

Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – **March 2019**



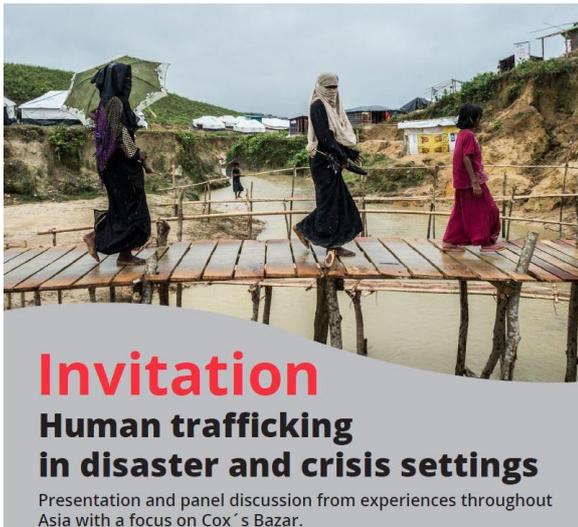
During 15-25 March 2019, Lao Red Cross (LRC) Headquarters and Attapeu provincial branch carried out series of assessments on the existing needs of the affected communities in 12 villages of Attapeu Province. Results of the assessment will determine the interventions to be carried out during the recovery phase of the Emergency Appeal Operation which aims to assist people affected by the flash floods that took place in July 2018.

Welcome to our March 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:

IFRC Hosts Presentation, Discussion on Human Trafficking in Disaster, Crisis Settings



On the 22 March 2019, IFRC co-hosted a half-day seminar together with the UN Development Programme and UN Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Person, titled “*Human Trafficking in Disaster and Crisis Settings: experiences throughout Asia with a focus on Cox’s Bazar.*” The objective of the event includes a) to showcase the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office’s thematic engagement; b) to gain momentum and interest in the British Red Cross led assessment study in Cox’s Bazar and thus also show the strength of the Movement; and c) to enhance IFRC’s profile and visibility in Bangkok. The seminar was designed to start with a “helicopter perspective” of the global anti-trafficking policies and structures in the international community and then bring the focus to the specific situation in Cox’s Bazar. Click [here](#) to read the full report.

Southeast Asian National Societies Join Discussion on Improving School Safety



Photo by IFRC

IFRC joined the ASEAN Safe School Initiative (ASSI)’s consortium in organizing the third ASSI Regional Conference during 3-4 April 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference focused on the assessment of the region’s progress in school safety work and outlining the ASEAN regional perspectives, approaches, and strategies on school safety post-[AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020](#) and ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016-2020. Representatives from 11 Southeast Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies and IFRC Asia Pacific Office took part in the conference and demonstrated the example of how multi-stakeholder partnership can help to scale up and strengthen the impact of the school safety work in respective countries. Click [here](#) to read more about the event.

Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies Celebrate International Women's Day Celebration



Photo credit: IFRC

Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies celebrated the International Women's Day on 8 March 2019, expressing commitment to work together to adopt measures which improve gender parity in their workforce. The Movement [Gender Balance Toolkit](#) for National Societies is a guide to assist Red Cross and Red Crescent to set and achieve their targets.

Highlight Updates from National Societies

Cambodia

Kandal Red Cross Youth Carry Out Road Safety Activities



Photo credit: Cambodian Red Cross

Cambodian Red Cross Youth from two high school in Kandal Province carried out road safety activity by managing and ensuring traffic rules compliance during the morning traffic of 17 March 2019. The purpose of the activity was to provide general public the understanding of the Cambodian traffic laws and to reduce the number of accidents caused by driving. Source: Cambodian Red Cross [Facebook page](#).

Indonesia

Indonesian Red Cross Mobilizes Volunteers To Educate Public on Dengue Preparedness, Prevention



Photo credit: Indonesian Red Cross

In preparation for the impact of the spread of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF), the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) continues to make efforts to prevent and eradicate mosquito breeding by mobilizing volunteers in each region to educate the public on preparedness and response to the spread of dengue. PMI volunteers conduct health promotion activities on dengue prevention through hygiene promotion, eradication of mosquito breeding sites and installation of mosquito nets. Click [here](#) to read the full story.

Lao PDR

Lao Red Cross Conducts Needs Assessment, Reviews Effectiveness of Attapeu Flash Flood Emergency Operation



Photo credit: Lao Red Cross

During 14-25 March, Lao Red Cross (LRC) Headquarters and Attapeu provincial branch carried out [series of assessments](#) on the existing needs of the affected communities in 12 villages of Attapeu Province. The assessment led to the identification of 321 households in 10 villages that will be provided with shelter assistance (latrine construction or repairment) during the recovery phase of the operation. In addition, LRC also conducted a [lesson learned workshop](#) to review the effectiveness of their emergency response during the first six months after the flash floods occurred in July 2018.

