

Lao PDR: Flash Floods

Office of the Resident Coordinator Situation Report No. 6

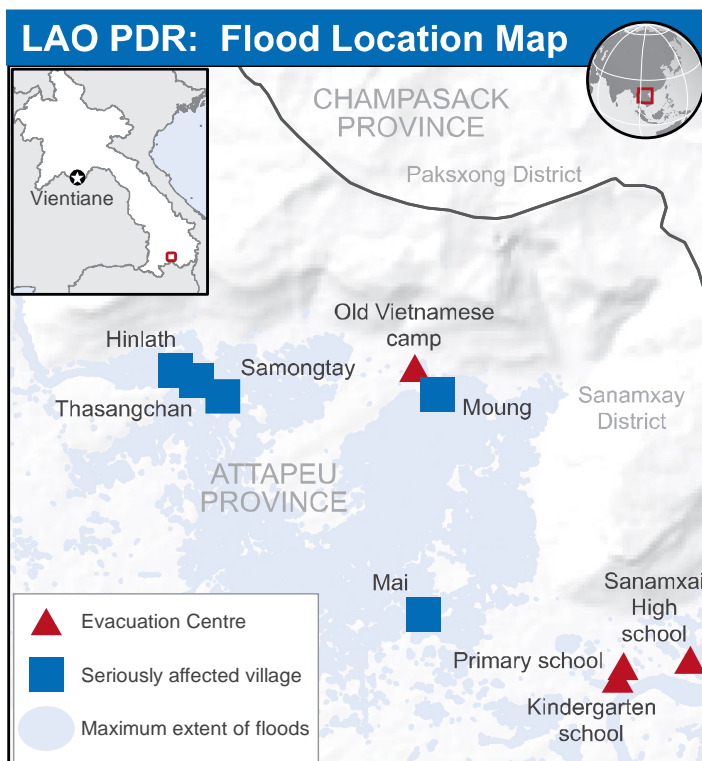
(as 06 August 2018)



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

Highlights

- Tropical Storm Son-Tinh caused heavy rains in 13 provinces and unprecedented flash floods in Sanamxay District in Attapeu Province. The water level is receding slowly, but road access remains difficult.
- Based on the Government's information, 13 villages have been affected, five are considered severely affected. The Government has declared the affected area as a National Disaster Zone.
- Current identified needs are water, health, food, shelter and psychosocial support.
- Access to the affected area remains challenging due to floods and mud. Some areas are accessible only by helicopter.



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

 34 reported deaths

 97 people missing

 6,000 people evacuated to emergency shelters

 13,100 people affected

Situation Overview

- Access to the affected area remains limited.
- Main needs include:
 - **Health:** Improved hygiene conditions in the camps, disease control and prevention (especially mosquito-borne one), disease surveillance, provision of health services, including mental health care.
 - **Non-Food Items:** Mosquito nets, cooking facilities and utensils, sanitation and hygiene items, bedding materials and jerry cans, appropriate clothes and shoes.
 - **Nutrition:** The nutrition situation in the areas affected was already weak before the floods and status can rapidly deteriorate. Nutritional status of children under five to be closely monitored, including prevention and treatment of malnutrition.

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

- **Shelter:** Camps management, ventilation, proper gender-and-age-sensitive facilities. There is no electricity and no assigned area for eating and sleeping. Registration is ongoing and teams are on the ground supporting improved conditions and decongestion.
- **WASH:** Supply of clean water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Attapeu Province is highly contaminated by UXOs. In the area affected by the floods, some UXOs had been previously removed, but 319 hectares in Sanamxay District are confirmed hazardous areas.

Funding

The Humanitarian Country Team is working on a disaster response plan which focuses on providing immediate assistance and recovery to an estimated 13,100 people. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

Humanitarian Response



Food Security & Nutrition

Needs:

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

- Nutrition screening of children in camps and implementation of treatment/protocols and exclusive breastfeeding guidelines.
- Provision of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and F-75/F-100 to district hospitals and health posts to treat severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in children under five.
- Support livestock production including reallocation, vaccines for various animal diseases, water pumps, animal feeding and animal health services.

80
tons of food

Response:

- Nutributter provided for children under five in shelters covering a two-week supply.
- Three tons of canned fish provided to the Provincial Committee in Sanamxay to be distributed next week.
- Nutrition team to support the local response and deploy nutrition technical assistance and supplies as per the needs.
- Support to the Ministry of Health (MOH) for the distribution of RUTF and therapeutic milk for treatment of severe acute malnutrition to health clinics.
- Food security and livelihood assessment in the affected areas and its neighboring provinces is being planned in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).

Gaps:

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



Health

Needs:

- The most pressing health risks include potential outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases and dengue. Potential outbreaks of measles, respiratory infections (e.g. influenza), malaria and food-borne diseases are also a concern.
- Disease surveillance has picked up an increase in diarrhoea, influenza-like illness, Rickettsia and dengue. There are also a number of patients with skin diseases (e.g. rashes).
- There is a need to ensure continued access to essential and life-saving health services.

