

MONTHLY UPDATES



It has been one year since eight consecutive storms triggered massive floods in central Viet Nam in October 2020, affecting 1.5 million people. See how RedCross brought back smiles to people's faces by providing food, utensils & cash to repair homes and restart livelihoods at this link: <https://t.co/llxrnI4dR2?amp=1>

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Welcome to our newsletter providing updates of Southeast Asia for September 2021.

All photos used in this publication are from the respective Red Cross Red Crescent National Society or IFRC unless mentioned otherwise.

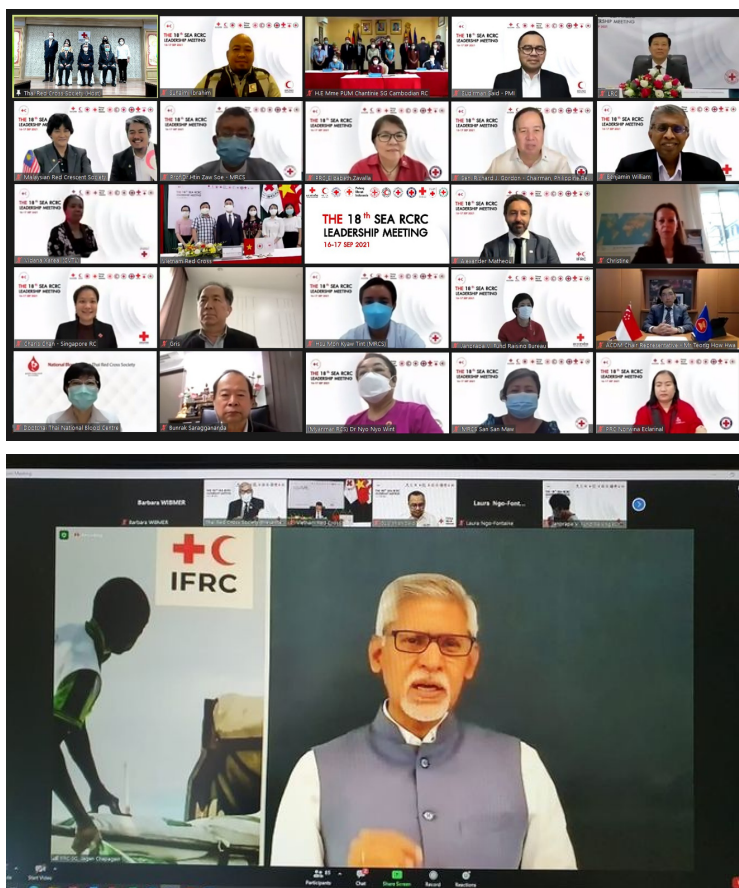
In addition to these monthly updates, you can find Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent's resources, tools, events and updates at the [Resilience Library](#).

18th Annual Meeting of Southeast Asia Leaders

The 18th Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting was hosted virtually by the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) from 16-17th September 2021. 11 National Societies of the Southeast Asian region participated in the two day meeting.

This Leadership Meeting is an important opportunity for Presidents, Secretaries, General and Senior Management in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to evaluate challenges, successes and future direction, as a way of further strengthening the world's largest humanitarian network.

The IFRC Secretary General Mr. Jagan Chapagain appreciated "the courage of leadership" demonstrated by the societies in Southeast Asia over the last 18 months and particularly at the moment, at the heart of the pandemic. He emphasized the importance of scaling up our work by stepping up fund raising, improving efficiency, and encouraging digitization and innovation.



Above: Screenshot of the 18th SEA meeting in progress. Pictures : TRCS

Indonesia: Celebrating a milestone



Above: A poster announcing the podcast series. Picture: IFRC Indonesia

The Head of Delegation for Indonesia and Timor Leste, Jan Gelfand and Executive Director of AHA Center, Adelina Kamal shared their experience on an hour long podcast on celebrating achievements from both organizations in providing disaster and humanitarian assistance during the Palu triple-earthquake disasters in 2018.

The podcast which is part of a series marking 10 years of the AHA center will also explore how the cooperation between the two organizations will add more value to the humanitarian assistance in the country to ensure that the community will have better preparedness in responding to disasters.

Timor Leste: When the chips are down, Red Cross is there to help

Amelia spreads the cassava chips out in the sun to dry, explaining the process Timor Leste Red Cross (CVTL) taught her that turns the nutty-flavored root vegetable into an important source of income of her family. "CVTL taught us how to make the chips," she says as her hands quickly spread them across the flat surface. "We make gratings; we place them in the sun until they are very dry, and then we fry them."

