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Emergency Plan of Action Operation Update

Lao People's Democratic Republic: Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal n° MDRLA005	Glide n° FF-2018-000118-LAO
EPoA update n° 1; Date of issue: 24 August 2018	Expected timeframe: 18 months Expected end date: 31 January 2020
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow	
Emergency budget¹: CHF 2,820,169 Coverage: 78% (50% hard pledges and 28% soft pledges)	
Total number of people affected: 13,100 affected; 6,000 displaced; 97 missing	Number of people to be assisted: 7,500 (1,500 households)
Host National Society presence: Lao Red Cross (LRC) consists of a national office, 17 provincial branches and 47 district chapters. It has at least 3,295 volunteers and 350 paid staff members.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Hong Kong branch of the Chinese Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Korea National Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, Vietnam Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO); the Governments of Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Switzerland; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); the Intercontinental Hotel Group; Lao PDR Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change (DDMCC); and Lao PDR Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.	

This emergency appeal was launched on 26 July 2018. An emergency plan of action (EPoA) was launched on 17 August 2018. While the Lao Red Cross (LRC) continues to implement the activities of this plan, this first operation update is issued in order to provide the information on the response to date, supported by IFRC. A second and more comprehensive operation update will follow this one in the coming weeks as information is being processed.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

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 People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). According to the government source, over 24,000 households were affected by the devastating flood. In addition to seasonal flooding, an unprecedented flash flood occurred on 23 July, in Attapeu Province due to water discharge from the Xe-Pian Xe-Namnoy Dam. Over five billion cubic meters of water inundated an estimated 55,000 hectares of land. In Sanamxay District, the flash floods affected 13,100 people and displaced 6,000 people, leaving 39 dead and 97 missing (according to [UN SitRep #8](#)). The flash floods impacted 13 villages across Sanamxay district, of which six villages with a total population of 7,095 people and 1,611 households were severely damaged. Majority of the affected people



Devastation caused by flash floods in Attapeu Province. (Photo: IFRC)

¹ The current operating budget for the Emergency Appeal as of 23 August 2018.

were sheltered in 11 evacuation sites and three of the villages are accessible only by helicopter due to road inaccessibility.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

Lao Red Cross (LRC) has sent teams into the region to collect data and coordinate their assessments with the related village, district and provincial authorities, to determine specific needs of the affected people. The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) Bangkok is coordinating emergency relief support with LRC and has been receiving constant updates from the field. The LRC has been mobilizing Red Cross at least 30 staff and 250 volunteers to provide support together with local authorities, including evacuating affected people to safer places and evacuation centres. The LRC is mobilizing relief teams to deliver immediate assistance, including distributing 1,199 food relief kits, from its main warehouse in Vientiane. Two water purification units have been deployed to Sanamxay district, Attapeu from Champasak provincial branch and Vientiane Capital to provide safe water to the affected people. These two units have been operating in full capacity and producing at least 15,000 litres of clean water daily for around 3,750 people since 27 July.

In Attapeu, the LRC branch is actively engaged in search and rescue operation as well as evacuation efforts. A team with relief items has also been dispatched to the affected areas to join the rescue teams from Thailand, Singapore and ASEAN states.

Initial assessments found healthcare needs due to limited road access at Ban Don Bok evacuation centre occupied by 457 people. Therefore, a first aid post was established there. At least 20 to 30 cases are received per day and these services are provided by certified First Aid and Rescue team volunteers who have been deployed since 27 July.

As auxiliary to the Lao Government in providing humanitarian services, the LRC (established in 1955) aims to support the most vulnerable people's basic needs on time. The National Society (NS) works with communities to improve their health and livelihoods and help them to prepare for and respond to disasters. The NS communicates early warning information, provides emergency relief supplies including food and medical kits, and conducts village level assessments in coordination with the Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change (DDMCC) in times of emergency. The LRC structure consists of a national office, 17 provincial branches and 47 district chapters. The president of the LRC is a member of the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) with LRC national office having direct communication with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). Provincial branches coordinate with the Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC) while the LRC district coordinator is a member of the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC).

