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## DREF Final Report Lao People's Democratic Republic: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF Operation</b>	<b>Operation n°: MDRLA007</b>
<b>Date of issue:</b> 27/04/2021	<b>Glide number:</b> <a href="#">FL-2020-000213-LAO</a>
<b>Operation starting date:</b> 23/10/2020	<b>Operation end date:</b> 31/01/2021
<b>Host National Society:</b> Lao Red Cross (LRC)	<b>Operation budget:</b> CHF 163,514
<b>Number of people affected:</b> 69,764	<b>Number of people assisted:</b> 13,000
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Lao PDR Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change (DDMCC); and Lao PDR Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.	

### A. Situation analysis

#### Description of the disaster

The lower Mekong region (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Thailand and Vietnam) experienced prolonged heavy rain since 6 October 2020 until early December 2020. This was due to the combination of numerous weather systems – the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone combining with cold air as well as tropical storms Linfa and Nangka as well as tropical depression INVEST 94W. The three wind systems made landfall in Vietnam but brought along heavy rain to the rest of the lower Mekong region. Tropical storm Linfa made landfall on 11 October 2020, tropical storm Nangka made landfall on 14 October 2020 whilst tropical depression INVEST 94W made landfall on 16 October 2020.



Flooded localities in Xepon village of Savannaket province. (Photo: LRC)

The rainfall brought by the wind systems resulted in widespread flooding and landslides in southern Lao PDR. As of 20 October 2020, nine districts in three provinces of Salawan, Savannaket and Sekong were affected by the floods. Click [here](#) to see the map of affected areas.

Based on an initial assessment on 20 October 2020, conducted by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) with participation of Lao Red Cross, it was highlighted that 163 villages in the three provinces, with an estimated 15,305 households (97,514 people) were affected. Savannaket was the worst affected province with more than 10,000 households from 137 villages were reportedly affected in the province and two people had lost their lives. In Sekong province, around 3,000 people were affected, and two people had lost their lives. Salawan province reported more than 600 people affected with five deaths. The table below provides most up to date information provided by LRC.

Province	No. of affected districts	No. of Affected villages	No. of Affected households	No. of Affected people	No. of Dead	No. of Displaced people	No. of People Missing
Savannaket	6	137	11,074	71,483 (F34,469)	2	13,506	-
Salawan	2	18	3,569	21,523 (F11,014)	5	-	-
Sekong	2	8	662	4,508 (F2,198)	2	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>15,305</b>	<b>97,514</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13,506</b>	<b>-</b>

Table 1: Affected population (updated as of 2 November 2020)

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society Response Action

Lao Red Cross (LRC) at both headquarters (HQ) and relevant provincial branches were actively involved from the onset of floods. LRC branches joined the needs and damage assessment with provincial government to obtain information.

From 4 to 19 November 2020, LRC team from the headquarters, along with staff from three branches conducted another assessment in Savannaket, Salawan and Sekong. This final assessment highlighted that 11 districts, 26 villages, 3,120 households (20,013 people) urgently needed help and should be prioritised for distribution of relief kits and hygiene kits.

The emergency WASH team in Salawan and Sekong provided clean water in eight villages for these two provinces. As a result, a total of 149,300 litres of purified water were produced and distributed to 826 households. In addition, 826 water containers of 20 litre capacity were distributed to these households to enable them to collect and store water when needed. The distribution of water containers was done between 5 -11 November 2020 and 11-15 January 2021. For further details, refer to the table below.



LRC team members conduct Needs Assessment in Songkhone District. Photo: LRC Savannaket province. (Photo: LRC)

Province	District	Village	No. of people assisted	Male	Female	Purified water (litres)	Water container
Salawan	Samouy	Arwow	4,228	2,133	2,095	28,100	471
		LalaiAkong					
		Tangko					
		Lahang					
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4,228</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>2,095</b>	<b>28,100</b>	<b>471</b>
Sekong	Kaluem	Jing	1,866	908	958	43,000	116
		Songkhone					
		Loy					
	Darkjueng	Darkdin	1,025	489	536	41,800	152
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3,468</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>121,200</b>	<b>355</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7,696</b>	<b>3,820</b>	<b>3,876</b>	<b>149,300</b>	<b>826</b>

Table 2: Summary of clean water supplied by LRC

In terms of hygiene promotion, LRC conducted public awareness in Salawan and Sekong during December 2020 and January 2021 in which at least 595 people from six villages belonging to two districts, participated in these events. Due to limited human resources and budget, LRC could not implement emergency WASH and hygiene promotion in Savannaket province. For further details, refer to the table below.

