

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – August 2020



More than 150 youth volunteers from the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) helped raise awareness on COVID-19 in two communities of Phayathai district, Bangkok, on 22nd and 29th August 2020, by encouraging people to wear a face mask, guiding them on the correct method of cleaning their hands and doing an outdoor activity about COVID-19 prevention. Picture courtesy: TRCS

Welcome to our newsletter providing updates of Southeast Asia for August 2020. All photos used in this publication are from the respective Red Cross Red Crescent National Society or IFRC unless mentioned otherwise. In addition to these monthly updates, you can find Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent's resources, tools, events and updates at the Resilience Library at <http://www.rcrc-resiliencesoutheastasia.org>.

Updates from National Societies

Viet Nam: Humanitarian Markets help those in need



"Humanitarian Markets" are an innovative solution being implemented by the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) across 63 provinces of Viet Nam, to provide food and other essentials for those in difficult circumstances due to COVID-19 or natural disasters. They are provided with vouchers that can be exchanged at the markets for subsidized items from enterprises, donations from organizations and individuals. Farmers affected by COVID-19 also sell their produce at these markets. These markets are a collaboration between many organizations and individuals, community volunteer groups and is held at convenient locations such as local common areas, office of the Red Cross chapters in the provinces, school yards, supermarkets, and local markets. Since their launch in May 2020, these markets have benefitted 124,880 people. VNRC aims to reach at least one million people who lost their income because of the pandemic, in-patient cases who are unable to recover their livelihoods, the elderly, and women through such markets.

Cash assistance to help restore normalcy

At least 4,752 people (1,188 households) directly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in ten provinces of Viet Nam have been assisted with cash to enable them to access food and other services which were hit hard by the loss of income due to restrictions from COVID-19.

The cash disbursement was done through financial service providers (FSPs) and it is expected that around 2,000 households in 10 provinces will be assisted with cash.

VNRC collaborated with financial service providers (FSPs) such as Vietnam Post, Commercial Banks and Viettel to disburse the fund to the selected beneficiaries.



Timor-Leste: Lights, Camera, Action - A positive story in these difficult times of COVID 19

Youth volunteers from Timor-Leste Red Cross (CVTL) have been working hard for the past two months in preparation for their debut on Timor-Leste Television.

The Ermera Branch Youth Club performed music, songs and dances for the 'Youth on TV' program promoting their local culture and talent. They sang local and traditional songs in their traditional costumes and preformed traditional dances. They also wrote a Red Cross song about the Seven Fundamental Principles!



The CVTL Youth Department has been conducting a long-term healthy youth program which mobilizes youth into a healthy lifestyle through clubs for learning healthy life skills, playing sports and music and learning about protection from COVID-19.

Philippines: Overcoming Fear and Stigma caused by COVID-19



Stigma and fear associated with COVID-19 hinder families in need from accessing essential support for recovery. Volunteers and staff from the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) are helping families overcome these barriers by delivering cash and food assistance to the affected people, so that they can focus on their recovery.

First, PRC coordinates with local government units (LGUs) to access the list of affected people. The LGUs

will then ask permission from the affected persons, to disclose their information to PRC. Once they agree, volunteers and staff use technology – mobile phones, emails or even social media to reach out to the affected families to get more information and build trust even without a face-to-face meeting. Often, the families worry about being ostracized by their neighbors once the word spreads that they are affected by COVID-19. PRC ensures complete protection of data gathered from the families. Volunteers then ask the families on their preference for the assistance to be delivered such that their privacy and dignity is maintained.

Aside from the cash and food assistance, volunteers also offer psychosocial support and share life-saving information to affected people to aid in their recovery. The Philippines has the highest number of COVID-19 cases in Southeast Asia with more than 250,000 confirmed cases.

Laos: Reaching out to Migrant Workers



Migrant workers are among the worst affected by COVID-19 related restrictions, all over the world. The Lao Red Cross (LRC) is reaching out to migrant workers by building their awareness and providing psychosocial support. On 7th August 2020, the Lao Red Cross conducted training on Migration, HIV/AIDS, Covid-19 and Psychosocial Support for migrant workers at a

quarantine center near Vientiane, the capital city. There were 256 participants (133 women) who had recently returned from Thailand, India and other countries. It is expected that when they go back to join their families in their community, they will be able to pass the key message to their families, friends and other people in their communities.

