



ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN

VOL.83 | JUNE & JULY 2023



HIGHLIGHT

AHA Centre Responds to Tropical
Cyclone Myanmar in ASEAN

MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

Monthly Disaster Review
and Outlook for June & July 2023

PARTNERSHIP

Strengthening ASEAN's Disaster
Response through DELSA Phase IV

THE COLUMN ⁸³

THIS ISSUE:
AHA CENTRE RESPONDS TO TROPICAL
CYCLONE MYANMAR IN ASEAN



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02 | HIGHLIGHT

On 14 May 2023, Tropical Cyclone MOCHA made landfall in the state of Rakhine, Myanmar, boasting wind speeds of up to 250km/h equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane. In its aftermath, a total of 17 townships in Rakhine and an additional 4 in Chin state were designated as Natural Disaster-affected areas, with damages to buildings, roads, and bridges estimated to be worth USD 1.5 million.



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EDITOR'S NOTE



ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

HI READERS,

Welcome to Volume 83 of The Column, the monthly newsletter that offers you updates, and reflections on disaster management from the AHA Centre.

Our 83rd edition comes at a time when the resilience of our communities has been tested in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Mocha. Our coverage on the response in the Highlight section stands as a testament to the unwavering spirit and dedication of ASEAN to helping member states in times of crisis.

Continuing our tradition of keeping the public informed, we present the Monthly Disaster Review for June-July 2023. We also shine a spotlight on the DELSA Phase IV project, an initiative that remains critical in elevating the disaster emergency logistics capabilities within ASEAN. We take pride in sharing how the latest phase of the project is shaping up to enhance regional preparedness and response capacity.

In AHA Centre Diary, we bring to you updates on the 18th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre held in June 2023. The outcomes of this meeting have significant implications in charting the way forward for AHA Centre to continue supporting the implementation of the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025.

With World Environment Day 2023 behind us, we also take a moment to reflect on the connections between environmental sustainability and disaster management in this issue's Insight section. Lastly, we feature the story of our former Disaster Monitoring and Analysis Intern, who shares his fresh perspective and experience supporting the AHA Centre team.

Stay safe, stay informed, and keep subscribing to The Column for more information.

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AHA CENTRE RESPONDS TO TROPICAL CYCLONE MYANMAR IN ASEAN

On 14 May 2023, Tropical Cyclone MOCHA made landfall in the state of Rakhine, Myanmar, boasting wind speeds of up to 250km/h equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane. In its aftermath, a total of 17 townships in Rakhine and an additional 4 in Chin state were designated as Natural Disaster-affected areas, with damages to buildings, roads, and bridges estimated to be worth USD 1.5 million¹.



¹SITUATION UPDATE No. 9 – TROPICAL CYCLONE MOCHA, Myanmar – 30 May 2023, <https://ahacentre.org/situation-update/situation-update-no-9-tropical-cyclone-mocha-myanmar-30-may-2023/>

To support the people of Myanmar affected by Tropical Cyclone MOCHA, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) facilitated the deployment of the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) to conduct a rapid needs assessment and facilitate the delivery of relief items to communities in need.

From their assessment of the regions of Sittwe, Rathedaung, Ponnagyun, and Kyauktaw, the ASEAN-ERAT pinpointed three sectors as top priorities for humanitarian needs: Food, Shelter and Non-food items, and Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH). As of 28 June 2023, the AHA Centre has mobilised more than USD 1.6 million worth of relief items from the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) warehouse in Subang, Malaysia, in the form of jerry cans, shelter repair kits, toolkit shelters, tarpaulins, family tents, kitchen sets, water filtration devices, mosquito nets, family kits, and hygiene kits. These provisions are set to be distributed by Myanmar authorities to the communities most affected by Tropical Cyclone MOCHA.

The mobilisation of ASEAN relief items and ASEAN-ERAT represent the tangible solidarity of the people of ASEAN for the people of Myanmar affected by Tropical Cyclone MOCHA. AHA Centre's steadfast response also underscores ASEAN's commitment to regional solidarity in the spirit of 'One ASEAN One Response', ensuring that no Member State faces hardship alone.



Loading of DELSA relief items at Subang, Malaysia to be mobilised to Myanmar using commercial aircraft.

