

Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – December 2018



Immediately after the tsunami hit the areas on both sides of Sunda Strait, Indonesia, one hundred and seventeen Red Cross volunteers began giving life-saving first aid and evacuating injured survivors, conducting search and rescue, distributing emergency items including water, blankets and tarpaulins and undertaking rapid assessment of people's needs. [Photo and story](#) by IFRC.

Welcome to our December 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>.

Highlight Updates from National Societies

Cambodia

Cambodian Red Cross Gives Factory Workers in Preah Sihanouk First Aid Training



Photo credit: Cambodian Red Cross

During 24-25 December 2018, Cambodian Red Cross Preah Sihanouk provincial branch conducted a first aid training for factory workers to provide basic knowledge of emergency assistance which will be useful for workers in the event of accidents both at the factory and in public places. There were in total 24 workers (21 female) attending. They are expected to disseminate the knowledge to their community. Click [here](#) to view more images from the training.

Cambodian Red Cross Launches Road Safety Training for Youth in Phnom Penh



Photo credit: Cambodian Red Cross

On 25 December 2018, Phnom Penh provincial branch launched the road safety awareness training course catered to youth counselors and Red Cross Youth. A total of 155 youths participated in the course which aimed to provide knowledge and educate about the traffic laws, the current road accident situation, various factors that contribute to traffic accidents especially drunk driving, and safety measures for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers of motor vehicles. Click [here](#) to view more images from the training.

Indonesia

PMI Continues To Help People Affected by Tsunami in Banten, Lampung



Photo credit: Palang Merah Indonesia

On 22 December 2018, a tsunami that followed an eruption and partial collapse of the Anak Krakatau volcano in the Sunda Strait struck several coastal regions of Banten in Java and Lampung in Sumatra, Indonesia. Towards the end of December, the Palang Merah Indonesia (Indonesian Red Cross) continued to provide support to the tsunami victims in addition to its search, rescue and evacuation operation. PMI also provided health and water services through its mobile clinic and distribution of as much as 15 thousand liters of water in Panimbang Region. Public kitchen post and child psychosocial support were also being provided. Click [here](#) to read full story.

Lao PDR

Lao Red Cross Visits Central Lao Provinces To Disseminate Red Cross Law



Photo credit: Lao Red Cross

On 4 December 2018, Lao Red Cross (LRC) President Khamhoung Heuangvongsy chaired a meeting with representatives (Red Cross, Authorities) from seven central provinces to disseminate information about the Red Cross Law which came into effect in March 2018. Mr. Khamhoung shared with the meeting that the new law will help to enhance effectiveness of LRC operation and to allow for a more systematic coordination with relevant agencies. The new law will also facilitate the development of LRC's capacity and its readiness in the areas of health services, first aid, rescue, blood donation, etc. which will enable LRC to engage in regional level disaster response with other ASEAN nations. Source: Lao Red Cross [Facebook page](#).

Lao Red Cross Distributes Dignity Kits to Flood Survivors in Attapeu



Photo credit: Lao Red Cross

Lao Red Cross (LRC) conducted focus group discussions in October 2018 with female members of communities that have been affected by the flash floods in Attapeu Province. The discussions enabled LRC to identify personal hygiene items deemed necessary to be included in the “dignity kit” which they distributed during 23-31 December 2018 to the communities in five villages (814 households). This is part of LRC's effort to uphold the Minimum Standard Commitment to protection, gender and inclusion in the recovery operation. The dignity kits, which include torchlights, will help provide female members with necessary items to help them maintain personal hygiene, while torchlights will enhance their safety when accessing hygiene facilities after sundown.