Increasingly popular across Timor-Leste, casava chips are often imported from neighboring countries such as Indonesia but are now an important source of income for Amelia and her group. Amelia is able to sell the chips for \$10 a bag, an important income stream she most recently used to buy her children pens, notebooks and other accessories for school.

"Before the CVTL came, we didn't know anything about making and selling cassava chips," she says. "We would eat the Casava and anything we didn't finish eating, we fed to the pigs."



Above: Cassava chips being spread out to dry. Picture : CVTL

While agriculture is a primary livelihood for about 80 percent of Timor-Leste's population, and many are subsistence farmers with limited access to the technologies and practices needed for sustainable food production. Low yields and crop losses mean there is little to no produce left at the end of the harvest, with everything going to feed the family.

CVTL's Integrated Community Based Risk Reduction Program (ICBR) aims to tackle these challenges and diversify the livelihoods of some of the country's most vulnerable households. Farmers are provided technical guidance on how to plant vegetables to increase yields and so produce additional income. Implemented by CVTL using a household-focused approach, new strategies and approaches have also included irrigation construction, animal vaccinations and organic farming. The program has also established livelihoods groups, where farming communities can help one another find solutions together. These groups are connected with agriculture facilitators at the local level and are supported by local government, an important partner in the program. The groups are supportive environments for often marginalized groups, (including women and elderly) increasing their knowledge, skills and income.



Above: Cassava chip making has become a valuable source of income. Picture: CVTL

Thailand: Youth volunteers supporting flood relief



During 28-29 September 2021, twenty youth volunteers of the Thai Red Cross came together to help pack and distribute 2,823 relief kits to residents affected by flood in Sukhothai province.

Persistent heavy rainfall brought by the southwest monsoons since 27 August triggered flash flooding in 11 provinces of Thailand. Additionally, Tropical Cyclone (TC) DIANMU which originated from the South China Sea, brought very heavy rainfall in the upper regions of Thailand since 24 September 2021 resulting in 32 provinces being flooded. Currently the floods have gone down in most provinces.

Local authorities in the affected provinces have deployed water pumps to pump out water evacuated people, provided portable drinking water trucks and fresh meals and put up sandbags.

Requests for assistance have been coming in through Phonphai – the mobile phone application developed by Thai Red Cross for disaster response, as well as through traditional means.

The Thai Red Cross disaster response teams swung into action immediately and delivered more than 52,000 relief kits with food, water, medicines, sanitary pads, mosquito repellants, cloth masks and hand sanitizers in 20 provinces. Boats and evacuation trucks have been deployed to move people to safety.

Working on multiple fronts, the Thai Red Cross is helping affected communities to cope with the aftermath of these latest floods, while also conducting mass vaccination camps for COVID-19. Their camps reach about 300-400 people daily. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is closely monitoring the situation and stands ready to support Thai Red Cross's response efforts.



Above: Youth volunteers packing and distributing relief kits for flood affected families in Sukhothai province. Picture : TRCS

Singapore: Fresh initiatives

The Singapore Red Cross (SRC) has launched its first-ever podcast series, CrossTalk. Episodes released to date have touched on blood donation, disaster relief missions, caring for the elderly, managing a social enterprise and first aid! These were produced in a partnership between the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) and the students and lecturers of Republic Polytechnic's Mass Communication. The podcasts are also available on Spotify.

SRC also joined up with the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) to launch the nation's first DonateBlood mobile app. This is part of the National Blood Programme's digital initiatives aimed at improving blood donors' experience and enhancing the convenience of donating blood.



Above: Screenshots from SRC's podcast series. Picture Courtesy : SRC

Viet Nam: Restoring homes and hope

Ms. Nguyen Thi Quy, 58 from the Duy Son commune, lives all alone nursing a long term illness. She makes a living by "collecting bottles to sell". Her small house built near a temple, was completely wrecked in the floods of 2020. Through the Red Cross's emergency appeal and support from private donors, she received 86.2million VND (3,782 USD) to rebuild her house.