Written by: Gladys Respati | Photo by: AHA Centre



Handover Ceremony of DELSA relief items in response to Tropical Cyclone MOCHA in Myanmar



ASEAN-ERAT facilitated the delivery of relief items to affected communities



ASEAN-ERAT conducted a rapid needs assessment in the regions of Sittwe, Rathedaung, Ponnagyun, and Kyauktaw



MONTHLY DISASTER REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

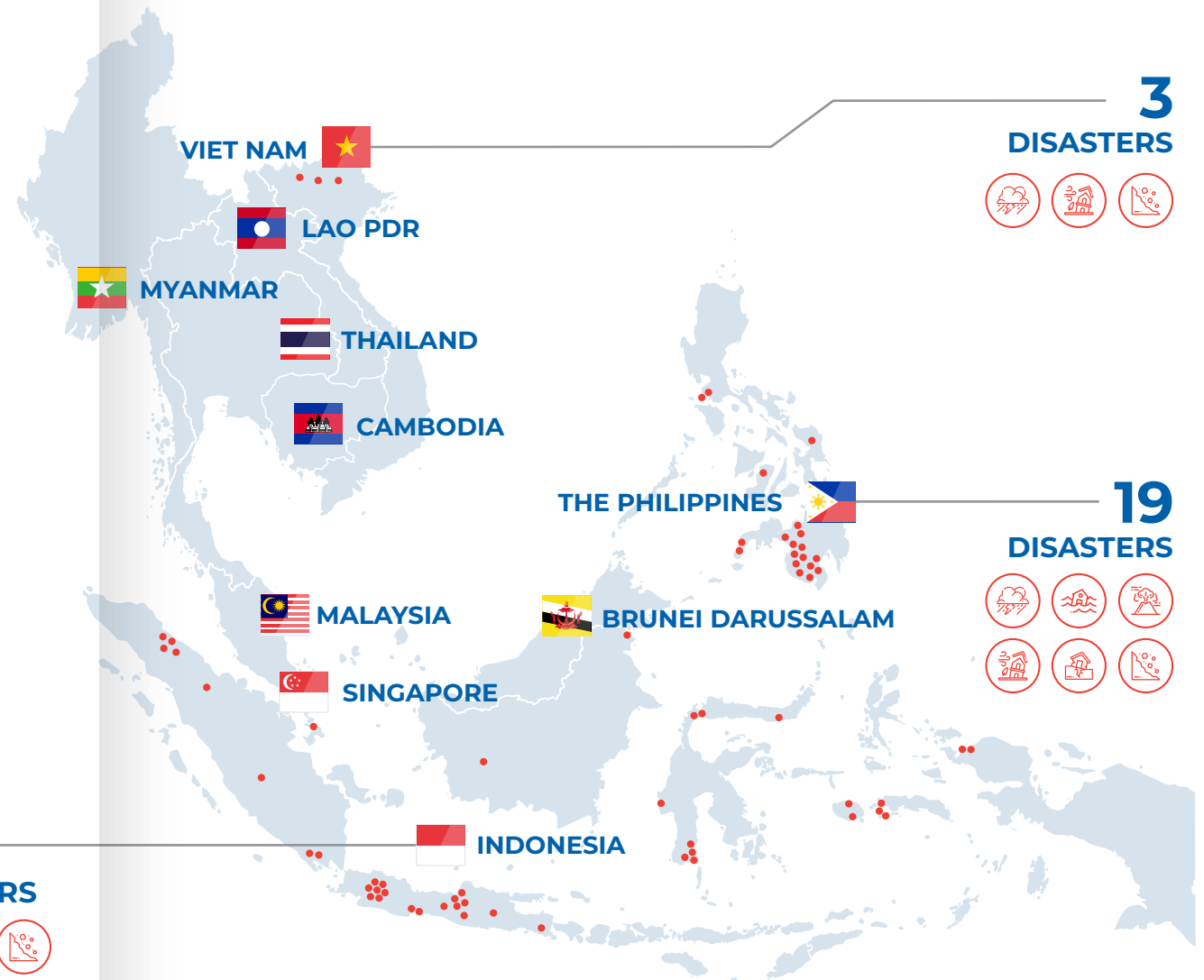
DISASTER MONITORING & ANALYSIS (DMA) UNIT, AHA CENTRE

JUNE 2023

GENERAL REVIEW OF JUNE 2023

For the month of June 2023, a total of **65** disasters were reported. The ASEAN Member States that were affected are Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. Most of the disasters (66%) occurred in Indonesia but only accounted for 15% of the affected persons (around 78K persons). Notably, Philippines accounted for most of the affected persons despite reporting only 19 disasters events—Flooding in BARMM with 46.25% of the total reported affected persons for the month of June. The share of the disaster-affected people for the other ASEAN Member States are as follows: (1) Philippines-85.12%, (2) Indonesia-14.85%, and (3) Viet Nam-0.03%. June 2023 saw disasters affecting **77 per 100,000 people*** and **displacing 6 per 100,000 people* in the region**, which were 4 times and 23 times lower respectively compared to the previous month.

