

Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – October 2020



A selection of images that capture the devastating effects of storms and floods that hit Viet Nam in October and the response by the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) providing immediate relief to the people most affected by them. (Picture courtesy: Yen Duong/IFRC)

Welcome to our newsletter providing updates of Southeast Asia for October 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: Recurrent storms bring unprecedented floods to Central Viet Nam



Since the beginning of October, five catastrophic storms have hit the provinces of Central Viet Nam, bringing floods and landslides that have severely affected the lives of more than 1.5million people. More than 400,000 homes have been flooded or damaged, 178 people have lost their lives and 59 people are still missing. Mdm. Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu, President, Viet Nam Red Cross Society, said the agency's staff and volunteers are racing to provide immediate relief:

“The people of Vietnam are tough, yet this is among the worst destruction ever seen in many years. The relentless storms and flooding are taking a devastating human toll, further destroying livelihoods and isolating millions of people.

“We are mounting one of our biggest relief operations ever, to provide critical relief including food, blankets, tarpaulins and cooking utensils. All our hard-work in containing the social and economic fallout of COVID-19 is being undone by these massive storms hitting us one after the other,” Madam Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu said.

It is estimated that at least 1.5 million people have been affected and are at immediate risk of food shortages and hunger after thousands of hectares of crops have been destroyed, while over three million cattle and poultry are dead or swept away in some of the worst flooding in decades. IFRC has launched an emergency appeal for CHF 3.9 million (USD 4.2) and increased its immediate emergency relief



support to 500,000 CHF (USD 545,167) to provide immediate and recovery support to 160,000 most affected people. For more images of the impact and response by the Red Cross, click [here](#).

Thailand: Floods in eleven provinces

The storms that affected Viet Nam so severely, also brought heavy rains and floods to many parts of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand during October. In Thailand, the floods have affected 2,292 households in at least eleven provinces. The Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) provided more than 25,000 relief kits and drinking water to flood affected people in the provinces of Phetchabun, Sa Kaeo, Nakhon Ratchasima, Phetchaburi, Nakhon Nayok, Chanthaburi, Satun, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Supanburi, Chonburi and Chachoengsao.

TRCS also set up a mobile kitchen to provide 4,500 sets of cooked hot meals to flood affected people during 12th -15th October at Pak Chong district, Nakhon Ratchasima province. Some houses in the province were severely damaged by floods caused when the Moon river broke its banks after several days of heavy rainfall. For more information and photos please see [here](#).



Singapore: Caring through partnerships for humanity

In an initiative under partnerships-for-humanity, DHL is providing skilled logistics experts, warehouse space and vehicles, to help the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) bring customised care packages to the isolated elderly and the migrant worker community, over several months amid the COVID-19 situation.

In another effort to help the most vulnerable people in society, [Singapore Red Cross Club @ South West volunteers recently packed and distributed essentials](#) such as laundry detergent, dishwashing detergent, face masks, hand sanitizer, and biscuits among less privileged residents in the neighborhood.



Laos: Three provinces severely affected by floods



The storms that affected Viet Nam since 6th October 2020, also brought heavy rainfall to parts of southern Lao PDR. This resulted in widespread flooding and landslides in southern Laos with three provinces of Salavan, Savannakhet and Sekong being the worst affected. Two people are reported to have died, whereas nearly 70,000 people have been affected. Due to limited accessibility, the damages and needs are yet to be fully assessed. The Lao Red Cross is supporting the provincial government to conduct assessments and obtain information. They plan to distribute food (noodles, rice, canned fish etc), candles, lighters, hygiene items like soap, sanitary napkins, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Safe water has been provided through deployment of water purification units. The Lao Red Cross is also raising awareness on prevention of water-borne and vector-borne diseases. The IFRC has provided immediate emergency relief support of CHF 163,514 (USD 181,605). For more images, see [here](#).

Cambodia: COVID-19 prevention is priority



In collaboration with the local authorities and health departments, the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) and its 25 Red Cross branches (RCBs) actively mobilized staff, Red Cross Volunteers (RCVs), Red Cross Youths (RCYs) and communities to take immediate action towards COVID-19 prevention and epidemic control measures. Since the beginning of the operation, CRC reached more than 600,000 people through the distribution of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on 'COVID-19' and 'Safe migration', and the distribution of face masks and hand soaps to people.

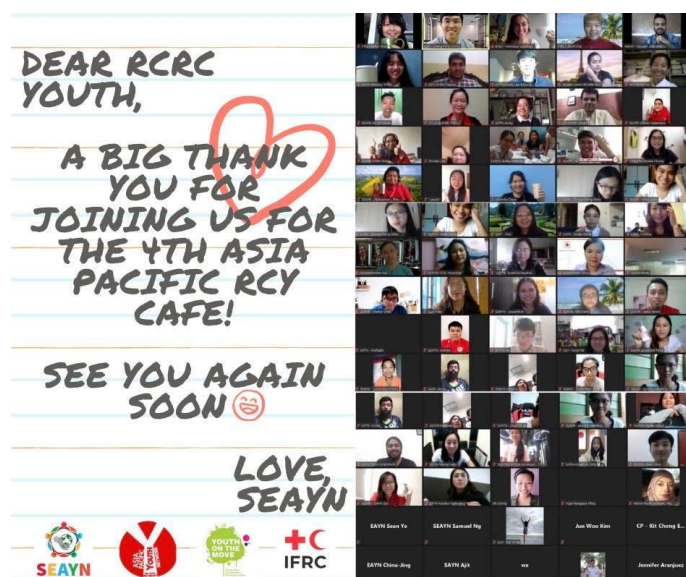
Each RCB implemented information sharing and hygiene promotion activities over a period of five days each month with small groups of less than 10 people per group reaching out to the villages. CRC held demonstrations on how to use masks, scarves, and wash hands properly to prevent COVID-19 infection. CRC also continuously disseminated key COVID-19 preventive messages utilizing various approaches such as home-visits, portable loudspeakers, radio messaging, and IEC materials. Due to outbreaks of Chikungunya and Dengue in some parts of Cambodia, preventive messages related to these viruses were integrated into awareness-raising activities.



