



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

No. 177
15 - 21 July 2020

Indonesia

South Sulawesi was inundated by severe floods. On 13 July 2020, North Luwu regency, South Sulawesi was deadly hit by severe floods resulting from torrential downpours.

The rainfalls caused three rivers to overflow and create strong floods affecting six districts including Masamba, Sabbang, Baebunta, South Baebunta, Malangke and West Malangke.

According to the National Disaster Mitigation Agency and the joint rescue team, there were 38 killed, 40 missing, 58 injured, and 14,483 forced to flee from the areas. In addition, hundreds of houses and public facilities have been buried under the mud.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2020, Jul 21). *South Sulawesi flood kills at least 38 people, dozens reportedly missing*; The Jakarta Post. (2020, Jul 15). *Flood leaves at least 15 dead, dozens missing in South Sulawesi*.

Malaysia

Flash floods surprised people in two parts of Malaysia. Flash floods hit Pagoh in Johor and five districts in Selangor including Hulu Langat, Sepang, Hulu Selangor, Gombak and Klang on 15 and 18 July 2020 respectively.

More than 250 people in Selangor and around 1,000 people in Pagoh were forced to leave their homes and seek shelters at temporarily relief centres.

There were no injuries or deaths on any of these incidents. Moreover, all the evacuees in the relief centres were recently allowed to return home thanks to the improved situation in Selangor.

Source: The New Straits Times. (2020, Jul 15). *Pagoh hit by flash floods, more than 1,000 victims at shelters*; The Star. (2020, Jul 20). *Five districts in Selangor flooded*; The Straits Times. (2020, Jul 19). *Selangor hit by flash floods, sending 265 people to relief centres*.

Myanmar

An embankment collapse made a situation in flood-risk Mandalay worse. The embankment on the bank of the Ayeyawady River near Shwege Sewage Pumping Station collapsed on 19 July 2020 causing large floods to hit the areas of Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region.

The incident forced around 5,000 people to be evacuated. However, no one was injured in this incident.

The broken embankment made a preparedness for a flood response more difficult since Mandalay Region is expected to enter a flood stage in this month.

Likewise, several States and Regions have suffered flood problems. Over 4,000 population in Kachin State, Sagaing Region and Magway Region were affected by heavy floods

The flood-hit townships included Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamo and Shwegu Township in Kachin State, Katha, Htigyaing, Khamti Township in Sagaing Region and six townships in Magway Region.

Although no casualty was reported and most of the evacuees returned home, people still have to be cautious of flash floods, hill slides, and landslides which could commonly happen in the raining season.

Source: Eleven Myanmar. (2020, Jul 21). *Around 5,000 affected by floods after Ayeyawady embankment collapse in Amarapura*; Eleven Myanmar. (2020, Jul 18). *July floods*

affect more than 4,000 people in two regions and one state; The Myanmar Times. (2020, Jul 21). 4,000 people evacuated as Ayeyarwady river floods.

Thailand

Thailand is facing a looming water shortage as a result of shorter monsoon. The Hydro-Informatics Institute (HII) issued a warning that the raining season will be shorter than usual this year. It means there might not be adequate precipitation to replenish reservoirs across the country.

As of now, 25 major dams and reservoirs, many of which supply water for rice production in Thailand, have less than 30% of their total water storage capacity.

Therefore, water shortages are anticipated to strike the country from November this year to May next year.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2020, Jul 20). *Shorter monsoon causing 'water stress'*.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam was heavily hit by fatal flood. Flood triggered by incessant downpour on 21 June 2020 caused three deaths and one injury in Hà Giang Province.

Many roads in the area were submerged and hit with landslide blocking traffic routes to some areas.

Furthermore, the flash flood and landslide warnings were also issued in many provinces including Lai Châu, Lào Cai, Yên Bái, Hà Giang, Tuyên Quang, Cao Bằng and Bắc Kạn as more heavy rains were forecasted to continue.

Source: Viet Nam News. (2020, Jul 21). *Three die in Hà Giang heavy rain.*

Drought continues to affect central provinces in Viet Nam. Local production and livelihood of people in Thanh Hoá, Nghệ An, and Hà Tĩnh provinces have been affected by extremely hot weather and severe drought since the early of 2020. Dried up dams, reservoirs, lakes resulted in more than 13,000 hectares of rice not getting enough water, while many rice

fields were completely abandoned making losses of rice production inevitably.

A number of measures on drought control, such as dredging canals and digging wells, have been implemented by the local government to mitigate the problem.

Source: Viet Nam News. (2020, Jul 17). *Hot weather continues to hit central provinces.*

China

China was at higher risk of more deadly floods. Heavy rains on 17 July 2020 increased the amount of water in the Yangtze River making the inflow at the Three Gorges Dam to hit the highest record.

The inflow rate rose to 61,000 cubic metres per second on 18 July 2020 pushing the reservoir's water level up to 160 metres, only 15 metres below its maximum capacity. However, the inflow rate receded to 46,000 cubic metres per second on the day after.

Meanwhile, the river broke its bank in other several locations causing many cities to be inundated.

According to the Ministry of Emergency Management, a total death toll has risen to 141 while 1.8 million people have been displaced. The destruction has caused more than 7 billion US dollars.

Source: South China Morning Post. (2020, Jul 21). *China fears more devastating floods as Yangtze River's levels rise again.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840
Email: pirapat.shi@apterr.org
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.