Most of the disasters that have occurred in June 2023 are floods (45%) and is consistently the most recorded type of disaster for June of the previous year and June on a five-year average (2018-2022). The reported disasters in the region for June 2023 in comparison to the historical data (average for June 2018-2022) indicates that there were about **1.1x more reported disasters**; **1.6x less people affected**; **1.6x more people internally displaced**; **2.3x less houses affected to some extent**; **2.2x less lives lost**; and **4.9x more people suffering injuries**.



43 DISASTERS



3 DISASTERS



19 DISASTERS





MONTHLY DISASTER REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

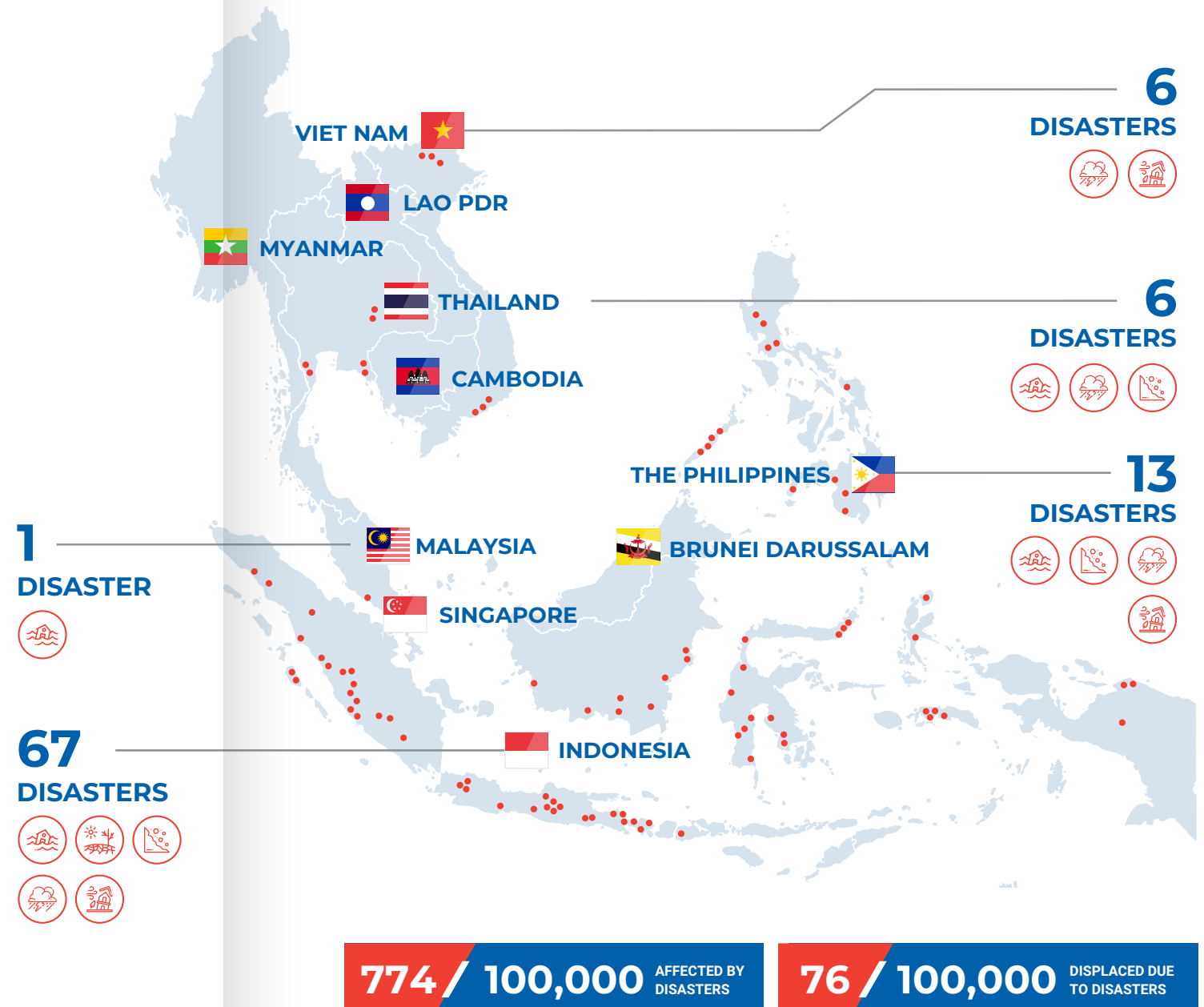
DISASTER MONITORING & ANALYSIS (DMA) UNIT, AHA CENTRE

JULY 2023

GENERAL REVIEW OF JULY 2023

For the month of July 2023, a total of **93** disasters were reported. The ASEAN Member States that were affected are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Most of the disasters (72%) occurred in Indonesia but only accounted for 1.72% of the affected persons (around 101K persons). Notably, Philippines accounted for most of the affected persons despite reporting only 13 disasters event—Combined Effects of the Southwest Monsoon, TC DOKSURI, TC KHANUN, and TC TALIM with 94.29% of the total reported affected persons for the month of July. The share of the disaster-affected people for the other ASEAN Member States are as follows: (1) Philippines-98.016%, (2) Indonesia-1.723%, Thailand-0.238%, Viet Nam 0.022%, and Malaysia 0.001%. July 2023 saw disasters **affecting 774 per 100,000 people*** and **displacing 76 per 100,000 people* in the region**, which were 10 times and 4 times higher respectively compared to the previous month.

Most of the disasters that have occurred in July 2023 are floods (60%) and is consistently the most recorded type of disaster for July of the previous year and July on a five-year average (2018-2022). The reported disasters in the region for July 2023 in comparison to the historical data (average for July 2018-2022) indicates that there were about **1.5x more reported disasters**; **3.2x more people affected**; **1.5x less people internally displaced**; **3.3x more houses affected to some extent**; **1.2x more lives lost**; and **1.5x more people suffering injuries**.





GEOPHYSICAL CONDITION FOR JUNE AND JULY 2023

Geophysically, **48 significant earthquakes** (Magnitude ≥ 5.0) were reported by Indonesia's Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi dan Geofisika (BMKG), Myanmar's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), and the Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), and the Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) for the period of June to July 2023 (the period of Weeks 22-30).

