

## MONTHLY UPDATES



**The Thai Red Cross Society started a vaccination campaign targeting migrant workers in Bangkok and neighboring provinces. By the end of October , more than 11,000 migrant workers had received their first dose. Powered by more than 920 volunteer doctors and nurses, these vaccinations are carried out in collaboration with local health authorities .**

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



## Community Engagement and Accountability in Cambodia

Staff and volunteers of CRC collected community feedback in villages of 11 provinces about the impact of COVID-19. More than half the respondents were women. The feedback showed that people were most worried about the loss of their livelihood, contracting COVID-19 and the education of their children.

Overall, this exercise showed that COVID-19 has had a significant impact on mental health as people were stressed about their situation and fear of contracting the disease. There was also some amount of vaccine hesitancy. In response, CRC is emphasizing messages on preventive measures such as physical distancing, using masks etc. These kind of feedback collection exercises facilitate two-way communication with the community and enables CRC to understand the gaps in formation, and identify rumors. Listening to people also helps to build trust and acceptance. Based on their feedback, CRC provides timely, relevant and actionable life-saving information, that reduces fear, stigma and misinformation.



**Above:** CRC teams and volunteers collecting feedback electronically and on paper forms in the community. Pictures : CRC

## Indonesia: Eradicating Polio

The Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) reaffirmed its commitment to support the Government of Indonesia's Polio Eradication Program at the official launch of the Polio Preparedness Program in Kupang City, East Nusa Tenggara.

With support from the IFRC and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), PMI will be using a community-based approach to increase access to polio immunization programs for children and health services by boosting information campaigns and reducing vaccine hesitancy.



**Above:** Launch of the Polio Eradication Program at East Nusa Tenggara. Picture: IFRC Indonesia

Red Cross will also work with healthcare providers and families to increase surveillance for cases of acute flaccid paralysis, a symptom that can indicate the possible presence of the polio virus. The polio prevention activities will target five high-risk provinces, Aceh, North Kalimantan, North Maluku, Nusa Tenggara. East and West Papua which have low polio virus immunization rates.



## Timor Leste: Community growth through knowledge sharing



**Above:** CVTL team at the remote village of Faturilau village. Picture: CVTL

Sharing knowledge and information has been central to Timor-Leste Red Cross's work in our community, explains the head of Faturilau Village, Albano Amaral.

"Their experience and technical knowledge have helped us in many ways, from horticulture to preparing for disasters. If we compare the current situation with the situation 10 years ago, the community of Faturilau has gained better knowledge through Red Cross."

Some three years ago the people of the small village south-east of Dili outlined a series of challenges they faced, including problems with maternal health, the long distances from crucial health care services, and livelihoods threatened by climate related disasters.

In response to these multi-layered challenges, Timor-Leste Red Cross (Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste - CVTL) implemented the "Integrated Community-Based Risk Reduction Program" (ICBRR) which aims to build safer, healthier and more resilient communities by constructing water and sanitation facilities, promoting healthy practices through community education, providing first aid training and supporting local livelihoods.

"It started with the livelihood program, where CVTL facilitated the process of elevating knowledge regarding the creation of quality vegetables to the installation and construction of the water system," he says.

"CVTL brought a lot of experience and technical knowledge that has changed and improved the way we cultivate vegetables in the village."

Over the following years, CVTL has taken the same knowledge sharing approach with other priority areas, including community health and first aid.

CVTL's integrated program extends this work to helping the community prepare and respond to the increasing number of climate related disasters in Timor-Leste, including floods and landslides, cyclones, and severe and recurrent droughts.

This work includes building the skills, knowledge and capacity of local Red Cross volunteers, who live in the community and so are on the front-line of developing and maintaining these integrated programs.



## Singapore: World Mental Health Day

The Singapore Red Cross (SRC) observed World Mental Health Day on 10 October 2021. The Singapore Red Cross Academy (SRCA) organised a virtual outreach event themed 'Psychological first aid (PFA) for everyone - School (Youth), Workplace, Community.'. The event was aimed at raising awareness of the importance of mental health at every stage of a person's life while reducing the stigma of persons with mental health issues.

At the event, Singapore Red Cross' Youth Mental Health Ambassadors, Ms Tyen Rasif and Mr Cho Jun Ming, shared their journeys overcoming mental health challenges. They strove to inspire others who are undergoing similar situations to seek help. Besides the sharing session, the winners of a poetry writing competition and short film competition showcased their work at the event.



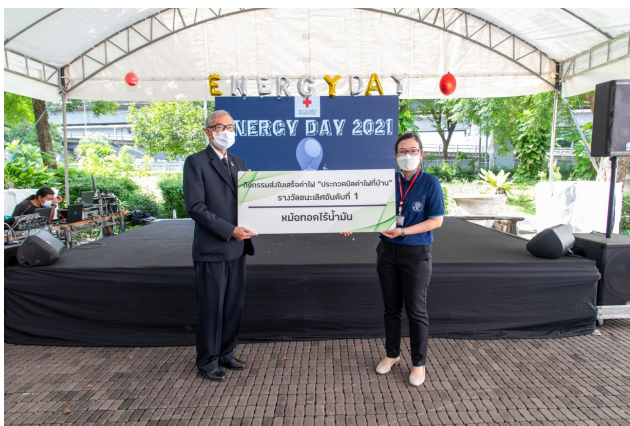
Above: A glimpse of the World Mental Health Day event in Singapore. Picture : SRC

## Thailand: Becoming Energy Efficient

The Thai Red Cross Society's energy efficiency campaign is a significant step in conserving energy, making better use of renewable energy sources and adapting to climate change.

