

MONTHLY UPDATES



The Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) conducts regular blood donation camps to boost availability of blood which has been in short supply due to the ongoing pandemic. Seen here are youth volunteers of TRCS helping with a blood donation event at Muang Sam Sip district. This was organized by the Ubon Ratchathani Red Cross Chapter in collaboration with Sunpasitthiprasong Hospital.

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Welcome to our newsletter providing updates of Southeast Asia for July 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: Rebuilding lives after deadly floods

In October- November 2020, parts of central Viet Nam were hit by devastating floods. With millions of people affected and several hundred thousand houses damaged, the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) rushed to provide immediate relief and long term recovery support to these communities.

Despite the pandemic, VNRC continues to provide the affected communities with trainings on measures for disaster risk reduction so that they are better prepared to reduce loss and damage in case of future disasters. In Quang Nam province, several rounds of trainings were conducted on this topic with more than 40 members of local disaster response teams. After the trainings, VNRC worked with local authorities and community members to conduct risk assessments in the region that will inform preparations for the future .



Above: Community trainings and disaster risk assesment exercisce underway in Quang Nam. Picture Courtesy : VNRC

Thailand: Help across borders



Above: Medical equipment donated by Thai Red Cross being handed over to Nepal Red Cross at the Kathmandu airport. Picture Courtesy:TRCS

Even amidst a worsening COVID-19 crisis at home, the Thai Red Cross provided medical supplies to Nepal Red Cross to help the Himalayan nation overcome the pandemic. Mr. Ganesh Prasad Dhakal, the Ambassador of Nepal to Thailand received the items on behalf of the Nepal Red Cross handed over by Mr. Tej Bunnag, Secretary General of Thai Red Cross Society on 9th July. Later on 22nd July, Mr. Wosit Worasap, the Ambassador of Thailand to Nepal, represented the Thai Red Cross Society as he handed over donated medical equipment, to representatives of the Nepal Red Cross Society, at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Singapore: HoME Responders

Meet Singapore Red Cross' dedicated first aid trained and certified Home Monitoring and Eldercare (HoME+) Responders Abdul Rahim Abdullah, Ansel Tang, Maggie Chan! They extend a helping hand to seniors living alone, post-surgery patients, and persons with disabilities.

Singapore Red Cross' Home Monitoring and Eldercare (HoME+) is a health monitoring system using sensors in a health watch. To safeguard the well-being of elders, post-surgery patients and wheelchair-users, HoME+ tracks active movements, sleep patterns, and heart health, and also offers a built-in GPS option. When unusual patterns are detected (inactivity due to a fall, etc.) or when the user activates the panic button on the watch, the Red Cross' call centre is notified immediately. Community responders or the Singapore Civil Defence Force (for emergencies) may be dispatched to render assistance.



Above: Clockwise from left: HoME+ Volunteers - Abdul Rahim Abdullah, Maggie Chan and Ansel Tang; Picture Courtesy : SRC

Laos: Training to meet everyone's needs in emergencies



Above: Participants at the training n disaster risk management in Northern Laos . Picture Courtesy : LRC

The needs of women and girls often remain unseen and unheard while responding to disasters. Since Laos is vulnerable to several types of disasters- the Lao Red Cross (LRC) conducts trainings to its teams on the importance of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) concerns while planning and responding to emergencies.

Nearly 70 staff and volunteers who participated in a recent training on disaster risk management also learnt about PGI in emergencies. The training was held in Phongsaly Province and Oudomsay Province in Northern Laos. Women and girls are often severely impacted by disasters and their recovery is slower due to inadequate support. Hence having trained team members to recognize and address this gap is a crucial step in disaster management.

Indonesia:



Above: Indonesian Red Cross teams supporting vaccinations for the public. Picture Courtesy : PMI

The Indonesian Red Cross is stepping up to support COVID-19 vaccinations for the public. The rapid rise in infections in Indonesia- the fourth most populous nation on the planet has pushed its health infrastructure to the limits.

Overall, southeast Asia is battling the world’s highest COVID-19 death toll driven by the Delta variant and unequal global distribution of vaccines. Hospitals remain overwhelmed by record surges across Southeast Asia, from Vietnam to Indonesia and Myanmar as fears mount of greater suffering and loss of life with COVID-19 spreading from cities to rural and regional areas.

In the last two weeks, Southeast Asia has recorded nearly twice as many deaths from COVID-19 as North America, according to the John Hopkins University COVID-19 data dashboard. Read more : [here](#).

Youth: Re-cycling plastic waste



Above: Youth from CVTL gather together to re-cycle plastic waste from their communities. Picture Courtesy : CVTL

The Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN) is supporting several initiatives by the youth to address climate change through micro projects issued under the #SEAYNCallforProposal.

