

MONTHLY UPDATES



The Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) is supporting communities to overcome the hardships brought on by COVID-19 by providing freshly cooked meals to vulnerable persons: the elderly, people with disabilities, bed-ridden patients and field hospitals. More than 26,000 meals were distributed in the last week of April 2021 (Picture courtesy: TRCS).

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Welcome to our newsletter providing updates of Southeast Asia for April 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](#).

Updates from National Societies

Cambodia: Natural disasters continue amidst COVID-19



Above: A house damaged by the strong winds in Koh Kong. Cambodian Red Cross staff and volunteers are seen helping affected families carry asbestos sheets to repair their homes. Picture Courtesy : Cambodian Red Cross

Even as a new wave of COVID-19 surges on in Cambodia, it is forced to contend with natural disasters in different parts of the country. In April 2021, people in several provinces were affected by strong winds that destroyed their houses within a short span of time. In Koh Kong province, the Cambodian Red Cross distributed construction materials to 27 affected families. These included asbestos sheets, cement, and some food items such as rice, canned-fish, instant-noodles, and drinking water. The President of Koh Kong Red Cross branch also requested the local community and especially fisher folk to follow the weather alerts from local authorities regarding strong winds and heavy rain and to adhere to prevention measures for COVID-19.

Indonesia: Adapting to the pandemic

Integrating COVID-19 health protocols in program activities and distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) among staff and volunteers are among some key measures adopted by the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) as part of their business continuity plan to continue operations during the pandemic.

Christie Samosir, Field Coordinator of Lombok Earthquake Operation explains how the reporting and monitoring system has been adapted - "We do everything in small batches. We make changes in timeline, especially on how to implement program in the community, and adjust the budgets accordingly. We also rotate the personnel working from home periodically," Christie said. PMI has developed a set of 'Frequently asked Questions' and 'Key Messages' for staff and volunteers to help them answer questions from communities'.

Recruitment process for new personnel now requires them to undergo 14-days self-isolation following travel, and PCR test for COVID-19 on the fifth day after arrival. With human resources being overstretched, more personnel are being deployed to support the growing pandemic. PMI has nearly 1.5 million volunteers supporting their humanitarian operations for COVID-19.



Above: A team member undergoes basic checks as part of adaptation measures for operating during COVID-19. Picture Courtesy : Indonesian Red Cross

Singapore: PPE Protocols

To minimize the risks of infection of community and healthcare workers, Singapore Red Cross responders were trained on the donning of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), its proper usage and disinfection routine. This is indispensable amid the pandemic. 3M Singapore supported the Red Cross in this event! Check out the photos!



Above: Health care and community workers participating in the training on correct use of PPE. Picture Courtesy : Singapore Red Cross

Thailand: Reaching Relief through Phonphai App

The Thai Red Cross's mobile application for disaster response - Phonphai, has been adapted to respond to people in distress due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Village health volunteers simply enter the details of the person requiring assistance in the app. The request is validated through an approval process and then the Thai Red Cross reaches them with assistance. In the last week of April, the Thai Red Cross delivered 65 sets of relief kits and drinking water to people in quarantine at home and those facing economic distress living in three districts of Chiang Mai province. The assistance was requested via "Phon Phai" application. Since the beginning of the pandemic response in 2020, the Thai Red Cross has distributed almost 300,000 relief kits of dry food, drinking water, soap, masks, and hand sanitizers, around the country.



Above: Volunteers and staff from the Thai Red Cross prepare relief kits for distribution to those who requested assistance via Phonphai app, in Chiang Mai province. Picture Courtesy : Thai Red Cross Society

Timor-Leste: Simple ways to support psycho-social health

Children in Timor-Leste are struggling to recover from the trauma of Cyclone Seroja - a deadly cyclone that brought historic flooding and landslides to parts of east Timor and southern Indonesia in the first week of April. When youth volunteers from Timor-Leste Red Cross (CVTL) noticed frightened children huddled together at the CVTL evacuation center, they decided to organise some fun activities for children to help them recover from the trauma. Children were given materials for drawing and painting and the volunteers sang and danced with the kids. They also managed to slip in a few messages on being prepared for flooding events in future. By the time they left the evacuation centre eight days after the floods, the children seemed much happier and understanding of what had happened.



Above: CVTL Youth volunteers conducting drawing sessions for children at their evacuation center. Picture Courtesy : Red Cross Timor-Leste

Viet Nam: Supporting recovery

The Viet Nam Red Cross is supporting communities across four provinces to rebuild their lives after they were devastated by a series of storms, floods and landslides during October-November 2020. As part of these efforts -during April 2021, they held trainings in Quang Nam province on the topic of rebuilding schools safely. About 65 participants - mainly teachers participated in these sessions. In addition, the Red Cross is also helping community members to repair their homes in such a way that they are built back better than before as resilient structures that can withstand storms and floods.

Right: Participants at the training on Safe Schools in Quang Nam province .Picture Courtesy : Viet Nam Red Cross



Youth: Winners of SEAYN proposals announced

Two regional projects and thirteen national projects are among the winners of the Southeast Asian Youth Network's (SEAYN) Call for Proposals issued earlier this year. The winning projects are working on a range of topics including Climate Change Action, Mental Health and Psycho Social Support, digitalisation and blood donation. See the detailed list of winners on the right.

Warmest congratulations to all Youth Teams that are dedicating their transformative energy, innovative ideas and inspiring commitment to make a difference in their communities!!



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

CALL FOR PROPOSALS!
Promoting Ownership, Empowering Youth in
Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies

Congratulations!

