

Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – **September 2019**



In September 2019, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam bore the brunt of several tropical storms that caused severe flooding in numerous provinces of the countries. Red Cross National Societies immediately delivered assistance, water and necessary items in the affected areas.

Welcome to our September 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

Cambodian Red Cross Provides Aid to Flood Affected Communities



Photo credit: Cambodian Red Cross

The seasonal flooding took place in Cambodia from May until October causing flash floods, overflow of the Mekong River, and inundation from heavy rainfall. Seven provinces were severely affected by the floods. The Cambodian Red Cross at the National Head Quarter level and in each respective Red Cross Branch assisted the affected people through providing relief items (food /non-food items; clean water; and cash), evacuating people to safe areas, providing key message on health/hygiene/sanitation awareness through Red Cross staff/volunteers/Youth/management team and committee members at all levels. During and after the flood, Red Cross branches supported the affected communities through providing health care promotion awareness that are integrated in existing projects of each branch.

Hundred Cambodian Red Cross Youth Campaigned for Road Safety in Phnom Penh



Photo credit: Cambodian Red Cross

On 21 September, 100 Cambodian Red Cross Youth (RCY) and seven RCY Advisors joined the road safety awareness campaign in five major intersections in Phnom Penh city. In each area, some youth helped to manage the traffic using stop flags, while some held banners with traffic safety-related message that aimed at raising awareness about how to stay safe on the road. The message includes basic traffic law, how to stay alert and avoid accidents, as well as road etiquette. According to the National Road Safety Committee's data, in the first six months of 2019, there were 2,171 road accidents (increased by 538 times or by 33% compared to the same period in 2018), 1,033 deaths and 3,225 cases of injury.

Indonesia

Indonesian Red Cross Trains Volunteers in Water, Sanitation, Hygiene



Photo credit: Palang Merah Indonesia

Dozens of volunteers of the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) whose areas had received assistance in the area of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) were given training in WASH-related emergency response. The volunteers were given the opportunity to take part in real operations such as the West Nusa Tenggara earthquake, the Central Sulawesi earthquake, tsunami and liquefaction, and the Sunda Strait tsunami which occur in sequence. The purpose of the training is to enhance human resource capacity of PMI in disaster response operations and to form a pool of coordinators that can be deployed as WASH coordinators. Click [here](#) to read the full story by PMI.

Lao PDR

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund Released To Support Lao Red Cross Floods Operation



Photo credit: Lao Red Cross

Hit by two tropical storms Podul and Kajiki in late August and early September, southern provinces of Lao PDR were inundated by flood waters including the areas severely affected by the flash floods in 2018 caused by the collapse of a hydropower dam. In this connection, IFRC released a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund-DREF (details [here](#)) to support Lao Red Cross in its relief operation that aims at assisting 2,500 households to meet immediate humanitarian needs such as restoring livelihoods, raising awareness about health and epidemic control, as well as providing clean water.

Lao Red Cross Trains Bolikhamxay Youth in School Safety, Violence Prevention



Photo credit: Lao Red Cross

During 23-29 September 2019, Lao Red Cross (LRC) conducted training for youth from three schools in Bolikhamxay Province with the aim to build their capacity to take part in making positive changes in their communities. The participants learned about existing challenges and communicated to their communities on how to address those challenge through dramas. During the same week, a school safety training was also given to the participating youth. The training focused on basic concept of school safety and disaster risk reduction in school. Participants were able to practice the facilitator role and develop a safety plan for their schools.

Philippines

Philippine Red Cross Gives First Aid Training to 1,100 Persons Deprived of Liberty



Photo credit: Philippine Red Cross

A total of 1,100 Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) in Manila City Jail were given free basic first aid training by the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) Safety Services volunteers and staff on 14 September 2019 in commemoration to the World First Aid Day. Aside from first aid training, PRC Welfare Services volunteers and staff provided psychosocial support to 100 PDLs' and PRC Safety Services distributed toothpaste, bath soap and bottled water. Click [here](#) to read the full story by PRC.

Philippine Red Cross Provides Support for Mass Polio Immunization



Photo credit: IFRC

Philippine Red Cross (PRC) is coordinating with the Department of Health (DOH) and local health officials and providing full support of volunteers for mass immunization with oral polio vaccine. This is in response to DOH's declaration of a polio outbreak in the country, after a 19-year absence of the said poliovirus. PRC volunteers are updating the list of all 0-5 -year old children, getting their vaccination status, and identifying the barangay with highest risk based on low vaccination coverage, presence of migrants with unknown vaccination status, and areas without toilets and limited running water. PRC is also carrying out awareness raising campaign against polio to promote early vaccination and good personal hygiene. Click [here](#) to read the full story by PRC.