Province	District	Village	No. of participants	Male	Female
Salawan	Samouy	Lawanue	195	113	82
		PhinAr			
		LalaiArsioy			
Sekong	DarkJeung	DarkBong	400	263	137
		DarkSar			
		DarkDin			
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>219</b>

Table 3: Summary of hygiene promotion conducted by LRC

By the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December 2020, LRC headquarter delivered the relief and hygiene kit to Savannaket, Salawan and Sekong provinces and the distribution of these items started from 10 to 25 December 2020 with the collaboration LRC branches. The relief and hygiene kits reached 3,120 households (around 20,013 people) in 11 districts, 26 villages in Salawan, Sekong and Savannaket

Post distribution monitoring was conducted during 11-15 January 2021 in nine villages, belonging to seven districts of three provinces. LRC selected a sample size of 312 households (10% of 3,120 households) to be interviewed for post distribution monitoring (PDM). The results from the PDM showed that 86.2% people came to collect the relief and hygiene kits, while 13.8% were delivered to the beneficiaries due to challenges of physical fitness. Overall, 99.4% of beneficiaries were satisfied with the items received.

A lessons learnt workshop was conducted right after the PDM, from 19 to 20 January 2021 with 44 (13 Female) participants from LRC HQ and branches. The lesson learnt workshop suggested that LRC needs to focus on capacity building in various aspects of emergency response such as needs and damage assessment, procurement procedures during emergencies and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER).

#### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation team (CCD) based in Bangkok, Thailand is supporting LRC, in close collaboration with the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The LRC also hosts the German Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross.

The LRC have held leadership coordination meeting to discuss the planning and response to the floods; these meetings were attended by IFRC (virtual meeting), and Partner National Societies (Swiss Red Cross). These meetings informed the decision to request a DREF allocation after it was identified that the threshold for managing the response with existing capacities and resources had been reached.

#### Overview of other actors' actions in country

Provincial governments worked on localized response to support the affected population. LRC as a body of government and part of National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) in each provincial joint the assessment with NDMO and local government. LRC finalized the information from approval of government and conducted their own assessment with funding from donor to specify the needs.

#### Other Agencies

United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Country Team did not initiate any coordination mechanisms.

### Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

#### Needs analysis

Data related to the needs of the affected population was limited across all sectors. However, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) of which LRC is a member, identified the most urgent needs to be food, water, household items, hygiene kit and medicines, as well as boats and equipment to support ongoing search and rescue operations (by the government).

Risk factors related to vector and water borne diseases such as dengue fever, malaria, and diarrhoea were also elevated during this operation as people affected experienced limited access to safe water for drinking and hygiene, and appropriate sanitation facilities. According to WHO, there was an increased number of incidences of dengue in southern Lao PDR in August 2020. Estimated 389 dengue cases were reported in Lao People's Democratic Republic, bringing the cumulative total to 4,949 this year with nine deaths. The cumulative number of cases reported (weeks 1-34) is 5.4 times lower compared to the same period in 2019 when 26,508 cases were reported. The trend is within seasonally expected levels. There are concerns that the flooding exacerbated the situation, especially since the three provinces are particularly prone to both dengue and malaria.



LRC team conducts Needs Assessment in SaMouy District Salawan province. (Photo: LRC)

There has also been extensive damage caused to infrastructure, with impacts to at least 15 schools, agricultural land was also inundated and assets either lost or damaged, which can be expected to have impacts on food security and livelihoods. As of the final report, there is no information on the market conditions in the three provinces, but due to damages caused to agricultural land and roads, there can be expected that there will be disruptions to the availability of basic food commodities.

From 2 November 2020 onwards, there were more reports of losses in three provinces (provincial office) - 26,742 hectares (ha) of rice fields, and 6,539 units of livestock (cows, poultry, goats, pigs etc.) had been damaged. Health facilities were most affected in Savannaket (6,015 latrines and 2,579 Boreholes damaged). A total of 190 roads were damaged in three provinces and 25 bridges were destroyed in Savannaket and Salawan. Several schools were also damaged: 90 in Savannaket, 32 in Salawan and 37 schools in Sekong. However, the Lao government was able to manage the situation hence there was no international request for assistance.