Regional project

Project Ecoutez
Singapore Red Cross, Philippines Red Cross, Indonesian Red Cross

Manga Style Climate Action IEC Materials
Philippines Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent, Singapore Red Cross

National project

Youth Engagement in Environment Protection
Cambodian Red Cross

Keep Timor-Leste Green
Timor-Leste Red Cross

Pre and Post-disaster Mental Health
Laos Red Cross

Virtual Education and Online Training Management
Indonesian Red Cross

Stay Healthy And be Prepared For Disasters During Covid-19 Pandemic
Indonesian Red Cross

Training of Digitalization Hazard, Vulnerability, Risk and Capacity Maps
Indonesian Red Cross

Young Humanitarian Online Workshop (Y-HOW)
Malaysian Red Crescent

Youth Online Learning Platform
Malaysian Red Crescent

BabaYEAH: Youth Engaged Action for Women's Health
Philippines Red Cross

Go Bike Project
Philippines Red Cross

RCY Mental Health Festival 2021
Philippines Red Cross

Pledge 25 Information Management System
Philippines Red Cross

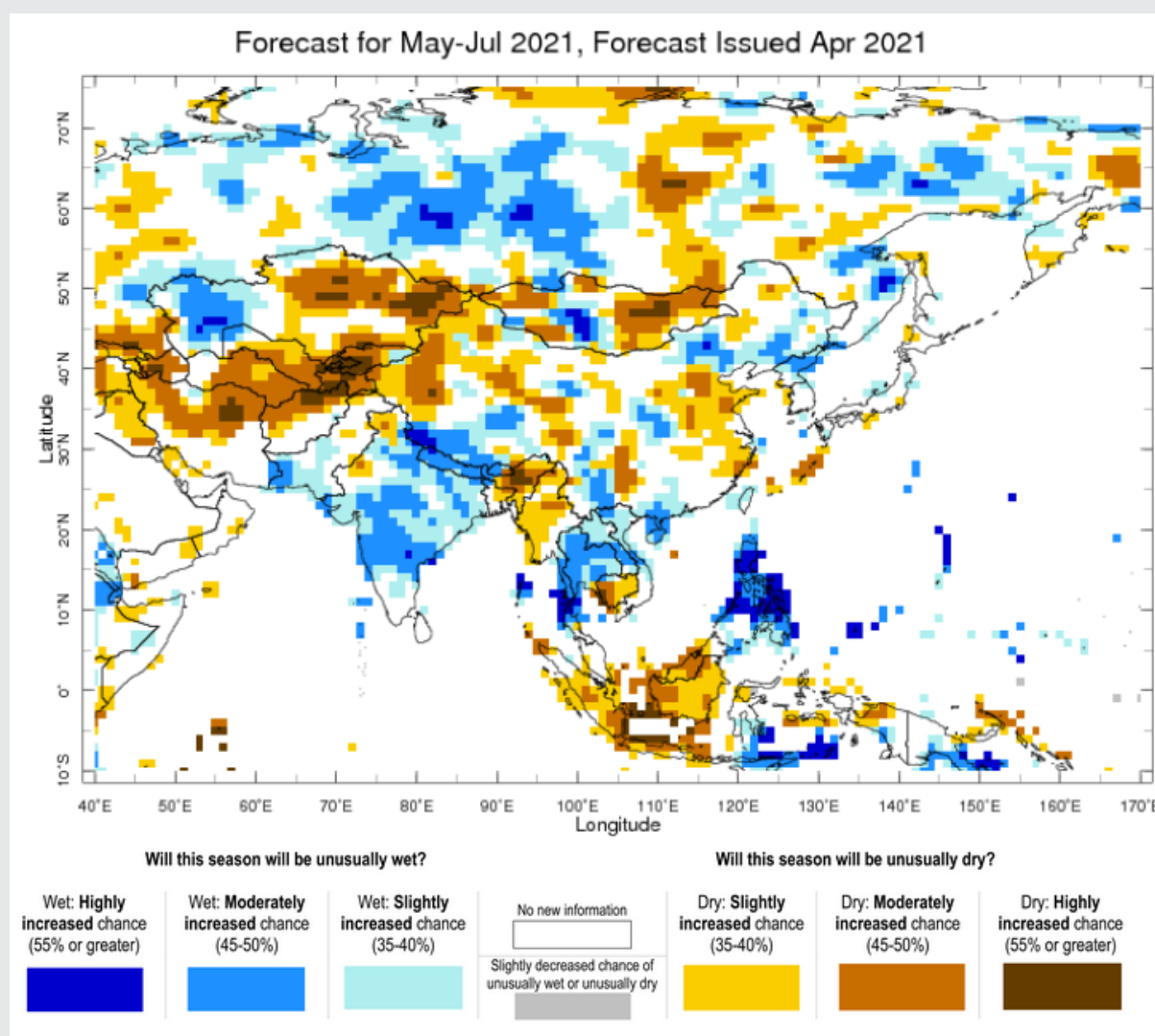
Improving the Efficiency of Tele-recruiting of Blood Donors using Data Analytics
Singapore Red Cross

In Pictures: Philippines Red Cross establishes field hospitals

Record COVID-19 surges across the Philippines have placed hospitals under siege as the total COVID-19 infections pass 1 million cases. The Red Cross is urgently setting up field hospitals and quarantine facilities. Emergency field hospital tents are being set up extension wards in hospital grounds itself for COVID-19 patients with moderate symptoms, freeing up beds for very sick people. On the other hand, unused classrooms and buildings have been converted to serve as quarantine facilities to care for people who have contracted COVID-19 with mild symptoms, until they can safely return home.



Seasonal Forecast : May to July 2021



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



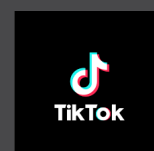
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