiatives including tree planting programmes, alternative crop promotion, rain harvesting, etc. Read the full story [here](#).

New Resources



Everyone Counts May 2019 Issue

The Everyone Counts report is a flagship publication of IFRC. It is based mainly on data collected through the Federation-wide databank and reporting system (FDRS). The publication aims to show the power of disaggregated data as an inclusive tool: We demonstrate how to best use data which is disaggregated by sex, age and disability to accelerate the inclusion of the most vulnerable people. Click [here](#) to download.

Upcoming Events

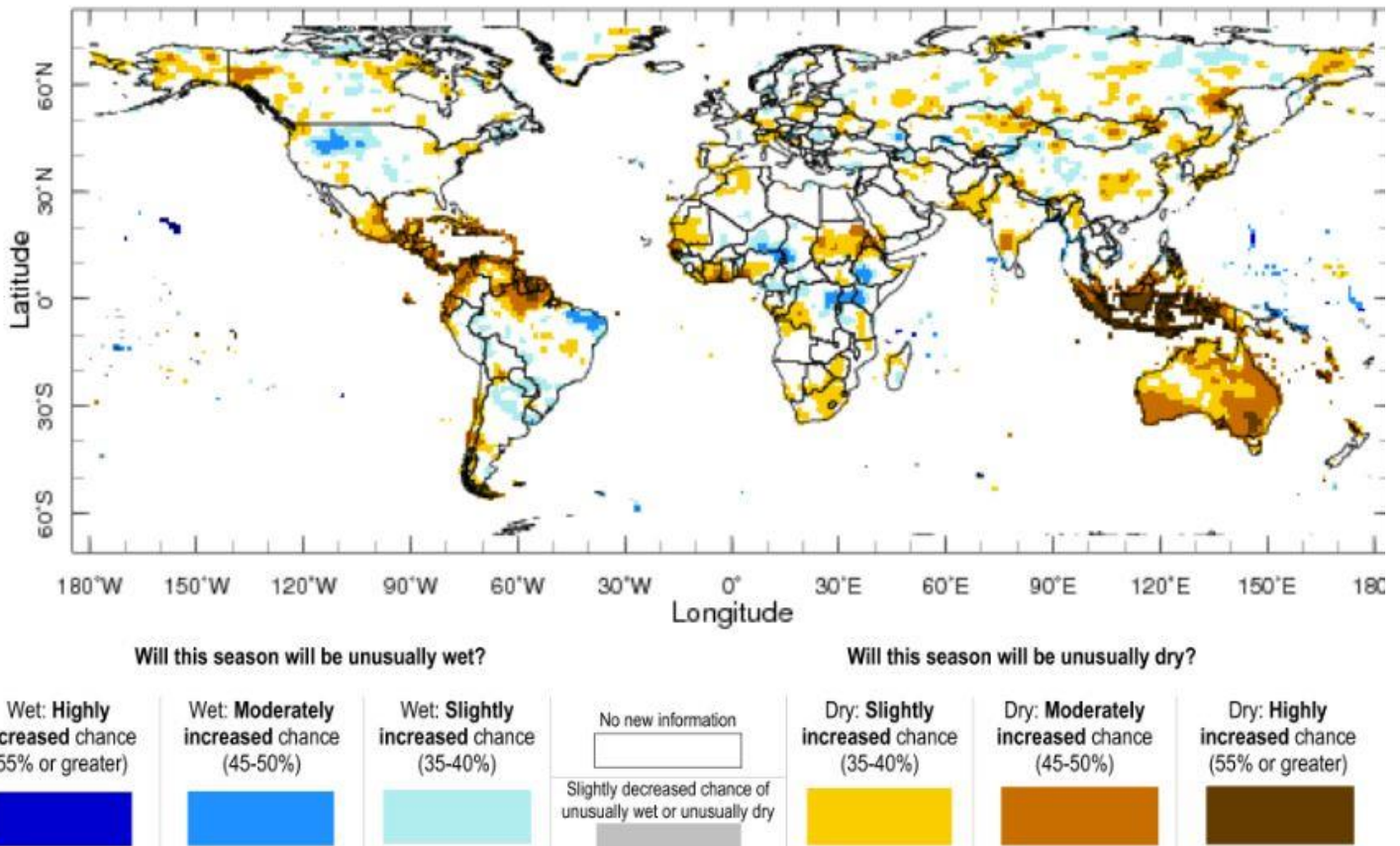
Upcoming events for August – September 2019			
Aug	31-2	Regional Red Ready Project Team Meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	5-9	National Disaster Response Team Induction Training Course (Thai Red Cross)	Chonburi, Thailand
	13-16	WASH Training of Trainers (Thai Red Cross)	Rayong, Thailand
	19-24	AP Regional Practical Cash Transfer in Emergencies Training (PECT)	Kelantan, Malaysia
	23	Ninth Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Lecture Series on International Humanitarian Law	Bangkok, Thailand
	26-30	IFRC Asia Pacific 2020 Operational Planning Meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	28-30	The sixth session of the ESCAP Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction	Bangkok, Thailand
Sep	30 Sep – 3 Oct	Integrating Gender-based Violence Risk Mitigation Actions into Emergency Preparedness Workshop	Bangkok, Thailand

Seasonal Forecast

July-September 2019

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

Forecast for Jul-Sep 2019, Forecast Issued Jun 2019



In June, El Niño conditions continue, but are weakening. Climate models forecast that this El Niño event will likely continue through June-August, with a lower likelihood it will continue until the end of the year (~55% chance). Please keep monitoring this forecast every month for updates. The seasonal forecast for the July - August season indicates some of the typical impacts of El Niño (e.g. dry conditions in the Caribbean, Indonesia, northern South America and Australia), as well as other likely changes to seasonal rainfall linked to other climate patterns. Please see the map for more details on the current forecast and reach out to the IFRC Helpdesk at ifrc@iri.columbia.edu if you would like further guidance on how to interpret this forecast. 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](#)