

Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

# REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – **March 2018**



On 10 March 2018, Mr Amrin Amin, Singapore's Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs & Health, unveiled the "GO Bag," a specially-curated emergency preparedness kit launched by Red Cross Youth. Also known as grab bag or ready bag, these portable kits are meant to help families to be better prepared during emergencies.

Welcome to our March 2018 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:

#### Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming in Disaster Risk Reduction: Four Years of Progress in Southeast Asia



Funded by the Canadian Government and the Canadian Red Cross, and implemented by IFRC Country Cluster Support Team in Bangkok, the Regional Resilience Initiative (RRI) was launched in 2014 with the aim of reducing the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable communities through building of capacities and skills of the 11 Southeast Asian National Societies (NS) and fostering network with regional partners. Over the past four years, the Initiative has built the ground work for the NS Gender and Diversity (G&D) mainstreaming, starting from identifying the existing G&D work at the national level and, accordingly, providing training to relevant NS staff,

and contextualizing tools such as the *Minimum Standard Commitment to Gender and Diversity in Emergency Programming* and the *Gender and Diversity Assessment Tool*, which are critical to transforming the operation of NS to be inclusive of G&D consideration. Click [here](#) to read the full story about RRI's contribution to G&D mainstreaming and its way forward.

#### Ninth ERAT Induction Course and Simulation Exercise in Myanmar

Between 26 March and 1 April, 30 ASEAN citizens gathered in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar to undertake a week long and intensive training course alongside a 3-day simulation exercise to become members of the Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT). The main objective of the course was to prepare regional responders and in-country resources, with experience in emergency management and coordination, for major disasters in the ASEAN region. The AHA Centre maintains a pool of trained ERAT members that are ready to be deployed for in-country and regional response operations. ASEAN ERAT is a team that is equipped with specialized knowledge and skills during emergency response, such as rapid assessment, coordination and resource mobilization, and facilitating humanitarian assistance. Click [here](#) for more information.



## Highlight Updates from National Societies

### Cambodia

#### Cambodian Red Cross Conducts RFL and Safe Migration Training



During 6-7 March, the Cambodian Red Cross conducted the Restoring Family Link (RFL) and Safe Migration Training to 20 (10 male and 10 female) Red Cross Volunteers from Oudem Meanchey Province. The objectives of the two-day training were for the volunteers to acquire and/or enhance their knowledge and skills to disseminate information in local communities about the Cambodia Red Cross' services in RFL and advice for prospective migrants on how to migrate safely. An IOMx animation "[Know Before You Go](#)" was also screened to help increase an understanding on the issue.

## Indonesia

### Red Cross Law Approved by Indonesian Parliament

The Red Cross Law was approved by the Indonesian Parliament on 11 December 2017, after a long journey of 13 years of work. The Red Cross Law is now regulated by Law No. 1, 2018 which will reinforce the role of the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) as an auxiliary to the Government of Indonesia. The Board Member of PMI at National Headquarter, Rapiuddin Hamarung, stated that this Red Cross Law is a form of protection and regulation for PMI, as a National Society, to carry out its mandates in Indonesia. As for the next step, PMI and the Government of Indonesia will establish the government regulations throughout 2018 to set up roles and responsibilities on humanitarian action. This aims at enabling the synergies between the PMI and the government. Click [here](#) for more information.



## Lao PDR

### Lao Red Cross Conducts Advanced Training Course on E-WASH Response and Preparedness

Lao Red Cross Society (LRCS) conducted an advanced training course on Emergency Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (E-WASH) during 19-23 March with the funding support from the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS). The training aimed to improve the capacity of LRCS staff to prepare and respond to disasters in the affected areas. The training course was conducted for 15 WASH focal persons (13 male and 2 female) from five provincial Red Cross branches. Two latrines were also installed in a primary school of Baan Sri Boun Heuang, which is located in Muang Nam Bak village and about 95 kilometres from Luang Prabang Province, benefitting over 600 people. Click [here](#) for more information.



### Red Cross Supports Lao PDR on Disaster Law and Climate Change Decree

IFRC and Lao Red Cross, together with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), are supporting the Government of Lao PDR to draft a gender-sensitive Disaster Risk Management Law, in addition to their continued support to the development and passage of a Climate Change Decree.

In March 2018, IFRC, ADB, and UNDP met with representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to discuss the way forward and their roles in supporting the development of these critical legal frameworks.

Review and consultations on the Disaster Risk Management Law will get underway this year under the purview of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, with the expectation that a draft will be presented to the Lao National Assembly in early 2019. The Climate Change Decree process is ongoing and expected to be passed later this year.