Response:

- Disease surveillance has been enhanced at six camps currently home to a total of around 6,000 people: Tamayout, Ban Bouk, Udomxay Secondary School, Sanamxay Kindergarten, Sanamxay Primary School and the Sanamxay Secondary School.
- Mental health screening has been conducted at four camps: Sanamxay Secondary School, Sanamxay Primary School, Sanamxay Kindergarten and Udomxay Secondary School. Two teams have together provided critical psychological first aid to more than 1,300 people.
- Vaccination activities have been completed in five camps: Sanamxay Secondary School, Sanamxay Primary School, Sanamxay Kindergarten, Udomxay Secondary School and Ban Bouk. The vaccines administered provide protection against diseases including tetanus, diphtheria, polio, hepatitis B, influenza, Japanese encephalitis, measles, rubella, pertussis (whooping cough), Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) and tuberculosis.
- Maternal and newborn child care is now available at six sites, including Tammayot, which is only accessible by helicopter. The other sites are: Sanamxay Secondary School, Sanamxay Primary School, Sanamxay Kindergarten, Udomxay Secondary School and Ban Bouk. In the last seven days, 124 pregnant women have received antenatal care, out of which 46 (37%) are from three camps for displaced persons. Four child births and four postnatal consultations have also been supported.
- Food safety has been strengthened at four sites: Sanamxay Secondary School, Sanamxay Primary School, Sanamxay Kindergarten and Udomxay Secondary School.
- Pest control fogging for the removal of mosquitoes has been conducted in all camps.
- Eight-hundred bed nets have been distributed across three sites: Sanamxay Secondary School, Sanamxay Primary School and Sanamxay Kindergarten.
- Sixteen health students are supporting waste disposal in the camps, contributing to the removal of potential mosquito breeding sites. Pharmaceutical students will help with the processing of medicines coming in and out of warehouses.
- Other supplies that have been delivered include 1,200 hygiene kits, 50 antenatal care kits, water quality testing kits, menstrual health kits, rapid diagnostic tests, a community tent, glucose bags and IV poles. In addition, 1,350 Dignity Kits, 200 Clean Delivery Packs, one Reproductive Health Kit 2B and one tent for health services arrived on Sunday 5 August.

Gaps:

- Three camps remain largely inaccessible.
- Communication with teams in the field remains challenging as there is no telephone signal in some areas and the use of satellite phones is not permitted.
- The Ministry of Health has requested medicines, equipment and supplies including mud-rescue sleds for transporting dead bodies, one four-wheel drive ambulance for hard-to-reach areas, non-sterile gloves for food handlers and health workers, blood pressure machines, 1 autoclave, masks and disinfectant.
- There is a need to expand the availability of mental health services.
- There is a need to expand integrated outreach service delivery (such as antenatal care, immunization, family planning, postpartum consultations) to all camps and affected villages, and later to the remaining unaffected villages in Sanamxay district.
- Support is requested for the production of guidance on the integrated management of childhood illnesses for health staff; operational costs for integrated outreach activities in the camps and surrounding communities, and for health education activities.

**Logistics****Needs:**

- Access to the affected area remains an issue. The use of military helicopters to access the last mile delivery is being discussed, and more information will be shared with partners once available.

Response:

- The mobile storage unit provided to the local Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare representatives in Sanamxay is up and functioning. In addition, the Government also installed one storage unit next to the one provided. Organizations who want to use the space need to get in contact with local government authorities. Goods (Food and health and shelter NFIs) have arrived at the mobile storage unit (MSU).
- A third cargo flight arrived in Pakse on Sunday 5 August, with NFIs provided by the Australian Government.

- WFP continues to receive cargo on behalf of the Government in its Vientiane warehouse. Some cargo has been collected and dispatched by the Government.

Gaps:

- Last mile delivery is the main issue. More information from any organization who has tried to deliver the last mile, and what has been the outcome is required.



Shelter including Camp Management

Needs:

- Overcrowding and access are issues to be addressed in the temporary shelters.
- People need more tents but they should be waterproof and weather-appropriate.
- Not enough water and sanitation facilities including bathing space, especially in the Donebok camp.

Response:

- Ongoing effort on better camp management and improvement of the living condition continued.
- Camp registration has started and the camps are becoming more organized while the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) continues to work together to assist the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and other relevant partners to improve information sharing among partners.
- Distribution of Non-Food Items such as mosquito nets, clothes and hygiene kits continued.
- Displacement Tracking Matrix second round has started in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.
- Four new camps have been established/emerged as part of the decongestion effort.
- Government officials and local authorities were assigned as Camp Coordinators and support is provided for the District Committee and the Camp Coordinators to conduct camp registration and management.

Gaps:

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



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- All 5 camps in Sanamxay district have made progress in the provision of water and sanitation facilities.
- The Ban Bok camp and 3 inaccessible camps need additional support (estimated total population of about 1,700 people in inaccessible camps and 404 in Ban Bok). There are only 2 functioning toilets for more than 400 people in Ban Bok.

Response:

- WASH supplies distributed in all accessible camps. Electric water pumps installed in all accessible camps.
- Four boreholes have been drilled in Ban Bok camp, with installation of 2 handpumps and 2 electric pumps. These are serving more than 400 people in the camp.
- Another borehole will be drilled at Sanamxay Secondary School camp with 1 electric pump.
- In coordination with the provincial Namsaat 7 on-site toilets in Ban Bok are being constructed.

