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Emergency appeal Lao People's Democratic Republic: Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRLA005

7,500 people (1,500 households) to be assisted

Appeal launched 26 July 2018

Glide n° FF-2018-000118-LAO

400,000 Swiss francs DREF allocated

Appeal ends 31 January 2020

2.9 million Swiss francs current Appeal budget

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of some **2.9 million** Swiss francs on a preliminary basis to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the **Lao Red Cross (LRC)** to deliver assistance and support **7,500 people for 18 months**. The operation will focus on the following main areas of interventions: **shelter; livelihoods and basic needs; health; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); protection, gender and inclusion (PGI); disaster risk reduction (DRR); and National Society capacity enhancement**. The Appeal includes a provision for possible shelter cluster coordination. Details will be made available through the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA).

The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

23 July 2018: After days of heavy rainfall and floods, the Xepian-Xe Nam Noy hydropower dam collapses at 8pm, releasing five billion cubic meters of waters and affecting 7,000 residents in six villages.

24 July 2018: Rescue and recovery operations take place, evacuating survivors away from the flooded areas. LRC assists in the rescue operations. Affected areas declared as disaster areas.

25 July 2018: Emergency meeting is held at the LRC headquarters, together with partnering organizations to formulate a response plan.

26 July 2018: IFRC issues Emergency Appeal for 2.9 million Swiss francs and allocates 400,000 Swiss francs from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the LRC to assist 7,500 people for 18 months.



People stranded on the roof top waiting assistance in Attapeu province on 24 July 2018. (Photo: [BBC News](#), 24 July 2018)

The operational strategy

Needs assessment

Upon notice of the disaster, LRC mobilized rescue teams into the affected areas (please refer to map at the end of this document), augmenting the local government response forces in the operations. According to a situation [report](#) drafted by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), five human lives have been lost with at least 34 people missing. A total of 3,747 households (11,777 people) have been affected, of whom 1,494 have been evacuated to safer areas. Based on initial information, the main needs relate to food items, non-food items (including mosquito nets), hygiene kits, and emergency shelter supplies (tarpaulins and toolkits).

According to the results of *population and housing census 2015*, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is primarily an agricultural economy. Approximately 2,500,000 individuals are involved in agricultural work, making a total of 72 per cent employment share of the industry. According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 80 per cent of the rural population are still subsistence farmers, depending on heavily rice-based agriculture, raising livestock and relying on collection of food from the wild to supply it with nutrient-rich foodstuffs.

With the flash floods, these agricultural lands and livestock would have been destroyed, and no harvests would be made. Without these, the affected farmers would have lost their means of livelihood and would be economically vulnerable.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement in country

The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Bangkok deployed one member of its team to Laos to provide in-country coordination and is preparing to dispatch 1,400 food relief kits in coordination with the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS). There are sufficient stocks of non-food supplies (including tarpaulins and hygiene kits) in the IFRC Regional Office for Asia Pacific (APRO), Kuala Lumpur warehouse, which can be mobilized to Laos immediately by air. The regional logistics team is already checking estimates for a charter.

In support to the LRC, the IFRC will actively communicate with external audiences around the humanitarian situation in Laos and the response – generating visibility around the ongoing humanitarian needs on the ground and the ongoing impact of the Red Cross response. Commonly agreed talking points will be produced together with Cross-Media materials. A proactive approach will be maintained regarding engagement with the international media so that the Red Cross response is well profiled and resource mobilization efforts are supported.

IFRC CCST Bangkok is liaising with the TRCS for logistic and relief support, particularly for supply of food and non-food items from its TRCS provincial Red Cross Chapter located close to Laos 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 CCST Bangkok. IFRC APRO also provides support if needed by the CCST. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Swiss Red Cross, and the German Red Cross have bilateral programs with the LRC, and further support may be coordinated once the avenues for assistance are clearer.

The Singapore Red Cross has launched a public appeal and has pledged S\$50,000 in humanitarian aid. Donations will fund the purchase and distribution of relief items, including first aid supplies, blankets and mats for survivors, as well as other disaster relief and recovery efforts. An advance three-person team will be deployed to aid relief operations.

Overview of non- RC/RC actors in country

The Attapeu Provincial Administration Office has announced relief aid for flood victims. Authorities of Attapeu Province also called on government organizations, the business community, officials, police and military forces, and the Lao people to provide emergency aid for the victims. According to multiple news sources, an appeal for drinking water, food, clothing and medical supplies has also been made, and engineering groups involved in the construction of the dam are running emergency teams to plan for, evacuate and rescue residents in villages near the dam.

Proposed Areas for intervention

Overall operational objective

This operation aims to support the needs of 7,500 people¹ (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.

¹ Based on *The 4th Population and Housing Census (PHC) 2015* report, there is an almost equal proportion of males and females. There were 101 males for every 100 females in the country.