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Two days after the flash flood occurred, the IFRC CCST in Bangkok deployed one member of its team to Lao PDR to provide in-country coordination. It was able to immediately dispatch 500 food relief kits (rice, instant rice, instant noodle, canned food of fish, vegetable, and chicken, candle, lighter, mosquito repellent, flash light with battery, household medicines and iodized salt, as well as garbage bags) from the warehouses of the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS). There are currently sufficient stocks of non-food supplies (including tarpaulins and hygiene kits) at the warehouse of IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia which can be mobilized to Lao PDR immediately by air.

The IFRC CCST Bangkok is also mobilizing technical support in areas including in logistics, relief distribution, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), with the support from IFRC APRO and TRCS teams. Support from TRCS is being mobilized through TRCS provincial Red Cross chapters located close to Lao PDR and is ready to provide communication and coordination assistance to the LRC especially during the early days after the incident.

The IFRC provides technical support to the LRC through mobilization of resources, namely the launch of the Emergency Appeal and the deployment of technical experts to support various roles, currently in logistics and operation management. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Swiss Red Cross, and the German Red Cross all have bilateral programmes with LRC.

Two Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members have been deployed to the field to assist with the relief effort and WASH. CCST Bangkok Community Safety and Resilience Manager also visited Lao PDR during the last week of July to further identify capacity building needs in order to scale up the in-country operation. A coordination meeting with representative of NDMO and Deputy Governor of Attapeu and Governor of Sanamxay district was conducted in Sanamxay to update the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's plan of actions and to identify gaps in the operation.

The IFRC CCST and LRC have been actively participating in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and Cluster (Shelter and Logistics) meetings to share and update information.

On 5 August, an Operations Coordinator from APRO and a Logistics Delegate arrived in the country. A German Red Cross shelter delegate also arrived in-country on 8 August and will provide technical support to LRC during the implementation of the shelter component.

Overview of non- Red Cross Red Crescent actors in country

The Government of Lao PDR has led the overall coordination of disaster response through its National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) under the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. The LRC has taken part in the coordination meetings held at NDMO as part of monitoring and information sharing at national level.

In Attapeu, the Provincial Committee on Disaster Prevention and Control has been activated since the incident. Similarly, the Military and Police Forces have been taking actions in evacuating the flood victims and deploying Search and Rescue teams with the use of three helicopters and rescue boats.

The Attapeu Provincial Administration Office has announced relief appeal for flood victims. Authorities of Attapeu Province also called on non-governmental organizations, business community, government officials, police and military forces, as well as the Lao people to provide emergency aid for the victims. According to news sources, an appeal for drinking water, food, clothing and medical supplies has also been made. Engineering groups involved in the construction of the dam have deployed their emergency teams to help evacuate and rescue residents in villages near the dam.

The HCT 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.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

According to the NDMO, the immediate needs are: tents for evacuation centres; food; drinking water; family kits; personal hygiene kits; housing repair kits, and operational Field Office with support equipment. These are critical under the current rainy season especially which lasts until September. As many areas have been flooded and are thus inaccessible by land, transportation of personnel and equipment would have been carried out by boats initially and by trucks until the muddy roads completely dries out.

LRC has identified the emergency needs based on its assessments, LRC branch reports, as well as reports from the government and other agencies. LRC has deployed trained staff for to carry out assessments alongside the Government agencies. The assessments noted the significant damages caused by the floods to shelters, household items, many farmlands where crop and other agricultural produce were destroyed. Therefore, it was determined that the priority needs include non-food items (NFIs), health services, WASH, and food.

According to the latest reports ([UN SitRep #7](#) and [UN SitRep #8](#)) from the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, 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.

Operation Risk Assessment

The access to the evacuation sites remains a challenging factor as there are blocked and impassable roads that connect to the affected areas. Most of the villages are still isolated due to floodwaters and continuous seasonal rains. Access to the locations is expected to improve in the coming weeks once those downpours are over and when the water fully recedes which will allow the muddy roads to clear out.

