

MONTHLY UPDATES



Youth volunteers of the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia- PMI) conducting awareness sessions for children on maintaining hygiene for a clean and healthy life. These sessions are held at public places like the local mosque, in Bogor, West Java (Picture courtesy: PMI).

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

Viet Nam: Six months of supporting recovery after floods

By May 2021, the Viet Nam Red Cross has successfully supported communities across four provinces to rebuild their lives after they were devastated by a series of storms, floods and landslides during October-November 2020.

Initially, VNRC supported rescue and relief efforts and over the past six months, VNRC has ramped up efforts to help people recover from the disaster. At least 1,151 households received cash support totaling CHF 523,786 to restore their livelihoods. Household kits consisting of two blankets, two mosquito nets, one water bucket 10L, a set of cooking utensils (1 pot, 1 kettle, 1 frying pan) and one water container were distributed to 2,240 households supporting nearly 10,000 people. To ensure a supply of safe water - VNRC provided water purification tablets to 16,533 households and deployed water filtration units. Along with these items the VNRC teams and volunteers have also conducted awareness sessions on maintaining hygiene, COVID-19 prevention and protection and preventing water borne diseases.



Above: Deployment of a rescue boat in Thua Thein Hue during rescue and relief efforts
Below: Water filtration unit deployed in Quang Tri province. Picture Courtesy : VNRC



Timor Leste: From hunger to happiness with the Red Cross!



Above: Urbano Maia with a CVTL team member at his farm. Picture Courtesy : CVTL

Life is hard in Covalima district of Timor-Leste. Opportunities for income generation are few and people struggle to have enough food especially in the dry season. Timor-Leste Red Cross (CVTL) stepped in with a livelihoods program to support the villagers. Here is what one of the villagers Urbano Maia - the village chief of Aldeia Halik has to say about the program - "Through the CVTL livelihoods program, we learnt to make and use compost to grow different vegetables. In the past we used to just grow maize and cassava, but now we use organic cultivation to produce items like watermelons, capsicums, snake beans, chilies, and papaya! We now have more nutritious food for the family, and we can also sell at the markets. "This money has made a lot of difference for our children. We were finding it hard to even buy a pencil or book for our children. Now our children can go to school with what they need and food in their bellies - we are so happy."

Thailand : COVID-19 Vaccinations

The Thai Red Cross Society is supporting the administration of COVID-19 vaccines in Bangkok city and 76 provinces of the country in collaboration with provincial public health offices and the private sector.

In Bangkok, there are six vaccination sites at present. TRCS is looking for more volunteers to support the program. "If we have enough doctors, dentists and nurse volunteers as well as more vaccination sites, the vaccines can be rolled out to the public much faster, which will help to reduce the pandemic risk and casualties," said Dr. Pichit Siriwan, Deputy Director of the Relief and Community Health Bureau of TRCS. For details in Thai, please check this [link](#).

In other provinces, TRCS has assigned 11 Red Cross Health Stations and 76 Provincial Red Cross Chapters to consult with the Provincial Health Offices and private sector to set up the vaccination sites. For more photos of the vaccinations in Klong Toey, please visit this [page](#).



Above: Vaccinations carried out in Klong Toey community, Bangkok. Picture Courtesy : TRCS

Philippines: Young medical volunteers addressing COVID-19



Above: Young medical volunteers in action at a field hospital in Manila. Picture Courtesy : PRC

As record numbers of COVID-19 infections and variants surge across Asia, young medical volunteers of the Philippine Red Cross are making extraordinary sacrifices to save lives in field hospitals and quarantine centers in Metro Manila.

Some of these medical personnel were motivated to volunteer after losing a family member or close friends or watching helplessly as colleagues struggled to survive the virus. Know more about them and their stories through these compelling [photo stories](#).

The Red Cross has been at the forefront of the response alongside the government to curb the pandemic. With guidance from senior and veteran doctors of the Red Cross, young medical volunteers are courageously stepping up to the front lines to help in the isolation, treatment and vaccination against the dreaded disease.

