

Lao PDR: Flash Floods

Office of the Resident Coordinator Situation Report No. 7

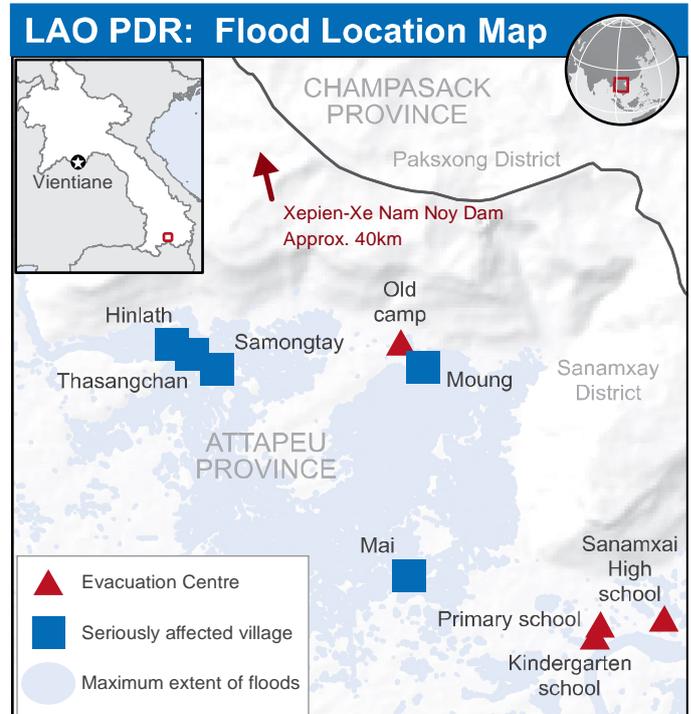
(as of 9 August 2018)



This report is produced by the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

Highlights

- The water level is receding in most affected areas, but road access remains difficult due to floods and mud. Some areas are accessible only by helicopter.
- Based on the Government's information, 13 villages have been affected, five are considered severely affected. The Government has declared the affected area a National Disaster Zone.
- About 2,100 people in the Ban Bok camp and the three camps accessible only by air require additional support.
- Current priority needs include fresh food, water, health, psychosocial support, shelter and specific items such as bins, water tanks and family kits.
- Fourteen temporary houses including latrines are being built and will be completed in a month.
- At least 27 United Nations, Red Cross, INGO and NGO partners are supporting the Government-led relief operations.
- The Humanitarian Country Team has launched a Disaster Response Plan requesting US\$ 5.6 million to provide life-saving assistance and recovery services to 13,100 people in Sanamxay District.



Map Sources: NGD, UNCS, ESA, UNOSAT, IOM
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created by OCHA on 6 August, 2018

 **35** reported deaths

 **99** people missing

 **6,000** people evacuated to emergency shelters

 **13,100** people affected

Situation Overview

On 7 August, the Minister of Foreign Affairs briefed the international community and media on the flash floods in Sanamxay District. The Minister described the situation as unprecedented national tragedy of this magnitude in recent history.

As the water recedes, large areas are covered with hard mud, boulders and rubble. Only trucks of less than 3 tonnes are currently able to pass roads and bridges in the affected area. Around 400 people in the Ban Bok camp and 1,700 people in three camps only accessible by air continue to require urgent humanitarian support.

Immediate response priorities include search and rescue of missing people; provision of food and cooking utensils; clean drinking water; health support; and the rehabilitation of infrastructure, including roads and bridges. Health

+ For more information, see "background on the crisis" at the end of the report

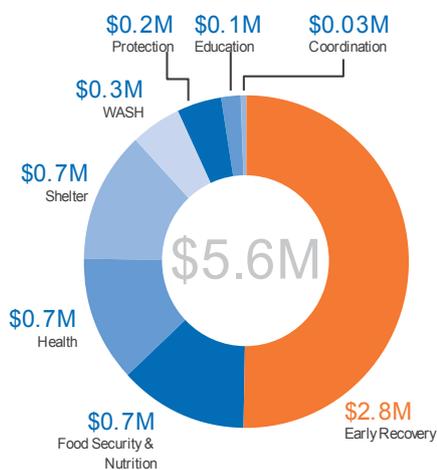
teams in camps and the host community deliver medical equipment and supplies, provide vaccinations to prevent disease outbreaks, and conduct psycho-social counselling.

