



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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### Indonesia

**A volcano continued to erupt several times in Indonesia.** The National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) reported that Mount Sinabung erupted several times during 13-14 August 2020. The eruptions lasted for more than 20 minutes, blasting volcanic ash up to 2,100 meters high above the ground.

Nearly three million-USD crop losses in Karo Regency, North Sumatra were caused by volcanic ash, while the residents in affected areas were instructed to wear a mask to protect their respiratory system.

**Source:** The Jakarta Post. (2020, Aug 14). *Karo farmers suffer Rp 41.8 billion in losses due to Mt. Sinabung eruption*; The Jakarta Post. (2020, Aug 13). *Mt. Sinabung erupts again, spewing ash 2,000 meters high*.

**Heavy rains and strong wind struck two provinces in Indonesia.** Torrential rains on 15 August 2020 caused the Kebak River and the Belimbing River in Melawi Regency, West Kalimantan Province to overflow. The incident affected almost 400 persons, forcing some of them to leave their homes. However, all of the displaced people have been able to go back homes recently.

Likewise, heavy rains and gust wind on the same day damaged nearly 100 houses in

Kerinci Regency, Jambi Province. Luckily, there was no one injured by the incident.

**Source:** AHA Centre. (2020, Aug 15). *Indonesia, Flooding in Melawi Regency, West Kalimantan Province*; AHA Centre. (2020, Aug 15). *Indonesia, Whirlwinds in Kerinci Regency, Jambi Province*.

### The Philippines

**A strong earthquake in the Philippines killed one person with many injured.** The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) recorded a 6.6-magnitude earthquake with an epicenter in Cataingan town of Masbate Province on 18 August 2020. The tremors were also felt in some parts of Luzon and Visayas.

The quake left one death with at least 43 injured. It also inflicted damages to several buildings, and some other infrastructures in the affected areas.

The risk of tsunami was unlikely. However, people still had to stay vigilant as many aftershocks were expected.

**Source:** Manila Bulletin. (2020, Aug 18). *6.6 quake hits Masbate; 1 dead*.

### Thailand

**Northern and Northeastern regions of Thailand witnessed the impacts of monsoon.** Flooding, windstorm, mudslides occurred in many provinces in Thailand. They were influenced by a southwest monsoon prevailed over the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand since 6 August 2020.

Over 4,000 people from 843 households in Prachinburi, Chanthaburi, and Trat experienced difficulties from flash floods happening on 10-13 August 2020. There were no reports on displacement as well as casualties.

**Source:** AHA Centre. (2020, Aug 15). *Thailand, Flooding in the Eastern Region.*

## **Viet Nam**

**Flash floods damaged properties and caused injuries in Viet Nam.** Heavy rains poured down many areas of Điện Biên and Quảng Ninh provinces on 15-16 August 2020, triggering flash floods in several districts.

The hardest hit district was Nậm Pồ in Điện Biên Province, where at least four houses were swept away by water stream and one primary school was submerged. The overall cost of destruction was around 43,000 USD. The downpour also caused two people in Hạ Long City, Quảng Ninh Province to be injured.

Moreover, a tropical storm in the East Sea is forecasted to bring more heavy rains in north and north-central regions, as well as many mountainous and midland provinces. People in those areas were warned to be cautious of flash floods and landslides.

**Source:** Viet Nam News. (2020, Aug 18). *Tropical depression moves towards East Sea.*

## **China**

**More than 60,000 fled their homes due to heavy downpours.** Prolonged downpours from 15 to 16 August 2020 caused 31 rivers in Sichuan Province above the warning levels. The situation contributed to the displacement of over 60,000 residents. Fortunately, there were no records of death or missing person.

The downpour also caused immense damages to agricultural areas and other infrastructures in the cities of Chengdu, Deyang, and Mianyang.

As of 18 August 2020, the province declared a flood emergency response to Level I, which is the highest level.

**Source:** Xinhua. (2020, Aug 18). *SW China's Sichuan activates top flood emergency response*; Xinhua. (2020, Aug 16). *Over 60,000 evacuated for heavy downpours in China's Sichuan.*

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