Mount Semeru (Alert Level III), Anak Krakatau (Alert Level III), Dukono (Alert Level II), Ibu (Alert Level II), Ili Lewotolok (Alert Level II), and Karangetang (Alert Level III) in Indonesia and Mayon (Alert Level 3), Taal (Alert Level 1), and Kanlaon Volcanoes (Alert Level 1) were reportedly tectonically active (erupting lava or releasing gas or generating seismic activity) throughout the month of June to July 2023 (the period of Weeks 22-30).

PHIVOLCS raised the Mayon Volcano Alert Level to 3 (Increased Tendency Towards Hazardous Eruption) since 8 June. As of 14 August, Mayon Volcano remains in a relatively high level of unrest as magma is at the crater and hazardous eruptions are possible within weeks or days. According to NDRRMC, as of 13 August 2023, 9.9K families (38.4K persons) have been affected and 20.3K persons internally displaced in 27 evacuation centres. The NDRRMC with other relevant-agencies/stakeholders have provided 5.7M USD worth of assistance to those affected.

*computed based on 2023 population data from worldometers.com

ANALYSIS

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), compared to the average value from 2001-2022, during June 2023, above-average rainfall was experienced in the eastern parts of the Mainland Southeast Asia and western Maritime Continent but less to above-average for the rest of the ASEAN Region. The largest difference (driest condition) from the average rainfall was observed over western coast to northern parts and southern Myanmar, western Thailand (bordering with southern parts of Myanmar), and the Visayas of the Philippines. Wetter conditions which is detected over Mindanao of the Philippines, have also resulted a MODERATE disaster in the area of BARM Region. As shown in Figure 1 left wetter than normal conditions are detected over Mindanao, the Philippines.

For the month of July 2023, according to the ASMC, compared to the average value from 2001-2022, above-average rainfall was experienced over much of the western half of the maritime continent; below-average rainfall was experienced over the northeastern parts of the Mainland Southeast Asia and eastern Maritime Continent; and mix of below to above-average rainfall for the rest of the ASEAN Region. The largest positive (wetter) anomalies were recorded over parts of southern Myanmar, southern Viet Nam, and northern Philippines. Particularly for the wetter conditions in the northern parts of the Philippines as shown in Figure 2 left, a CATASTROPHIC disaster was caused by the Combined Effects of the Southwest Monsoon, TC DOKSURI, TC KHANUN, and TC TALIM.

