

MONTHLY UPDATES



Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) is supporting communities to overcome extreme weather events by distributing warm clothing for people facing severe cold (image on the left) and by distributing cattle to re-start livelihoods lost in devastating floods of October-November 2020 (image on the right). (Picture courtesy: Viet Nam Red Cross). More images are available [here](#).

In this issue:

National Society Updates from	
Timor Leste.....	2
Thailand.....	3
Singapore.....	3
Philippines.....	4
Laos.....	4
Cambodia.....	5

In Pictures: Indonesia.....	6
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Welcome to our newsletter providing updates of Southeast Asia for December 2020 and January 2021.

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

Timor Leste: Enabling access to clean water



In south-west Timor-Leste, the small community of Lela village near the Indonesian border has plenty of reason to smile. For years, they had no access to clean water, but thanks to the efforts of Red Cross Timor-Leste (CVTL) – this is no longer the case. Last year, the IFRC and Timor-Leste Red Cross implemented a program bringing clean water to these villages.

One of the residents, Ms. Alzira recalls: “We were in a lot of trouble. We had to travel a long way to collect water from the river. We would often have to wait our turn to get clean water. The we would have to carry it a long way to our homes. We would help each other and share the load – but there was never enough water.”

“Sometimes we would have to pay \$2 (USD), for a motorbike to carry us 25 litres of clean water for our homes. But \$2 is a lot of money for our poor village. Students went to school without being able to bathe. Sometimes there would be fights in homes, because there was not enough water. “But now our life has turned around. Thanks to the Red Cross Timor-Leste we now have water in our village.”

Another resident Ms. Terezinha da Costa, from Hatu village in the same area chimed in: “Sometimes we had to wait overnight to get the water from the river, as there were so many people there from both villages of Hatu and Lela. But now, we no longer have that problem and we have more time to do other important tasks. Now, even in the dry season we have water. We just need to walk a few steps from our house, and we have cool clean water. We are so happy.”

Thailand: Supporting the vulnerable through winter



The Thai Red Cross Society held an event named “Volunteer for Dad 2021” from 15 – 17 December 2020 to distribute essential items among the most vulnerable people-especially older people and persons with disabilities, for the winter season in Phop Phra and Mae Sot districts in northern Thailand.

At the event - 3,500 sets of winter kits were distributed among adults and 1,200 kits were provided to children. In addition, sporting accessories, water coolers, medicines and medical supplies were donated to First Aid units of schools in the area. Mobile medical units that were part of the event, provided awareness and medical treatment for common diseases and health care. For more information and photos , please see: <https://bit.ly/36UvSPR>)

Singapore: Transport for humanity

Singapore Red Cross (SRC) received a mini-van, modified for wheelchair access, donated by the Eurokars Group. The contribution will provide transport for the low-income elderly people and persons with disabilities to get to and from their healthcare service providers and day activity centres. This is part of SRC's TransportAid programme, which provides vulnerable groups with access to essential and critical medical treatments, rehabilitation and therapy. For details see [SRC Website](#) or [SRC Facebook](#) page.



Philippines: Protecting children from preventable diseases

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) ensures that children are protected against other life-threatening diseases. With support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the American Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross, PRC is supporting the government's supplemental immunization campaign- its first mass immunization campaign this year for measles, rubella and polio. Volunteers equipped with personal protective equipment are mobilized to vaccinate children and conduct house-to-house awareness campaigns. A mobile vaccination clinic has also been launched to help with the outreach to deliver life-saving vaccines that need cold chain support. Since 2019, PRC has immunized more than one million children against measles, rubella and polio.



Laos : Emergency assistance for flood relief

The lower Mekong region (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Thailand and Vietnam) experienced prolonged heavy rain for nearly two months since 6 October 2020. The rainfall resulted in flooding and landslides in southern Lao PDR especially in three provinces of Salawan, Savannakhet and Sekong. The Lao Red Cross with support from IFRC immediately launched an emergency relief operation that lasted three months until January 2021. It targeted 3,120 most vulnerable households in the worst affected provinces. The operation provided clean drinking water through deployment of three units of water purification (Manpack AP700CL) to affected districts, and distributed hygiene items (soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, toothpaste, sanitary napkin) and relief kits (Instant Noodle, syicky rice, fish can, water, salt, cooking oil, lighter, candle).

LRC also conducted awareness activities on epidemic control among affected communities, with emphasis on waterborne and vector borne diseases like dengue and malaria. Below are images that capture the LRC operations:



Cambodia : Online safety for children

The Phnom Penh branch of Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), cooperated with Action for Children Organisation (APLE) to organize the “Safe Internet” campaign to raise awareness on keeping children safe while online. At least 120 children, youth and parents attended the event held at the Malis Psychosocial Support Center of Phnom Penh Red Cross Branch.



In Pictures: Flood Relief Operations in Indonesia

Excessive rainfall caused the Batang Lembang river to overflow, flooding residential areas in nine sub-districts in Solok, West Sumatra on 12 January 2021. Indonesia Red Cross (PMI) teams assisted evacuation efforts in residential areas of Solok as seen in the images below and set up an emergency field kitchen for survivors.