Philippines

Philippine Red Cross Assists Communities Hit by Tropical Depression Usman



Photo credit: Philippine Red Cross

On 31 December 2018, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC)'s staff and volunteer continued its response operation in areas ravaged by Tropical Depression Usman which made landfall on 29 December, from providing relief to clearing the grounds. Data from the PRC Operations Center showed that a total of 10,825 individuals were still in 72 evacuation centers in Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Sorsogon, Northern Samar, and Western Samar. A day earlier, the National Headquarters deployed a 10,000-liter water tanker to provide clean and safe water to affected communities. A 10-wheeler truck, with a load of 300 sets of hygiene kits and 300 water containers with a capacity of 20 liters each, was also dispatched to the affected areas. Click [here](#) to read the full story.

Philippine Red Cross Distributes Cash Assistance to Mangkhut Survivors



Photo credit: Philippine Red Cross

On 12 December 2018, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) distributed multipurpose cash assistance to 343 affected individuals in 17 Barangays in Banaue and two Barangays in Mayoyao in Ifugao Province. This project is supported by the Spanish Red Cross, the PRC's partner in response to the recovery program for affected families of Typhoon Mangkhut (locally called Ompong). Cash-based interventions allow people to meet basic needs and restart their livelihood in a way that maintains dignity, freedom and respect. This enables beneficiaries to spend as they choose, addressing the needs they deem most urgent. Source: PRC [Facebook page](#).

Singapore

Singapore Red Cross Holds First 'Humanitarian Education Xperience'



Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross

The Singapore Red Cross Academy organized its inaugural Humanitarian Education Xperience (HEX) on 8 December, where participants experienced the life of a refugee for a day, to understand the crisis in a different light. Via a series of activities, families roleplayed as refugees seeking to obtain citizenship in another country. The event took place in conjunction with the International Volunteer Day. Participant of HEX 2018 with a greater understanding and appreciation of humanitarian values. Click [here](#) to see more images from the event.

Thailand

Thai Red Cross Society Offers Training on Community-Based Disaster Risk Management to Community Leaders in Ubon Ratchathani



Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society

During 3-4 December 2018, representatives from the Thai Red Cross Health Station in Ubon Ratchathani Province contributed to the provincial community-based disaster risk management training to enhance community capacity in disaster prevention and mitigation in Ubon Ratchathani Province. There were 60 participants who are community leaders from flood-prone areas. The meeting was hosted by provincial authority on disaster prevention and mitigation. Click [here](#) to see more image from the training.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam Red Cross Society Organizes Safe Shelter Training



Photo credit: Viet Nam Red Cross Society

During 24-26 December 2018, the Vietnam Red Cross Society (VNRC) organized a training workshop on participatory approach for safe shelter awareness (PASSA) for 25 staff of commune, district and provincial Red Cross and representatives of commune People's Committee leaders in the project area of Nghe An and Thanh Hoa Provinces. The training aims to equip participants with safe housing knowledge and skills which will help them support the community in setting up PASSA groups and guiding the community to better understand the vulnerability related to safe, unsafe shelter in order to have a safer community before, during and after disasters. Click [here](#) to read the full story.

Viet Nam Red Cross Society Conducts Training on Disease Control



Photo credit: Viet Nam Red Cross Society

During 10-14 December 2018, the Viet Nam Red Cross Society (VNRC) conducted a training on disease control for health staff from 11 provinces and cities, namely, An Giang, Bac Lieu, Ben Tre, Ca Mau, Can Tho, Soc Trang, Tien Giang, Ho Chi Minh City, Tra Vinh, Quang Tri and Hoa Binh. These are the provinces with high cases of diseases every year such as dengue fever, hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD), and malaria. Trainees were provided with updated information on the situation of some common communicable diseases in Viet Nam, factors affecting diseases, principles of disease control, stages paragraphs in communicable disease control, participatory training skills and methods. Click [here](#) for more information.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming events for January to February 2019			
January	11-18	Cash distribution for flash floods affected population in Attapeu (Emergency Appeal)	Attapeu, Lao PDR
	11-14	Philippine Red Cross's SGBV Writeshop	Manila, Philippines
	16	Attapeu Flash Floods Operation Coordination Meeting	Vientiane, Laos
	24	Presentation by the IFRC Regional Director on Humanitarian Challenges in Asia Pacific and Plans to Address them in 2019 and beyond	Bangkok, Thailand
February	14- 15	Emergency WASH Lessons Learned Workshop	Vientiane, Laos
	24-25	Humanitarian Diplomacy Workshop	Bangkok, Thailand
	26-27	Joint Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation (VNRBD) Workshop for Asia and Middle East and Northern Africa Regions	Bangkok, Thailand

