



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

No. 95
14 – 20 November 2018

Cambodia

A change in weather conditions is the main reason of a series of drought due to the Water Resources Ministry.

The ministry is finding a viable solution. As rainy season came earlier than usual in 2018, there was water shortage over past few weeks. The ministry tasked provincial water departments to aid farmers and gave two water pumping machines to drought-hit districts in Banteay Meanchey province. Water authorities in Preah Sihanouk also aim to salvage rice fields in Sihanoukville by 22 water pumps for feeding water to the dry crops. Above 2,000 hectares of rice in Prey Nop district are vulnerable. However, authorities in Kampong Cham salvaged 10,000 hectares of rice fields in districts of Srey Santhor, Prey Chhor, Choeung Prey and Kampong Siem. More than 20,000 hectares of rice fields in 13 provinces have been affected by droughts with Kampong Cham, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Kampong Thom. On 18 November 2018, Prime Minister Hun Sen reminded government officials to pay attention to droughts and to support farmers.

Source: Khmer Times (2018, Nov 19). *Ministry pinpoints source of droughts.*

Indonesia

Sigi regency of Central Sulawesi was struck by a flash flood, destroying dozens of houses as of 16 November 2018.

This regency was already damaged by the earthquake, tsunami as well as soil liquefaction in September 2018. The flood hit Bangga village, swept dozens of houses away and inundated hundreds of houses due to the overflowing river by heavy rains. This flood forced 154 families to leave their homes and damaged the excavator which is belonged to the local river monitoring agency, a dam, a bridge and 70 hectares of rice fields and plantations. However, no casualties have been recorded. This event was suspected that the recent earthquake impacts in Central Sulawesi caused this area to have become susceptible to severe floods in the rainy season.

Source: The Jakarta Post (2018, Nov 18). *Flash flood sweeps through village near liquefaction-hit area in Sigi.*

There were aftershocks from the earthquake that still shake the regency of Mamasa in West Sulawesi province.

The earthquakes have occurred with the magnitudes of 2.3, 3.1, 2.8 and 2.7. This affected 8,000 families and damaged 203 houses as well as 40 government buildings of offices, schools and places for worship. Residents were warned to remain calm and not to be panic. Residents in Mamasa who were traumatized by the earthquake still survived in the refugee camps.

Source: ASEAN Humanitarian Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) (2018, Nov 17). *Indonesia, Earthquake in Mamasa, West Sulawesi.*

Malaysia

Twenty- four hours of prolonged heavy rain caused floods in two districts in Selongor, forcing evacuation of 222 people from their homes.

Flood victims from Petaling and Kuala Selongor districts were moved to temporary relief centres in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur. A total of 137 victims from 41 families have been housed

at the Section U19 Paya Jaras Hall in Petaling while 85 evacuees of 30 families were placed at the Kuala Selangor District Council Hall in the capital. Meanwhile, the Smart Selangor Command Centre said that special teams have been dispatched to the flooded areas where the situation is being monitored. The Centre also advised the public to adhere to directives given by the authorities if they are asked to move to a designated place in the event that their residential areas are inundated.

Source: New Straits Times (2018, Nov 16). *Monsoon flooding hits Selangor, 222 evacuated.*

Philippines

On 18 November 2018, Tropical Depression Samuel has entered into the Philippines and could bring moderate to heavy rains over parts of Mindanao.

Moderate to heavy rains which may cause floods and landslides may prevail Caraga region and provinces of Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley on 19 November 2018. Tropical Depression Samuel may cause landfall over Northern Mindanao also on 20 November 2018. People living in these areas, especially near river channels and low-lying mountainous areas are advised to be precautionary and to coordinate with the offices of local disaster risk reduction and management. In addition, the vessels are advised not to venture out over eastern seaboard of Visayas and of Mindanao. Meanwhile, another storm named Toraji was estimated at 945 km west of Puerto Princesa City and is moving southwest to the southern Viet Nam without impacts on any parts of the Philippines.

Source: Manila Bulletin (2018, Nov 18). *TD' Samuel' enters PAR, could bring rains over parts of Mindanao.*

Thailand

Heavy rains are still expected in the South of Thailand although Tropical Storm Toraji has been downgraded into a depression. Weakened Toraji is still 35

km northeast of Ho Chi Minh City. From 19 to 21 November 2018, tropical depression will move towards the Gulf of Thailand and will cross over the southern region into the Andaman Sea. More rain is forecast from Surat Thani to Songkhla with heavy rains in some areas. As Toraji passes over the Gulf of Thailand, two-metre waves are expected to complicate maritime operations. Smaller vessels are advised to stay in ports. In the meantime, 40 homes across provinces of Phetchabun, Saraburi, Nan and Lampang suffered storm damage. Disaster mitigation officials, military and related authorities are assessing damage and giving the survival supplies as well as repair equipment in the affected areas.

Source: National News Bureau of Thailand (2018, Nov 19). *Toraji downgraded to tropical depression; heavy rain to hit South.*

Viet Nam

Torrential downpour caused by a tropical depression hit the coastal area of Nha Trang, causing multiple deaths and infrastructure damage.

Landslides in Vinh Tho, Vinh Truong, Vin Hia wards and Phuoc Dong commune killed 12, injured 11 and left 6 people missing. It was reported that this depression stems from weakened Typhoon Toraji. Many parts of the city were flooded because the sewage system was unable to handle the prolonged downpour. In Phouc Dong commune, 1,400 people in high-risk mountainous areas were moved to safer ground. Soldiers and officials were mobilised for supporting search and rescue agencies. Heavy rainfall also disrupted the traffic between Nha Trang and Cam Ranh International Airport as well as education. The local governments were directed to provide support and aid for the victims. In the meantime, Ninh Thuan and Phu Yen provinces were flooded while the levels of water in rivers from Khanh Hoa to Ninh Thuan are on the rise, leaving more areas in the south central region at risk of floods and landslides even when rains stopped. However, it was forecast that there will be

possibility of the typhoon making landfall in the south-central and southern provinces in a week due to another tropical depression forming off the coast of the Philippines.

Source: Viet Nam News (2018, Nov 18). *Tropical depression hits south central provinces, claiming 12 lives.*

P.R. China

Water has receded from the lake created by landslides on the border of Sichuan province and the Tibet region due to the disaster relief authorities. In the lake which was formed by landslides blocking the Jinsha river since mid-October 2018, the water amount has been reduced significantly with low speed of water flows. This water discharge was made to channel the water and prevent the second disaster if the natural dam were to burst. The water discharge beginning on 12 November 2018 has sent large volume to downstream and disrupted traffic on a major highway linking Sichuan and Tibet. Relief personnel from the Ministry of Emergency Management have arrived in Chamdo, Tibet to monitor the situation while flood control authorities in Yunnan province in the southern part are still on alert to cope with the risk from the water discharge and are calculating losses.

Source: China Daily (2018, Nov 15). *Threat from lake created by landslides starts to recede.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840
Email: kanin.lao@apterr.org / kanin.la34@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

* This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Related Information is based on all available sources during the period. The APTERR Secretariat shall take no responsibility for data accuracy in this publication and any consequence of their use.