

Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

# REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – December 2019 and January 2020



*The Singapore Red Cross (SRC), held a roadshow at Jurong Spring on 4th and 5th January 2020, where volunteers shared the importance of learning First Aid to empower the most vulnerable and build a more resilient community.*

Welcome to our newsletter providing updates of Southeast Asia for the months of December 2019 and January 2020. In addition to these monthly updates we send every month, you can also find Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent's resources, tools, events and updates at the Resilience Library at <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org>.

## Thematic Updates from Southeast Asia At Regional Level: IFRC Responds to COVID-19



*Photo credit: Philippine Red Cross*

As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues spreading beyond China, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is scaling up preparedness efforts to support people who are most vulnerable to the outbreak in Asia Pacific and beyond.

Dr Emanuele Capobianco IFRC's Director for Health and Care said: *"The threat of a coronavirus pandemic is real and cannot be underestimated. We are working with Red Cross Red Crescent Societies around the world to prepare and respond globally as the outbreak evolves. National Societies globally are trusted partners with long experience in preparing for and responding to diseases. With 13 million volunteers, we can play an important role in national and international response efforts against this novel coronavirus."*

IFRC has released its maximum amount of one million Swiss francs from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for an initial surge of specialists to be deployed and prepositioned for National Societies in countries which are most vulnerable to the virus' spread, with a current focus in Asia Pacific. In addition, IFRC is launching a global emergency appeal for 32 million Swiss francs to support community-based health activities, access to basic services, and the management of misinformation and stigma – all equally crucial to control the spread of the virus. Assistance will be tailored to each country depending on its epidemic preparedness and response, as well as the vulnerability of particular groups of people in the community.

*Text Courtesy: Press Release, IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office*

## Highlight Updates from National Societies

### Cambodia

#### Cambodian RC conducts training for youth with support from IFRC and ASEAN

A group of twelve youth from the Cambodian Red Cross and ten youth appointed by the Cambodian Ministry of Education Youth and Sport, participated in a training on 'Youth as Agents of Behavioral Change (YABC) organized by the Cambodian Red Cross Society with support from IFRC and ASEAN. YABC is the flagship initiative of the IFRC to promote a culture of non-violence and peace. Since 2008, this programme has been inspiring individuals around the world to bring about a positive change of mindsets, attitudes and behaviours within themselves and in the communities, through peer education and holistic learning approaches. The IFRC and ASEAN are collaborating to implementing these trainings among youth in the region to enhance ethical leadership among the youth by improving mutual understanding and learning about ASEAN values as well as the fundamental principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) movement. The IFRC and ASEAN will be organizing more such trainings across ASEAN countries.



Photo credit: IFRC

### Laos

#### Local stakeholders in Attapeu trained through Evacuation Simulation exercises



Photo credit: Lao Red Cross

The Lao Red Cross (LRC) conducted Evacuation Simulation exercises for 60 participants (including 10 high school students) on 25th December 2019, for five disaster affected communities of Hadyao, Hinsombat, Ta Ngao, Sompoy and Had Udomsay, in Attapeu province. The simulation exercise aimed to strengthen the knowledge of disaster preparedness and emergency among the community members.

#### Enhanced warehouse management capacities in Bolikhamsay

The LRC conducted a training on Warehouse Management training in Bolikhamsay during 20-22 January 2020. Eighteen participants from Houaphan, Xiangkhouang, Bolikhamsay and Khammouan province and one representative from the Ministry of Social Welfare were present at the training. Two representatives from USAID also visited the LRC's branch in Bolikhamsay during the training program and discussed the needs and priorities for affected people in the local communities.



Photo credit: Lao Red Cross

## Myanmar

### Staff and volunteers trained on Migration and Trafficking in Eastern Shan state



Photo credit: Myanmar Red Cross

In December 2019, the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), with support from IFRC and the British Red Cross, held a 2-day training workshop on Migration, Displacement and Trafficking in Tachileik for 15 staff and volunteers from five branches of MRCS in Eastern Shan state. The training was delivered in Myanmar language. The training was followed by a participatory Workshops with key stakeholders active in Eastern Shan, including local government departments and representatives of a civil society organisation to better understand the trends and dynamics related to migration, displacement and trafficking in the area. A follow-up workshop was also held for MRCS staff and volunteers to discuss future activities at the branch level.

## Singapore

### Resilience Mapping for Safer Communities

Over 20 Singapore Red Cross Youth (RCY) conducted Resilience Mapping of the elderly and disabled residents in Clementi from 13 to 15 January. The data collected on the residents' well-being and needs would pave the way for them to access SRC's services wherever applicable. Together with students of Singapore Institute of Technology, RCY distributed 100 food hamper sets to the residents on 18 January 2020.



Photo Credit: SRC

## Thailand

### Deployment of Mobile Eye Surgery Unit



Photo Credit: Thai Red Cross

The Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) mobilized a Mobile Eye Surgery Unit in Prachin Buri province to provide free diagnostic services and eye surgery to disadvantaged people during 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The TRCS Mobile Eye Surgery Unit has been in service since 1995 and has provided eye surgery to more than 192,458 people as of date.