Gaps:

- Connecting water points with families living in tents in the surroundings of Ban Bok camp.
- Access remains an issue to be addressed. Three villages are accessible by helicopter only and people in these areas need support to access to clean water and sanitation.

400
people
benefitted from
the four newly
installed pumps



Education

Needs

- According to the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), there are about 1,700 students (more than 1,200 in primary and about 480 in secondary in 13 affected schools (11 primary and 2 secondary) including one totally destroyed. 5 schools are currently used as emergency shelters.

1,700
students in 13
affected schools

Response

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

Gaps

- Data collection and CFS establishment in inaccessible camps.



Protection

Needs:

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

Response:

- Initial coordination has been established with MoH and the Lao Women's Union to operationalize a women-friendly space (WFS), to ensure protection and empowerment of women/girls affected by crisis.
- A regional GBV specialist will provide support from 7 August to 11 August to assist in the design of a training of trainers module for GBV and to develop a plan for psychosocial and GBV response support in affected areas.
- A medium-term response and recovery plan is being prepared. It will include integration of GBV prevention and response, including capacity building of midwives and community health workers to provide psychological first aid, psycho-social support and referral.
- Agreement with Government and partners on establishing Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) has been reached and teams are in the process of being deployed to support their establishment. Early Childhood Development toolkits are in process for delivery to Attapeu.

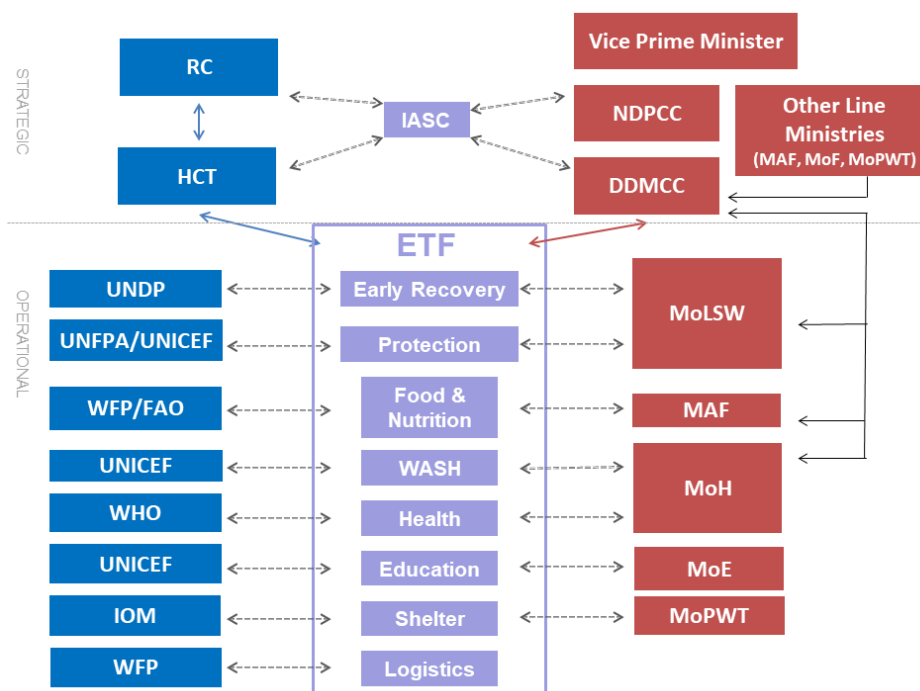
Gaps:

- Some camps continue to be largely inaccessible.
- Lack of data in terms of protection risks.

General Coordination

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

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



Cluster	Cluster Lead	Contact	Email
Education	UNICEF and Save the Children	Takaho Fukami	tfukami@unicef.org
Early Recovery	UNDP	Margaret Jones Williams	margaret.jones.williams@undp.org
Food Security and Nutrition	FAO and WFP	Hakan Tongul	Hakan.tongul@wfp.org
Health	WHO	Thi Phuong Oanh Nguyen	Oanh.nguyenphuong@fao.org
Logistics	WFP	Kevin Howley	kevin.howley@wfp.org
Protection	UNICEF and UNFPA	Yali Zhang Victor Valdivieso	yzhang@unicef.org valdivieso@unfpa.org
Shelter and camp management	UN-Habitat and IOM	Misato Yuasa	myuasa@iom.int
WASH	UNICEF	Bishnu Timilsina	btimilsina@unicef.org

Background on the crisis

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

For further information, please contact:

Vankham Bounvilay, Coordination Associate, vankham.bounvilay@one.un.org, Tel: +856 (21) 267 753, Cell +856 (20) 5 4444 182

Giovanni Zagarella, Coordination Support Associate, giovanni.zagarella@one.un.org, Tel: +856 (21) 267 735, Cell +856 (20) 55 134 819

Maria Fernandez, Chief of Communication, Advocacy, Communication and Partnerships, mfernandez@unicef.org, Tel: +856 21 315 200, Cell +856 20 5551 9681