Areas of Focus



Shelter

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

Male: 3,788

Female: 3,712

Requirements (CHF): 834,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted: The flash floods have affected nearly 11,777 residents in eight villages, including Ban Mai; Ban HinLath; Ban ThaSengchan; Ban Thahintai; Ban Sanong; Ban Thae, Ban Phonsa-ath, and Ban Nongkhae, leaving the affected families staying in open areas or evacuation centers. There is a need for emergency shelter, longer term and more sustainable solutions, and to relocate some people living in the high-risk areas.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Emergency shelter (provision of tarpaulins and shelter toolkits, and basic awareness on their usage)
- *Build Back Safer* messaging 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: 1,500 households (7,500 people)

Male: 3,788

Female: 3,712

Requirements (CHF): 391,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted: Displaced households no longer have access to foodstuffs or may have lost all their belongings to the flash floods. Subsistence-farming households would 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 recover livelihoods with dignity.

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: 1,500 households (7,500 people)

Male: 3,788

Female: 3,712

Requirements (CHF): 287,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted: With contaminated flood waters near communities, there is a risk of vector-borne diseases. 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.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Provision of mosquito nets for prevention of mosquito-borne diseases
- Health education 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: 1,500 households (7,500 people)

Male: 3,788

Female: 3,712

Requirements (CHF): 288,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted: People's immediate need is safe and clean drinking water, where the public water supply system is damaged or destroyed. There is a need to provide hygiene kits and jerry cans alongside other non-food relief items.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Provision of safe water and hygiene items
- 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: 500 households (2,500 people)

Male: 1,000

Female: 1,500

Requirements (CHF): 99,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted: During disasters, affected people are made more vulnerable by housing and economic insecurity. Vulnerable population such as children, elderly, persons with disabilities and the sick are at higher risk of exploitation. There is a need to protect this population and incorporate their different needs into the programming.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Follow up and 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) 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 people

Male: 1,010

Female: 990

Requirements (CHF): 71,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted: The agricultural community of Lao PDR subsist along the river tributaries. With the multiple damming operations along the stretches of the Mekong River and other tributaries, the potential risks highlighted by this flash floods highlight the need to ensure that community preparedness and risk reduction measures are implemented alongside relief and recovery interventions. As part of protecting and restoring community resilience to disasters, community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) activities will be undertaken by having early warning early action agents to identify local risks, vulnerabilities and capacities to strengthen resilience of communities.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- 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
- Training and equipping of national and branch response teams

Strengthening National Societies

Requirements (CHF): 320,000

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Support on enhancing fleet (vehicles and/or motorcycles)
- Rehabilitation/strengthening of warehouses
- Rehabilitation/strengthening of blood bank
- National staffing and volunteers
- Provision of emergency response equipment, including rescue boats

Ensure Effective International Disaster Management

Requirements (CHF): 536,000

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Surge support, including Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) and peer-to-peer support
- IFRC personnel (Bangkok CCST and potential in-country operational support lead)
- Support and monitoring missions by technical experts
- Logistics services
- Evaluation and lessons learned forum
- Ensure that the humanitarian situation and the work of the National Society is well documented and shared with media channels to profile the RC/RC appropriately
- Support the Appeal and other major milestones throughout the operation using people-centered, community level diverse compelling content, including video footage and photos with extended captions
- Maintain a social media presence throughout the operation utilizing IFRC platforms such as Facebook and Twitter
- Organize and coordinate media visits to profile the operation
- Develop and update key messages and press releases
- Pitch stories related to the situation and RC/RC response to the media
- Deployment of a Surge Communications Delegate
- Produce compelling cross media content for IFRC and National Society online channels

Influence Others as Leading Strategic Partners

Requirements (CHF): 67,000

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Representation in Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings
- Communications and media relations
- Support for Lao PDR Disaster Law development, enabling the Red Cross to continue influencing and strengthening the policy and implementing regulatory framework for climate-smart disaster risk management approaches in Lao PDR.

Based on the demand for the technical and coordination support required to deliver in this operation, the following program support functions will be put in place to ensure an effective and efficient technical coordination: **human resources, logistics and supply chain; information technology support (IT); communications; security; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); partnerships and resource development; and finance and administration.** More details will be provided in the EPoA.

Funding Requirements

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

EMERGENCY APPEAL

MDRLA005 Lao PDR : Flash Floods

Funding requirements - summary

SHELTER	834,000
LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS	391,000
HEALTH	287,000
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE	288,000
INCLUSION, GENDER AND PROTECTION	99,000
MIGRATION	0
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	71,000
STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SOCIETIES	320,000
ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTER'L DISASTER MANAGEMENT	536,000
INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS	67,000
ENSURE A STRONG IFRC	0
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	2,893,000

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Elhadj As Sy
Secretary General

Reference documents



Click [here](#) for Information Bulletin.