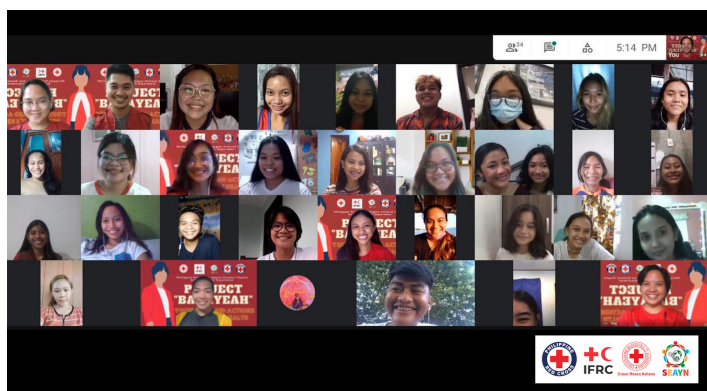
Cambodia: Helping communities hit by pandemic restrictions

Providing food, water, soap, masks and other items to communities in rural hinterlands and urban centers - the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) is working hard to contain the latest surge of #COVID19 in Cambodia by supporting people who have lost their income and livelihoods due to social distancing and movement restrictions imposed in parts of the country. As of 31 May 2021, 30,094 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including two hundred and fourteen deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 22,636 have recovered. Vaccinations against COVID-19 have been administered to people in red zones in Phnom Penh and other parts of the country to ensure that all citizens are vaccinated.



Above: A CRC team member carrying relief materials for distribution in rural communities. Picture Courtesy : CRC

Youth: Periods Don't Pause for Pandemics

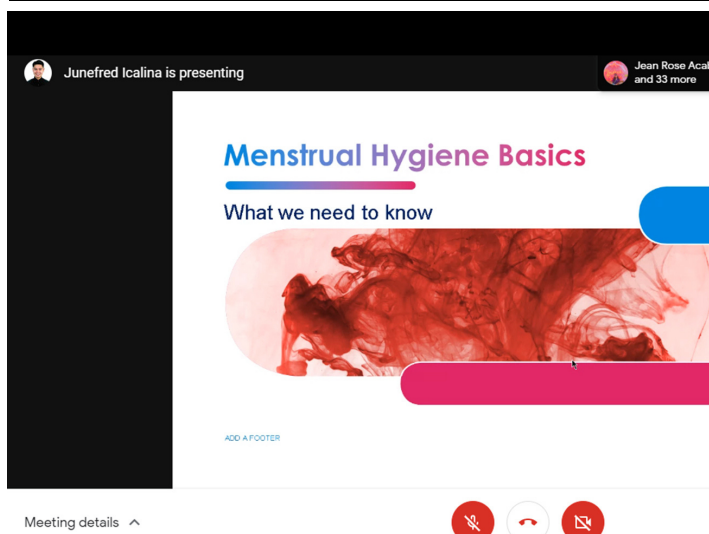


This year the Red Cross Youth-Philippines is highlighting the importance of menstrual health management during the pandemic, with the theme: "Periods Don't Pause for Pandemics."

They launched Project BabaYEAH (Youth Engaged Action for Women's Health), coined from a local term- *babaye*, which means "woman", Project BabaYEAH: is focused on addressing menstrual hygiene needs of women

BabaYEAH aims to empower reproductive-age women of Dumaguete City in the central Visayas region to take care of their reproductive health while also reducing waste from single-use sanitary pads and tampons. The project will distribute reusable menstrual hygiene kits to rehabilitation centres for abused women and children and to communities with the largest number of menstruating women in collaboration with local product makers and the city health office.

The project has recruited and trained volunteers to raise awareness among communities. An online webinar was also conducted where a specialist doctor in Obstetrics and Gynecology debunked common myths associated with menstruation and spoke about diseases and complications affecting menstruating women.



