

# REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE FORUM

Monthly Updates – November 2020



*Volunteers of the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) are seen repairing the roofs of houses damaged by storms in Nghia An Commune, Quang Ngai province. (Picture courtesy: Yen Duong/IFRC)*

Welcome to our newsletter providing updates of Southeast Asia for November 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: Re-building lives after devastating storms



*Nguyen Thi Anh, from the Viet Nam Red Cross is seen speaking to Mrs. Phan Thi Ton, a resident whose house was destroyed by Storm Molave, in Phu Truong village, Quang Ngai city on Friday, November 6, 2020. Picture courtesy: Yen Duong/ IFRC.*

At least nine storms have hit the provinces of Central Viet Nam since October to mid-November 2020. An estimated 1.5 million people have been severely affected by torrential rains, widespread flooding, and landslides triggered by eight consecutive storms and typhoons that have hit central Viet Nam in the past month. These storms and floods come as a further blow for communities already grappling with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) has mounted one of its biggest ever disaster response operations. VNRC immediately released emergency aid, including cash assistance (CHF 120 per deceased household) and household kits (two blankets, two mosquito nets, one water bucket 10L, a set of cooking utensils (1 pot, 1 kettle, 1 frying pan), one water container (1.5L) and

boxes of water purification sachets). VNRC teams reached many affected communities by boat as many places had been cut off by flood waters. 3,140 household kits were distributed in eight provinces of central Viet Nam, by November.

The IFRC launched an emergency appeal for 3.9 million CHF (4,252,300 USD) and increased its immediate emergency relief support to 500,000 CHF (545,167 USD). This operation aims to meet the immediate and early recovery needs of 40,000 of the most vulnerable affected households (160,000 people) in four targeted provinces within 12 months. It targets people in the four worst affected provinces of Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam. The activities include provision of household items and emergency shelter tool kits, support to repair and rebuild affected shelters, provision of water purification tablets and deployment of water purification units; cash and voucher assistance through multipurpose cash grants (MPCG); health promotion activities, and epidemic control for volunteers (ECV), among others. The operation will be delivered in a manner that minimizes the risk of COVID-19 transmission for disaster-affected people.



*Nguyen Van Huong (L), and Phan Cong Ry (R), from Viet Nam Red Cross are seen handing aid packages to residents in Tra Nam Commune, Quang Nam province, on Wednesday, November 4, 2020. Picture courtesy: Yen Duong/ IFRC.*



## Thailand: Reducing disaster risks in communities



The Thai Red Cross Societies' Health Station No.7 in Ubon Ratchathani Province held simulation exercises on "Community Emergency Response Plan" among four communities and four schools in Samrong and Sawang Weerawong districts. As seen in the pictures above, these exercises tested the community's early warning systems as well as disaster preparedness including the mobilization of surge personnel and resources.

This is part of TRCS's initiative to build the capacity of local communities to respond to disasters. It promotes communities and schools' participation in identifying the risks they face, their vulnerabilities and finding disaster risk reduction approaches to the same. The initiative is supported by the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). For further information, refer to <https://bit.ly/2lolnu6>

## Singapore: Sharing festive cheer and strengthening humanity



To celebrate Deepavali – the festival of lights, the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) collaborated with @TheSocialKitchen (TSK) to [distribute 1,000 customised bento meals to over 470 households](#) at Nee Soon town. This was part of TSK's '1,000 for 100' initiative, where individuals and companies were encouraged to contribute \$1,000 for 100 meals in support of any charity of their choice.

Singapore Red Cross (SRC) volunteers and employees also distributed 10,000 care packages to migrant workers from 9 to 14 November, [spreading festive cheer](#) during Deepavali! Each care package comprises toothbrushes, toothpastes, shampoo, washing detergent, hand sanitiser and even some Muruku!

## Philippines: Helping communities recover after recurrent storms



On November 2020, two consecutive powerful typhoons landfall the Philippines leaving massive devastation in many areas. Super Typhoon Goni, the strongest cyclone in the world this year slammed into the Philippines on 1<sup>st</sup> November first crossing the island of Catanduanes. Just a week later, another storm - Typhoon Vamco struck almost the same

communities worsening the previously dire situation of more than 1.6 million people affected by Typhoon Goni. The [consecutive typhoons](#) have affected more than 6 million people. Watch the affected people speak about the [impact](#) and their [needs](#). The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has launched an [Emergency Appeal](#) for 10.8 million CHF to support the Philippine Red Cross in its relief and recovery efforts for an estimated 120,000 people. In addition, 750,000 CHF has been released to [support immediate relief](#). Read more [here](#).