Following COVID-19 situation in Lao PDR, as of 14 October 2020, most restrictions have been lifted but border restrictions for foreigners remain in place. So far, Lao PDR had 49 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with the last case being an imported one recorded on 11 March 2021. Despite the limited number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, the pandemic has had a significant negative impact on the economy of the country. Furthermore, the risk of importation of COVID-19 cases from international flights and neighbouring countries remain present, especially as the country moves towards easing international travel restrictions in the future. At this stage, internal travel across provinces is already permitted.

### Targeting

LRC had targeted 2,600 most vulnerable affected households based on the initial assessment. LRC together with NDMO who led the overall coordination of the need's assessment planned to support families from nine districts across the three provinces affected by flooding. After the final assessment in November 2020, the target was revised to reach 3,120 households (20,013 population) with the details provided in the table below:

No.	District	Household	Population	Male	Female	Age rate					
						0-5	06-12	13-17	18-29	30-59	>60
I	<b>Savannaket Province</b>										
1	Xepon District	168	1,083	535	548	136	168	184	250	282	63
2	Songkhone District	426	2,674	1,356	1,318	400	231	287	626	945	185
3	Xonbouli District	253	1,946	986	960	166	240	253	539	634	114
4	Nong District	266	1,803	911	892	203	250	267	429	525	129
5	Champhone District	203	1,238	611	627	101	126	131	321	466	93
6	Phin District	155	966	451	515	120	160	151	261	238	36
	Total	1,471	9,710	4,850	4,860	1,126	1,175	1,273	2,426	3,090	620

II	<b>Salawan Province</b>										
1	Taouy District	231	1,645	798	847	262	324	282	326	380	71
2	Samouy District	824	4,946	2,486	2,460	708	897	816	978	1,268	279
Total		1,055	6,591	3,284	3,307	970	1,221	1,098	1,304	1,648	350
III	<b>Sekong Province</b>										
1	DarkJueng District	412	2,523	1,266	1,257	504	418	352	617	516	116
2	Kaluem District	126	858	439	419	185	170	109	169	200	25
3	Lamarm District	56	331	169	162	39	52	42	76	100	22
Total		594	3,712	1,874	1,838	728	640	503	862	816	163
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>3,120</b>	<b>20,013</b>	<b>10,008</b>	<b>10,005</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>2,874</b>	<b>4,592</b>	<b>5,554</b>	<b>1,133</b>

Table 4: Details of population targeted for assistance under this DREF operation

### Scenario planning

The search and rescue operations by the government continued as of 20 October 2020. It was anticipated the affected population would increase as needs assessments were finalized. The Xelanong Hydropower (Dam) in Pin district in Savannaket province continued to release water as water levels exceeded the dam's capacity.

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
COVID – 19 cases increase	High impact. Volunteers and staff of LRC are not able to implement activities	Incorporate COVID safe response and ensure all volunteers follow proper social distancing and have proper personal protective equipment
The floods situation worsens	Additional number of people affected by the floods and increased needs for humanitarian assistance	LRC will expand its operation and request for additional funding support from IFRC and partners
Another tropical storm makes landfall nearby	Additional number of people affected by the floods and increased needs for humanitarian assistance	LRC will expand its operation and request for additional funding support from IFRC and partners

### Operation risk assessment

This DREF operation and its operational strategy considered the risks related to the current COVID-19 pandemic and aligned with the IFRC global emergency appeal that supports National Societies to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The following measures were taken to curb the spread of the disease: mandatory mask wearing, setting up of proximity screening sites, set up of treatment centres; risk communication, providing updated information on the COVID-19 situation.

National Society responses to COVID-19 were supported through the IFRC [global appeal](#), which facilitated and supported them to maintain critical service provision, while adapting to COVID-19. This DREF operation was aligned with and contributed to the current global strategy and [regional Emergency Plan of Action](#) for COVID-19 developed by the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, in coordination with global and regional partners. LRC followed the Covid19 prevention measures and were adhered to, in line with regional plan of action and its national COVID-19 country plan.

It is acknowledged that LRC has limited capacity to cope with previous emergency operations such as Emergency Appeal MDRLA005 and DREF operation MDRLA006, which were implemented simultaneously in which IFRC CCD Bangkok had remotely supported the operations (remotely due to travel restrictions due to the pandemic). In addition, the challenges that the National Society faced in the implementation of the previous DREF operation included: lack of relevant experience; limited human resources with relevant technical skills (both in headquarters and in branch); geographically hard to reach villages due to poor road conditions; poor communication networks and limited suppliers/vendors in the operational areas (district and province).

