

## MONTHLY UPDATES



*Philippine Red Cross launches RT-PCR saliva test -the first and only accredited saliva test in the country to detect COVID-19. In almost a year of conducting tests for COVID-19, the Philippine Red Cross has exceeded two million swab tests in its 13 molecular laboratories - that is 23 per cent of the total tests conducted in the country. Picture Courtesy: Philippine Red Cross*

### In this issue:

#### National Society Updates from

<b>Cambodia</b> .....	2
<b>Indonesia</b> .....	3
<b>Singapore</b> .....	4
<b>Timor Leste</b> .....	4
<b>Viet Nam</b> .....	5
<b>Youth</b> .....	6

<b>In Pictures: Thailand</b> .....	7
------------------------------------	---

<b>Seasonal Forecast</b> .....	8
--------------------------------	---

Welcome to our newsletter providing updates of Southeast Asia for February 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 <https://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/>

## Updates from National Societies

### Cambodia: Improving maternal health amidst COVID-19



The Cambodian Red Cross held a discussion on the topic of “Essentials of Pre-Natal and Post -Natal Care during COVID-19” for observing the National Day of Mother and Child’ Health and Care on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

Representatives from the Ministry of Health were also present underlining Cambodia’s commitment to the United Nations Secretary-General’s Joint Plan of Action for Women and Children’s Health. The Cambodian Red Cross is focussed on reducing the mortality rate among pregnant women, before and after the delivery especially during the pandemic. For more information and photos, please see [here](#).

The Cambodian Red Cross also celebrated its 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The occasion was observed with an awareness session among university students about the Red Cross Red Crescent movement.



## Indonesia: Non-cash assistance to curb COVID-19



By providing non-cash assistance, the Indonesian Red Cross (*Palang Merah Indonesia – PMI*) with support from USAID and IFRC, is encouraging a collective effort from the community to carry out prevention activities to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Under the program, funds are disbursed to select villages which is then used for procuring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for volunteers and the community, to buy food and PPE for those in self-quarantine, to mobilize the community to conduct socialization and counselling related to COVID-19 and to assist residents who have symptoms of COVID-19 to receive appropriate treatment. The funds for non-cash assistance are transferred by money order and then disbursed through the Indonesian Post Office network located in eight provinces and 46 districts.

A total of 390 villages were targeted with this assistance program using criteria such as recorded data of high transmission of COVID-19, active community-based disaster preparedness teams, and community health cadres etc who can strengthen the COVID-19 response in coordination with the Red Cross representative closest to their region.

## Singapore: Meet a Medical Chaperone



Khairina Ng volunteers as a medical chaperone with the Singapore Red Cross (SRC). She accompanies persons with disabilities and the elderly from low-income families to their health appointments and provides a listening ear to their troubles.

“Being a medical chaperone makes me a better person. When clients confide in us about the issues they face, it is a testimony of their trust in us to assist them. From listening to their life experiences to allaying their fears in the clinics, volunteering makes me realise that each client is unique. They enrich my life”- says Khairina. The Red Cross is grateful to have Khairina’s assistance in enhancing the resilience of local communities during these times. Learn more about her volunteering journey [here](#).

## Timor Leste: Developing the village = profit for all!

Isaac Nobre Soares a youth from the village of Koliati Leotelo is a community volunteer with the Timor Leste Red Cross (Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste). Koliati Leotelo village has no electricity, no access to clean water and its only road is in a terrible condition. The Red Cross has





implemented programs to promote local livelihoods by cultivating vegetables, implemented a project to provide clean water and sanitation to the village, conducted awareness on prevention of COVID-19 and Dengue; and also implemented disaster risk reduction programs. Currently there are 25 volunteers supporting the Red Cross work in the village.

Nobre says “The people In Timor-Leste are very vulnerable, but the Red Cross helps the community, even those who live in really remote rural areas. That is what inspired me to be a volunteer!”

“Even though we don't get any money, we want to contribute to our society. We tell the youth in our village, that by community volunteering we can develop our village and help all of us profit! As a young man, I know that being a community volunteer will give me valuable work experience and skills.” To learn more about Red Cross's work in Timor Leste , see [here](#).

## Viet Nam: Rebuilding lives and livelihoods

Three months on since a series of tropical storms and typhoons hit Viet Nam in October and November 2020, the Vietnam Red Cross is helping communities to get back on their feet with cash and shelter assistance. The cash assistance will help people to purchase equipment, seeds, livestock or other items necessary to restart their livelihoods as well as to purchase shelter items to strengthen their houses for the future. Village meetings have been held in four provinces of Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam and Thua Thien Hue to identify the most vulnerable people in need of support.



Based on locally developed criteria, cash assistance is provided as follows: One million Vietnamese Dong (VND) for one person – household (CHF 38), VND two million for two person – households (CHF 77) and VND three million (CHF 115) for households with three or more people.

## A call for proposals: Promoting Ownership, Empowering Youth in Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies

The Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN), supported by IFRC and the Italian Red Cross, launched a Call for Proposals for SEAYN Youth, for the young volunteers to learn about Project Management and being effectively empowered.

The call is for projects for youth engagement in the thematic areas of digitalization, innovation, blood donation, MHPSS, climate change action. These are priority areas proposed by leaders of the Southeast Asian Red Cross Red Crescent societies in the latest leadership meeting held in October 2020 and the IFRC Youth Commission's priorities.