In terms of strategic risk assessment, adhering to its Fundamental Principles and to the principle of 'do no harm' are central to how the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement approaches its interventions. Some of these can be planned for and mitigation actions adopted, while others are still evolving. The most prominent part of the 'do no harm' approach is that people are already highly resilient to the impact of the disaster, and as such the level of material support for the recovery will be carefully considered. Response support will not undermine communities' ability for future disaster or create dependency on aid during disaster. It will not exacerbate existing gender inequalities or other inequalities that exist in society. All activities will be monitored closely, and a review of any operational risks will be dealt with carefully by the LRC and IFRC.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

This operation aims to support the needs of 7,500 people (1,500 households) of the most vulnerable affected communities with appropriate immediate and medium-term assistance in a timely, effective, and efficient manner, as well as accompany them to recover from the impact of the flash floods and increase their resilience to future shocks. The timeframe for implementation of the activities will be spread over a period of 18 months.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People targeted: 7,500 (1,500 households)

Male: 3,788

Female: 3,712

Requirements (CHF): 603,200

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: The flash floods have affected 13,100 people that were left stranded in open areas or at evacuation centres. As many of them have lost their belongings, there is a need for NFIs, emergency shelter, longer-term and more sustainable solutions. People living in high-risk areas also need to be relocated. There is also a need to restore the schools that have been damaged and to replace their lost school books and materials.

Population to be assisted: The most vulnerable will be prioritized, such as the elderly, people with disabilities and reduced mobility, people from single-headed households, lactating women, people from large households, and those with informal settlement arrangements, given that displaced households are typically more vulnerable than non-displaced.

- Emergency shelter: 1,500 households in Sanamxay district including those that are staying in open areas, host households, and evacuation centres.
- Recovery phase: 500 households (out of those 1,500 assisted for emergency shelter) needing shelter repair assistance will be assisted following the detailed assessment.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Distributing emergency shelter (provision of tarpaulins and shelter toolkits, and basic awareness on their usage)
- Disseminating “*Build Back Safer*” message and awareness raising on repair and reconstruction techniques (in-kind or cash support for obtaining materials for repairing damaged houses, and awareness on safer shelter)
- Rehabilitation of damaged classrooms
- Provision of school items for students
- Market assessment for materials, tools fixing and labor (skilled or un-skilled)



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 7,500 (1,500 households)

Male: 3,788

Female: 3,712

Requirements (CHF): 367,500

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: People from displaced households no longer have access to food items or may have lost all their belongings to the flash floods. Subsistence-farming households have been hit hard with loss in income after rice, corn, and other high-value crop were damaged by the flash floods. Households and communities need support to regain their livelihoods with dignity.

Population to be assisted: The most vulnerable will be prioritized, such as the elderly, people with disabilities and reduced mobility, single-headed households, lactating women, large households, and those with informal settlement arrangements, given that displaced households are typically more vulnerable than non-displaced.

- Emergency phase: 1,500 households in Sanamxay district that have been displaced will receive food assistance for 1 month and unrestricted cash for basic needs.
- Recovery phase: 500 households will receive livelihoods support to restart farming and income generating support through cash-based interventions (in-kind in the event cash is not possible).

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Food assistance
- Provision of unrestricted cash for basic needs
- Cash or in-kind support to restart farming and income-generating activities



Health

People targeted: 7,500 (1,500 households)

Male: 3,788

Female: 3,712

Requirements (CHF): 277,930

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: With contaminated flood waters surrounding the communities, there is a risk of vector-borne diseases spreading. According to the two latest Situation Reports from the [UN SitRep #7](#) and [UN SitRep #8](#), disease surveillance has picked up an increase in the cases of diarrhoea, influenza-like illnesses, rickettsia, and dengue. In terms of Psychosocial Support (PSS), the same report mentions the gap in available mental health services. For longer-term sustenance, there is a need to ensure that health facilities are restored to normalcy as soon as possible, and relevant health promotion activities are carried out in schools and communities.