Lao Red Cross Conducts Protection, Gender and Inclusion Training for Headquarter Staff



Photo credit: Lao Red Cross

Lao Red Cross (LRC) conducted a training on Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) for its staff at the headquarters on 29 March 2019. The objective of the training includes disseminating information about PGI and violence against women to LRC staff and sharing and discussing the ways forward to integrating PGI to all sectors of LRC operation. The training was participated by 20 staff from various departments of LRC (disaster management, health, etc.) and co-facilitated by representative from the National Commission for the Advancement of Women (NCAW).

Lao Red Cross Youth Participate in Youth Empowerment in Community Training



Photo credit: Lao Red Cross

Nineteen Lao Red Cross (LRC) Youth from Xiangkhouang branch participated in the Youth Empowerment in Community (YEC) training during 15-20 March 2019. They are representatives of two high schools and a college in the Xiangkhouang Province. The purpose of the YEC training is to address the issues of communities and inspire youth positive change through innovative solutions, knowledge and practices in the field, and providing fresh perspective about the community challenges. The six-day training consisted of theory and practice on Youth as Agents of Behavioral Change and field activity/exercises in five communities and one college.

Philippines

Philippine Red Cross Distributes Clean Water to Provinces Hit by Dry Spell



Photo credit: Philippine Red Cross

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) is providing clean water to eight provinces, including Metro Manila, which have been affected by a dry spell causing shortage of clean and safe water. Water tanks, water bladders, filtration systems, and technical personnel have been requested by the provinces to help address the water shortage in the areas. Since 12 March, PRC has distributed 1,217,475 liters of water in hospitals and communities. The number of water tankers deployed has also doubled from six to 12. Click [here](#) to read the full story.

Philippine Red Cross Promotes Road Safety for Children on Televised Program



Photo credit: Philippine Red Cross

Rhea Munsayac of Philippine Red Cross (PRC) talked about the use of child car seats in a televised program titled “Pambansang Almusal” and introduced audience to the newly passed “Child Safety in Motor Vehicle Act” which requires car owners, with children that are newborn to 12 years old, to use a child restraint system in vehicles. The law aims “to guarantee the safety and welfare of infants and children and prevent traffic-related deaths and injuries. It cites the need to adequately, consistently and objectively require, regulate, promote and inform the public on the use of child restraint systems in motor vehicles.” Source: [PRC Facebook Page](#).

Survivors of Tropical Depression Usman Receive Cash Assistance



Photo credit: Philippine Red Cross

Survivors of Tropical Depression Usman, which hit the Philippines in late December 2018, were distributed multipurpose cash assistance by the Philippine Red Cross at a distribution site in Camarines Sur on 19 March 2019. Over 900 identified affected people from various barangays were given PHP 3,500 (or CHF 68) each, which help them acquire basic necessities with freedom and dignity. PRC Youth were mobilized to support the distribution. During the height of Usman, PRC was on the ground to provide assistance, relief, search and rescue, water and welfare assistance to affected communities in Camarines Sur.

Singapore

Singapore Red Cross launches Day Activity Centre for Person With Disabilities



Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross

Singapore Red Cross (SRC) opened a Day Activity Centre (DAC) for persons aged 16 and above with physical, neuro-muscular, intellectual or multiple disabilities on 9 April. Equipped with advanced therapy tools and a mechanical hoist system, the DAC offers a holistic programme designed to engage persons with disabilities in daily and community living skills, in turn, to maximize their independence. Over and above the specialized services run by qualified occupational therapists, clients can also enjoy regular recreational activities, such as art and craft, meal preparation, baking and gardening. The DAC offers full-day and half-day daycare options. Read the full story by SRC [here](#).