## Laos: Strengthening knowledge of first aid amidst the pandemic

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lao Red Cross continues to focus on building preparedness for health emergencies. From 21-26 November 2020, LRC conducted a refresher training on First Aid for its staff and volunteers in Luangprabang. The 17 participants were drawn from the northern provinces of Phongsaly, Bokeo, Xayabuly, Udomxai, Loungnamtha, Luangphabang, Houaphanh, Xeingkhong. This was a follow-up to an earlier training held in May. The participants are expected to deliver the First Aid training in schools in their own provinces, thus strengthening the communities' capacities for providing first aid in case of an emergency.





## Indonesia: Disaster preparedness during COVID-19

Natural disasters have continued to occur even as the world faces the corona virus pandemic. Hence the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI)) has continued to build its communities preparedness to manage during such events. The Red Cross chapter in Maluku Province conducted a risk reduction workshop in several schools located in Central Maluku districts.



The team shared information about what constitutes a disaster, understanding potential threats from a disaster, and the importance of implementing a healthy lifestyle to curb the spread of COVID-19. “Based on the survey from the National Agency for Disaster Countermeasure, the community in Maluku did not believe in the existence of COVID-19. This is very worrying,” said Herry Latuheru, Secretary of PMI Maluku Province. The team also conducted an analysis of the vulnerability and readiness of the school. The team successfully conducted these activities with 20 students and some school staff, all the while following the 3M prevention protocols for COVID-19 (maintaining a safe physical distance, wearing a mask, and frequently washing hands).



## Cambodia: Promoting Diversity, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination



In November 2020, the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) organized a [Youth Training on Diversity, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination](#). With 37 participants (17 women) including youth volunteers from nine selected schools, Red Cross Youth advisors and Branch/Sub-Branch staff, the [training](#) followed an experiential-learning approach inspired by the YABC initiative, in order to make participants question their own assumptions and cultural norms at the origin of discriminatory behaviors. Participants engaged in a collective exercise for assessing the forms of discrimination that are common in their communities and prepared some creative Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials in the form of comic books (as shown in the pictures above) to be distributed during dissemination activities. The training followed a blended format, with participants gathered physically with CRC facilitators and some sessions delivered online by IFRC staff. Following the training, CRC staff and volunteers engaged in a series of activities of awareness raising in communities and schools, distributing the creative IEC material during small workshops on the topic of Diversity, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination.

## Youth: IFRC-ASEAN Cooperation

The Interactive Webinar Series *#ASEANYOUTH and COVID-19: Success Stories and the way forward*, co-organised by the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Foundation, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and IFRC, concluded in November with the following two events:

- A Youth Workshop on Youth Engagement (23 Nov 2020), that saw the active participation of 50 youth from the entire ASEAN region (including several RCRC youth leaders) that gathered to exchange their ideas and visions of meaningful youth engagement in policy and decision making;
- A Dialogue between Youth and Policy Makers titled: *#ASEANYOUTH Building Back Better* (30 Nov 2020) with participation of IFRC Head of CCST Jakarta, IFRC Youth Commission Representative for Asia Pacific and the Chair of the RCRC Southeast Asia Youth Network.

The event has the official endorsement of the ASEAN Senior Official Meeting on Youth (SOMY), the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNB) and the ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education (AWGEE).