Featured Story

Stories From Indonesian Tsunami Survivors



Photo credit: IFRC

When the Anak Krakatoa volcano erupted on 22 December, it triggered a landslide which resulted in a tsunami that left 430 dead, 1,500 injured and 150 missing. It also damaged hundreds of buildings, vehicles and boats, and left parts of the coastline on both sides of Sunda strait, which separates the islands of Java and Sumatra, littered with debris. Click [here](#) to read the stories from the survivors.

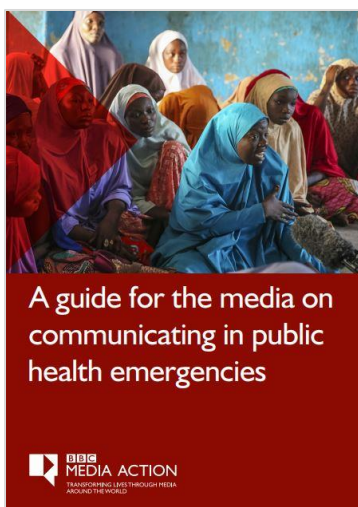
Featured Video

Singapore Red Cross Volunteers Go on Humanitarian Mission to Davao, Philippines



During the year-end break in December 2018, nine Singapore Red Cross Youth Volunteer Instructors (VI) embarked on a learning journey cum overseas humanitarian project to GK Lil Baguio, Davao, The Philippines. The shelter comprises 132 houses, of which 50 were contributed by Singapore Red Cross. Throughout the 8-days trip, the VIs were exposed to many different experiences - from home stays at the villagers' houses and door-to-door Christmas caroling, to conducting basic first aid training for housewives and teaching children about hygiene. Click [here](#) to view the video.

New Publications



A Guide for the Media on Communicating in Public Health Emergencies

A public health crisis or emergency is characterised by its ability to cause ill health and death among hundreds, thousands or sometimes millions of people. In a health crisis, the media has the power to save lives. Effective communication can help to prevent or reduce the spread of disease, and guide those affected towards health services and treatment.

This manual provides tips for media practitioners on how to help audiences during health emergencies. Click [here](#) to download.



Public Awareness and Public Education for Disaster Risk Reduction: Action-Oriented Key Messages for Households and Schools

(Second Edition – Updated and Revised)