Thailand

Thai Red Cross Launches Mobile Application for Requesting Assistance, Reporting Disasters

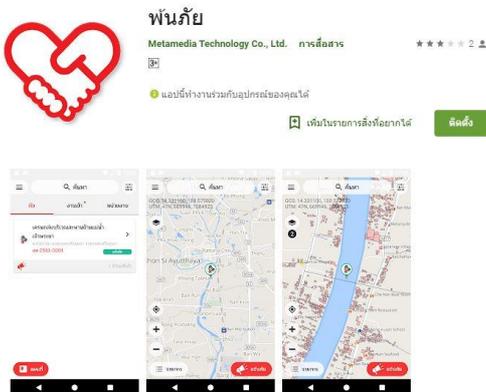


Image of the Phon Phai application interface

Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) has [officially launched](#) its “Phon Phai” (“*Safe From Harm*” in Thai translation) mobile application on 1 April 2019. The application allows users to report on disasters and request for emergency assistance from local disaster management agencies including TRCS. The request sent through the application will be sent to the closest local authority before being streamlined to the higher-up authorities and/or other disaster management agencies for resource mobilization and deployment, depending on the level of intensity of the emergency. The application was developed with the contribution from IFRC, Thailand’ Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, and other partners from both public and private sectors that provides technical and logistic supports. Click [here](#) to download.

Thai Red Cross Sends Mobile Water Filtration Machines To Curb Water Shortage in North, Northeastern Thailand



Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society

North and northeastern provinces of Thailand are currently experiencing a long bout of drought and shortage of water for drinking and farming. Thai Red Cross Society has deployed its personnel and mobile water filtration machines to the affected areas to provide clean water since 28 March. As of 1 April, 132,475 litres of water have been distributed to assist 7,502 people.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam Red Cross Conducts Training on Cash, Data Management



Photo credit: Viet Nam Red Cross Society

Viet Nam Red Cross Society (VNRC) has been implementing a cash preparedness project since 2018, paving way for the use of cash grant as an alternative for delivery of emergency assistance. In scaling up the implementation, a five-day workshop was organized to build the capacity of VNRC staff to understand and apply mobile data collection and management tools during the emergency responses. The training also attempted to link mobile data collection systems to beneficiary registration and monitoring. At the training, the participants learned how to efficiently collect and manage beneficiary data in order to increase the speed and effectiveness of the assistance delivery. Click [here](#) to read the full story.

Viet Nam Red Cross Awarded ASEAN School Safety Champion



Photo credit: Viet Nam Red Cross Society

Viet Nam Red Cross Society (VNRC) was among the ASEAN Safe School Champions, awarded for its work with schools, local communities, national education agency, and children to promote a culture of risk reduction and safety within schools and broader communities. VNRC's school safety implementations include: awareness raising activities for teachers, students, and parents; establishing disaster management board in schools, conducting school safety assessment; developing school safety action plan; and implementation of the action plan which include swimming lessons to prevent drowning, one of the biggest cause of death among children in Viet Nam. Click [here](#) for more details on the activities.

Featured Story

Indonesia: Six months after Sulawesi triple disaster, survivors face slow and complex recovery