## Malaysia

### Malaysian Red Crescent Conducts Health Screening and Hygiene Promotion Program



On 10 March 2018, Malaysian Red Crescent conducted a health inspection session and hygiene promotion at Bukit Tadok of Terengganu State, a program supported by Terengganu's Health Department. As many as 150 villagers have joined this program that aims to increase the awareness of the villagers pertaining to health and hygiene by educating them about hand washing, safe food, clean water, and vector control. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Philippines

### Philippine Red Cross Assists Over 8,000 in Annual Holy Week



The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) assisted 8,844 individuals in its annual *Holy Week Safety Assistance* program, among which were people who needed ambulance transport due to drowning and seizures.

To ensure the well-being of individuals during the long weekend, PRC set up over 200 first aid and welfare stations, mobilized 75 ambulances, and deployed some 1,500 staff and volunteers in public areas nationwide from 26 March to 1 April. PRC also provided welfare services, including psychosocial support, tracing and referral to some 430 individuals, as well as monitored the blood pressure count of 7,890 patients. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Singapore

### Singapore Red Cross Youth Leaders Launch Series of Community Fiestas To Spread First Aid Awareness

As part of its ongoing efforts to demonstrate the importance of first aid in building community resilience, the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) debuted its First Aid Fiesta at the Ang Mo Kio Central Stage on 10 March, spearheaded by members of Red Cross Youth (RCY). This event is the first in a series of such outreach Fiestas slated to take place across the five-community development council (CDC) districts throughout the year. The Fiesta aimed to engage secondary school students and residents of central CDC on the importance of first aid skills, and urge them to be better equipped and prepared for emergencies, at home, in schools, or within the community.



At the event, Mr Amrin Amin, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs & Health, unveiled the GO Bag, a specially-curated emergency preparedness kit launched by RCY. Also known as grab bag or ready bag, these portable kits are meant to help families to be better prepared during emergencies. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Thailand

### Thai Red Cross Conducts NDRT on Water, Sanitation, Public Health in Emergency



Funded by USAID and technically supported by IFRC, Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) conducted the third (final) NDRT training during 12-16 March with the focus on Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) and Public Health in Emergency (PHiE). The objective of this training was to build the capacity of TRCS Headquarter and provincial staffs (Health stations), who had already been trained as NDRTs in the last two introduction courses, in assessment, planning, implementation, and coordination of WATSAN and PHiE interventions. By the end of training, participants were able to develop assessment need analysis and Emergency Plan of Action-EPOA (followed IFRC's template) based on scenario and information provided by sectoral coaching. Total 34 participants (F 25, M9) attended this training. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Thai Red Cross Supports Community-led HIV Clinic for High-Risk People in Chiang Rai

On 30 March, health officials and a local community-based organization, MPlus Foundation, opened the first clinic where services designed for men who have sex with men, transgender women, and female sex workers will be made available in Thailand's northern Chiang Rai Province. The Thai Red Cross has rendered its support in building capacity of the personnel of the clinic at all levels, as well as technical support for its strategic planning. The clinic provides access to high-quality and friendly HIV services, provides rapid HIV testing, as well as HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) -- a combination of HIV drugs which, if taken daily, can substantially reduce the risk of HIV infection. Click [here](#) for more information.