Partners have referred three children with severe acute malnutrition from host communities to provincial health facilities for treatment. Cases of severe acute malnutrition have not been reported yet among those displaced. The Humanitarian Country Team is planning to conduct a food security and agriculture assessment the week of 13 August.

Public and bilateral support continues. Around 30 experts from the Humanitarian Country Team continue working with partners in Sanamxay District to support local authorities and the ongoing operation, which includes the provision of non-food items like tool kits, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, water pumps, filters and thousands of water purification tablets to provide clean water, safe delivery kits, and tents; specific nutrition support and screening for malnutrition; rice, canned fish and food rations; and emergency first aid and health services.

As the situation on the ground stabilizes, the Government and partners are scaling up their efforts to ensure equal and sustainable distribution of relevant relief items to all people. Authorities are closely monitoring the level of the Mekong River and its tributaries.

Funding



On 7 August, the Humanitarian Country Team launched a Disaster Response Plan to provide life-saving assistance to 13,100 people affected by the flash floods and re-establish their basic livelihoods. The Plan asks for US\$5.6 million in humanitarian relief and recovery support across eight clusters: Education, Food Security and Nutrition, Health, Protection, including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence, Shelter, including camp management, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Early Recovery and Coordination. Each cluster has consulted respective line ministries and members, including UN agencies and NGOs, to prioritize response activities. The Plan is available online at: <https://reliefweb.int/node/2731894>.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

Humanitarian Response



Food Security & Nutrition

Needs

The food needs for the 6,000 displaced people in shelters would amount to approximately 80 tons per month. The urgent nutrition needs to address are:

- Nutrition screening of children in camps and implementation of treatment/protocols and exclusive breastfeeding guidelines.
- Provision of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and F-75/F-100 to district hospitals and health posts to treat severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in children under five.
- Support livestock production including reallocation, vaccines for various animal diseases, water pumps, animal feeding and animal health services.
- Government information indicates no food scarcity issues for now, but stocks is believed to last only about 1 week.

Children screened for malnutrition in 3 camps

Response

- Children under five in 3 out of 5 camps in Sanamxay township have been screened for acute malnutrition and no moderate or severe acute malnutrition cases were detected.
- Three children under five from the host communities have been admitted to Attapeu Provincial Hospital for treatment of severe acute malnutrition.
- Counselling and support for infant and young child feeding is provided to caregivers in the 5 camps in Sanamxay township.
- On-the-job training and support are being provided to the Sanamxay District Hospital and Attapeu Provincial Hospital staff to improve capacity to respond to cases of acute malnutrition.
- A joint UN/Ministry of Agriculture and Forests is scheduled next on 13-16 August in the flood affected area.

Gaps

- Basic food requirements are not met.
- Provision of nutrition support for children under five.
- Nutrition baseline assessment.
- Quality and supervision of screening for acute malnutrition and treatment for children under five.



Health

Needs

- The most pressing health risks remained unchanged, with diarrheal diseases, influenza-like respiratory infection, rickettsia and dengue being reported to the provincial team. Potential outbreaks of measles, malaria and food-borne diseases remain a concern.
- There is a need to ensure continued access to essential and life-saving health services, including mental health, immunization and maternal and child health.
- Vaccination of all children under five years old and pregnant women in six accessible camps. Vaccines required include: BCG, Hepatitis B, Pentavalent, Oral Polio, injectable Polio, Measles-Rubella and Tetanus-Diphtheria (pregnant women). Influenza vaccine for pregnant women and high risk population including elderly.