Photo credit: IFRC

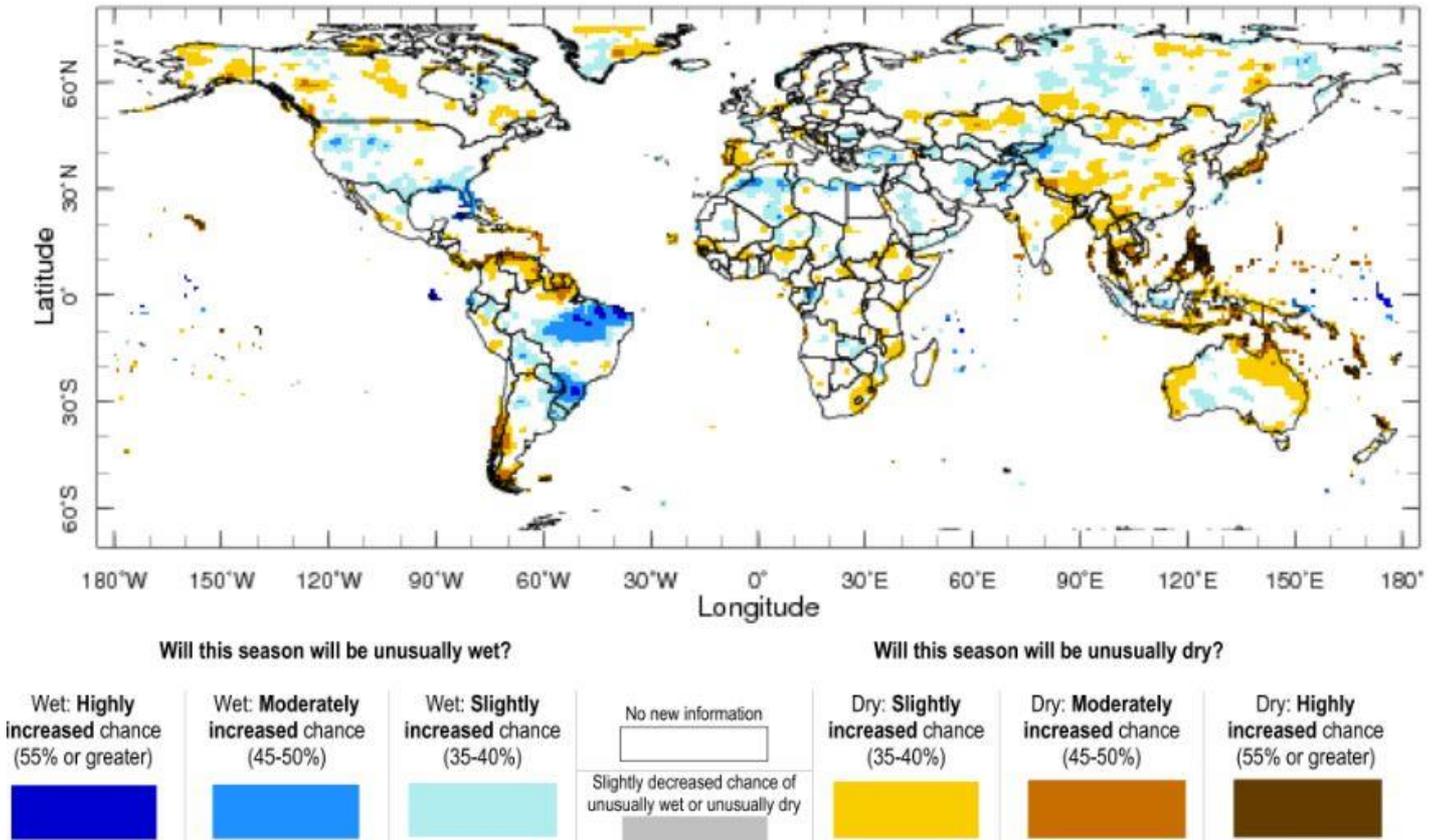
Six months after Sulawesi was hit by a powerful and shallow earthquake, tsunami and liquefaction, survivors face a painfully slow and complex recovery. With the emergency phase now over, the long, complex recovery and rebuilding process has only just begun. As of 12 February, 173,000 people were still homeless, many uncertain where they will be able to rebuild because their land has been swallowed by liquefaction or is at risk of future tsunamis. Click [here](#) to read the full story by IFRC.

Seasonal Forecast

April-June 2019

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

Forecast for Apr-Jun 2019, Forecast Issued Mar 2019



In March, the El Niño conditions which were declared by the US weather agency, NOAA, last month continue and are forecast to stay in place through the northern hemisphere Spring. We are approaching a time that is known as the "spring predictability barrier" during which our ability to predict whether an El Niño event will continue is low. Because of this, there is high uncertainty on whether this event will continue past the northern Hemisphere spring or if it will end in the next three months. It is important to note that we don't suddenly start to see impacts once an El Niño declaration is made, and that the impacts are seasonal, so El Niño does not affect every region during every season. In addition, every El Niño event is different so impacts may not be the same as in previous years. It is important to look at the seasonal forecast for areas where there is a highly confident forecast for potential changes to rainfall (the dark blue and dark brown areas of the map) for the best information on potential impacts. The seasonal forecast for the April - June season points to unusually dry conditions in parts of Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia and nearby countries, as well as unusually dry conditions in central America and parts of South America. Please see the map for details and reach out to the IFRC Helpdesk at ifrc@iri.columbia.edu if you would like further guidance on how to interpret this forecast.

Meteorological agency in the respective Southeast Asian countries:

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

Upcoming Events

Upcoming events for April – June 2019			
April	2-4	3 rd ASEAN Regional Conference on School Safety	Bangkok, Thailand
	10-12	RDRT Training of Trainers	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	23-26	Asia Pacific Emergency WASH Guideline for Hygiene Promotion Training	Bandung, Indonesia
	30 – 2 May	Pacific Resilience Meeting	Suva, Fiji
	29 -1 May	Asia Pacific Gender and Diversity Network Meeting and Training	Suva, Fiji
May	13	WhatNow Service Workshop	Geneva, Switzerland
	14	IFRC Disaster Risk Reduction/Climate Change Adaptation	Geneva, Switzerland
	15-17	UNISDR's Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction	Geneva, Switzerland
	27-31	Regional Protection, Gender and Inclusion Surge Training	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
June	24-28	Asia Pacific Region Emergency WASH Training	Bandung, Indonesia
	TBC	Proposal Writing Training (Red Ready Programme)	Lao PDR
	TBC	Warehouse Management Training (Red Ready Programme)	Lao PDR