Based on the lessons learnt from these experiences, the IFRC supported capacity building of the LRC in emergency response through another project called the Red Ready project. Therefore, a Basic Emergency Response training was organized for the staff and volunteers during Phase 1 of the Red Ready Project (2018-2020).

Additionally, during the implementation of the previous Emergency Appeal operation, LRC staff in the headquarters worked directly with the IFRC team and were also trained in finance and basic procurement and are familiar with the IFRC process. All these trainings helped to minimise the operational risks for the current DREF operation.

## B. Operational strategy

### Overall Operational objective

The operation aimed to meet the immediate needs of 2,600 of the most vulnerable affected households (13,000 people) through the initial provision of hygiene and relief kits and mobilization of water purification units. The operation was completed within three months from October 2020 to January 2021.

### Proposed strategy

The response strategy included the following assistance:

- **Needs assessment** were conducted from 4-19 November 2020 by LRC from headquarters and three branches together with NDMO representative of each province to determine the needs of the affected population, existing capacities, and resource requirements. This included identification of caseloads and verification of targeted households in nine districts across three provinces. This was led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare through NDMO.

A total of 17 staff: nine staff from LRC HQ and eight staff from branches participated in the needs assessment and the assessment results were shared with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare as part of coordination and cooperation. The assessment suggested that relief and hygiene kits are needed by the identified affected people, along with drinking water and hygiene promotion.

- **Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion:** LRC also provided clean drinking water through deployment of three units of AP 700CL water purification (more commonly known as Man-pack) to affected districts, as well as the distribution of hygiene kits, with emphasis on the needs of women and girls (please see table below for items included in the hygiene kit). The provision of clean water was initially planned for 15 days through the DREF, with consideration made to continue the provision of these services based on the results of the joint needs assessment.

Items	Unit	Quantity
Soap	Piece	4
Toothpaste	Piece	1
Toothbrush	Piece	5
Sanitary napkins	Piece	5

Table 5: Details of items included in hygiene kits

- **Livelihoods and basic needs:** Distribution of IFRC kitchen sets Type A (contributed by the Korean National Red Cross (KNRC)) and relief kits. The table below lists the items included in the relief kit:

Items	Unit	Quantity
Instant noodle	Pack	10
Sticky rice	kg	12
Fish can	Can	10
water (600 ml)	Bottle	12
Salt (500 g)	Bag	1
Cooking oil (250 g)	Bottle	2
Lighter	Piece	2
Candle (medium size)	Piece	2

Table 6: Details of items included in Relief Kits

- **Health:** Conducted awareness activities in relation to epidemic control for volunteers (ECV) among affected communities, with emphasis on waterborne and vector borne diseases (including dengue and malaria).
- **Protection, gender and inclusion:** The PGI focal point from LRC joined the needs assessment and provided guidance throughout the operation ensuring that women and girls needs were considered and that they were

well represented among the people selected for assistance. The hygiene kits that were distributed included sanitary pads for women and girls.

## **Support Services**

### **Human resources**

LRC had limited number of trained staff to support the DREF operation. Staff from the Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) Bangkok office provided close support for coordination, financial management, communications, and reporting.

### **Logistics and supply chain**

The procurement of relief and hygiene items were closely supported and monitored by the IFRC Programme Officer based in Vientiane, who had been trained in logistics and procurement during the previous EA operation. The local procurement was done in line with IFRC's Procurement Procedures.

Additional technical guidance, logistics and /procurement support were extended by IFRC CCD in Bangkok and the Operational Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management (OLPSCM) unit in Kuala Lumpur.

### **Communications**

LRC's communications unit ensured visibility of their activities and partner support through the use of social media to highlight LRC's operations and support to communities. Communications staff from CCD and APRO provided direct and indirect support where necessary to LRC. The IFRC communications teams also supported broadening the audience by sharing photo and video content on IFRC's regional social media channels and IFRC's weekly newsletter sent to all 192 National Societies all over the world.

### **Security**

The National Society's security framework applied throughout the duration of the operation to their staff.

### **Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)**

LRC was responsible for the implementation and monitoring of all activities for the DREF operation with support from the Program officer in Laos, and from IFRC staff in CCD Bangkok. Support was provided from IFRC personnel to assist with reporting of activities and outcomes of the DREF operation. A lessons learnt workshop was also conducted in January 2021 with the IFRC team from CCD Bangkok participating online.