SEASONAL OUTLOOK

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), compared to the average value from 2001-2022, during June 2023, above-average rainfall was experienced in the eastern parts of the Mainland Southeast Asia and western Maritime Continent but less to above-average for the rest of the ASEAN Region. The largest difference (driest condition) from the average rainfall was observed over western coast to northern parts and southern Myanmar, western Thailand (bordering with southern parts of Myanmar), and the Visayas of the Philippines. Wetter conditions which is detected over Mindanao of the Philippines, have also resulted a MODERATE disaster in the area of BARM Region. As shown in Figure 1 left wetter than normal conditions are detected over Mindanao, the Philippines.

For the month of July 2023, according to the ASMC, compared to the average value from 2001-2022, above-average rainfall was experienced over much of the western half of the maritime continent; below-average rainfall was experienced over the northeastern parts of the Mainland Southeast Asia and eastern Maritime Continent; and mix of below to above-average rainfall for the rest of the ASEAN Region. The largest positive (wetter) anomalies were recorded over parts of southern Myanmar, southern Viet Nam, and northern Philippines. Particularly for the wetter conditions in the northern parts of the Philippines as shown in Figure 2 left, a CATASTROPHIC disaster was caused by the Combined Effects of the Southwest Monsoon, TC DOKSURI, TC KHANUN, and TC TALIM.

Written by: Sadhu Zulkhruf Janotama, Lawrence Anthony Dimailig

DISCLAIMER

The AHA Centre's estimation is based on data and information shared by National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) and other relevant agencies from ASEAN Member States, international organisations, and news agencies. Further information on each recorded significant disaster, description, and detail of data and information are available at: <https://adinet.ahacentre.org/report/>

Note: The qualitative outlook is assessed for the region in general and based on the latest runs from models provided by the SEA RCC-Network LRF node. For specific updates on the national scale, the relevant ASEAN National Meteorological and Hydrological Services should be consulted.

Sources: ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADINet), ASEAN Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS), ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana (BNPB) – Indonesia, Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA) – Malaysia, Department of Disaster Management (DDM) – Myanmar, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) – Philippines, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) – Thailand, Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) – TMD, Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi dan Geofisika (BMKG) – Indonesia, Pusat Vulkanologi dan Mitigasi Bencana Geologi (PVMBG) – Indonesia, Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) – Philippines, Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) - Philippines



DISASTER COMPARISON IN NUMBERS

JUNE 2023

■ BLUE | JUNE 2023 ■ RED | JUNE IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE*

Drought	8	1	Indonesia	43	37
Earthquake	2	1	Malaysia	-	1
Flood	29	34	Myanmar	-	4
Landslide	11	8	Philippines	19	7
Storm	4	6	Thailand	-	7
Volcano	2	1	Viet Nam	3	4
Wind	9	9	TOTAL	65	60
TOTAL	65	60			

(covering the period of Weeks 22-26 in 2023 and 2018-2022 average)
*Values in column are rounded-off to whole figure

DISASTER COMPARISON IN NUMBERS

JULY 2023

■ BLUE | JULY 2023 ■ RED | JULY IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE*

Drought	7	1	Cambodia	-	1
Earthquake	-	1	Indonesia	67	35
Flood	56	39	Lao PDR	-	1
Landslide	16	9	Malaysia	1	1
Storm	8	7	Myanmar	-	3
Wind	6	6	Philippines	13	12
TOTAL	93	63	Thailand	6	6
			Viet Nam	6	4
			TOTAL	93	63

(covering the period of Weeks 27-30 in 2023 and 2018-2022 average)
*Values in column are rounded-off to whole figure

REGIONAL TALLY

JUNE 2023 JUNE IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE

Number of recorded significant disasters	65	60
Number of affected people	524,487	827,294
Number of internally displaced people	41,101	25,526
Number of damaged houses	6,626	15,010
Number of casualties	9	20
Number of injured people	172	35
Number of missing people	1	7

(covering the period of Weeks 22-26 in 2023 and 2018-2022 average)

REGIONAL TALLY

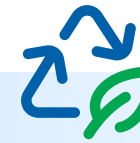
JULY 2023 JULY IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE

Number of recorded significant disasters	93	63
Number of affected people	5,305,715	1,637,956
Number of internally displaced people	153,786	226,584
Number of damaged houses	102,183	30,907
Number of casualties	63	74
Number of injured people	184	279
Number of missing people	12	24

(covering the period of Weeks 27-30 in 2023 and 2018-2022 average)

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2023

Every year on June 5th, countries across the globe come together to commemorate World Environment Day (WEP). Lead by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), this day is dedicated to celebrating the commitment of governments, private sector, and individuals in fostering a greener future.