Singapore

Singapore Red Cross Recognizes Veteran Volunteers at 70th Anniversary Event



Photo credit: Singapore Red Cross

The Singapore Red Cross (SRC) at its 70th Anniversary commemoration paid tribute to its pioneer volunteers, and honoured 56 individuals and 20 community partners for their contributions in time, skills and resources to further SRC's humanitarian mission. The commemorative event paid homage to the veteran volunteers who have pioneered and championed important initiatives for building social and community resilience. SRC will also launch the 70th Anniversary Commemorative Exhibition and [Heritage Microsite](#) to showcase the history of SRC and the International Red Cross Movement through the month of October in four malls across the country. Click [here](#) to read the full story by SRC.

Thailand

Thai Red Cross Assists 15 Provinces Affected by Tropical Storm Podul, Kajiki



Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society

From late August into mid-September, Thailand was hit by two tropical storms Podul and Kajiki. The storms caused flooding and landslides in 32 provinces among which four were most affected including Yasothon, Ubon Ratchathani, Roi-Et and Si Saket where the floods remain critical, with more than 17k peoples spread across 41 evacuation centres. In response, TRCS has distributed 57,058 emergency relief kits in 15 provinces and deployed mobile health teams and kitchen units to support the affected population. Four flat-bottomed boats have been operating to support search and rescue activities; and a Unimog deployed to transport people and their belongings.

Thai Red Cross Organizes Youth Camp for Thai-Lao Youth Volunteers



Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society

Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) Youth Bureau organized a youth camp for Thai and Lao Red Cross youth volunteers during 15-18 August 2019 in the border province of Nakhon Phanom. A total of 145 youths (19 from Lao PDR) participated in the 4-day capacity building youth camp. Participants were trained in first aid, elderly care, basic knowledge about the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, Seven Fundamental Principles, and use of Red Cross emblem. The curriculum also covered IFRC's "Youth in School Safety" and "Youth as Agent of Behavioural Change" that are designed to empower youth to take a leadership role in their community to create positive changes.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam Red Cross Assists Over 18,000 People Affected by Floods



Photo credit: Vietnam Red Cross

Persistent torrential rains in early August resulted in severe flooding in central, central highlands and southern part of Viet Nam that lasted over a number of days. In anticipation of the disaster, Vietnam Red Cross Society (VNRC) carried out early warnings and evacuated people from the areas. After the floods, VNRC immediately sent its team and began distributing relief items and cash grant to the affected communities. To support VNRC flood relief operation, IFRC has released the [Disaster Relief Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) that will enable VNRC to carry out a 3-month operation to assist over 18,000 people. The DREF operation will focus the assistance in the areas of shelter, cash distribution, epidemic control and prevention, and water, sanitation and hygiene. Click [here](#) to read about the flood operation.

New Resources



The Cost of Doing Nothing

In its latest report, The Cost of Doing Nothing, the IFRC presents an analysis showing that if no urgent action is taken now, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance annually due to the climate crisis could double by 2050. Similarly, financial costs could balloon to 20 billion US dollars per year. In Asia Pacific, extreme weather events triggered by climate change have led to droughts, heatwaves and violent storms. Apart from the human toll, these disasters have destroyed homes, killed livestock, and caused the loss of livelihoods.

Click [here](#) to download the report and [here](#) to find out more about the Faces of Climate Change campaign.