700 people
received
psycho-social
support

Response

- Almost 5,000 out-patient health consultations have been conducted.
- 1,000-day family kits were sent to pregnant women and women with small children in the affected area.
- Spraying has been conducted in Oudomxay and Mitsamphan to control mosquito-borne diseases.
- About 3,500 bed nets have been distributed across three sites: the Sanamxay Secondary School, Sanamxay Primary School and Sanamxay Kindergarten.
- Two hospitals in Attapeu Province will be assessed for their capacity to provide life-saving clinical care for survivors of sexual violence.
- Pharmaceutical students are supporting the management of medicines and medical supplies being delivered to the field.
- Psychological first aid has been provided to more than 700 people. Thirty individuals were identified and managed for severe distress reactions.
- Representatives of the affected communities have been trained in psychological first aid.
- Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services, including antenatal care, identification of danger signs in newborns and children and referral to other facilities are being provided in accessible areas.
- Vaccination is ongoing in all camps. Vaccine stocks have been supplemented with supplies from the regional vaccine cold room in Champasak.
- Information is being provided to affected populations on how to prevent malaria and keep a clean and safe environment in the camps. Village health volunteers are providing information on hand-washing with soap, waste management and exclusive breastfeeding.
- Speakers and USBs with messages on immunization have been distributed and are being used in three out of the six accessible camps and the District MCH Unit to disseminate immunization messages in the camps.

Gaps & Constraints

- Three camps remain largely inaccessible.

- Low utilization of key life-saving commodities including zinc with oral rehydration solution for diarrheal management in the camps.
- A lack of transportation for volunteer health teams jeopardizes their capacity to provide health services in accessible areas.



Logistics

Needs

- Some of the camps are only accessible via military helicopter. Partner organizations have two options to access military helicopters:
 - In Vientiane, contacting MOFA who will provide guidance.
 - In Sanamxay, after approving the loading, the District Government will send a military truck to collect goods and take it to load directly onto the helicopters.

Training on store keeping and commodity management organised

Response

- Training on store keeping and commodity management for district officials in Sanamxay including a stock report template so that the Government can better manage the storage in place on the ground.
- Cargo that was delivered to Sanamxay and stored spontaneously around town will be moved into the two mobile storage units currently in place in Sanamxay district.

Gaps

- Local coordination in the affected district of Sanamxay continues to be challenging.



Shelter including Camp Management

Needs

- More space and adequate facilities for those living in the temporary shelters (water and sanitation facilities including bathing space, etc.)
- Waterproof and weather-appropriate tents.
- Shelter needs assessment to be done after the initial relief phase in order to do a establish damage and do a mapping of destroyed housing and public facilities for partners and Government response.

Response

- Ongoing effort on better camp management and improvement of the living condition continued.
- Camp registration has started and the camps are becoming more organized while the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) continues to work together to assist the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and other relevant partners to improve information sharing among partners.
- Distribution of Non-Food Items such as mosquito nets, clothes and hygiene kits continued.
- Displacement Tracking Matrix second round has been completed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Red Cross and the Lao Statistics Bureau. The collected data is currently being validated by the Government partners.
- Government officials and local authorities were assigned as Camp Coordinators and support is being provided for the District Committee and the Camp Coordinators to conduct camp registration and management.

Gaps

- Distribution of shelter related supplies remains a challenge as some camps are still inaccessible by car and the demographic information as well as their needs and gaps remain unknown.
- Camp Coordinators from District Government Offices or the Village Chiefs have not been trained on Camp Coordination and Camp Management.
- Camp registration was started by the Camp Coordinators but there is no coherent format or procedures.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- The Ban Bok camp and the three inaccessible camps need additional support (estimated total population of about 1,700 people in inaccessible camps and 404 in Ban Bok). There are only 4 functioning toilet blocks for more than 400 people in Ban Bok.
- Boreholes in host communities need rehabilitation and water quality testing needs to be conducted.

Response

- The Saravane Namsaat team in collaboration with Attapeu Namsaat team, and with the support of the UN, completed piping of water from the boreholes to the water points in Ban Bok camp.
- The construction of seven new latrines in Ban Bok camp have started.
- In Sanamxay Secondary School camp, a fifth borehole has been completed, following the request of the Namsaat.
- The distribution of new 1,200 hygiene kits among affected populations have been completed.