Above: Screenshots from the webinar and training for volunteers of project BabaYEAH. Picture Courtesy : PRC

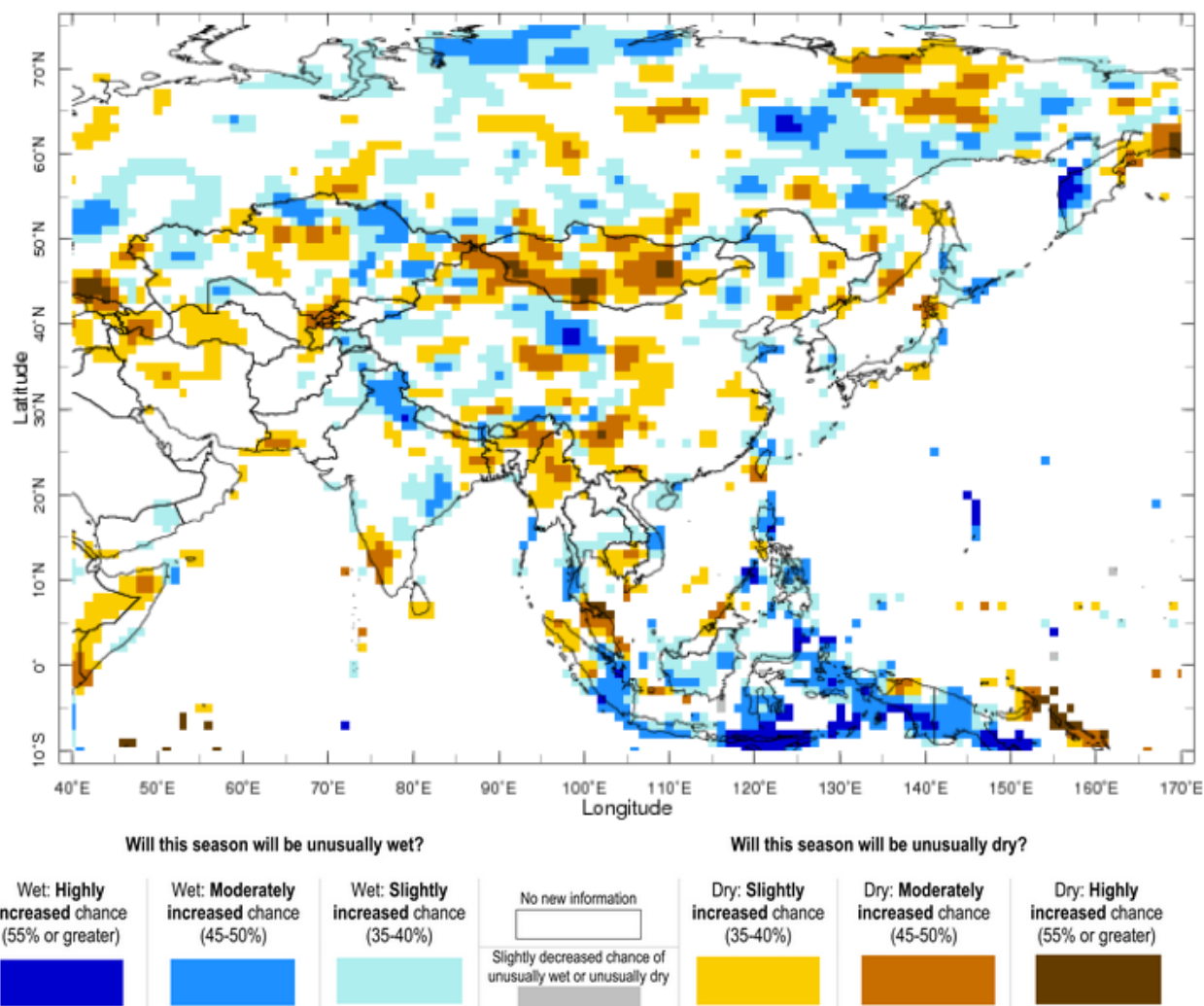
In Pictures: Blood Donation at Thai Red Cross

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Thai Red Cross and IFRC have been working to address the problem of blood shortage and ensure sufficient blood supply at the National Blood Center of the Thai Red Cross. As part of the World Red Cross Day celebrations, the IFRC's Head of Country Cluster Delegation – Kathryn Clarkson, handed over two buses outfitted for blood collection and storage, to the Thai Red Cross. These buses will travel to different locations around the country and facilitate blood donation. On the other hand, the Thai Red Cross's youth volunteers have stepped up to donate blood every three months. In May, 52, youth volunteers donated blood. Below are a few glimpses of the events:



Seasonal Forecast : June to August 2021

Forecast for Jun-Aug 2021, Forecast Issued May 2021



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



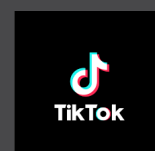
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