## TRCS supports people affected by disasters in Australia and Indonesia

Since September 2019, parts of Australia have been experiencing unprecedented severe bushfires resulting in largescale destruction of homes, wildlife and loss of lives. In response to these tragic incidents, the Thai Red Cross Society has donated 50,000 Australian dollars (AUD) to the Australian Red Cross for disaster relief and recovery. In addition, TRCS has set up a bank account for accepting donations from the general public for Australia. Separately, the Thai Red Cross Society has also donated US dollars 10,000 to the Indonesian Red Cross Society (PMI) after flooding and landslides in Jakarta. More than 12 people were reported to have died and over 30,000 displaced due to torrential rainfall during the new year holidays that caused floods and landslides in many parts of the country.

Photo Credit: Thai Red Cross

## Featured Story

### Frontline response in the fight against 2019-Corona Virus (2019-nCoV)

The Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) is supporting the government's efforts to control and prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV in Viet Nam. By the end of January 2020, Viet Nam had five confirmed cases (2 Chinese and 3 Vietnamese), as well as 97 suspected cases of which 32 were quarantined. The VNRC is a member of the National Steering Committee for Countering 2019-nCoV Response and Prevention. VNRC is working closely with the Ministry of Health and the Centre for Tropical Disease Control (CDC) for the 2019-nCoV response. Based on their experience of responding to the A/H1N1 virus in 2009/2010, the VNRC is developing an action plan to combat the Corona virus infection.



Photo Credit: Viet Nam Red Cross

In addition, VNRC is working with its branches in the areas bordering China, Laos and Cambodia to conduct joint communication and awareness raising exercises. VNRC has established trained task forces of RC volunteers at the community level for surveillance and building awareness on 2019-nCoV. People who are affected or suspected to be victims of Corona virus infection are provided with transportation support to reach health facilities. VNRC has also distributed soaps and masks to households in high risk areas and conducted trainings on their usage.

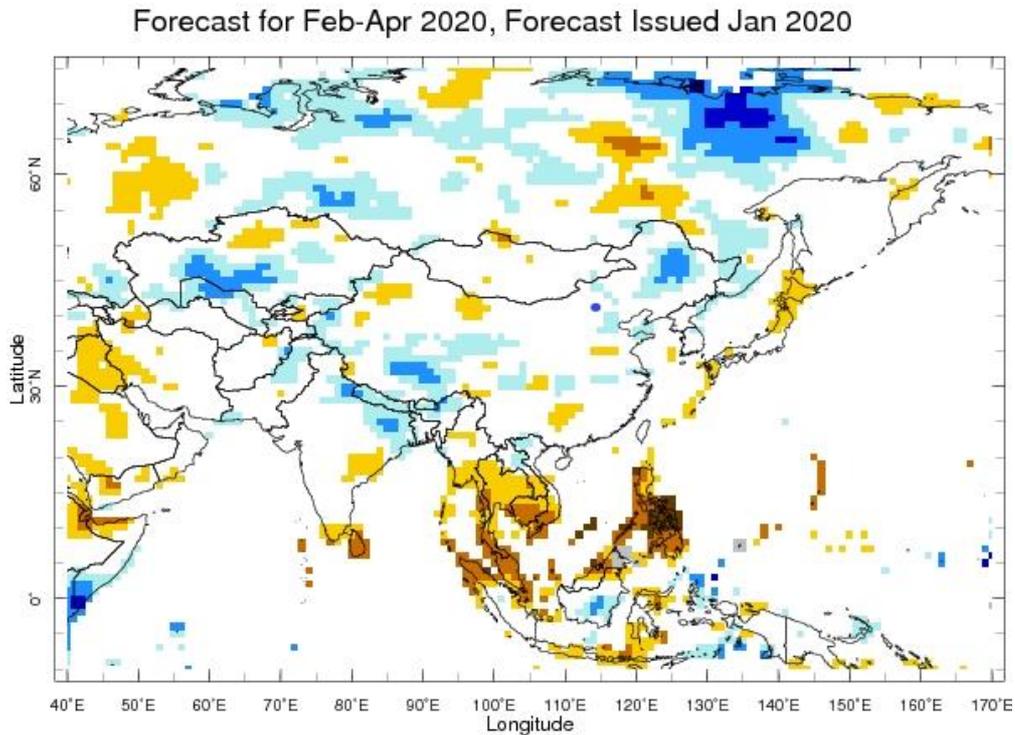
## Upcoming Events

Events for February -March 2020			
February	17-21	Procurement Assessment in Hanoi	Hanoi, Vietnam
	19-20	Visioning Workshop on Strategy 2030 development	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
	22-23	53rd Diplomatic Red Cross Bazaar “GIVING LOVE, SPREADING HAPPINESS”	Bangkok, Thailand
	19-28	GIS Kick-Off Ceremony and Training	Chiang Rai, Udon Thani, Surat Thani, Lampang and Songkhla, Thailand
	24 -28	Workshop on finalizing two decrees for LRC as an institution and for Emergency fund	Vientiane, Laos
March	02-06	Lao RC's workshop to finalize the two decrees will continue.	Vientiane, Laos
	03-04	Field visit by Cartier Philanthropy to WASH Project	Svay Rieng, Cambodia
	15-25	YABC and YSS training organised by Lao Red Cross, IFRC and ASEAN Senior Official Meeting on Youth (SOMY)	Vientiane , Laos
	29	TRCS will organize a running event called “Run Phon Phai” which literally means “Run from Disasters” on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Relief and Community Health Bureau (RCHB) in December 2020. The run is being held in collaboration with RCHB and Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT Thailand) - an international finance association).	Samut Prakan, Thailand

## Seasonal Forecast

### February-April 2020

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



Meteorological agency in the respective Southeast Asian countries:

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