Population to be assisted: 1,500 households In Sanamxay district that are staying in open areas, host households or evacuation centres. The most vulnerable will be prioritized, such as the elderly, people with disabilities and reduced mobility, single-headed households, lactating women, large households, and those with informal settlement arrangements, given that displaced households are typically more vulnerable than non-displaced.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Provision of mosquito nets for prevention of mosquito-borne diseases
- Provision of emergency First Aid through mobile volunteers
- Epidemic prevention awareness raising in schools and communities
- Provision of psychosocial support in schools and communities
- Rehabilitation of damaged health facilities
- Implementation of community-based disease prevention - including in schools



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 7,500 (1,500 households)

Male: 3,788

Female: 3,712

Requirements (CHF): 283,940

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: People's immediate need is safe and clean drinking water as the public water supply system was damaged or destroyed. There is a need to provide hygiene kits alongside other non-food relief items. Drinking water accessibility is improving within the evacuation centres. However, some centres and people living in open areas are particularly at risk due to lack of clean water to drink and no access to proper sanitation facilities. Authorities and LRC team also identified a gap in drinking water producing capacities (current water purifying units don't have enough capacity to serve the entire affected population) and sanitation facilities (according to LRC volunteers on the ground, there was only one latrine for 773 people). Priority area of intervention where definite needs are clear is in Tomonyod village, where two additional water purification units have been requested. Continual assessments are being carried out to identify other WASH needs but are currently hampered by lack of accessibility to the sites.

Population to be assisted: 1,500 households In Sanamxay district that are staying in open areas, host households or evacuation centres. The most vulnerable will be prioritized, such as the elderly, people with disabilities and reduced mobility, single-headed households, lactating women, large households, and those with informal settlement arrangements, given that displaced households are typically more vulnerable than non-displaced.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Provision of safe water and distribution of hygiene items
- Installation of emergency latrines in evacuation centres
- Mobilizing community members for clean-up campaigns
- Rehabilitation of damaged water and sanitation facilities in schools and communities
- Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) in communities
- Child Hygiene and Sanitation Training (CHAST) in schools
- Provision of water storage containers



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 2,500 (500 households)

Male: 1,000

Female: 1,500

Requirements (CHF): 70,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: Following the devastation of people losing homes and their place of identity there is a need to ensure that all interventions are done to promote dignity, access, participation and safety of the beneficiaries. Ongoing approach to consult the most vulnerable on what appropriate help they need is crucial throughout the operation.

Population to be assisted: 500 households In Sanamxay district that are staying in open areas, host households or evacuation centres. The most vulnerable will be prioritized, such as the elderly, people with disabilities and reduced mobility, single-headed households, lactating women, large households, and those with informal settlement arrangements given that displaced households are typically more vulnerable than non-displaced.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Follow up and provide technical support in compliance with IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming
- Support sectoral teams to ensure collection and analysis of sex-age disability-disaggregated data
- Support Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and child protection reference system at local levels
- Apply recommendations of the [SGBV research](#)
- Provision of dignity kits
- Provision of women and child friendly spaces
- Distribution of solar lamps for lighting



Disaster Risk Reduction

People targeted: 2,000 (400 households)

Male: 1,010

Female: 990

Requirements (CHF): 84,400

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: These target villages have been considered the most vulnerable and exposed to climate change as they have experienced the most severe flash floods for decades which forced thousands of people to have no or limited access to water, livelihoods and other health related risks. In addition, these villages have limited response capacity leaving the population vulnerable to the impact of annual flash floods and landslides, all of which reduce the coping capacity and overall resilience of the region.

Population to be assisted: 400 households In Sanamxay district that are staying in open areas, host households or evacuation centres. Activities will be conducted through the LRC staff, volunteers, local authority staff, local people including local teachers and local children who will be capacitated to conduct the interventions.

In addressing this gap, the LRC will focus on enhancing their capacity in order to be ready to respond to future disasters and promote community resilience through conducting risk assessment to inform local authorities and schools of possible risk reduction interventions; CBDRR training for local authorities, school teachers and children as well as simulation exercises and putting in place early warning systems.