### **Administration and Finance**

Operational expenses such as per-diem, accommodation, transportation, communication, and coordination activities were regulated by IFRC procedures with the support of CCD. Finance and administration support to the operation were provided by LRC Headquarters, with the assistance from the finance and administration team of the IFRC CCD and APRO, when required.

## C. Detailed Operational Plan



### Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 20,013

Male: 10,008

Female: 10,005

Requirements (CHF): 101,500

**Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods**

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of households of targeted population whose livelihood are improved from pre-disaster level	2,600	3,120
Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of targeted households that have enough food to meet their survival threshold	2,600	3,120

### Narrative Description of Achievements

LRC team (consisting of staff from headquarter and from branches in the three provinces conducted damage and needs assessment in Savannaket, Salawan and Sekong during 4-19 November 2020. The assessment suggested that 3,120 households (20,013 people (10,008 male, 10,005 female) from 26 villages in 11 districts, needed urgent help with relief and hygiene kits.

The procurement of relief and hygiene kits were done by the team at LRC headquarters with close support from IFRC CCD and APRO. The procurement took four weeks to be completed. By the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December 2020, LRC headquarters started to deliver the relief and hygiene kits to Savannaket, Salawan and Sekong province. The distribution of items took place between 10 - 25 December 2020.

LRC also received 1500 kitchen sets from the Korean Red Cross in January 2021. Of these, 1,173 sets were distributed among households (1173 households (or 6,737 people (3308M, 3429 F) in the three affected provinces by March 2021. The remaining 327 sets are at the LRC warehouse for use in future emergencies.

Post distribution monitoring (PDM) was conducted during 11 - 15 January 2021 in nine villages of the three provinces. LRC selected a sample size of 312 households (10% of 3,120 household) for the PDM interviews. Based on the results of interview, 86.2% of people came to collect the relief and hygiene kits, while the remaining were home delivered by the LRC staff and volunteers. The survey revealed that 99.4% of respondents indicated that the items met their needs.



Left: LRC team members distribute Relief kits and Hygiene kit in Nong district Savannaket province. Right: A man assisted under the operation carries his Relief and Hygiene kit in Darkjueng district Sekong province. Photos: LRC

## Challenges

The procurement of relief and hygiene kits was time consuming, as some items such as food items requires approval from the IFRC's APRO as well as required paperwork from the vendors. The cost of distribution was quite high, as all items were procured at the headquarter in Vientiane and then delivered to the affected provinces. As a result, the relief and hygiene kits reached to the affected people took almost two months after the floods occurred.

## Lessons Learned

LRC needs to strengthen its procurement guidelines and operating procedures along with robust and consistent finance management and logistics management to reduce risks of fraud and corruption.

IFRC at CCD and APRO need to continue providing capacity building support to LRC to ensure required minimum standards are understood, met, and enforced on all projects and operations.

Cash based interventions should be considered for LRC, as there were several challenges during the procurement process (lack of trained staff for managing procurements, high cost of distribution) and it will also ensure that people can directly purchase the items they need the most.



### Health

People reached: 20,013

Male: 10,008

Female: 10,005

Requirements (CHF): n/a – implemented together with WASH activities

#### Health Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by National Societies with health services	13,000	20,013

#### Health Output 1.9: Target population is reached with Search and Rescue activities

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of assessments conducted based on standard IFRC and / or WHO assessment guidelines	1	1
Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by community-based health activities	13,000	595

#### Narrative Description of Achievements

LRC supported local health authorities in providing health awareness interventions such as disease prevention and control along with hygiene promotion in Salawan and Sekong province. This activity could not be conducted in Savannaket, due to the absence of adequately trained personnel at the local branch.



Left: LRC team conduct Hygiene promotion in Darkjueng district in Sekong province. Right: Hygiene promotion being conducted in Samouy district Salawan province. (Photos: LRC)

For instance, from 1 to 5 December 2020, LRC conducted hygiene promotion awareness activities on epidemic control among affected communities, with emphasis on waterborne and vector borne diseases like dengue and malaria in the villages in Sekong. LRC also highlighted COVID-19 prevention information such as - what is COVID-19, what are its symptoms, and what can people do to prevent being infected and spreading the virus. Following safety measure like wearing a mask, washing hands regularly, and maintaining social distance were emphasized.

The Salawan branch conducted hygiene promotion awareness from 4 to 8 January 2021. Total 595 (376M, 219F) people from six villages of these two provinces participated in the awareness activities. More details are provided in the next section on WASH.