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

In Laos Red Cross

- Khamhoung Heuangvongsy, President; phone: +856 21 216 610
- Dr. Kaviphone Southy, DM Department Director; email: southy_lrc@yahoo.com

In the IFRC Regional Office for Asia Pacific, Kuala Lumpur

- Martin Faller, Deputy Regional Director; email: martin.faller@ifrc.org
- Necephor Mghendi, Head of Disaster and Crises Unit; email: necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org
- Victor Ng, interim Operations Coordinator; mobile: + 60 14735 9088; email: opscoord.apro@ifrc.org
- Riku Assamaki, Regional Logistics Coordinator; email: riku.assamaki@ifrc.org
- Rosemarie North; Communications Manager; mobile: +60-122-308-451; email: rosemarie.north@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Susil Perera, Senior Officer, Response Recovery and Preparedness; phone: +412 2730 4947; email: susil.perera@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- Sophia Keri, Resource Mobilization in Emergencies Coordinator; email: sophia.keri@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries):

- Fadzli Saari, acting PMER manager; email: fadzli.saari@ifrc.org

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.



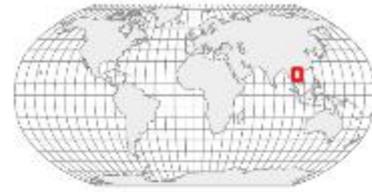
Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



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

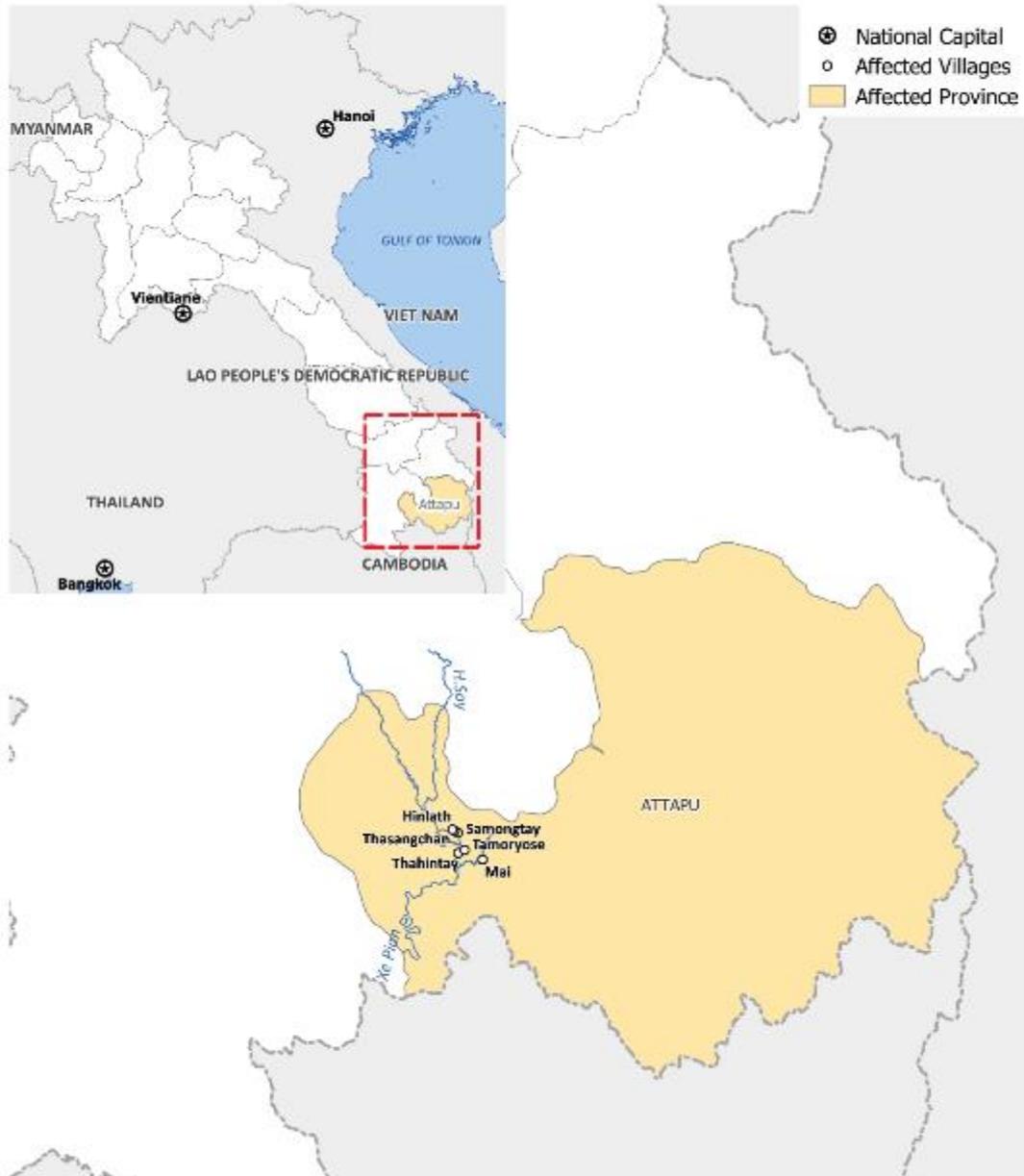


International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
 Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
 Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
 الاتحاد الدولي جمعيات الصليب الأحمر والقمر الأحمر



Lao People's Republic: Dam Collapse and Flash Floods: Emergency Appeal

25 July 2018 • FF-2018-000118-LAO



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM, ICRC, IFRC.