Through concerted efforts, regional collaboration, and the momentum of global platforms like World Environment Day, ASEAN is poised to turn the tide, championing a future where sustainability and resilience go hand in hand.

This year, the spotlight is on plastic pollution. With the theme "Solutions to Plastic Pollution", WEP 2023 dovetails with a significant concern in the ASEAN region in recent years – the prevalence of plastic waste and its implications for disaster management.

The ASEAN region is an epicentre of rapid economic growth and urbanisation. With progress, however, comes the heavy reliance on plastics, especially single-use varieties. This proliferation of plastic, added with an underdeveloped waste management infrastructure, has resulted in several ASEAN Member States being among the top contributors of mismanaged plastic waste.¹

For ASEAN, the link between addressing plastic pollution and strengthening disaster management is clear and compelling. In urban settings, plastic debris may clog drainage systems, turning monsoon rains into devastating floods. This in turn may exacerbate the region's vulnerability to disasters caused by natural hazards, particularly in member states like the Philippines and Vietnam, which are frequently hit by tropical cyclones. By mitigating plastic waste, the region can significantly reduce its susceptibility to flooding, particularly in urban areas.

Moreover, a cleaner environment ensures that post-disaster clean-up, rehabilitation, and recovery efforts are more streamlined. A landscape free from plastic waste ensures that natural buffers, like mangroves along coastlines, can thrive and protect coastal communities from storm surges.

Written by: Gladys Respati

The commemoration of World Environment Day in 2023 offers a reminder for ASEAN nations to not only highlight the region's challenges but also to showcase its solutions. Several initiatives have sprouted across the region, emphasising recycling, waste management, and the promotion of eco-friendly alternatives to plastics.

In Vietnam, for example, the Law on Environmental Protection officially came into force in 2022, with the supplement of regulations on plastic waste reduction, recycling, reuse, and treatment.² Meanwhile, Thailand's ban on major single-use plastic items is another stride in the right direction.³

To beat plastic pollution and strengthen disaster resilience, the road ahead requires a collaborative approach. Leveraging World Environment Day, ASEAN can foster partnerships – within the region and globally – to share knowledge, resources, and best practices.

¹Bosquet, B. (2023, June 4). *Beyond borders: Collaborative solutions to plastic pollution in Southeast Asia*. World Bank Blogs. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/eastasiapacific/beyond-borders-collaborative-solutions-plastic-pollution-southeast-asia>

²VNA. (2022, September 7). *Vietnam takes bold action to tackle plastic waste*. VietnamPlus. <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-takes-bold-action-to-tackle-plastic-waste/236919.vnp>

³Thai PBS World. (2023, July 1). *New phase of single-use plastic bag reduction to be launched on July 3rd*. Thai PBS World. <https://www.thaipbsworld.com/new-phase-of-single-use-plastic-bag-reduction-to-be-launched-on-july-3rd/>



STRENGTHENING ASEAN'S DISASTER RESPONSE THROUGH DELSA PHASE IV



Launched in December 2012, the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) project facilitates swift provision of relief items to affected ASEAN Member States (AMS). Supported by the Government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), the project has played a critical role in ASEAN responses over the years as a beacon of ASEAN solidarity, enabling ASEAN to provide needs-based assistance in a timely manner through prepositioned stockpiles located in the DELSA warehouses. The project's importance was particularly felt during DELSA Phase III, where it supported multiple emergency responses in ASEAN, including Tropical Cyclone NORU in Lao PDR and Thailand, and Tropical Cyclone NALGAE in the Philippines in 2022.

In March 2023, the Phase III the ASEAN Disaster Emergency Logistics System (DELSA) was officially concluded. The project's focus is now moving toward enhancing the sustainability of the DELSA warehouses in Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand, and further integrating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to bolster regional emergency supply chain management.