### Challenges

Capacity of the team at local branches was quite limited and LRC had to deploy staff from headquarter office to conduct assessments and for emergency response activities.

As mentioned above, the Savannaket branch could not conduct hygiene promotion in the affected area, as there is no trained staff at Savannaket branch.

LRC does not have a strong national structure of disaster response teams or volunteers to deploy to support any affected area or branch.

### Lessons Learned

More consistency of training and capacity building needs to be provided to LRC both at HQ and branch levels to enable them to respond and undertake actions required to support affected population.

Consistent communication and information sharing between LRC HQ and LRC branches is required to ensure the LRC leadership and heads of departments can understand the situation on the ground and assist with problem solving, decision making and provision of resources, equipment and personnel to support chapters, based on a good understanding of needs.



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 20,013

Male: 10,008

Female: 10,005

Requirements (CHF): 32,203

#### WASH Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by National Societies with water, sanitation and hygiene services	13,000	20,013

#### WASH Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of assessments/monitoring visits undertaken and shared	1	1

#### WASH Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of litres of safe water distributed	10,000	149,300

#### WASH Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	N/A	595

**WASH Output 1.5: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population**
**Indicator:**

# of households provided with a set of essential hygiene items	2,600	3,120
# of households trained in the use of distributed items	2,600	3,120

**Narrative Description of Achievements**

The assessment of the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities was conducted in early November 2020. The assessment was conducted only in Salawan and Sekong and not in Savannaket due to the reason mentioned earlier. After the assessment, LRC then deployed and operated water purification units in the assessed provinces.



Left: Water supply in Kalim district Salawan province. Right: Water supply in Darkjueng district Sekong province. (Photos: LRC)

As a result, LRC provided clean water to four villages in Samouy district, Salawan province from 5 to 11 November 2020 and 11 to 15 January 2021. A total of 28,100 litres of water was provided to 471 households reaching 4,228 people (2,095 female). In Sekong province, LRC provided clean water to seven villages from two districts - Kaluem and Darkjueng from 1 to 9 December 2020, 19 to 25 December 2020 and 28 December to 5 January 2021. A total of 121,200 litres of water were provided to 355 households reaching 3,468 people (1,781 female) in Sekong province. The total amount of clean water produced and distributed by LRC to affected population was, 149,300 litres for a total of 7,696 people (3,876 female) along with 826 water containers. LRC conducted quality tests prior to distributing water to the affected people, as well as conducting monitoring activities of water use together with the post distribution monitoring.

Hygiene promotion activities conducted in Salawan and Sekong focused on the following topics: Public health and WASH in Emergency, eight steps for Hygiene Promotion in Emergency, Minimum standards for WASH and Gender (GD), and menstrual hygiene management (MHM), and AP 700 CL maintenance. Hygiene promotion was not held in Savannaket as the branch lacked trained staff to coordinate and implement the activity. In Sekong province, 400 people (137 female) from three villages of in DarkJeung district participated in this event from 1 to 5 December 2020. There were 195 participants (82 female) from three villages in Samouy district, Salawan province who attended this event from 4 to 8 January 2021. The total number of people reached with hygiene awareness activities was 595 people (219 female).

The procurement of hygiene kits was done by LRC headquarters with support from IFRC CCD and APRO. The procurement took four weeks to be completed. The distribution of the hygiene kits started from 10 to 25 December 2020 with the collaboration of local LRC branches. Hygiene kits (Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Sanitary napkins) reached 3,120 households (around 20,013 people; 10,005 female) in 11 districts, 26 villages in Salawan, Sekong and Savannaket.

PDM was conducted from 11 to 15 January 2021 in nine villages of seven districts. LRC selected a sample size of 312 households (10% of 3,120 households) for the interviews. Based on the interview results, 86.2% of people came to collect the relief and hygiene kits, with the remaining kits delivered to the beneficiaries by the LRC staff and volunteers. 99.4% of beneficiaries indicated that the items met their needs.

### Challenges

Due to lack of WASH and Health staff in Savannakhet province, there were no activity planned under WASH and Health awareness activities.

LRC had limited volunteers that are trained and ready to be deployed in short notice to support disaster response. Most activities were undertaken by staff from either HQ or branch. Most of the time, LRC uses “ad hoc” volunteers at community level to provide support in their area, which means they have no understanding or training to conduct activities and hence need to be trained before being asked to support response operations. This slows down response time and limited the capacity to support affected communities on a larger scale in multiple areas at once.

