

# REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – September 2020



*The Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) team demonstrates first aid measures as part of their preparedness for response drill among communities that were likely to be affected by Storm Noul which made landfall in parts of Viet Nam in September. (Picture courtesy: VNRC)*

Welcome to our newsletter providing updates of Southeast Asia for September 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

### Myanmar: On the frontlines of preventing COVID-19



Yangon has the largest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Myanmar. The number started to rise after the spike in local transmissions in Rakhine which began in August and spread to other states and regions throughout September 2020. Every day, Myanmar Red Cross volunteers and staff are on the frontline, supporting the affected population throughout Yangon, conducting awareness raising, distributing masks in communities and preparing community-based quarantine facilities in collaboration with local authorities as seen in the photos above.



At the same time, Red Cross Volunteers in Rakhine continue to strive to reduce the numbers of infected people there. Maung Maung Thein, a Red Cross volunteer says "We continue our COVID-19 prevention activities in IDP camps. We do awareness raising and show them how to do proper handwashing. The COVID-19 situation since August is different from before, as it is due to local transmission. We are more afraid. I can feel the fear among communities."

## Philippines: Assisting hundreds of students reach home



More than 400 citizens of Solomon Islands, most of whom are students studying in the Philippines, are being supported by the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and Solomon Islands Red Cross, in liaison with their respective governments, to be repatriated to the Solomon Islands. The Philippine Red Cross organised multiple COVID-19 testing for all the Solomon Islanders wishing to return home, to ensure that they are free from COVID-19 and eligible to board the special charter flights from Manila. The first batch of about 100 people flew home on 29 September 2020.

Solomon Islands is one of the few countries in the world without a confirmed case of COVID-19. The Philippines by contrast has the highest official number of cases in Southeast Asia. More than twelve of the Solomon Islands students in the Philippines have tested positive for COVID-19 so far and they are in quarantine. The PRC visited these students who tested positive for the virus and gave them quarantine kits, food and grocery items.

Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare commended the PRC as he spoke at the 75th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), an annual gathering of 193 member states of the United Nations (UN). "COVID-19 has brought Solomon Islands closer with its partners. We have made new friends, the latest being the Philippine Red Cross doing a fantastic job in testing and looking after our students in Manila. We are grateful to the excellent work of Red Cross, continue to do to our nationals," said Sogavare in a pre-recorded speech broadcasted live on 27<sup>th</sup> September.



## Singapore: Technology to showcase basic cardiac life support



To engage young digital natives, the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) launched its first Augmented Reality (AR) filter on Instagram. Developed in partnership with GOWAAA, a local art & technology collective, the AR filter showcases basic cardiac life support in a fun and interactive manner. Through the filter, users are guided through the process of resuscitating a casualty, from performing hands-only Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to activating an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Check out the AR filter on Instagram [here](#).

## Thailand: Providing the gift of sight

The Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) provided free eye examinations and eye surgery for hundreds of people at Ban Cham Kho Health Promoting Hospital, in Rayong Province, during 21-25 September 2020. Eye treatment services were availed by 233 people, while 144 patients underwent surgery for their eye ailments. For more information and photos of the event, please see [here](#).



## Youth: Preparing for the new normal

Interactive Webinar Series: #ASEANYOUTH AND COVID-19  
SUCCESS STORIES AND THE WAY FORWARD  
Episode 3: #ASEANYOUTH GETTING READY FOR THE NEW NORMAL  
28 September 2020 | 14.00 - 16.00 (GMT+7)

First Session: The Conversation

Education and the Future of Work

Commentators

Mr. Teywan Widiaglo  
Founder of Bahaso

Mr. Zee Ye Hwee  
Assistant HR Development Manager, Myanmar Red Cross Society

Ms. Thuy Nguyen  
Project Lead Asia Pacific, World Economic Forum

Ms. Mary Anne Theresa Manzano  
Assistant Director/Head of Education, Youth and Sports Division, ASEAN Secretariat

Social Innovations

Ms. Karlyn Hui Ling Liew  
Co-Founder, Reef Studio

Moderator

Ms. Marie Lan Anh Ngo  
President of the ASEAN University Students Council Union (AUSCU)

Second Session: A Business Story! Share your ideas through the live polls!

Register now on zoom at (<https://bit.ly/aseanyouthwebinar3>) or join us live on ACB's Facebook page

The third episode of the Interactive Webinar Series “#ASEANYOUTH and COVID-19: Success Stories and the way forward” took place on 28 September 2020. The webinar is one in a series of webinars jointly organised by the IFRC, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Foundation and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

The third episode focused on the future of education and work and the opportunities for social innovations which arise in times of crisis. The episode “#ASEANYOUTH getting ready for the new normal” featured a young speaker from the Myanmar Red Cross Society. You can watch the webinar [here](#).