OBJECTIVE:

Further enhance the supply chain management for emergency response of ASEAN to ensure timely response to disasters through:

- Prepositioning of stockpiles in 3 DELSA warehouses
- Innovation
- Utilisation of technology
- Capacity development

INDICATORS:

- The Emergency Telecommunication Network (ETN) is established;
- The ASEAN Logistics Roadmap updated for 2025;
- Procurement of stockpiles for the DELSA warehouses in Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand;
- Capacity development / trainings for the Logistics Officers of the NDMOs of 10 ASEAN Member States



The 1st Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting for DELSA Phase IV Project was held on 5 September 2023 in Penang, Malaysia

Written by: Gladys Respati | Photo by: AHA Centre

The DELSA Phase IV project is aligned with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management (AADMER) Work Programme (AWP) 2021-2025 Priority Programme 3 on Preparedness and Response. More specifically, it aligns with Sub-Priority 3.2., which seeks to strengthen capacity building for effective regional response, contributing to the strengthening of regional humanitarian supply chain management, the development of a reliable Emergency Telecommunication Network to support ASEAN response, and the enhancement of assessment capabilities for a robust information management system and interoperable network of ASEAN Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs).

Furthermore, the project will contribute to the implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the area of "Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management" under the broad range area of "Economic and Other Possible Areas of Cooperation", and the principle of "complementarity with existing cooperation frameworks".

The future of DELSA will continue to blend technology, strategic planning, and continuous capacity building to achieve speed, scale, and solidarity in ASEAN's collective response to disasters, in line with the spirit of One ASEAN One Response.



The DELSA project has supported multiple emergency responses in ASEAN since 2012

THE 18TH MEETING OF THE AHA CENTRE GOVERNING BOARD



The 18th Meeting of the AHA Centre Governing Board was held on 14 June 2023 in Da Nang, Viet Nam, as part of the 42nd Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM). Attended by the ACDM as Governing Board of the AHA Centre, the Meeting discussed the Centre's progress and achievements in the period of October 2022 to May 2023.

During this period, the AHA Centre carried out emergency responses to Tropical Cyclone Nalgae in the Philippines, supported the Thailand Department of Disaster Prevention & Mitigation (DDPM) in conducting a drought assessment in four provinces in the Northeast Regions of Thailand, and provided humanitarian support to the people affected by Tropical Cyclone Mocha that made landfall in Myanmar.

As of May 2023, the AHA Centre had completed almost 50% of its annual plan for 2023. Key achievements made by the Centre during this period include enhancement of the ASEAN Disaster Information Laboratory (ADILab) and ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADINet) platforms, the completion of the 14th ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course and ASEAN-ERAT Level 2 Courses on Humanitarian Logistics and Civil Military Coordination, and the release of the 'At the Crossroads' Podcast Season 2 in April 2023.

The AHA Centre also presented updates on completed and ongoing projects. The DELSA Phase III Project, which is supported by the Government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) was completed in March 2023. Meanwhile, the ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management (ASCEND) project had successfully conducted the ASCEND Trial Simulation in November 2022 with the support of the Republic of Korea through the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF).



Written by: Gladys Respati | Photo by: VDDMA



The 18th Meeting of the AHA Centre Governing Board was held as part of the 42nd Meeting of the ACDM and Related Meetings

The Meeting also included updates on the ongoing activities of the Integrated Programme in Enhancing the Capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanisms (EU-SAHA) project, the project 'Improving ASEAN's Humanitarian Assistance Capacity in Multi Hazard' funded by Global Affairs Canada, the Strengthening AHA Centre's Capability to Respond Effectively to Human-Induced Crises Project (AHA -Australia) project, and the Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the AHA Centre for ASEAN Disaster Capacity Building Programme (SICAP) project supported by New Zealand.

The Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre holds great significance as it provides a platform for comprehensive discussions and assessments of the Centre's progress and accomplishments. The AHA Centre is deeply appreciative of the guidance and support offered by the Governing Board in steering its efforts towards achieving its objectives. The AHA Centre is fully dedicated to furthering its mission and looks forward to continuing its efforts in supporting the ASEAN region's disaster management efforts.



INTERNSHIP STORY: **MUHAMMMAD FAISAL ANSHORY**

Disaster Monitoring and Analysis Intern

My name is Muhammad Faisal Anshory, and I am a fresh graduate in Geodetic and Geomatics Engineering at the Bandung Institute of Technology. During my studies, I have been passionate about map-making, a.k.a cartography. I also learned about the role of my degree in multiple areas, one of them is the disaster field.



