Preparing for disasters: Drought
A road to resilience in Southeast Asia
In a small farming village just outside Safety City...  

...Fah and Ton’s favourite TV show is suddenly interrupted!

Warning! Drought alert! 
Potential water supply shortages if dry weather continues!

Oh no! We’re doomed! 
We’re all going to die without water and food

Don’t worry Fah! I have worked with our neighbours and the local authorities to develop an emergency drought response plan!

I know lots of ways we can save water and food, every day

Turn off taps when brushing your teeth!

Take shorter showers!

That’s easy!

I can do that!

Wash dishes and vegetables in a bowl rather than under running water!

Collect and recycle irrigation water and rainwater in storage tanks

OK!
No! Don’t drink the water yet Fah!

Huh?

The water may need to be boiled before it is safe to drink.

OK.

What about food?

...such as tinned meat and fish, jams, peanut butter and biscuits!

Yummy! My favourite!

Everyone should store dry food, tinned food and grains that last 3-12 months...

We can also grow our own fruit and vegetables in our back garden or yard...

...and make sure we are careful with our food supplies. The Red Cross can tell us the best way to do this.

Wow!

Suddenly, out of nowhere, it begins to rain!

Yippee! It's raining!

Hurray! Now maybe there will be no drought.

Now we can all use as much water as we like!

Water is a precious natural resource that cannot be made!

No Fah! We should always use water efficiently, not just when there isn’t much rain.

Gee, you’re right! Thanks Fon!
Below is a list of things to remember if there is a drought. Study it well, these tips could make all the difference for you and your family!

- Take part in risk and capacity mapping and drought preparedness planning
- Clean dishes and vegetables in a bowl and recycle washing water for plants
- Inspect pipes and taps for leaks and repair them
- Turn off taps when brushing teeth or shaving
- Take shorter showers
- Cover wells and water storage to reduce evaporation
- Store dry and tinned food as well as grains
- Look for alternative sources of income to fill the food gap
- Plant trees – especially species that need little water

To learn more about disasters, please visit: www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/drought

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
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