Youth: Getting together through a virtual café

On Saturday 31st October 2020, over 70 youth from 20 countries around the Asia Pacific region joined in the 4th Asia Pacific RCY Café organized by the Southeast Asia Youth Network.

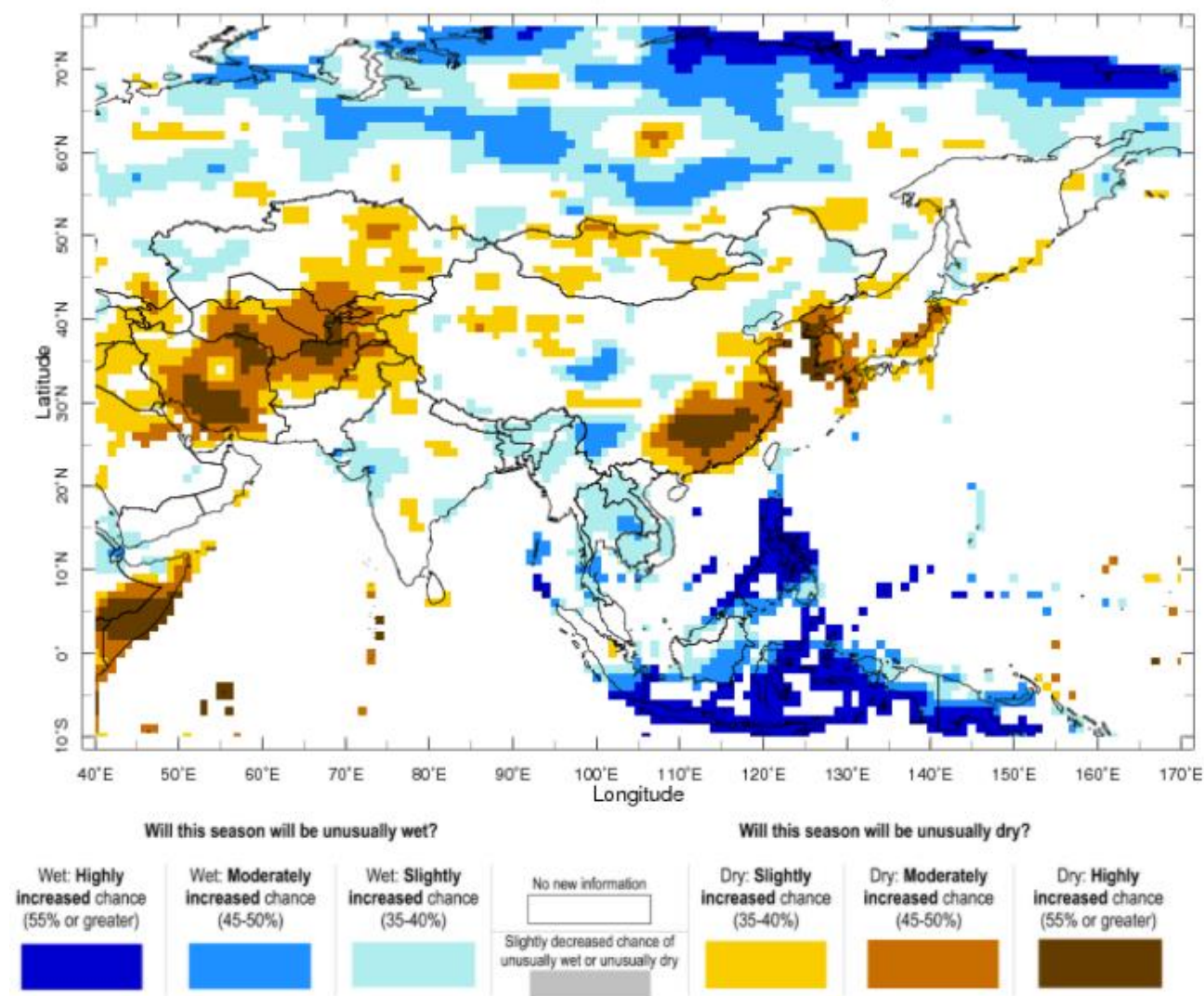
The youth were guided by a team of facilitators in experiencing some Youth as Agents of Behavioral Change (YABC) activities online. Through role-games and safe interaction, the participants fostered their capacity to listen actively, as well as their empathy and inner resilience. They also reflected from a different perspective (from the heart to the mind) about non-discrimination and respect for diversity.



Seasonal Forecast

November 2020 to January 2021

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](#)