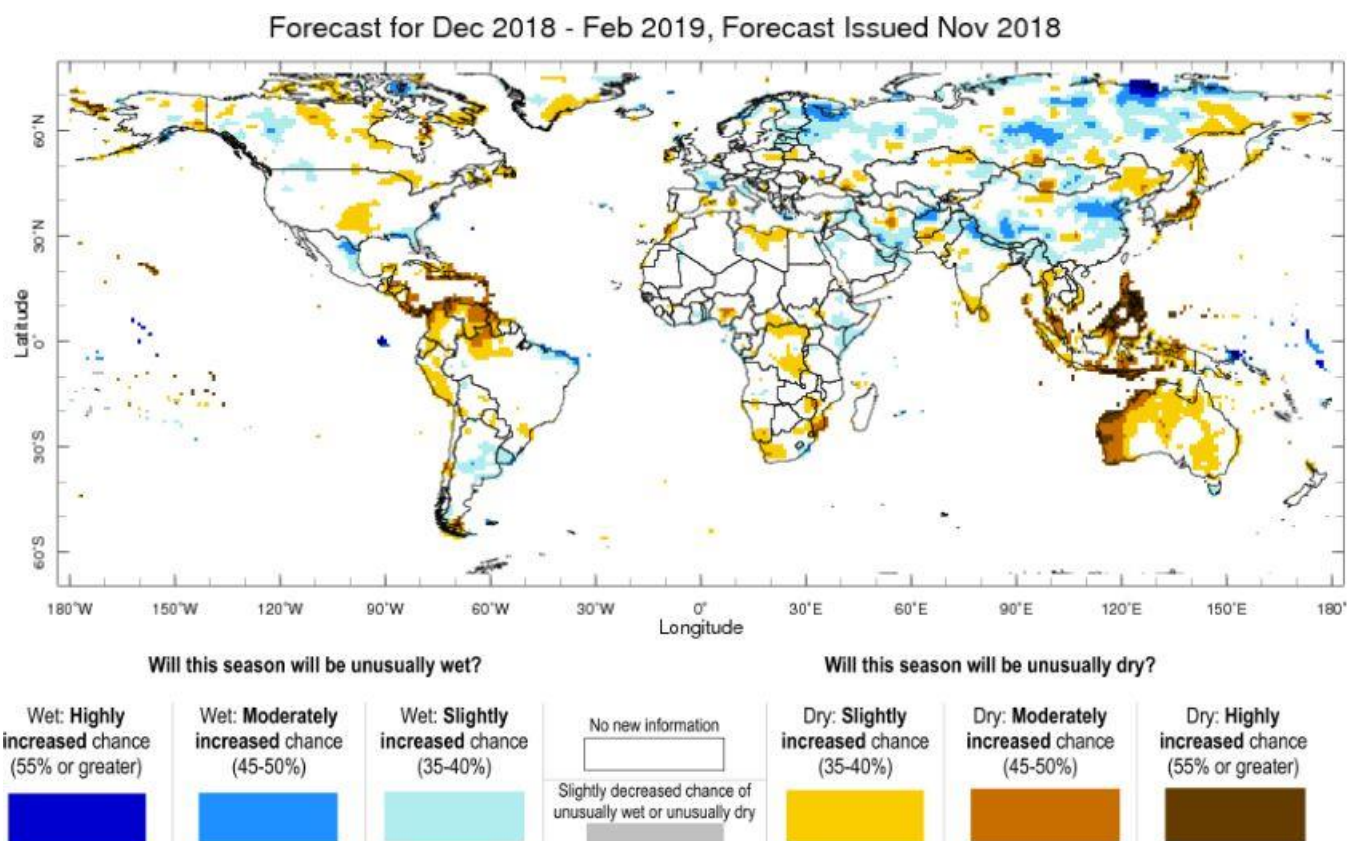
This updated publication provides practical advice and guidance on the nature of messages and information to share with the public, for use by all institutions with a responsibility for improving the safety of communities at risk and to mitigate the impact of shocks, hazards and disasters. Governments, nongovernmental organizations, the United Nations and others can all use this guidance for national adaptation and to help prepare households. Active, consistent and clear messaging is vital to create a culture of safety and common understanding. Click [here](#) to download.

Public awareness and public education for disaster risk reduction:
Action-oriented key messages
for households and schools

Seasonal Forecast

December 2018 – February 2019

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



In November, conditions in the Pacific Ocean are nearing those of El Niño. If ocean temperatures continue to stay above the level set by scientists to define an El Niño event, an El Niño will be officially declared in the coming months. Regardless of whether an El Niño is officially declared, the seasonal forecast for the December - February season already points to some of the typical El Niño-like climate impacts. These include unusually dry conditions in southeast Asia, the Philippines, Indonesia and nearby countries, as well as unusually dry conditions in central America and northern parts of South America. Please note the areas on the map that are dark blue, and dark brown, as those represent the areas where we have the highest confidence in the forecast prediction for wetter or drier than usual conditions. In these areas, it may be useful to review contingency plans related to El Niño conditions, and begin regularly monitoring rainfall predictions. 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](#)