Upcoming Events

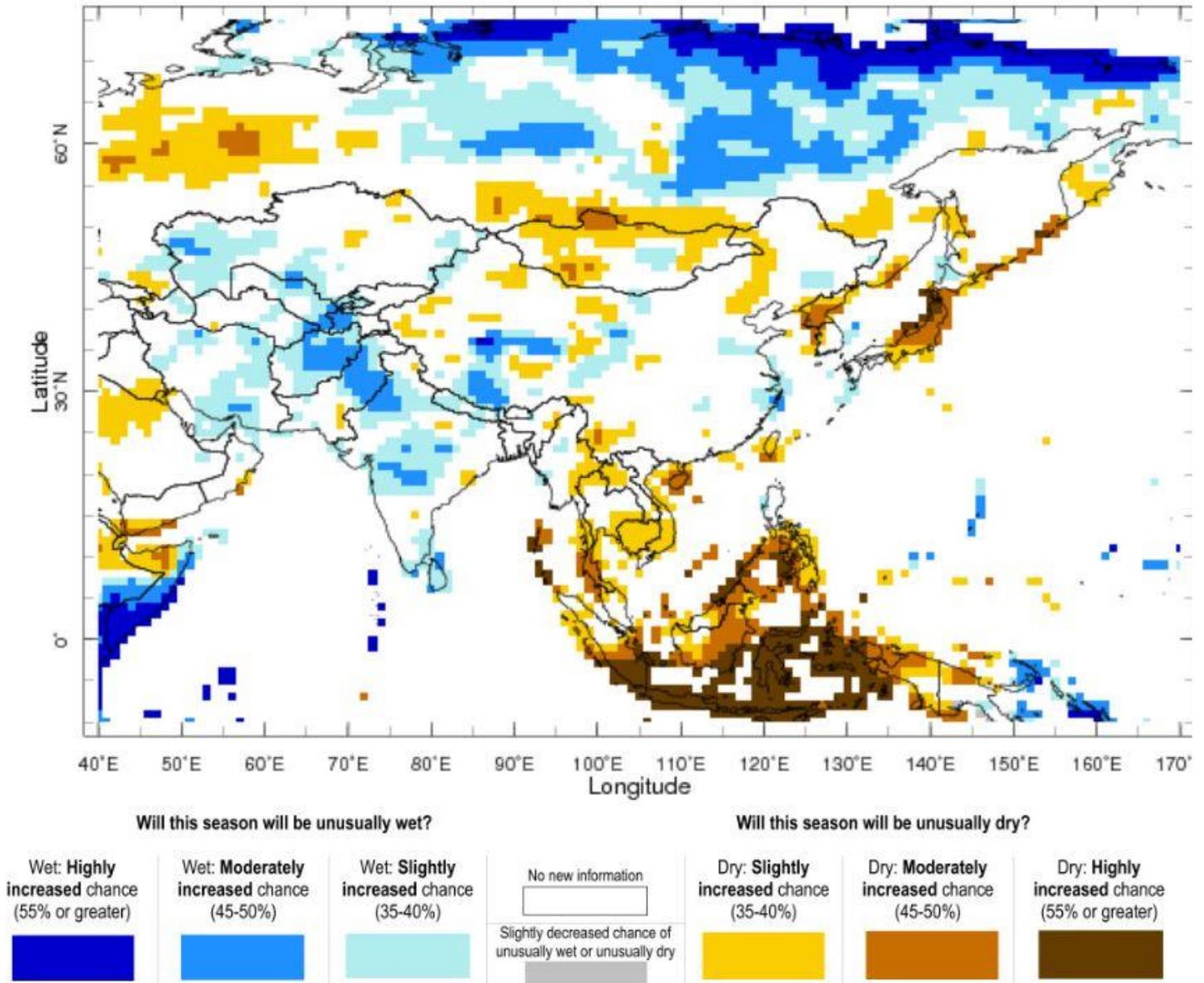
| Upcoming events for October-November 2019 | | | |
|---|--------|---|-----------------------------|
| Oct | 1-5 | Unconditional cash grant in three provinces of Viet Nam- DREF Operation | Viet Nam |
| | 10 | ADDM & IDRR Day event by Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation | Bangkok, Thailand |
| | 10-12 | VNRC Strategic Plan's Visioning Exercise | Hanoi, Viet Nam |
| | 14-20 | Asia Pacific Regional Operations Management Course | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| | 15-17 | 7th Asia Pacific Urban Forum | Penang, Malaysia |
| | 20-23 | Asia Pacific Training on Community-Based Health and First Aid | Yogyakarta, Indonesia |
| | 24-25 | Southeast Asia Leadership Meeting | Manila, Philippines |
| Nov | 6-8 | Viet Nam DREF Operation's Post distribution monitoring and Lessons Learned Workshop (TBC) | Viet Nam |
| | 11-17 | Warehouse Assessment in Viet Nam RC | Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh city |
| | 18-21 | Asia Pacific Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Workshop | Bangkok, Thailand |
| | 27- 28 | WASH Lessons Learned Workshop | Cambodia |

Seasonal Forecast

October-December 2019

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

Forecast for Oct-Dec 2019, Forecast Issued Sep 2019



Meteorological agency in the respective Southeast Asian countries:

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