

Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – August 2019



Thai Red Cross volunteers pack non-food items to be distributed to communities in north and northern provinces of Thailand that were affected by Tropical Storm Podul and Kajiki. (Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society)

Welcome to our August 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>.

Highlight Updates from National Societies

Cambodia

Disaster Preparedness, Dengue Prevention Among Topics Addressed by Cambodia Red Cross Public Safety Program in Kampong Thom



Photo credit: Cambodian Red Cross

Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) Branch in Kampong Thom conducted the *Awareness on Safer Community Programme* on 13 August 2019 which was participated by 149 peoples (93 females) from three targeted villages in Kampong Svay District in Kampong Thom Province. The purpose of this programme is to focus on various issues including keeping safe-water for household use, preventing critical contamination, promoting good personal hygiene (washing hand with soap), disaster preparedness (before, during and after), dengue prevention, promoting maternal and child health, national championship on HIV/AIDS, and preventing violence against women and children. The programme is being implemented in all 25 provincial branches of CRC. Source: Cambodian Red Cross [Facebook Page](#)

Lao PDR

Lao Red Cross Conducts Basic Disaster Response Training To Expand Volunteer Network



Photo credit: Lao Red Cross

During 26-31 August 2019, Lao Red Cross (LRC) conducted a basic disaster response training in Bolikhamxay Province. The training aimed to offer knowledge and practice on disaster response to those interested and expand LRC volunteer network. The 4-day training covers several topics related to disaster management including: health, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), youth behavioral change during disaster, and first aid (both in theory and practice). The participants were given opportunities to practice respond to three small-scale scenarios of flood, fire and storm, focus applying their first aid skills.

Philippines

Philippine Red Cross Adds More Tents, Blood Supplies To Curb Dengue Outbreak



Photo credit: Philippine Red Cross

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) deployed more medical tents and blood products to support communities with a high number of dengue cases in August. During the height of the outbreak, PRC was able to treat dengue patients through its eight emergency medical tents that serve as extension wards and fast lanes in Iloilo, Capiz, and Aklan. The medical tents were installed at most overcrowded hospitals. PRC maximizes its network of community volunteers through Red Cross 143 (Volunteer Program) and Red Cross Youth programs to track down dengue and conduct clean-up efforts within a 400-meter radius where they are discovered. Click [here](#) to read the full story.

Addressing Child Protection in Philippine Disaster Laws



Photo credit: IFRC

Children are the most vulnerable and most affected sector of society in any disaster event. The Philippine Statistical Authority reported in 2018 that there are more than 30 million children in the Philippines that may be at risk to disasters. In the same year the World Risk Report also ranked the Philippines third among countries with very high disaster risk. In this connection, Philippine Red Cross (PRC), supported by IFRC and Canadian Red Cross, carried out the case study in the Province of Leyte that was severely affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 with the aim to review national legal and policy frameworks on child protection and disasters. Click [here](#) to read more about the case study and its conclusion.

Singapore

Singapore Red Cross Youth Launch Humanitarian Trail at Red Cross Campsite



Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross

Singapore Red Cross Youth (RCY) launched its Humanitarian Trail at the Red Cross Campsite on 24 August. At the event, over 200 cadets gleaned insights on Singapore Red Cross' humanitarian activities through hands-on interactive learning journeys on safety, emergency preparedness, lifesaving, survival essentials and caring for the elderly. Guest-of-Honour, Mr Ling Koon Chow and Special Guest, Ibu Sri Soedarsono of Palang Merah Indonesia formally launched the trail by attaching a mural painted by Red Cross Links of 34 primary schools.

Singapore Red Cross Raises Awareness of CPR+AED at National Day Event



Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross

As part of Singapore's 54th National Day Celebrations, Singapore Red Cross Academy Instructors conducted simplified Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training at five different districts on 10 August. The training enabled citizens in the heartlands to pick up lifesaving skills.

Singapore Red Cross Youth Promote 'Safe Steps' in International Schools



Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross

Red Cross Youth (RCY) made its foray into International Schools with the addition of Global Indian International School in the Singapore Red Cross Youth family. As part of their first activity with the Singapore Red Cross, students aged nine to 13 years old and their teachers visited the campsite to experience our RCY Safe Steps Awareness station. Our Senior Director of Red Cross Youth also met the youth members and presented the Red Cross Youth plaque to be placed in the school.