Under this operation, it is suggested that Early Warning Systems (EWS) in all targeted communes will be further enhanced through both hardware and software to ensure that vulnerable people including children in schools are benefited from this intervention and contribute to reduction of loss of lives in the future.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Conducting awareness raising/advocacy meetings to local authorities to participate in CBDRR
- Training and equipping of national and branch response teams
- Guide target schools and communities to undertake risk assessment and develop disaster risk management plans
- Support target schools and communities to disseminate their disaster risk management plans to key stakeholders
- Update LRC contingency plans for floods

Summary of key achievements and informal progress

Note: As the EPoA has been validated and published on 17 August, the data collection is currently ongoing and reporting systems are currently being put in place. Translation and validation of information from Lao to English is also ongoing and can cause some delay in validating the final data. The second operation update will use the standard operation update tables with indicators and clearly separate work done under this emergency appeal and work done by partners.

Key achievements

1. Surge Operations Manager arrived in Vientiane on 9 August 2018 and took over the management role from DCPRR APRO Operations Coordinator on the following day
2. Distribution of 1,199 food relief kits, 340 tarpaulins, 108 mosquito nets and other some items since the beginning of the operation which were benefited for around 1,000 families (5,000 people)
3. WASH Training of Trainers conducted for 83 people and volunteers²
4. Health awareness messaging reached 669 people
5. Provision of drinking water to 3,750 people
6. PSS sessions conducted for 731 people
7. Hygiene promotion activities conducted for 568 people

Challenges and their solutions

1. Ongoing seasonal rain and muddy roads. Some bridges collapse causing limited to no access to the affected areas. The water level of the rivers is very high and there is potential risk for more floods. The bridges have capacity to allow only maximum 3 tons of the vehicles. As a result, the capacity to transport relief items is limited.
2. Attapeu Provincial Authority assigned LRC for the relief work in Tamayod where there are 137 affected families residing. However, the area is only accessible by helicopters. Even if the road access is restored, it takes around 4 hours during dry season, and considerably longer with muddy road condition.
3. The option of using a military helicopter for Tamayod is being considered, but there is no formal written agreement between LRC and the Military. The Civil-Military Relations Coordinator from IFRC APRO assessed the situation from 14 to 16 August and will provide recommendation.
4. An important language barrier exists in Laos. Data collection and reporting is experiencing delay due to this factor. Technical support and capacity building is essential since many staff and volunteers cannot benefit from the IFRC resources due to this language barrier. Provision of monitoring visit from Bangkok CCST and RDRT from Thai Red Cross will support this need.
5. Attending all the coordination meeting requests is also a challenge as key IFRC and LRC staff need to commute between the field location and HQ in Vientiane. Currently the team is prioritizing key meetings and maintaining dialogue via email communication.
6. The Emergency Appeal NFI have not yet reached Laos. Therefore, this will create a delay in their distribution.

Details

Operations

Relief

As most IFRC EA NFIs are still on the way, the LRC has distributed most from their own stocks and worked with bilateral partners for the moment. Some of those will be replenished from the international shipment when it reaches Laos. The summary of the distributed items is the following:

No.	Items	Source of items	Beneficiaries		Items	
			Unit	Qty	Unit	Qty
1	Food relief kit*	Bilateral / TRCS	household	1,199	pack	1,199
2	Tarpaulins	Multilateral / Australian RC	household	446	pc	500
3	Mosquito nets	Multilateral / Australian RC	household	54	pc	108
4	Snack	Bilateral / private	village leader	1	pc	60
5	Sanitary napkin & diaper	Bilateral / private	village leader	1	pc	20
6	Sanitary napkin	Lao RC	women	30	pc	30
7	Diaper	Lao RC	household	20	pc	20
8	Lingerie	Bilateral / Private	women	60	pc	60
9	Purification pump	Bilateral / Singapore RC	village leader	1	unit	2
10	Bottle of water	Bilateral / private	village leader	1	unit	60
11	Children shoes	Bilateral / private	village leader	1	pairs	60

*The contents of the food relief kit from TRCS

² Next update will quantify affected people and volunteers.