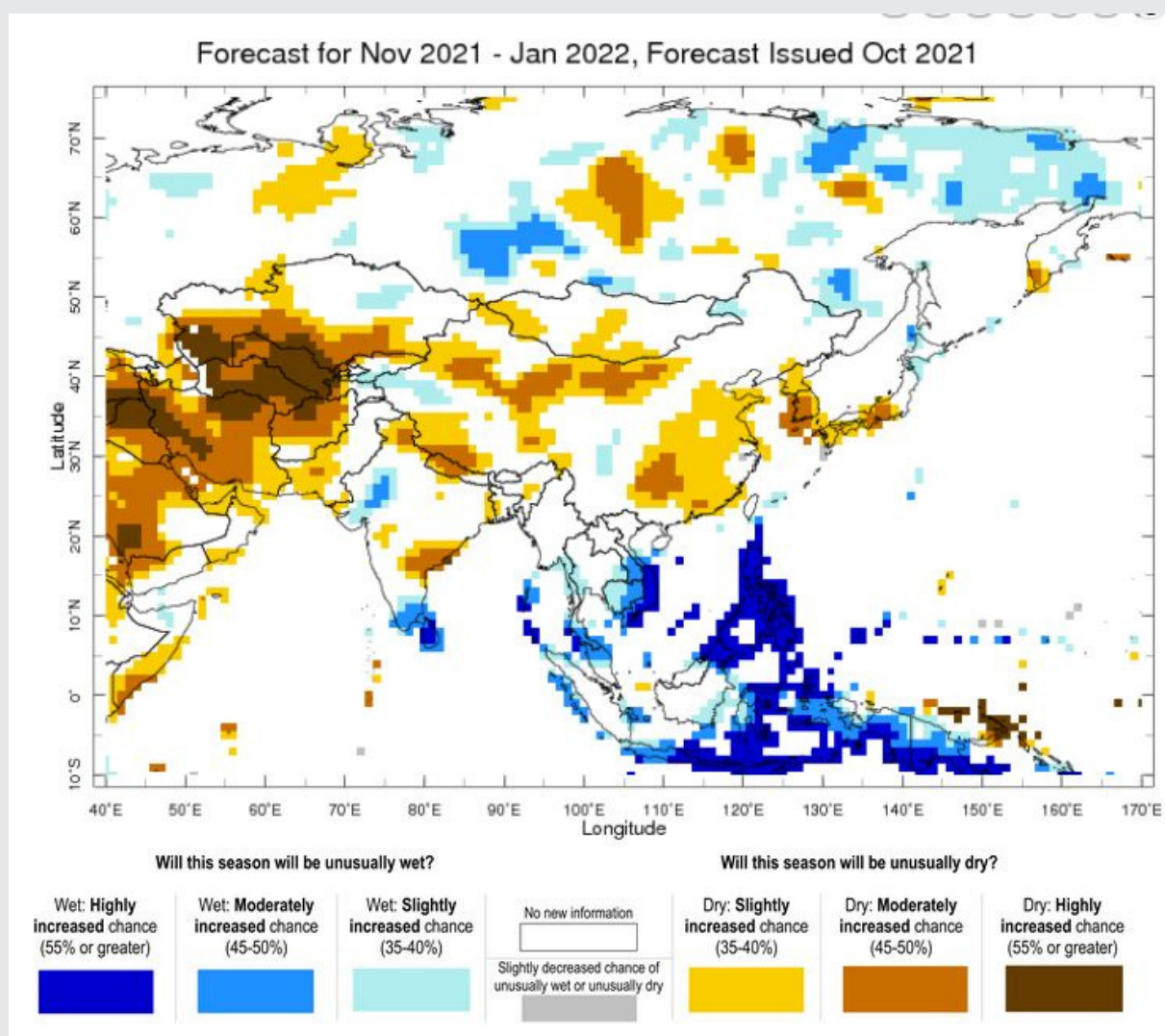
Ms. Ngo Thi Thanh, Chairman of the Red Cross Society of Duy Son commune, stated that they helped her out in all possible ways to mobilize personnel, purchase materials, contact builders, and get adequate funds. After the house was built, they mobilized mattresses, utensils, cutlery, and some furniture for her house.

When Quy talked about her feelings, she put her palm on her chest as if to keep her emotions in check and said "thank you to the Red Cross, for this house. Now i am safe!"



Above: Ms.Thi Hanh with Red Cross personnel Picture Courtesy : VNRC

Seasonal Forecast : November to January 2022



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



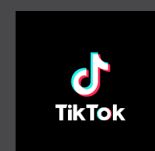
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