Thailand

Thai Red Cross Trains Phetchaburi Provincial Authorities To Use Disaster Reporting Application

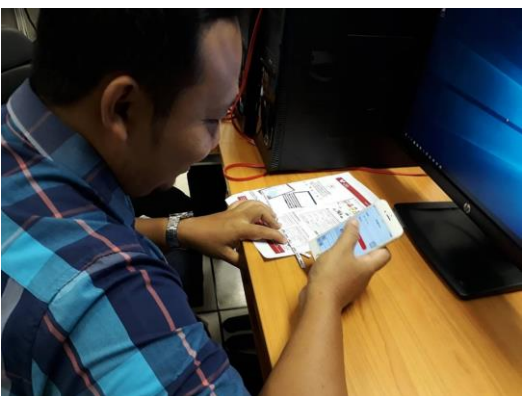


Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society

On 28 August 2019, Thai Red Cross conducts a training on how to use the "PhonPhai" (or *safe from harm* in Thai) to central and provincial officials from Phetchaburi Province. The training aims to expand the network of users in Phetchaburi. The application was developed by Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) with funding from the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to promote coordinated response by disaster management agencies including TRCS. The application aims to provide an online channel, accessible by smartphones, to the public to report disasters and request for assistance. Source: [TRCS Facebook](#).

Thai Red Cross Conducts Training of Trainers on Water, Sanitation & Hygiene During Emergencies



Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society

During 13-16 August 2019, the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) offered a Training of Trainers (ToT) on [water, sanitation and hygiene promotion](#) (WASH) in emergencies for around 30 of the staff from TRCS Relief and Community Health Bureau who are on the frontline of TRCS relief operations. The training participants also took part in reviewing TRCS hygiene kits and, for the first time, the menstrual hygiene kits to ensure that distributed items meet the needs of the users. The training aimed to enhance WASH knowledge and build capacity of Thai Red Cross response personnel and to ensure minimum standard in Humanitarian Response is maintained. Click [here](#) to view training materials.

Thai Red Cross Trains Fifth Batch of National Disaster Response Team



Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society

The fifth Batch of the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) completed the training by Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) during 5-9 August 2019. Around 30 TRCS staff took part in the training that aimed to equip build capacity of emergency managers and strengthen the emergency management capacity at provincial level to ensure first-hand response for the people affected by any kind of disaster. Also joining the training were technical experts from IFRC, Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, and Lao Red Cross disaster management officers who shared their experience in disaster management and disseminate knowledge in relevant topics such as safety & security in rescue operation, community engagement & accountability, etc. Click [here](#) to view training materials.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam Red Cross Reviews Readiness for Cash-Based Intervention



Photo credit: IFRC

The Vietnam Red Cross Society (VNRC) has completed the two-year cash preparedness programme that assess both internal and external factors that are conducive to carry out cash-based intervention (CBI). In parallel with the programme, VNRC has conducted training for its headquarters and branch staff, developed its [CBI Position Paper](#), conducted pilot-project in selected province (Quang Tri) and signed agreements with financial service providers (FSPs) for cash transfer services. During 26-27 August, VNRC, with support from IFRC, carried out its final cash preparedness review to identify what went well, challenges and ways forward. Overall assessment results indicated that VNRC finds CBI as an effective measure to assist affected people post-disaster. The pilot project in Quang Tri suggested that distributing cash via FSPs is a time-efficient alternative that promotes transparency and accountability.

Featured Stories



Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross

One Day in the Life of Blood Donors

Singapore Red Cross (SRC) writer, Jewel Ng, visited a SRC blood drive one day and asked blood donors and a Blood Donor Manager why they donate and why don't more people donate. Click [here](#) to read the story.



Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross

Singapore: A Bouquet for First Aiders on Wheels

A young female Taiwanese, Wang S.T. visited Singapore in July 2019. One afternoon after Wang cycled around Pulau Ubin for an hour in the sun, suffered a bad migraine, and experienced nausea and vomiting spells. Wang's condition did not improve hours into that evening. Luckily, she had volunteers from Singapore Red Cross (SRC) assisting her throughout the ordeal. Click [here](#) to read her message to SRC first aiders.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming events for September-November 2019