Several mentoring sessions are planned for the youth to learn project management skills such as program monitoring, writing a budget, and preparing narrative and financial reports etc.

The successful projects will receive a funding of CHF 1,000 (national projects) or CHF 4,000 (regional projects). The deadline to submit a proposal is **31 March 2021** and the successful projects must be implemented between 1 May 2021 and 31 August 2021. For details click [here](#).



**RED CROSS RED CRESCENT**  
**SOUTHEAST ASIA YOUTH NETWORK (SEAYN)**

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS!

**Promoting Ownership, Empowering Youth in  
Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies**

### Categories:

- Digitalisation
- Innovation
- Blood donation
- Mental health and psychosocial support
- Climate change action

### Types of award:

**National project  
up to CHF 1,000**

**Regional project  
up to CHF 4,000**

**DEADLINE:  
31 MARCH 2021**



**FOR MORE DETAILS**

Contact your SEAYN representative and/or SEAYN FB page (@RCRCSEAYN) for further information!



## In Pictures: Blood Donation in Thailand

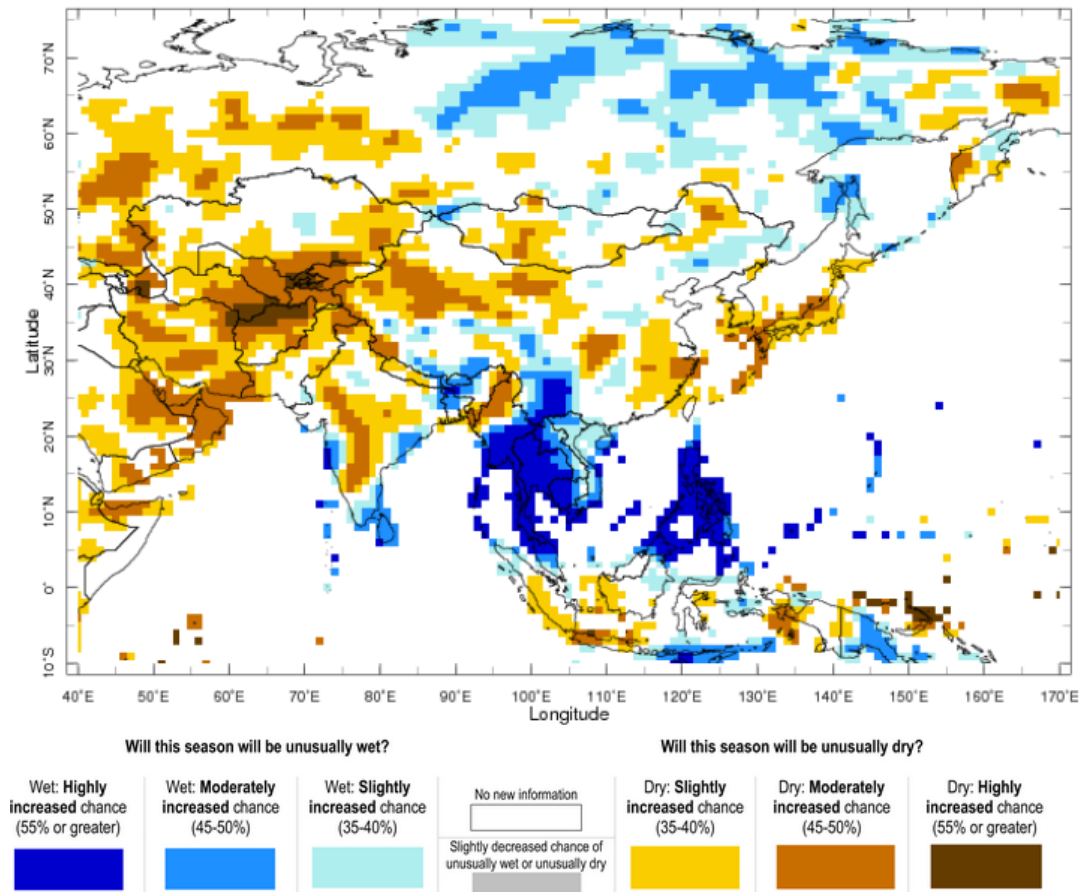
Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, more than 40 TRCS Youth Volunteers, teachers and the Thai Red Cross Youth Bureau's officers donated blood on 24 February 2021, in response to a call for blood donation to make up for a shortage at the National Blood Center of the Thai Red Cross Society.



# Seasonal Forecast

## March to May 2021

Forecast for Mar-May 2021, Forecast Issued Feb 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](#)



International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

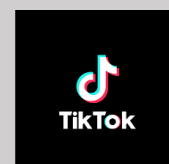
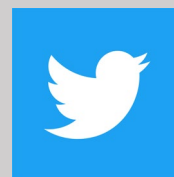
Country Cluster Delegation for Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam

Ocean Tower 1 | 5th Floor | 170/11 Sukhumvit Soi 16, Klongtoey | 10110 Bangkok | Thailand

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT US OR OUR WORK,  
CONTACT US ON:

T: +66(0)96-884-1912 ; E: [thailand.ccst@ifrc.org](mailto:thailand.ccst@ifrc.org)  
W: [www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org](http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org)

facebook



[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)