Singapore: Honoring Red Cross Educators



The Singapore Red Cross (SRC) Singapore celebrated Teachers' Day on 4 September, to honour teachers who have made a difference in the lives of the students. The Singapore Red Cross paid tribute to Red Cross Youth Officers and Volunteer Instructors, who steadfastly nurture humanitarian leaders of tomorrow. Meet these teachers [here](#).

Feature Story – Youth leading the way in the times of COVID-19!

Millions of young people are facing an uncertain future as COVID-19 rages across the world. Their routines and usual points of reference have been disrupted or radically modified, with the suspension or (often problematic) online adaptation of most activities including formal and non-formal education programmes and recreational activities. In the Asia-Pacific region, COVID-19 pandemic adds additional challenges for front-line responders and civilians in managing seasonal disasters.

Under these challenging circumstances, the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) youth have shown resilience and adaptability, reaffirming their commitment to support the National Societies in COVID-19 prevention and response. Thanks to their contagious creative energy and the eagerness to maintain social connections, they have been learning how to cope with school/university closures and exploring the positive aspects of lock-down. They have been creating alternative ways to reach out to their communities, to promote social solidarity and exploring digital volunteering opportunities.

Interactive Webinar Series on ASEAN Youth and COVID-19 – 2nd Episode: The #ASEANYouth and the Wise on Resilience in Adversity”

Hundreds of youth from across ASEAN and other countries are participating in a four-part interactive webinar series on ASEAN Youth and COVID-19. These two-hour virtual events are jointly organized by the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Foundation, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The second webinar titled “The #ASEANYouth and the Wise on Resilience in Adversity” was held on 24th August 2020. ASEAN youth leaders and veterans met online for nearly two hours for an engaging exchange of experiences on overcoming challenges and building resilience, particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The third webinar in the series is scheduled for 28th September 2020 and as usual it will have fun online games and interactive discussions for all those who participate.



Youth from Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN) go Global



Four young volunteers from the Southeast Asia Youth Network spoke passionately about their experiences and ways of overcoming COVID-19 related challenges, to a world-wide audience through a live session on the IFRC's REDTalk Series.

The session was held on 12th August-International Youth Day. The speakers included:

- Michelle Shi Jie Chew: Youth Volunteer of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society and IFRC Youth Commission Member
- Kritsada Lee –Gust : Youth Volunteer of the Thai Red Cross Society)
- Nam Pham Hai : Youth Volunteer Vietnam Red Cross Society and Deputy Chair of the RCRC Southeast Asia Youth Network
- Simin Say : Singapore Red Cross Academy and Supporting Member to the Chair of the RCRC Southeast Asia Youth Network

This engaging session is still available for viewing on the following social media posts: Facebook: <http://bit.ly/REDTalkbyYouth> ; LinkedIn: <http://bit.ly/REDTalkByYouth> and Twitter: <http://bit.ly/REDtalkByYouth>

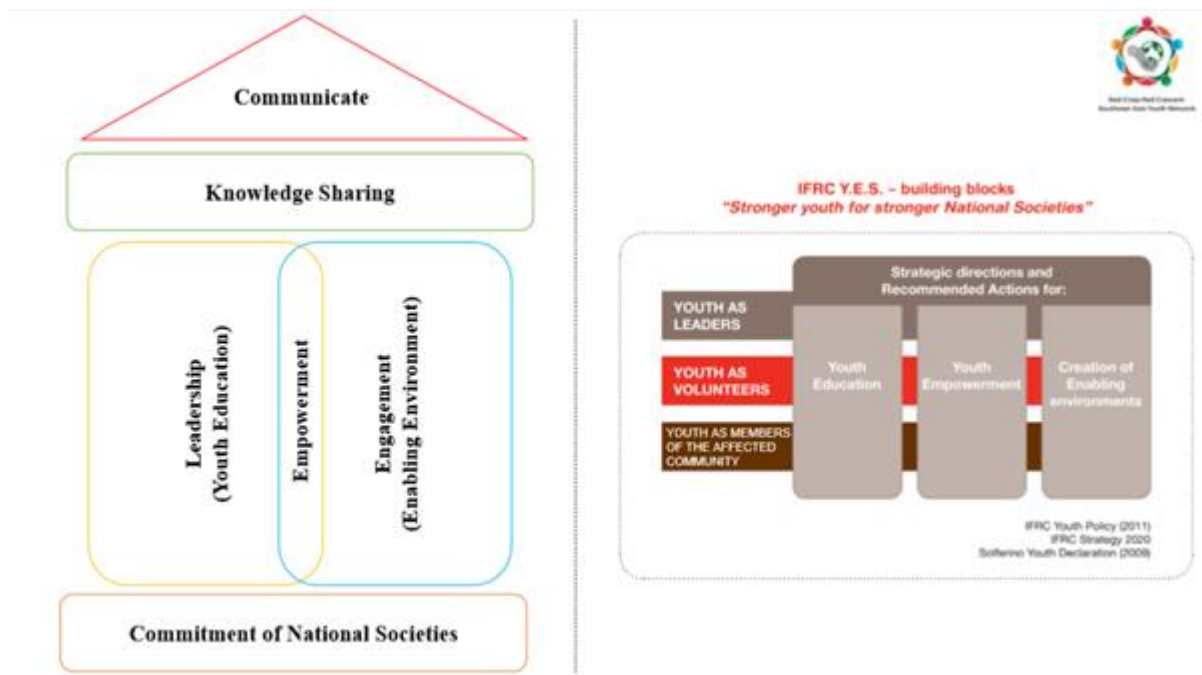
In addition to the live talk session, the work done by the youth was also captured in an article published in the [Bangkok Post](#) to mark International Youth Day.