### Lessons Learned

There is a need to improve coordination and communication between LRC HQ and branch to ensure quality information gathering and information sharing to enable planning and deployment of resources to support needs.

It was suggested that more effort needs to be given to improve its ability to deploy teams from unaffected branch to increase support to most affected and where there is the greatest need and improve operational procedures for disaster response roles and responsibilities at each level and for each position at HQ and chapters.

In addition, it was also suggested to increase training of staff and volunteers in all aspects of disaster response - Rescue, First Aid, needs assessments, water supply, Logistics and finance, Awareness activities – PGI, ECV, hygiene promotion etc. Along with more dedicated training, conducting simulation exercises to train and improve capacity and improve standards has been highlighted. LRC will benefit from practicing the establishment of emergency operation centers, as well as additional training on information sharing and reporting.

Continued training for emergency WASH is a priority for LRC in order to have more personnel available at branch level to support WASH activities during disaster response. In the meantime, LRC should evaluate the level of equipment required to maintain a strong water purification capacity with the ability to deploy multiple teams into an affected area in order to provide quicker response to meet the needs of the affected population.

LRC should also consider consistent maintenance and troubleshooting efforts, both during peace times and during emergencies. Similarly, having critical spare parts or related items prepositioned will help to improve readiness.



## Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 11,905

Male: 5,292

Female: 6,613

### Protection, Gender & Inclusion Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.

Indicator:	Target	Actual
DREF operations address the needs of vulnerable groups to ensure equitable access to assistance	Yes	Yes

### Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Indicator:	Target	Actual
% of DREF activities	n/a	n/a

### Narrative Description of Achievements

LRC has a Protection, Gender & Inclusion focal point who participated in the needs assessment together with LRC team to ensure the specific needs of the affected population are identified and met with the criteria selected from the minimum standards for PGI in emergencies.

Nearly half of the people assisted under the operation were women and girls (10005 out of 20013 people assisted). Sanitary pads for women and girls were also included as part of the Hygiene kits that were distributed.

LRC ensured that the most vulnerable in affected communities were provided with priority for clean water supply. And PGI messaging was included in awareness activities within communities.

### Challenges

There is no roster of trained personnel on PGI at branch level, therefore, the technical support is entirely dependent on the PGI focal point from the HQ level. Branch staff have limited understanding and capacity of PGI issues and needs during the emergencies.

### Lesson learned

LRC should conduct training for branch staff and volunteers on PGI to be able to provide immediate technical support to any future emergency.

It is important for LRC to have a larger number of trained volunteers who can be mobilised to support disaster response which will enable more timely and effective support to affected communities.

## Strategies for Implementation

**S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform**

Indicator:	Target	Actual
% of Volunteers have access to existing protection measures and policies (Target 100%)	100%	n/a

**Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected**

Indicator:	Target	Actual
% of Volunteers are insured under SOS (100%)	100%	100%

<b>Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place</b>		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
NS has necessary infrastructure and systems in place	Yes	n/a
<b>Narrative Description of Achievements</b>		
LRC had registered 400 volunteers for insurance cover under the DREF operation. LRC does not have a consistent volunteer base, and mostly utilizes ad hoc volunteers from communities and therefore, there is a limited capacity to perform duties such as needs assessment, health and care, WASH, and hygiene promotion, and PGI.		
<b>Challenges</b>		
LRC does not maintain a roster of volunteers for disaster response at branch level.		
<b>Lessons Learned</b>		
LRC has identified the importance to engage and train volunteers at chapter level for disaster response and maintain a roster of volunteers to be mobilized when necessary.		
IFRC needs to support LRC further with development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and training to ensure the standard of response is improved by increasing capacity at LRC HQ and chapters in communication, coordination, reporting, and use of SOPs for all parts of a response operation.		
<b>Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured</b>		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
IFRC engages in inter-agency coordination at the country level (Target: Yes, if available)	Yes	Yes
<b>Narrative Description of Achievements</b>		
The cluster system was not activated during this response, as the government of Lao PDR determined it would be a government led response.		
The IFRC CCD team closely supported LRC in implementing the DREF operation starting with development of the Emergency Plan of Action (EPOA), planning, budgeting, monitoring the implementation activity, and sharing situational updates for CCD and APRO. In addition, the lone program officer provided support for all aspects including procurement, distribution of relief and hygiene kits, post distribution monitoring, and supporting the lesson learnt workshop.		
<b>Challenges</b>		
No challenges were identified.		
<b>Lessons Learned</b>		
LRC will coordinate with all actors and coordination mechanisms for emergency response.		
<b>Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.</b>		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable	Yes	Yes
<b>Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.</b>		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of detailed assessment report is produced	1	1