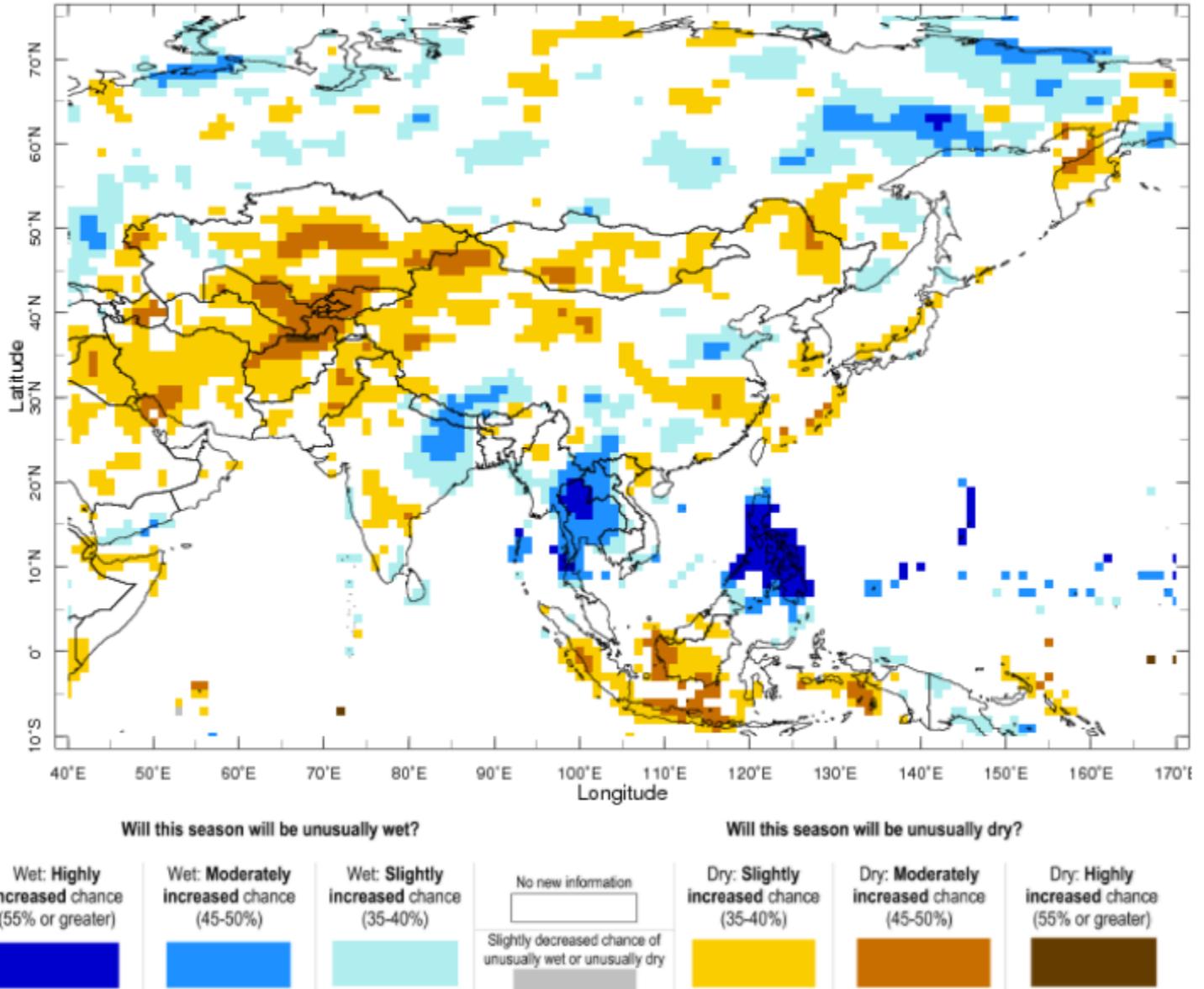


## Seasonal Forecast

April - June 2018

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

Forecast for Apr-Jun 2018, Forecast Issued Mar 2018



Meteorological agency in the respective Southeast Asian countries:

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

As expected, the ongoing La Niña is weakening. We expect a full transition to Neutral conditions during this March-May season. During the April-June season there is an enhanced chance of above-normal rainfall in the Philippines, parts of southeast Asia, and some countries in East Africa (see map for details). Below-normal rainfall is moderately likely in parts of southern South America, western U.S., northeastern Brazil, central Asia, and Indonesia. For countries that have a rainy season between April and June, please check the forecast map to see if it is likely the rainy season will likely be wetter or drier than usual. If you would like further guidance on how to interpret this forecast, please contact the IFRC Helpdesk at [ifrc@iri.columbia.edu](mailto: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.

## Upcoming Events

Upcoming events for April to June 2018			
April	10-11 Apr	Southeast Asia National Societies Leadership Meeting	Melaka, Malaysia
	23-27 Apr	IFRC DCPRR Extended Meeting and AP NSs DRM Reference Group Meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	24-25 Apr	UNISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) Meeting	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
	29 Apr – 4 May	ASEAN Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination	Bangkok, Thailand
	30 Apr – 1 May	OHCHR and UNESCAP: Expert Meeting on Minorities and statelessness	Bangkok, Thailand
May	2 May	Roundtable on Regional Protection (by Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network)	Bangkok, Thailand
	2-3 May	ASEAN Consultation Meeting: Research Results of Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Before, During, and After Disaster in Indonesia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines	Jakarta, Indonesia
	11-16 May	74 <sup>th</sup> Session of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Bangkok, Thailand
	TBC	Typhoon Damrey Operation Lessons Learned Workshop	Hanoi, Vietnam
	TBC	Viet Nam Red Cross holds a Pre-Disaster Meeting in Hanoi	Hanoi, Vietnam
June	18-19 Jun	Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN) Annual General Meeting	Bangkok, Thailand
	20-21 Jun	Cross-regional conference on Labour Migration (Asia Pacific-Middle East)	Bangkok, Thailand

## New Publications



### Case Study: Regular Feedback and Dialogue Empowers Community and Closes the Feedback Loop

This case study highlights an example of effective communication and information management which took place during the Tropical Storm Melor response operation in the Philippines in December 2015. An assessment found that the use of social media to engage with the communities and to share information with the Philippine Red Cross teams and responders helped ensure the communities' access to assistance and safety. Click [here](#) to download.