## Voices from the Field – Cambodia Red Cross



Ms. Oeun Sophea, 19 years old, is a member of the Cambodian Red Cross Youth member from Pahy Choeung Village, in the Pailin province.

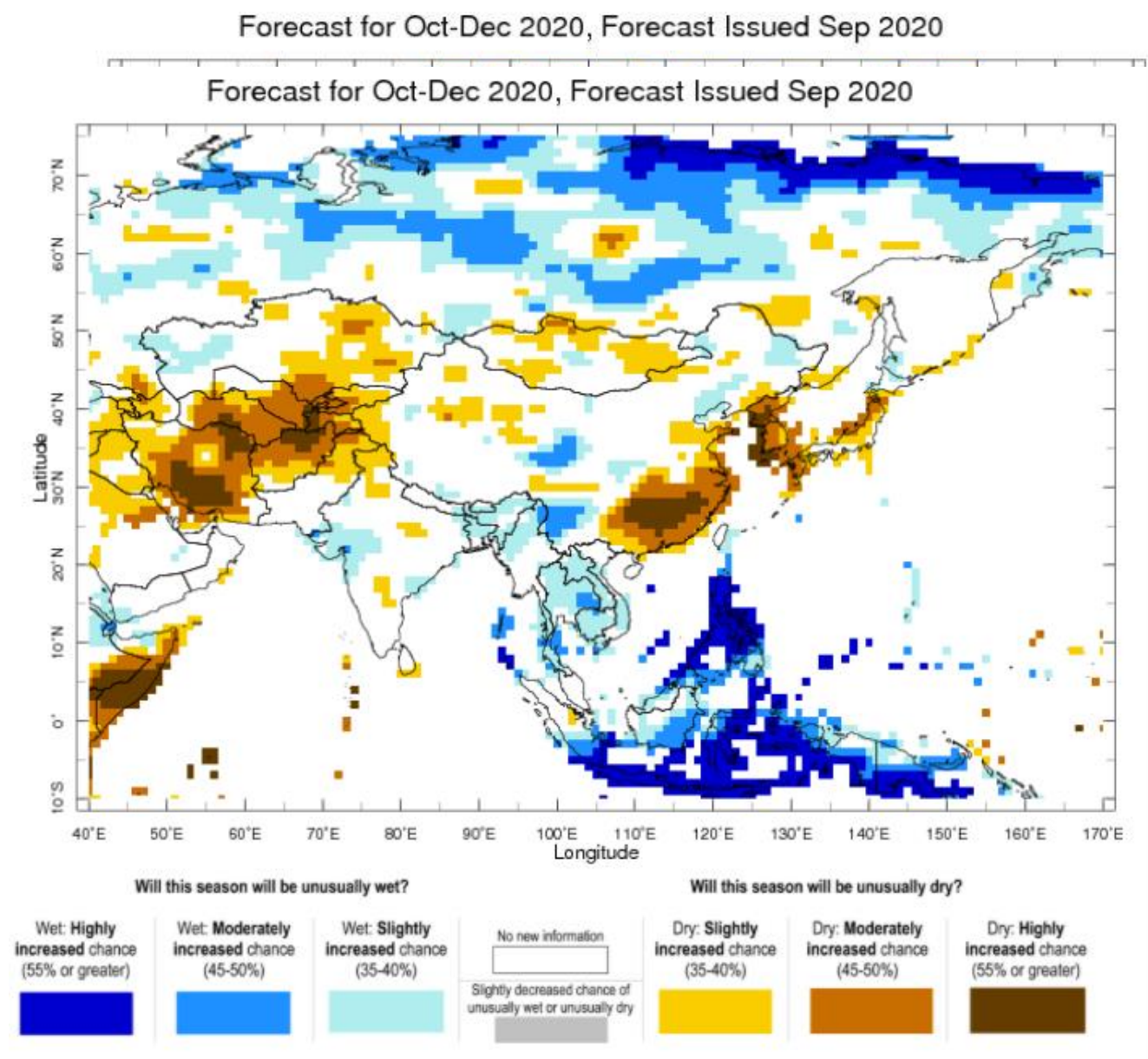
Passionate about protecting her community from the scourge of COVID-19, Sophea works with the local Red Cross branch to improve public awareness on COVID-19 prevention through peer education, household visits, small group meetings. She demonstrates the proper use of soap, facemasks and sanitizing alcohol and encourages the community members to avoid crowded places and to always follow the instructions from the Ministry of Health regarding COVID-19.

Sophea sums up her approach as follows: “Preventing COVID-19 involves simple steps that everyone can follow easily: Washing hands, wearing masks and maintaining physical distance. By building awareness among the community, the message gets passed on to all their contacts and through that ripple effect, more and more people can become aware of these basic steps for prevention and protection from COVID-19”.



# Seasonal Forecast

## October to December 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](#)