



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

**No. 182**  
**19 – 25 August 2020**

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### Indonesia

**Several earthquakes jolted many parts of Indonesia.** People felt the impact from a series of earthquakes that struck Bengkulu and Sulawesi on 19 and 21 August 2020 respectively. The magnitudes were recorded to be around 6.8 and 6.9 Richter scale.

Although the quakes were quite strong, there were no any reports on imminent threat from tsunami as well as major destructions or casualties.

**Source:** AHA Centre. (2020, Aug 19). *M 6.9 and M 6.8 Earthquakes Sumatra, Indonesia Flash Update #1*; The Jakarta Post. (2020, Aug 21). *6.9-magnitude quake strikes off Indonesia: USGS*.

**An activity of Mount Sinabung caused an unusual incident in Indonesia.** Mount Sinabung erupted again on 19 August 2020, sending around 4,000 columns of volcanic ash into the sky. The increased amount of ash in atmosphere caused a hailstorm to hit many parts of Karo Regency on 20 August 2020. Fortunately, nobody was hurt during this phenomenon.

**Source:** The Jakarta Post. (2020, Aug 21). *Hailstorm hits Karo regency following increased activity of Mt. Sinabung*.

### Thailand

**Tropical storm brought suffering to Thai people in many provinces.** Tropical storm Higos has brought intense downpours to many areas in central, northern, and northeastern regions of Thailand since 20 August 2020. The hardest hit provinces were Nan, Chiang Mai, Phayao, Phrae, Roi Et, Lampang, Loei, Uttaradit and Sukhothai.

As of 25 August 2020, the disasters have directly affected 40,000 people and caused damages of 4,000 houses. In this regard, more than 1,000 people were forced to leave their homes. At least two persons were found dead in Nan and Lampang provinces.

In addition, the torrential rains and flash flood were anticipated to hit up to 40 provinces in the upcoming days.

**Source:** Thai Enquirer. (2020, Aug 25). *Thailand's north and northeastern region continue to battle severe tropical storms and flooding*; The Watchers. (2020, Aug 25). *40,000 People Affected, 4 000 Houses Damaged as Heavy Monsoon Rains Hit Wide Swaths of Northern Thailand*.

### Viet Nam

**Viet Nam faced the impact of tropical storm Higos.** Heavy rains, flash floods, and landslides took place in the northern region of the country on 19 August 2020 due to the influence of the tropical storm Higos, the fourth tropical storm hitting Viet Nam this year.

The devastating disasters left 7 people dead, 1 missing, and 4 injured. Residents from more than 1,000 households were forced to evacuate. Nearly 2,000 hectares of plantation areas were also destroyed.

**Source:** AHA Centre. (2020, Aug 20). *Viet Nam, Storms, Floods, and Landslides in Northern Viet Nam*; Viet Nam News. (2020, Aug 20). *Heavy rains continue to hit the north*.

### China

**Many disasters occurred in China due to severe downpours.** Heavy rainfalls triggered floods, mudslides, and landslides in several provinces of Gansu, Yunnan, and Sichuan during 10- 23 August 2020.

In Gansu Province, especially Zhouqu County, rainfalls and floods destroyed many infrastructures including roads, electricity, and communication system. More than 1.2 million residents were affected, while around 2,500 had to evacuate from their homes.

In the meantime, floods and landslide led to 14 deaths, 28 missing, and at least one injured. A number of people directly affected were around 1.1 million, nearly 40,000 of them were forced to relocate.

**Source:** Xinhua. (2020, Aug 23). *Heavy rains flood rivers in northwest China's Gansu*; Xinhua. (2020, Aug 21). *8 missing in southwest China landslide*; Xinhua. (2020, Aug 20). *Rain-triggered disasters leave 14 dead, 20 missing in China's Yunnan*.

**Tropical storm Higos made landfall in Guangdong Province, China.** Typhoon Higos came ashore at the city of Zhuhai, Guangdong Province on 19 August 2020. It caused 1,400 people to be evacuated. Luckily, no casualties were reported.

Moreover, the city had to declare a Level-I emergency response for typhoon and suspended services of the port, which links Zhuhai, Macao, and Hong Kong.

Xinhua. (2020, Aug 19). *Typhoon Higos makes landfall in Guangdong*.

## **The Republic of Korea**

**The Republic of Korea hit by a powerful typhoon.** Jeju Island as well as many areas along the west coast line have come under the influence of Typhoon Bavi since 23 August 2020.

The Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) stated that the affected areas were hit by a whirl wind with a speed between 30 to 60 metres per second. It blew away five tourists, causing one dead and leaving the rest injured.

**Source:** Yonhap. (2020, Aug 25). *(LEAD) Jeju coming under direct influence of year's most powerful typhoon*.

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