Heavy rainfall that started in the first week of January 2021, also caused flooding across South Kalimantan province. PMI helped evacuate people to safe locations, provided emergency food and distributed essential relief items in the flood affected areas. Pictures below:



Within a few days, Indonesia faced another calamity in the form of an earthquake that struck Sulawesi on the night of 14 January 2021. PMI volunteers swung into action providing first aid and other relief to people who lost their homes, as seen below:



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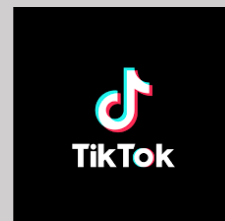
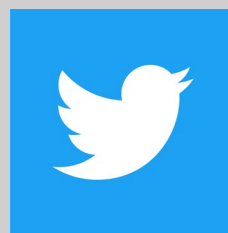
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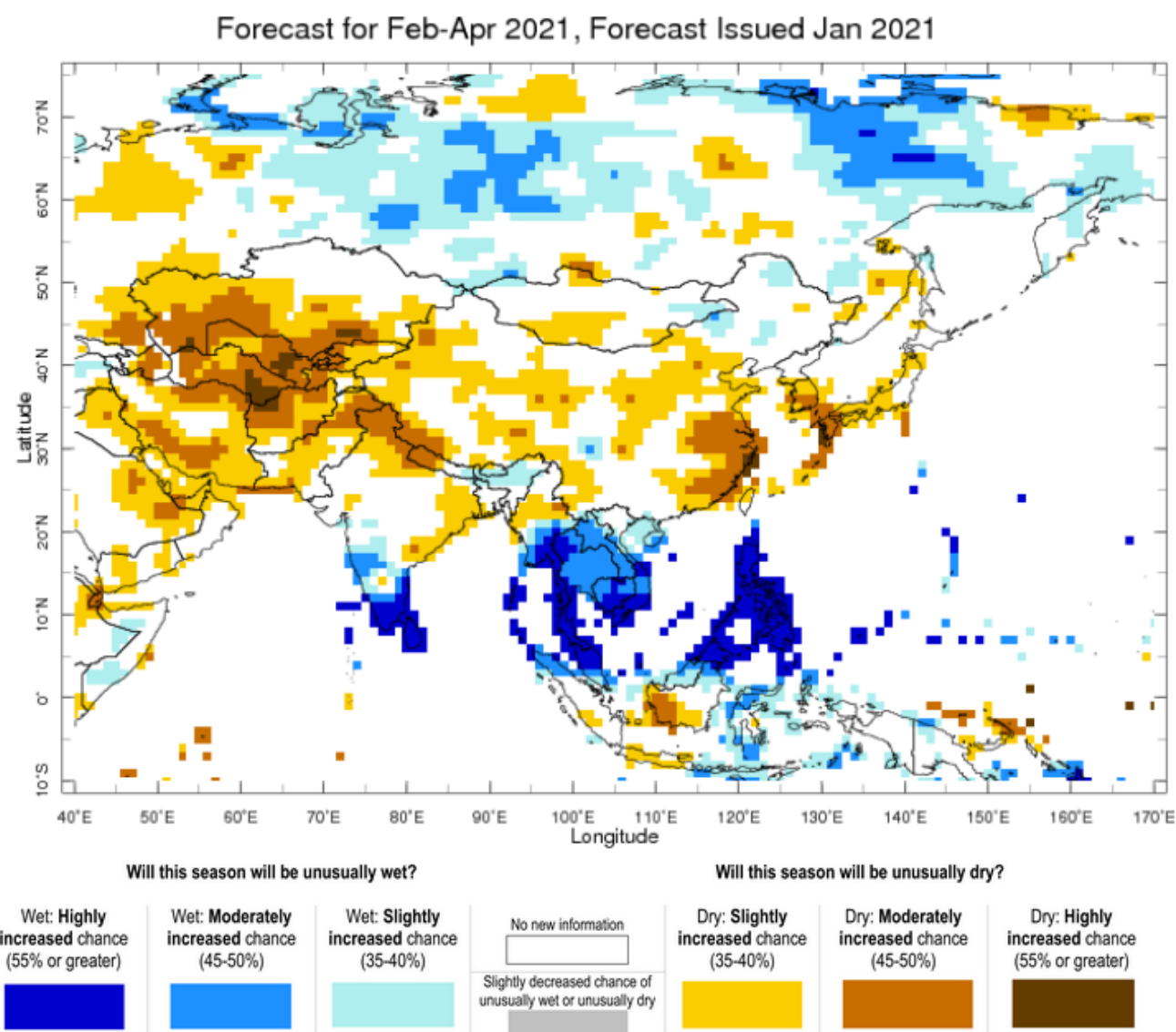
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Seasonal Forecast

February to April 2021



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

Meteorological agency in the respective Southeast Asian countries:

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