This is why I was intrigued when I learned about HELiX, the Humanitarian and Emergency Logistics Innovation Expo, hosted by the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA) in 2021.

My curiosity led me to participate in the AHACKathon competition as part of the HELiX event in October 2021, where my team and I had the chance to learn about the efforts of various disaster relief organisations. With the guidance of our mentor, Ms. Smriti, we were trying to come up with a solution to two common problems relief workers face: a lack of centralised real-time information to monitor and coordinate relief efforts and the slow identification processes for needs assessments. Our solution was an application prototype called Hologistics, which targeted actors in the field to quickly assess the supply needed by impacted demographic data and give recommendations for the optimised route service for the supply chain. Our team's efforts paid off when we were awarded second place among various teams in

ASEAN. This experience taught me about the AHA Centre generally and its role in coordinating logistics assistance for natural disasters in ASEAN.

A few months later, I saw a social media post by the AHA Centre announcing an internship opportunity as a Disaster Monitoring and Analysis (DMA) intern. As I had finished my undergraduate thesis, I applied without hesitation and was eventually invited for an online interview. I started my new journey on September 5th, under the guidance of DMA Officers Mr. Keith Paolo and Mr. Sadhu Zukhruf. As a DMA intern, my main responsibilities were assisting in daily DMA activities. The task included monitoring the daily development of natural disasters in ASEAN, data cleansing and analysis of disaster data records, and assisting in developing incidental and routine reports, including maps. Those responsibilities presented unique challenges. The first one is when navigating language barriers when monitoring disaster development in the ASEAN region, where as a multicultural region, each ASEAN country has its own language. The second is that AHA Centre's products



During his internship programme at the AHA Centre, Faisal (left) had the opportunity to work with other AHA Centre staff.

Written by: Muhammad Faisal Anshory, Disaster Monitoring and Analysis Intern

are often reposted by global organisations, meaning the information presented must be accurate, data-oriented, and reliable. Despite these challenges, I am grateful for the opportunity to make a positive impact and they raise my awareness about the relationship between humans and nature.

During my internship journey, I was fortunate to be exposed to various valuable experiences that helped me develop new skills and knowledge. One of the most significant aspects of my internship was gaining exposure to cutting-edge technologies used for disaster monitoring activities. Not only did this expand my technical skill set, but it also provided me with a new perspective on the intersection of technology and disaster management. In addition, I also had the opportunity to participate in important events such as the AHA Centre Information Management Network (AIM-Net) and First Aid and Survival on Disaster Training, which helped me develop a deeper understanding of disaster management from a practical standpoint. The meetings with the Centre partners were also a great learning opportunity, as they allowed me to gain insights into how the AHA Centre

collaborates with national disaster management organisations of ASEAN member states and international organisations to develop ASEAN's resilience towards natural disasters.

All in all, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in the internship program at the AHA Centre. The experiences and knowledge I have gained during this time have truly broadened my perspective on natural disasters and emergency response and working in a multicultural environment. I am especially thankful to my supervisors, Mr. Keith and Mr. Sadhu, for their guidance and unwavering support throughout my internship. They always challenged me and gave constructive feedback that has pushed me to try new things and exceed my expectations. I also appreciate Mr. Lawrence Anthony Dimailig who has been an incredible source of positivity and encouragement during daily activities. This internship has been a valuable learning experience that has equipped me with the knowledge and skills needed to make a positive impact in the future. I look forward to utilising these skills in my future endeavors and continue to grow as an individual.

ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE



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AHA Centre

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ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

ABOUT ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia. As set out in the ASEAN Declaration, the aims and purposes of ASEAN among others are to accelerate the economic growth, social progress, cultural development, to promote regional peace and stability as well as to improve active collaboration and cooperation.

ABOUT THE AHA CENTRE

The AHA Centre is an inter-governmental organisation established on 17 November 2011, through the signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the AHA Centre by ASEAN Foreign Ministers, witnessed by the ASEAN Heads of State / Government from 10 ASEAN Member States: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Centre was set-up to facilitate the cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Member States and with the United Nations and international organisations for disaster management and emergency response in the ASEAN region.

ABOUT AADMER

The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) is a legally-binding regional policy framework for cooperation, coordination, technical assistance and resource mobilisation in all aspects of disaster management in the 10 ASEAN Member States. The objective of AADMER is to provide an effective mechanism to achieve substantial reduction of disaster losses in lives and in social, economic and environmental assets, and to jointly respond to emergencies through concerted national efforts.