



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Indonesia

There were 2,077 dead people, 680 missing, 4,438 injuries and 205,870 displaced persons by earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi as of 22 October 2018. Palu, Parigi Moutong, Sigi and Donggala are the most affected areas. Damages were on 68,451 houses and 45 health facilities. Most cases reported from health facilities are acute diarrhea, typhoid fever and pneumonia. Donggala reported highest cases of acute diarrhea and acute respiratory infection, followed by Palu and Sigi. Responders are working to address sanitation problem which is a high priority while there are still lots of health challenges with needs of psychosocial support, child and maternal health, healthcare delivery and logistics. The total damage and loss of Central Sulawesi was at 13.8 trillion rupiah (907 million USD) with 55.2% in Palu City. However, market activities have resumed in Palu City, Sigi and Donggala. Due to the weather forecast, it will be above-normal rainfall, causing flash floods and landslides in Central Sulawesi in the coming months. The Central Sulawesi Disaster Emergency Response Status was extended from 13 to

26 October 2018. The national government is being supported by related stakeholders for the need assessment for the affected areas whereas other assistances included provisions of needed items such as tents, medicine and food for pregnant women as well as building of temporary houses and ensuring accesses to health services for displaced people. Meanwhile, international organisations and humanitarian partners assisted the national government by relief items, logistics and psychosocial supports.

* 1 USD = 15,209 rupiah

Source: ASEAN Humanitarian Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) (2018, Oct 22). *Situation Update No. 14 – M 7.4 Earthquake & Tsunami Sulawesi, Indonesia.*

Lao PDR

Over 70% of droughts or floods in Lao PDR have occurred during El Nino and La Nina years since 1966 with major impacts on the agricultural sector and the overall economy according to the World Bank report. The country was recommended to strengthen resilience for the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) which is temperature fluctuation between the ocean and atmosphere, affecting global weather and climate. The ENSO is divided into El Nino which is warm phase causing the decline of rainfalls and drought risks and La Nina which is cool phase leading to the increase of rainfall and flood risks. The latest forecasts predict that the country is likely to face another El Nino beginning in November 2018. Thus, the ways for better preparedness include investment of early warning systems, creation of the focal point of ENSO and action plan, developing risk maps, targeting the most vulnerable areas, improving the financing mechanisms and cooperating with other Southeast Asian countries to counter related challenges. In agricultural sector, it is possible to promote investment of drought-tolerant seeds and expand small-scale irrigation infrastructure. The World Bank also pointed that, if the country can learn to harness the rebound

from La Nina, it will be able to offset social, economic and agricultural losses from El Nino.

Source: Lao News Agency (2018, Oct 22). *Managing El Nino and La Nina in Lao Agriculture.*

Malaysia

Due to the forecast of the annual monsoon season, outdoor recreational activities along with logging and mining activities are suspended for 2 months in Pahang state from 15 November 2018.

This is because the state government and related agencies consider that logging and mining activities can result in serious floods at certain areas. In addition, a total of 664 evacuation centres and 117 forward bases had been identified throughout the state in case of floods. The highest rainfall in Pahang was expected between December 2018 and January 2019 whereas high tides were forecast in December 2018. Coastal areas of Kuantan, Pekan and Rompin are among the prone areas to major floods. All flood relief centres will get food supplies which are sufficient for 3 days whereas the areas in Pulau Tioman, Bukit Bangkung and Ulu Tembeling will receive one week of food supplies. The personnel from related agencies will be on standby for floods.

Source: News Straits Times (2018, Oct 22). *Outdoor activities suspended as monsoon season looms.*

Philippines

The severe tropical storm named Yutu is being monitored but remains outside of the area of responsibility as of 23 October 2018. Tropical storm Yutu was estimated at 2,925 kilometres east of Visayas and slightly has a chance to make landfall over the Philippines. Although it is too far to affect any parts of the country, the intertropical convergence zone will still be the prevailing weather system, leading to rains over Palawan and Mindanao. This is reason of potential weather disturbances bringing cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in Palawan,

Zamboanga, Autonomous Muslim Region in Mindanao and Davao Region. Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon will remain warm and humid with isolated rains. The public was warned of heavy rains that may cause flash floods or landslides over low-lying or mountainous areas.

Source: Manila Bulletin (2018, Oct 23). *Severe tropical storm 'Yutu' off remains outside PAR – PAGASA.*

Thailand

Heavy rainfall caused irrigation officials in Phetchaburi to increase outflows at major reservoirs while most of Thailand will face continuous rainfall.

According to the director of Phetchaburi's irrigation project, the agency was forced to increase its outflow rates from reservoirs of Kaeng Krachan, Mae Prachan, Huay Pak and Phetch dams into the Phetchaburi river. Local residents were assured that the increase will not cause floods. At the same time, the Meteorological Department has forecast heavy rainfall in some areas in the northern and central regions, leading to flash floods. Thunderstorms are expected in the northeastern, eastern and southern regions. A low-pressure system will move from the Gulf of Thailand into Malaysia. So, vessels operating in the southern seas are therefore advised to proceed with caution.

Source: National News Bureau of Thailand (2018, Oct 23). *Continued rainfall expected in most regions.*

Viet Nam

Prolonged heavy rain and flash floods caused 1 death, 1 missing person and 2 injuries in the northern province of Ha Giang. Flash floods swept away 6 houses, damaged dozens of houses and killed the cattle. Crops which were about to be harvested were lost. Damages were on many sections of National Highway as well as local primary and secondary schools. The commune and related officers were asked to search for the missing persons, ensure safety and resume operations of route leading to the commune. However,

the district's Steering Board on Disaster Prevention and Control and Search and Rescue announced financial assistance for the family of deceased and missing victims and households whose homes was swept away.

Source: Viet Nam News (2018, Oct 23). *Flash floods kill one, another missing in Ha Giang.*

P.R. China

Moderate cold air will hit most parts of the country from west to east due to the forecast from the National Meteorological Centre. The temperature of Xinjiang, Northwest China, central-western Inner Mongolia, Northeast China, North China and the Yellow-Huaihe basin will drop by 4-8 Celcius, even above 10 Celcius in parts of central-eastern Inner Mongolia and eastern Northeast China. The lowest temperature will be located in southern Northeast China, central-northern North China and central Shaanxi. In the meantime, southern Hebei and Shandong will face first frost. Light to moderate snow will hit northern Xinjiang, northeastern Inner Mongolia, Heilongjiang and central-northern Jilin whereas moderate to heavy rainfall will be in Hunan, Jiangxi, southern Zhejiang and Fujian during the period from 25 to 27 October 2018. However, the public should take measures for preventing from snow and cold.

Source: China Meteorological Administration (CMA) (2018, Oct 22). *Cold air brings falling temperature and gale to hit most parts of China.*

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