In October 2020, Quang Binh province, along with many other provinces, was severely affected by storms and floods. The Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) is now training residents on basic skills of search and rescue and first aid so that they are better prepared to deal with emergencies. (Picture courtesy: VNRC).
Timor Leste: Community kitchens for COVID-19 and floods

In April, Timor-Leste was hit by devastating floods. 50 people died; many houses were destroyed and camps were set up for internally displaced people. As with many Red Cross Societies across the world, Timor Leste Red Cross (CVTL) was juggling a natural disaster with a pandemic. One of CVTL’s response was to set up emergency kitchens for the displaced people.

Although they started with just six volunteers, soon there were 20 people supporting the kitchen. Nelom Viana- a volunteer said they have been busy for months- “Every day, me and my volunteer friends spent our time disinfecting and fogging; putting up tents, installing washing tanks, cooking, and sharing educational information on Covid-19 prevention. It keeps us very busy, but our work is important, and we are so happy that we can help.” Although most displaced people have now left the camps, the kitchen continues for volunteers who carry on with COVID-19 prevention work.

Singapore: New platforms for blood donation

The Singapore Red Cross (SRC) and the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) partnered with Facebook to launch the Facebook Blood Donation feature in Singapore on 14 June- World Blood Donor Day. This feature connects people who want to donate blood with opportunities to do so by providing real-time information on opportunities to donate blood. Read more here.

SRC also honoured blood donors virtually this year to mitigate the risks of COVID-19. As part of the observations for World Blood Donor Day, SRC unveiled a digital-first outreach campaign, comprising a series of digital and social activations, to celebrate and recognise blood donors in Singapore. The campaign aims to reach and engage the next generation of donors through interactive online activations, alongside engagements through social media channels such as Facebook and Instagram.
Philippines: Mobile vaccination clinics

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) is deploying five mobile vaccination clinics beginning July 1, 2021 in the cities of Manila and Cebu. This is in line with the program to support the National COVID-19 Vaccination Deployment, targeting people living below the poverty line as well as serving senior citizens and persons with disabilities who do not have access to different vaccination centers.

PRC has pioneered mobile vaccination clinics in the country. The buses are equipped with a cold chain system, mobile refrigerator, and vaccine cabinet. These buses were previously used for vaccinating more than one million children against polio and measles-rubella.

For PRC Chairman and CEO Richard Gordon, these buses are vital to protect people from COVID-19. He says- “The need to vaccinate as many as we can is crucial to help the Department of Health to reach its goal of herd immunity by the end of the year.”

Indonesia: Blood donations needed during the pandemic

As record numbers of COVID-19 infections surge across Indonesia, the Red Cross is urging more blood donors to step up and help. In Cilegon, west Java, Dr.Ariadne- from the Blood Donation Unit of the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) says: “Since the beginning of the pandemic, the blood stocks in our Blood Donation Unit decreases over time. We hope that by educating the public about the importance of blood donation to the community, we can help not only hospital patients but those with dengue fever, mothers in labour, or thalassemia. We really urge everyone to visit us and donate their blood,”

Before the pandemic, the Indonesian Red Cross would regularly visit at least 20 institutions and organise public events for blood collection. Unfortunately, this has not been possible due to COVID-19 restrictions, thus reducing the availability of blood donors.
The Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN) is supporting several different initiatives by the youth to address climate change through micro projects issued under the #SEAYNCallforProposal.

SEAYN is collaborating with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center to help the youth understand the impact of climate change such as intense floods, droughts, heatwaves, melting glaciers, and rising sea-levels. They are also exploring ways to adapt to climate change and the role of the youth in helping their communities adapt.

This collaboration is being done through virtual sessions of the Climate Center with youth from different countries of South east Asia. For SEAYN, reducing the negative impact of climate change is a key priority to ensure a safe, just and equitable world for the future.
In Pictures: Youth volunteers preparing 'Relief Kits'

During 16-26 June 2021, Youth Volunteers of the Thai Red Cross helped to pack Relief Kits for vulnerable and elderly people across the country to cope with COVID-19. The relief kits contain essential items of food like rice, noodles etc and hygiene items like face masks, soap etc. For more information, see: https://bit.ly/3wcU2ig
Seasonal Forecast: June to August 2021

For the interactive map from IFRC IRI, click here

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
W: www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org

www.ifrc.org