7 new latrines
being
constructed in
Ban Bok

Gaps

- There are three camps still inaccessible, and therefore the WASH situation there is uncertain.
- Shortage of Information, Education and Communication materials on WASH.
- Sanitation facilities in some villages have been destroyed and, thus, the situation of host communities in terms of WASH is to be re-assessed.



Education

Needs

- 13 schools affected with over 1,700 students (more than 1,200 in 11 primary schools and about 480 in two secondary schools) One school is totally destroyed. Five schools are currently used as emergency shelters.
- As the new school year starts in September, there is a pressing need to have short-term and longer-term planning to ensure all affected school-aged children have access quality education opportunities (formal/non-formal) in time.

Response

- Data collection for planning for back to school is underway led by the Ministry and supported by development partners.
- In linkage with the child protection response for CFS, and in coordination with the Government, support for Early Childhood Development / Early Childhood Education is in the process of being provided in the accessible camps. Teams deployed in the ground will use interventions in CFS as a platform to ensure that children get prepared for getting back to school.

Gaps

- Data collection and CFS establishment in inaccessible camps.
- Concrete action plans for the full registration of affected children and the operationalization of schools in time for the beginning of the school-year.



Protection

Needs

- There are protection concerns in the camps, and protection mechanisms such as safety and security of women and children are required.
- Risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and abuse against women identified for which mitigation measures are required.
- Community participation mechanisms in the disaster response required. Protecting displaced people by improving community driven mechanisms that safeguard against GBV and ensuring survivors the access to life-saving interventions
- Psychological support for people affected, including women, girls and boys.

Response

- Establishment of child-friendly spaces: agreement with Government and partners on establishing Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) has been reached and teams will be deployed on 10 August to support their establishment. Early Childhood Development toolkits are in process for delivery to Attapeu. Questionnaires are being developed to carry out an assessment in the camps and understand needs.
- The regional GBV Specialist is in country to provide technical support on GBV prevention.
- A rapid gender analysis to gather information about the different needs, capacities and coping strategies of women, men, boys and girls in a crisis situation is being planned.
- The Samanxay District Hospital and Provincial Hospital in Samakkhixay, Attapeu province will be assessed in terms of its current capacity to provide life-saving clinical care for sexual violence victims-survivors.
- The cluster is liaising with others leads for inclusion of protection-related questions in their assessment tools.

Gaps

- Some camps continue to be largely inaccessible. There is a lack of data in terms of protection risks.
- Mapping of available services for GBV victims-survivors has yet to be conducted. Safe, confidential and appropriate systems of care (i.e. referral pathways) for GBV victims-survivors have yet to be identified and disseminated to affected communities.
- Lack of psychosocial support for affected population, especially for women and adolescent girls and boys.

General Coordination

The Government of Lao PDR is leading and coordinating the response operation through the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee (NDPCC) chaired by the Vice Prime Minister. The Disaster Management Division within the Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is the lead coordinator.

To support the Government, the Humanitarian Country Team has activated eight clusters for the flood response plan in Attapeu. Each cluster coordinates with its designated line ministry's counterpart. The UN Resident Coordinator coordinates and provides overall direction to the Humanitarian Country Team while the UN Resident Coordinator's Office provides inter-cluster coordination support.

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Background on the crisis

On 18 and 19 July, Tropical Storm Son-Tinh caused heavy rains and flooding in 55 districts of 13 provinces across northern, central and southern Lao PDR. According to the Government, over 24,000 families are affected by these floods thus far. In addition to seasonal flooding, an unprecedented flash flood occurred on 24 July, in Attapeu Province due to water discharge from the Xepien-Xe Nam Noy Dam. Over five billion cubic meters of water inundated an estimated 55,000 hectares of land. In Samanxay District, the flash flood affected 13,100 people and displaced 6,000 people. Priority needs include clean drinking water, including purification equipment, food, clothes, tents, sleeping mattresses and blankets, personal hygiene kits, psycho-social counselling and medication. The Government is leading the response and declared Attapeu Province as a National Emergency Disaster Zone. Access to affected communities is hampered by floods, mood and UXO contamination of the area. The rainy season typically lasts from July to September. With the water levels in the Mekong River and its tributaries due to rise over the coming weeks, flooding across the country may spread farther.

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