No.	Items	Unit	Qty	No.	Items	Unit	Qty
1	Rice (5kg)	bag	1	11	Flashlight with battery	set	1
2	Instant noodle	pack	30	12	Candle	pc	2
3	Canned rice	can	6	13	Lighter	pc	1
4	Canned mackerel in tomato sauce	can	6	14	Mosquito repellent spray (30ml)	bottle	1
5	Canned mackerel in chilli sauce	can	6	15	Salt (400 gm)	bag	1
6	Pickle	can	6	16	Garbage bag (30'x40')	pc	6
7	Canned chilli paste	can	2	17	Garbage bag (18'x20')	pc	6
8	Canned eggs with chicken	can	6	18	Clorimazol cream (10gm)	tube	1
9	Instant chocolate beverage	pack	1	19	Plastic bag	bag	1
10	Household medicine	set	1	20	Medicine (CPM, Antacid tab, ORS powder, bandage)	set	1

- Head of LRC Attapeu Chapter, Head of Disaster Management (DM) at LRC HQ as well as RDRT WASH from TRCS led the activities.
- Nine camps are primarily targeted since most of them lost their own houses. The total number of the families at the nine camps were 1,245 and 1,026 people families received relief kits.

No.	Camp location	Male	Female	Person	Families	Distributed	Notes
1	Sanamxay high school	815	699	1,514	340	340	
2	Udomxay primary school	230	117	347	30	30	
3	Mit Sampan secondary school	611	689	1,300	312	312	
4	Mit Sampan kindergarden school	285	264	549	130	130	
5	Tha dua local authority office	38	45	83	17	17	
6	Janta High school	93	98	191	62	62	
7	Pin Dong Secondary School	230	229	459	87	0	helicopter access only
8	Ban Tam Mayot	445	318	773	137	5	Helicopter access only
9	Ban Don Bok camp	250	150	400	130	130	
Total		2,997	2,609	5,616	1,245	1,026	

- The second priority is the 13 affected villages affected by the flash floods. Since the continuous rain made the road condition worse and all bridges which have access to the site were broken, the distribution was on hold for almost one week. Consequently, only 173 families out of 2,717 targeted families received relief kits.

No.	Village	Male	Female	People	Families	Distributed
1	Ban Tae	2,020	1,925	3,945	890	
2	Ban Xay Don Kong	481	449	930	184	
3	Ban Tammayod	223	217	440	98	
4	Ban Hin Lad	335	312	647	128	
5	Ban Tha Sang Jan	267	225	492	117	
6	Ban Tha Hin	452	443	895	198	
7	Ban Samongtai	172	164	336	89	
8	Ban Mai	397	383	780	189	173
9	Ban Pindong	230	229	459	87	
10	Ban Phonsa-art	306	318	624	161	
11	Ban Nong care	222	229	451	106	
12	Ban Som Poi	807	745	1,552	343	
13	Ban Had Udomxai	267	257	524	127	
Total		6,179	5,896	12,075	2,717	173

Health and WASH

The summary of the activities is the following:

No.	Activities	Unit	Qty
1	Training of Health/WASH trainers	people	83
2	Focus group discussion for the needs survey	participants	43
3	Health education	people	669
4	PSS	people	731
5	Hygiene promotion	people	568
6	Big cleaning day	participants	150
7	Training for cleanness and hygiene for camp cooks	participants	70

- Head of LRC Attapeu Chapter, Head of DM at LRC HQ as well as RDRT WASH from TRCS led the activities.
- The activities were identified by a focus group discussion which revealed the risk and problems of health and WASH. In order to reduce and prevent these risks and problems, volunteers were trained. For example, they learned how to prevent diarrhoea or fever and conduct hand-washing or waste management.
- One of the hygiene events was “Big Cleaning Day”, where 150 people participated and cleaned the camp.
- Camp residents, especially children felt mental challenges under stressful circumstances such as continuous raining and anxiety over their future settlement. Therefore, recreational activities such as singing, games and playtime were carried out.
- Since many camp cooks voluntarily participated from nearby camps, cleanliness and hygiene at the cooking areas was ensured.
- In addition, two water purification units have been deployed to Sanamxay district, Attapeu from Champasak provincial branch and Vientiane Capital to provide safe water for the affected people, which provided at least 15,000 litres of water to around 3,750 people.