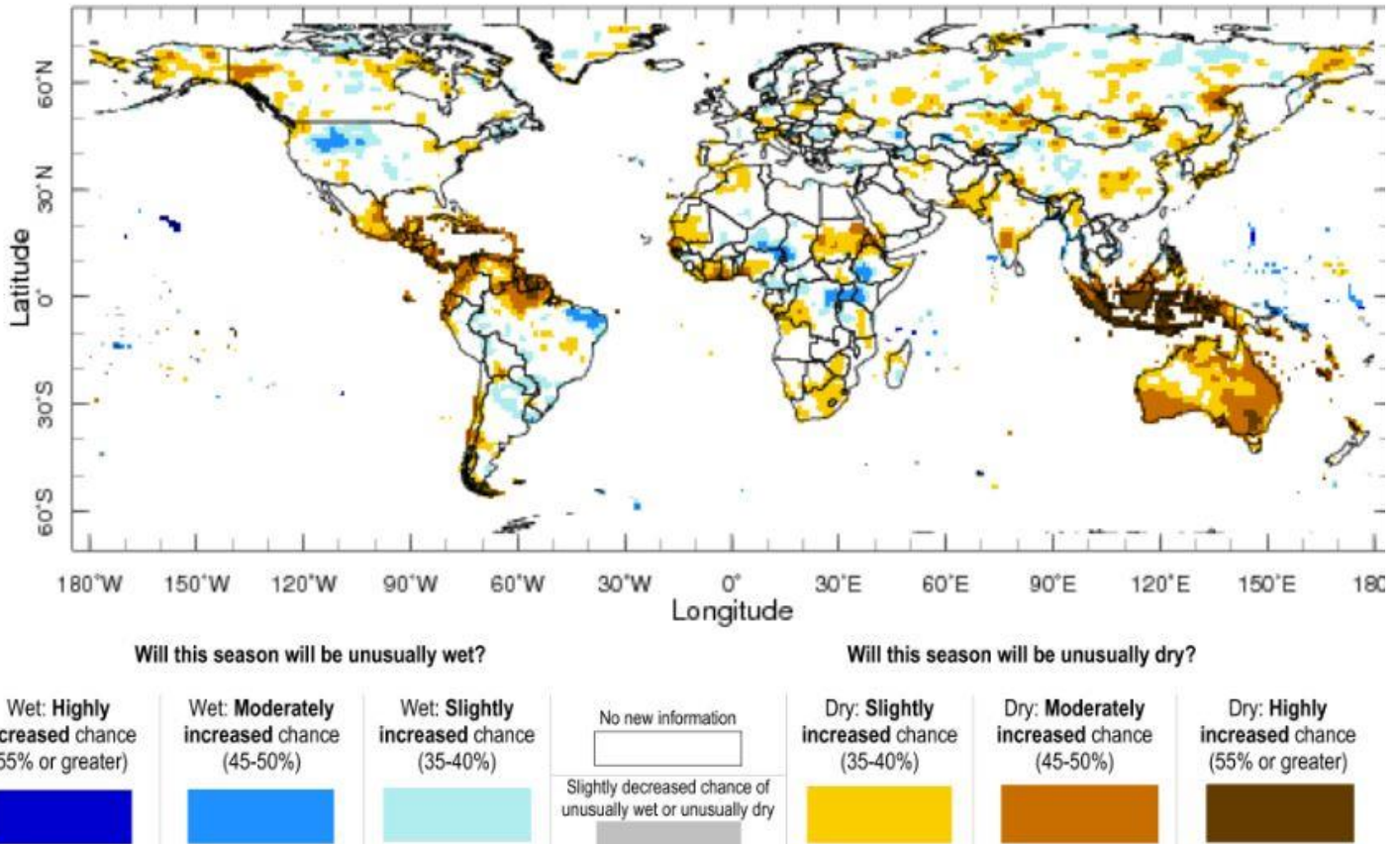
Sep	16-19	Preparedness for Effective Response (PER)'s Work Plan Phase	Vinh Phuc, Viet Nam
	16-19	Asia-Pacific Housing Forum	Bangkok, Thailand
	30 Sep – 3 Oct	Integrating Gender-based Violence Risk Mitigation Actions into Emergency Preparedness Workshop	Bangkok, Thailand
Oct	10-12	VNRC Strategic Plan's Visioning Exercise	Hanoi, Viet Nam
	10	ADDM & IDRR Day event by Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation	Bangkok, Thailand
	14-20	Asia Pacific Regional Operations Management Course	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	20-23	Asia Pacific Training on Community-Based Health and First Aid	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Nov	18-22	Asia Pacific Epidemic and Pandemic 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](#)