The Southeast Asia Youth Network finalises its Action Plan 2020-2021

During the first few months of COVID-19, the RCRC Southeast Asia Youth Network promptly acted to provide immediate support to its members, making itself a platform to share information, ideas for youth-led initiatives on COVID-19 response and to work together as a network on communication strategies to prevent stigma, discrimination and the rise of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).

This has gradually evolved into a more structured process with longer-term planning in the form of the SEAYN Action Plan 2020-2021. The action plan was presented by the SEAYN Coordination Team in August 2020 and approved by all members.

The Plan focuses on Youth as Leaders, Volunteers and Members of the Affected Communities according to the IFRC's Youth Engagement Strategy and it includes five broad sections that together, constitute the SEAYN Home:

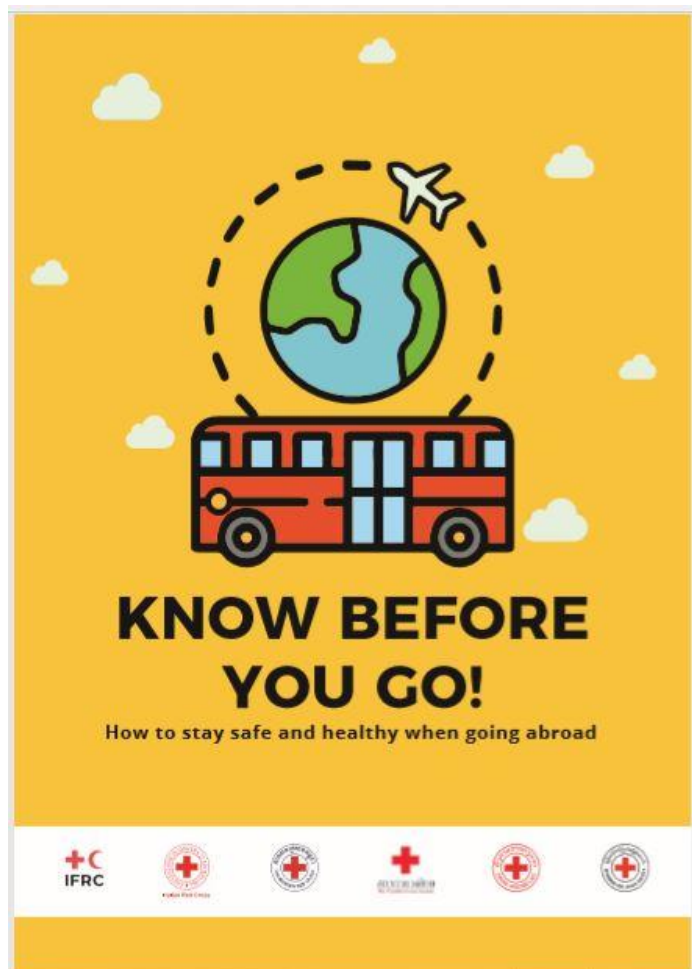


For additional information regarding the [Action Plan](#) and all SEAYN Activities, please contact the SEAYN Secretary: francesca.capoluongo@ifrc.org

New Publication

“Know Before You Go” is a series of booklets aimed at helping migrant workers stay safe and healthy as they travel across countries.