In Timor Leste, youth are recycling plastic waste into flowers for sale. Recycling plastic reduces flooding by preventing drains and rivers from becoming clogged with plastic. Earlier this year, the worst floods in decades submerged several areas of Timor Leste, around the capital, Dili. There’s urgency in these efforts by youth to tackle climate disasters and keep their country green.

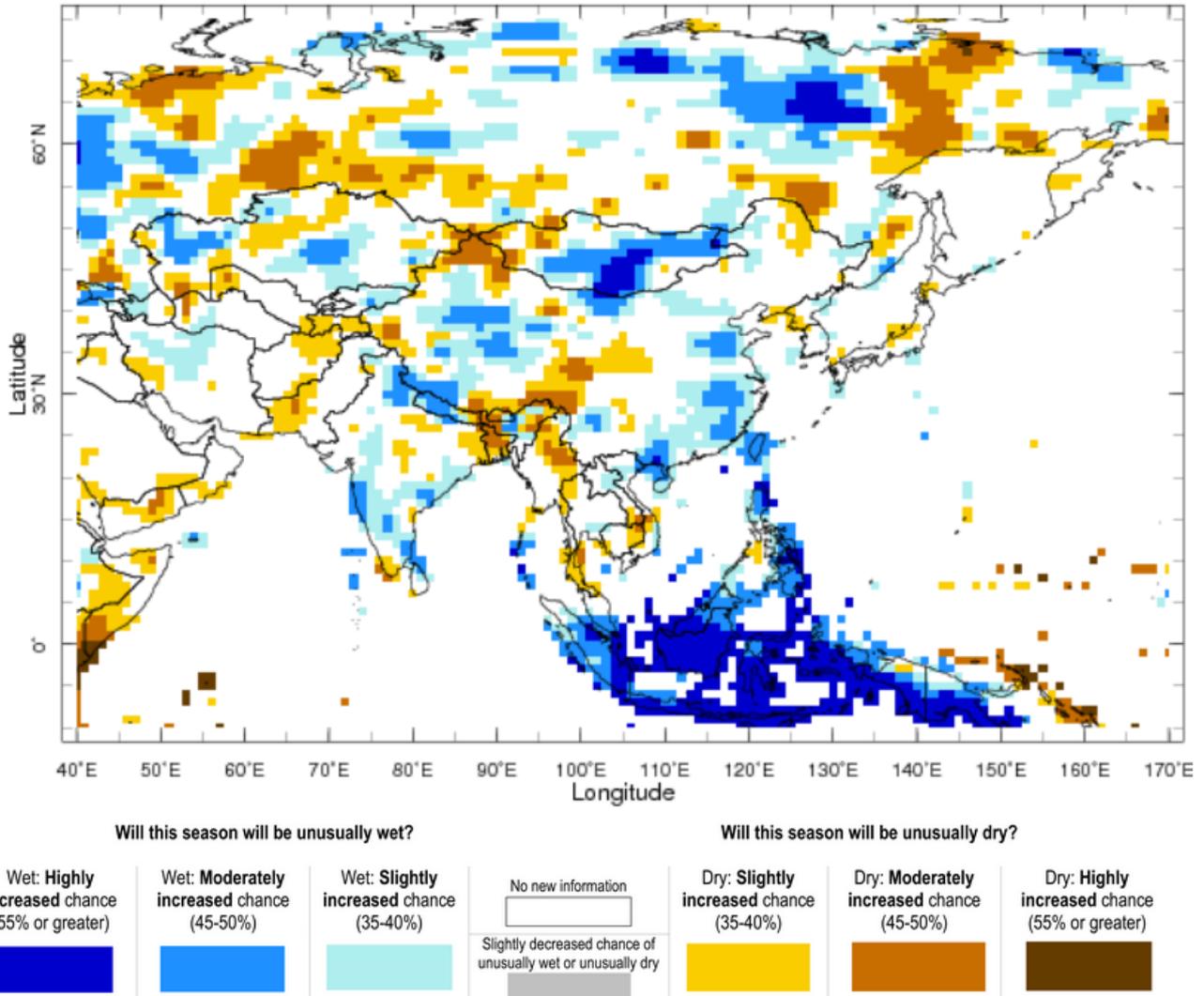
In Pictures: Raising Awareness

Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) staff and volunteers across all 25 branches are raising awareness on the importance of mental health and psychosocial support as well as prevention measures for COVID-19. They conduct home visits, small group meetings, messaging through mobile loud-speakers and peer educators to reach out to people in all parts of the country, as seen below:



Seasonal Forecast : August to October 2021

Forecast for Aug-Oct 2021, Forecast Issued Jul 2021



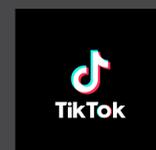
For the interactive map from IFRC IRI, go to: <https://bit.ly/2W8Ycfp>



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