Mr. Tej Bunnag, Secretary General of Thai Red Cross Society, presided over a ceremony for Energy Day on 27 September 2021 at the TRCS Museum.

The day's activities saw staff and volunteers participating in energy saving activities, and conserve energy in daily life. Awards were given out for videos showcasing energy saving ideas and a competition was held for showing the lowest home electricity bill.



Above: Mr. Tej Bunnag, Secretary General of TRCS at the event marking Energy Day, in Bangkok, Thailand. Picture : TRCS



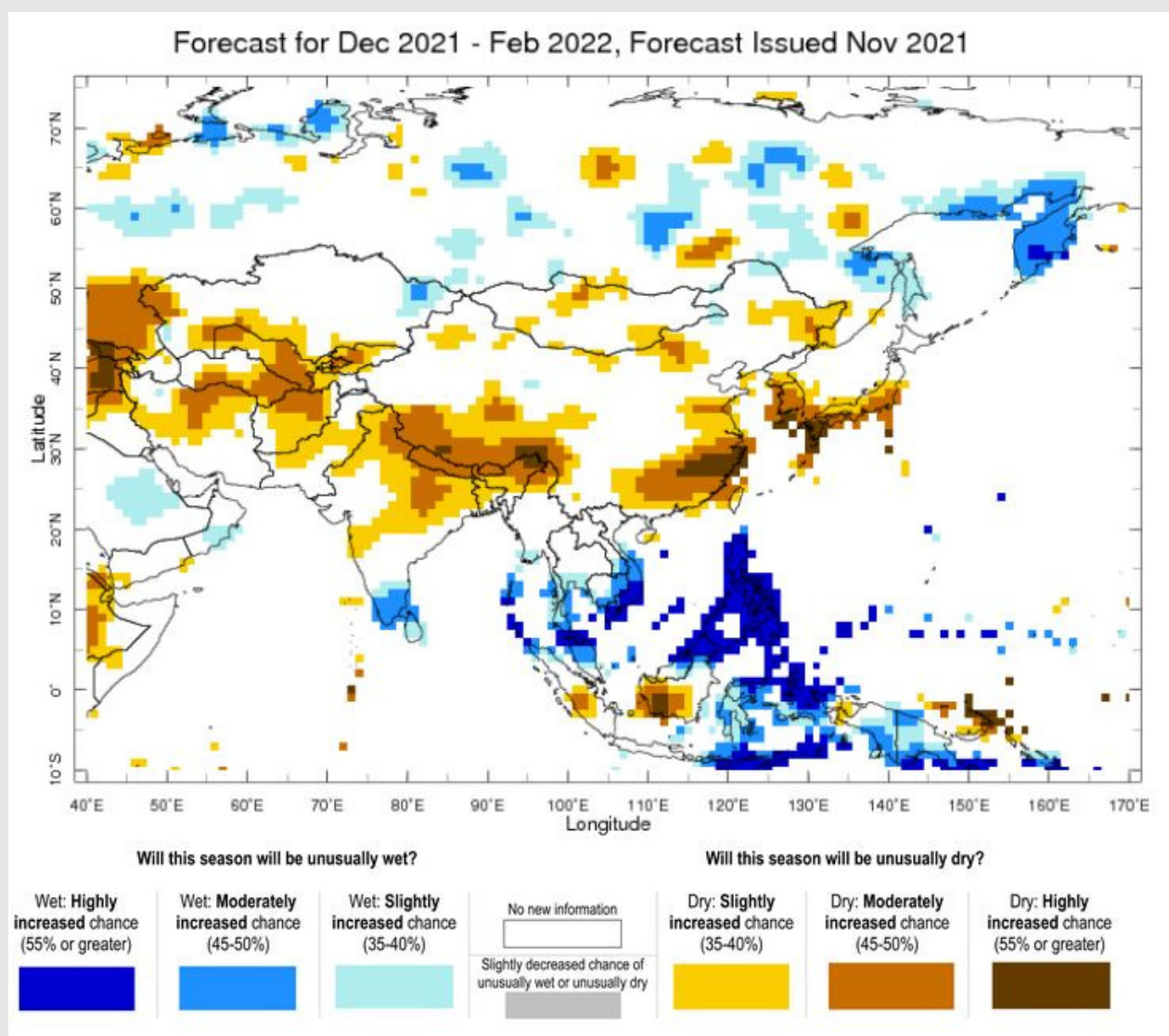
## Viet Nam: Restoring homes and hope

An estimated 1.5 million people were severely affected by widespread flooding, and landslides triggered by eight consecutive storms that hit central Viet Nam during October and early November 2020. In response to these devastating floods, the Viet Nam Red Cross launched one of its biggest ever disaster responses. The IFRC launched an emergency appeal for 2.3 million Swiss Francs to support the recovery of 110,000 people in four of the worst affected provinces - Quang Nam, Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue. This funding has largely supported repair and reconstruction of homes, revival of livelihoods, health and sanitation services and working with communities to reduce risks from disasters. Below are glimpses from the lives of some of the people who were supported in the last year.





## Seasonal Forecast : December 2021 to February 2022



***For the interactive map, go to: [IFRC Forecasts in Context](#)***



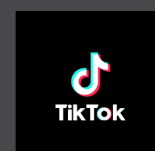
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