**Interactive Webinar Series: #ASEANYOUTH AND COVID-19**

**Episode 4: #ASEANYOUTH BUILDING BACK BETTER**

30 November 2020 | 14.00 - 16.00 (GMT+7)

**Dialogue I: How can Youth be part of shaping the post-COVID ASEAN Socio-cultural Community?**

**Youth panel**

- Michelle Shi Jie Chew, Youth Volunteer of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society and Asia Pacific Representative to the Youth Commission, IFRC
- John Derrick Ordoñez, President of the ASEAN University Student Council Union 2017-2018
- M. Fahrian Yovantra, Program Manager of Indonesia Circular Economy Forum
- Josefa C. Tauli, Indigenous Youth Representative, Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) Steering Committee and GYBN Philippines

**ASEAN panel**

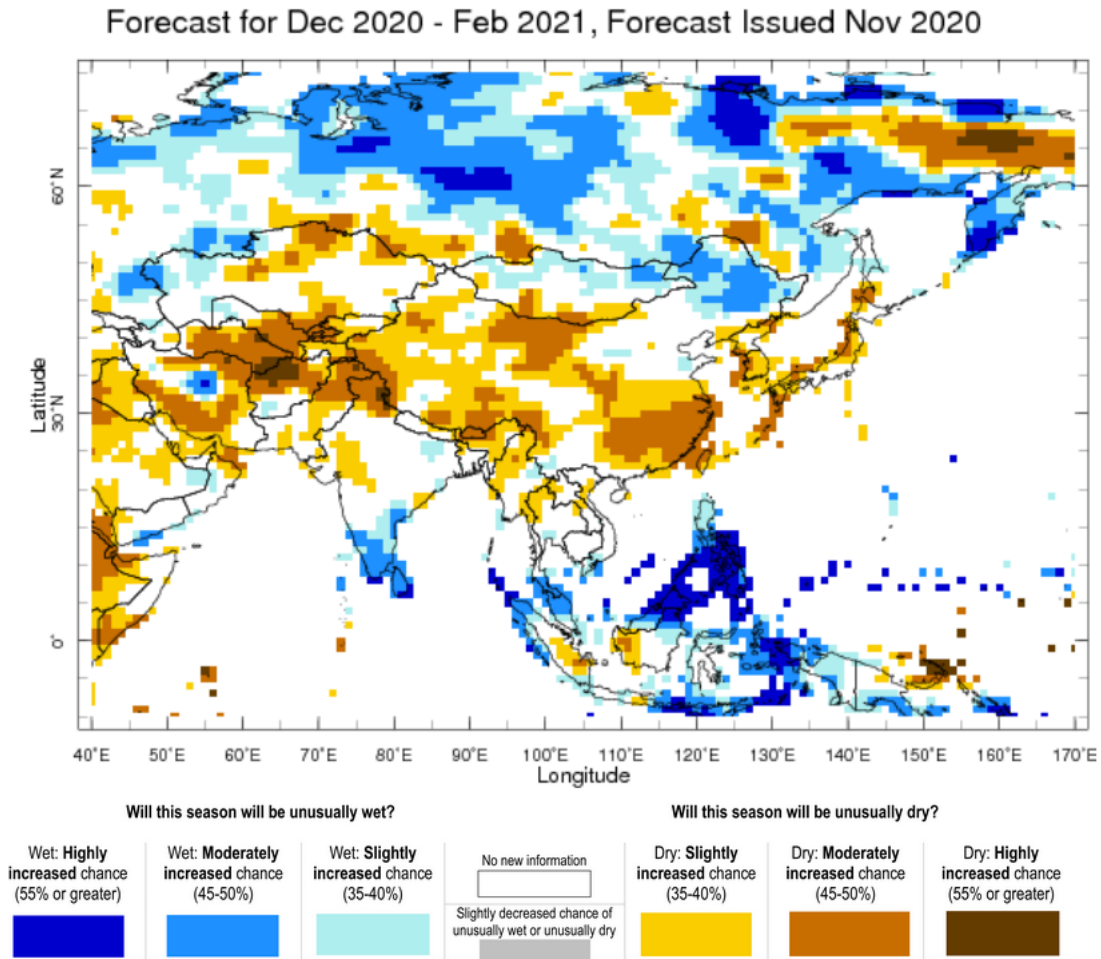
- H.E. Kung Phook, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)
- Mr. Somkiao Kingsada, Director General of International Relations, Cooperation Department of Lao Youth Union Chair of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY)
- Dr. San Oo, Deputy Director-General Environmental Conservation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar, Chairperson of ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on the Environment (ASOEN)

**Register now at (<https://bit.ly/aseanyouthwebinar4>)**

Supporting Partner: BCAMP

## Seasonal Forecast

December 2020 to February 2021



**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](#)