Coordination

1. Informal clusters: It was agreed between the Movement partners that Swiss Red Cross will attend WASH cluster whereas German Red Cross will attend the Shelter cluster. IFRC will attend Logistics and Early Recovery clusters. LRC is attending all the clusters.
2. Courtesy call with Lao PDR Government: The operation team as well as the Head of LRC Attapeu Chapter and Head of DM at LRC HQ met the Vice Governor of Attapeu Province on 17 August. The Vice Governor said the Provincial Government assigned LRC to conduct relief activities in Tamayod village where there are 137 affected families. He acknowledged the LRC’s targets of 1,500 households for the relief activities, and approved assessments on other areas.

IM & Media

1. Four web stories were published (three on IFRC website and one on the Resilience Library):
 - [In pictures: The faces of the Lao dam collapse](#)
 - [Stories of survival: Escaping the floodwaters in Laos](#)
 - [In pictures: Lao PDR faces heavy flooding after dam collapses](#)
 - [A dream come true: Why Phuongern Volunteers at Lao Red Cross to help people of Attapeu](#)
2. Radio New Zealand wrote a [media article](#) following an article with communications RDRT, Ellie Van Baaren.
3. Second rotation of communications RDRT plans to arrive in Lao PDR in late August to succeed the work.
4. Several social media posts have been published on Facebook and Twitter. One [video](#) was released to recapture the situation one week after the incident.

Logistics

Logistics activities have aimed to effectively manage the supply chain, including mobilization, procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures. NS has a logistics officer in Attapeu Chapter who is supported by the IFRC APRO regional logistics coordinator who has been deployed to support with the relief phase of the operation and to fill the gap before the arrival of surge logistics delegate. Logistics RDRT is also being planned to deploy to ensure necessary logistics support for the operation.

In order to coordinate the relief items needed and the contributions from the different IFRC partners, a mobilization table was launched for this operation and it has been updated and shared on a regular basis. It will be used to avoid duplications and advocate to fill gaps of products.

Relief items, such as family tents, mobile latrines mosquito nets, shelter toolkits, tarpaulins and mobile storage units were sourced internationally by IFRC Asia Pacific Operational Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management (OLPSCM) in Kuala Lumpur. Relief items with local specification suitable for local cultural context will be sourced locally by IFRC Logistics.

The logistics team has been working during the reporting period on the following three priorities in order to facilitate the implementation of the activities:

1. *Warehousing:* The team is preparing the grounds to set up the WiikHall in Attapeu. The first truck arrived from KL in Attapeu on 21 August with a set of WiikHall, family tents and mobile latrines. The proposed location is nearby the local branch office.
2. *Reception of NFIs:* Items estimated to arrive in Attapeu on 27 August. The programme team distribution plan is being finalized in order to distribute the items immediately.
3. *Fleet:* Two DC Land Cruiser Pickups will be purchased, and one DC Land Cruiser Pickup will be rented from the IFRC global fleet in Dubai. Order is being prepared and followed up with the Dubai office. Local rentals and LRC vehicles are being used at the moment until the VRP is finalized. IFRC Bangkok CCST is in discussion with TRCS to borrow two vehicles.

Continuous rain in Attapeu province is one of the main challenges for successful implementation of planned activities. During the reporting period, the main supply corridor to affected areas was cut after one of the rivers overflowed and a bridge was washed away, cutting off the road link. Furthermore, the main road to the affected area is very muddy and only accessible by 4 x 4 vehicles. Two partially affected villages are currently only accessible by helicopter. The Government has provided one helicopter for humanitarian organizations to deliver relief to those villages. However, its operation is subject to suitable weather conditions.

IFRC AP OLPSCM has been extending its technical logistics support to NS and IFRC Flood operation as per needed.

Security

Heavy rains are still ongoing. The authorities have announced on 15 August that one hydro-power plan planned to release water in the upcoming days to release pressure on the dam. As a precaution, the operations team from LRC, the TRCS RDRT and IFRC team has moved to an inland hotel to keep away from potential further flash floods.

Reference documents



Click [here](#) for Information Bulletin

Click [here](#) for Emergency Appeal

Click [here](#) for EPoA

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**