Millions of people work overseas. Migration has benefits and risks which can affect both migrants and their families. The booklet provides some practical steps that can be taken to minimise risks and stay safe. These include tips on familiarising oneself with the official travel documents, keeping a list of contacts handy, simple ways to stay healthy, understanding human trafficking, Red Cross services to help people separated from their families and for seeking help for HIV/AIDS treatment.

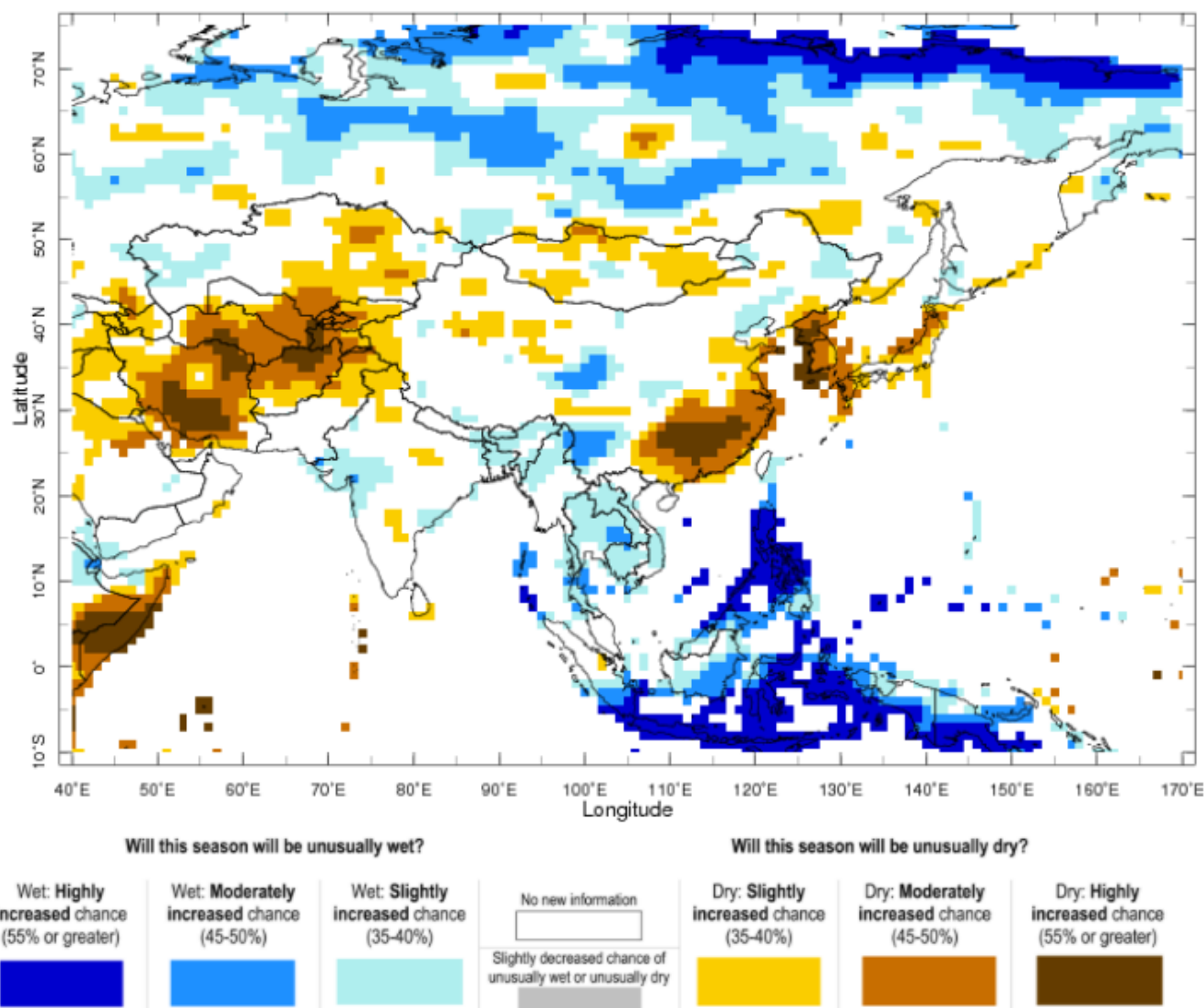


Currently available in [Khmer](#) and [English](#) languages, these booklets have been produced by the joint efforts of CCST Bangkok in collaboration with the National Societies of Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia. The Thai, Lao and Myanmar versions will be released shortly.

Seasonal Forecast

October to December 2020

Forecast for Oct-Dec 2020, Forecast Issued Sep 2020



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

Meteorological agency in the respective Southeast Asian countries:

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