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned workshop conducted	1	1
<b>Narrative Description of Achievements</b>		
LRC produced the assessment report in Lao language and shared with IFRC CCD in Bangkok. The IFRC office then updated information of LRC operation to CCD and APRO office in Kuala Lumpur.		
<b>Challenges</b>		
Challenges highlighted are as per lessons learned below.		
<b>Lessons Learned</b>		
<p>The lesson learned workshop was organized during 19-20 January 2021. It was led by LRC in order to ensure ownership of lessons and recommendations for changes to be implemented. Some of the key lessons include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Communication and collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal communication from the branch level to LRC headquarters needs to be strengthened. Similarly, communication from the focal point at LRC to IFRC CCD regarding the progress of the operation needs to be improved.</li> </ul> </li> <li>II. Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The budget needs to be planned in greater detail to include costs such as village level coordination, translation costs, costs of Emergency WASH etc.</li> <li>• The distribution cost was high due to the procurement of relief and hygiene kits were done at LRC headquarters and then transported to affected villages. As a result, cash transfers should be considered for future operations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>III. Capacity of LRC staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LRC staff need further capacity building for conducting need assessments, monitoring and reporting of operations, DREF operations, and especially on IFRC procurement policies. Therefore, the pre-agreement with supplier should be in place which LRC needs to consult with the leadership.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>		

## D. Financial Report

A total of CHF 163,514 was allocated from DREF fund for LRC to respond to the needs of approximately 20,013 people.

The total expenditure recorded by the end of the operation was CHF 145,585 (89 per cent of the budget spent), leaving a balance of CHF 17,929 which will be returned to the DREF pool. For further details on expenditure, please refer to the attached final financial report.

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the LRC, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

## Reference documents



Click here for:

- [DREF Operation](#)

**For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:****In the Lao Red Cross**

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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 (NGO's) 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**.

# DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2020/10-2021/3	Operation	MDRLA007
Budget Timeframe	2020/10-2021/1	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 26/Apr/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## MDRLA007 - Lao PDR - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 22 Oct 2020 to 31 Jan 2021

### I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>163,514</b>
DREF Allocations	163,514
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-145,585</b>
Closing Balance	<b>17,929</b>

### II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	101,500	92,049	9,451
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	32,203	25,813	6,390
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	1,065		1,065
AOF7 - Migration			0
<b>Area of focus Total</b>	<b>134,768</b>	<b>117,862</b>	<b>16,906</b>
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	4,812	5,986	-1,174
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	3,171		3,171
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	19,897	20,851	-954
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	866	886	-20
<b>Strategy for implementation Total</b>	<b>28,746</b>	<b>27,723</b>	<b>1,024</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>163,514</b>	<b>145,585</b>	<b>17,929</b>

# DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2020/10-2021/3	Operation	MDRLA007
Budget Timeframe	2020/10-2021/1	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 26/Apr/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## MDRLA007 - Lao PDR - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 22 Oct 2020 to 31 Jan 2021

### III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>100,665</b>	<b>94,277</b>	<b>6,388</b>
Shelter - Relief		344	-344
Clothing & Textiles		24,931	-24,931
Food		10,552	-10,552
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	21,010	52,875	-31,865
Utensils & Tools	7,800		7,800
Other Supplies & Services	71,855	5,574	66,281
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>18,405</b>	<b>9,338</b>	<b>9,067</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	10,650	7,970	2,680
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,755	1,368	387
Logistics Services	6,000		6,000
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>7,496</b>	<b>4,206</b>	<b>3,290</b>
National Staff	2,978		2,978
National Society Staff	3,518	3,606	-88
Volunteers	1,000	600	400
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>6,938</b>	<b>4,301</b>	<b>2,636</b>
Workshops & Training	6,938	4,301	2,636
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>20,031</b>	<b>24,577</b>	<b>-4,546</b>
Travel	15,493	18,500	-3,007
Information & Public Relations		1,284	-1,284
Office Costs	4,451	2,464	1,987
Communications	87	395	-308
Financial Charges		101	-101
Other General Expenses		1,833	-1,833
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>9,980</b>	<b>8,885</b>	<b>1,094</b>
Programme & Services Support Recover	9,980	8,885	1,094
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>163,514</b>	<b>145,585</b>	<b>17,929</b>