

Lao PDR: Flash Flooding in Sanamxay District

Office of the UN Resident Coordinator Situation Report No. 05

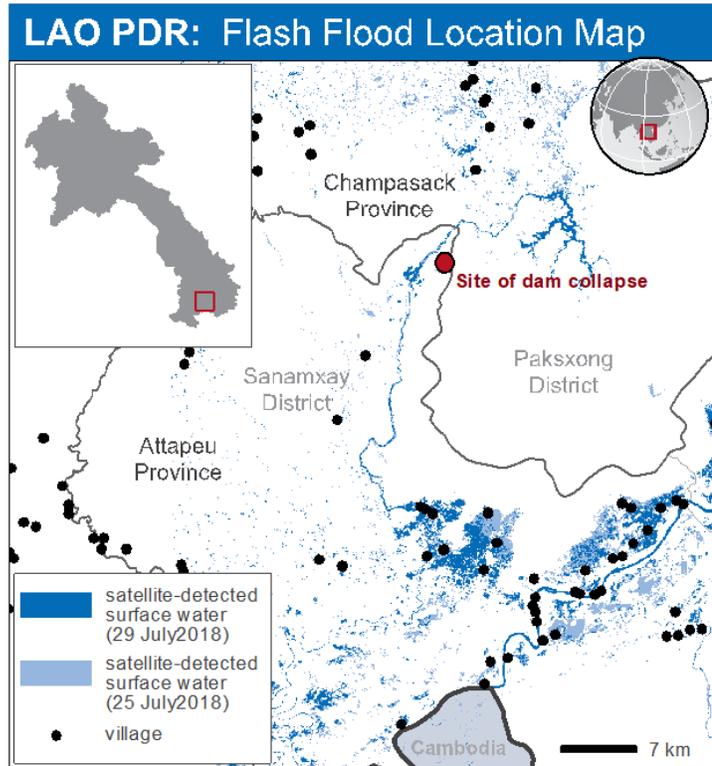
(as of 1 August 2018)



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

Highlights

- Tropical storm Son-Tinh affected several provinces, the most severe being Sanamxay District in Attapeu Province.
- Based on the Government's information, 13 villages have been affected, out of which six are considered severely affected. The Government has declared the affected area as a National Disaster Area.
- The water level in the affected district is going down slowly but roads are still very muddy and difficult to access.
- According to the latest information, displaced populations are gathering in 13 shelter areas: 6 accessible by road and 7 by helicopter.
- Attapeu Province is highly contaminated by UXO, but in the area affected by the floods, some UXO had been previously removed. Unexploded cluster bombs are more likely to be buried – caution is recommended when digging.



Map Sources: NGD, UNCS, ESA, UNOSAT
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 on 1 August, 2018



13 reported deaths



120 people missing



6,000 people evacuated to emergency shelters



13,100 people affected

Situation Overview

- Roads to the district capital are accessible, however only six evacuation centers (schools) are accessible by road. The other seven are only accessible by helicopter.
- Main needs at the moment include:
 - **WASH:** more supplies are needed to ensure access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene.

- **Health:** Unhygienic conditions in the camps, overcrowding and an expected surge in disease-carrying mosquitoes are creating the ideal conditions for outbreaks to spread. Disease surveillance needs to be strengthened and gaps in the provision of health services urgently filled. This includes the provision of mental health care.
- **Nutrition:** The nutrition situation in the areas affected was already weak before the floods and status can rapidly deteriorate. Prior to the flash floods, the rate of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in Attapeu province was estimated to be 15% (Weight-for-height) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) was estimated at 4.2% for children aged 6-59 months (Lao Social Indicators Survey 2017). Nutritional status of children under five to be closely monitored, including prevention and treatment of malnutrition, and exclusive breastfeeding promoted.
- **Shelter:** Camps are overcrowded, 50-70 people mixed with no privacy, ventilation, no separation of facilities for gender and age groups. 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.
- **Non-Food Items:** There are insufficient mosquito nets, cooking facilities and utensils are not available, there are insufficient sanitation and hygiene items, bedding materials and jerry cans; and inappropriate clothes and shoes for distribution.

Humanitarian Response

The provincial and district Disaster Prevention and Control Committee are continuing to respond. Incident Command Posts have been set in the districts to control the situation in an effective and timely manner.



Food, Security and Nutrition

- **Needs:**

The food needs for the 6,630 displaced people in shelters would amount to approximately 80 tons per month. According to the recent Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS-II) results (2017), Attapeu Province had the third highest wasting rate in the country (15%), and the recent floods can only exacerbate malnutrition to even worse levels. Therefore, there are urgent nutrition needs to address, including:

- Nutrition screening of children in camps and implementation of treatment/protocols and exclusive breastfeeding guidelines. Provision of RUTF and F-75/F-100 as part of the regular health cooperation to district hospitals and health posts in the affected areas to treat severe acute malnutrition in children under five.
- Food supplements for moderately malnourished children being delivered by WFP.
- Counselling of affected populations on infant and young child feeding practices, with emphasis on promotion of exclusive breastfeeding from zero to six months.
- Coordination with District Agriculture and Forestry Offices and affected villages to evaluate the damages.
- Caution on the animal disease, pests and insects after the flood release.
- Plan paddy rice replanting or replacement of other crops.
- Support livestock production including reallocation, animal feed and animal health services. Vaccines for various animal diseases and water pumps have been requested.
- Restore natural streams to avoid overflowing into paddy fields through cash for work mechanism.

- **Response:**

- The Food Security and Nutrition Cluster co-chaired by FAO and WFP met with Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and have agreed to carry out a rapid joint food security and agriculture assessment to determine the urgent food and agriculture needs.

- Nutributter, a special nutritious food in sachets for children, and canned fish for affected families are being transported from WFP warehouse in Pakse to the mobile storage unit set up in Sanamxay, and these will be distributed by the health teams and the district committee in the affected areas. These cover an initial supply of two weeks for the affected families.
- A nutrition team has been deployed a nutrition team to support the local response and deploy nutrition technical assistance and supplies as per the needs.
- Work underway with MAF to explore possible support to the Government in agriculture, food security and livelihood assessment in the affected areas and its neighboring provinces.
- **Gaps and constraints:** There are currently no food assistance donations, therefore, there is a food gap of 80 tons for the next month. In the long-term, affected communities will have lost their harvest and sources of food for this planting season, therefore, long-term recovery efforts will need to focus on supporting communities to become productive again and addressing their food security. Infant and Young Child Feeding to be strengthened with special emphasis on promotion of exclusive breastfeeding.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- **Needs:**
 - Latrine construction in temporary shelters; around 5-10 per shelter (depending on size), disaggregated by sex.
 - Construction of bathing cubicles (4 in each camp – divided by gender).
 - Sustainable safe water provision in camps through installation of tube wells with either hand or electric pumps (at least 1 per camp) total 15.
 - Procurement and distribution of chlorine tablets in all camps.
 - Procurement and distribution of hygiene kits.
 - Hygiene promotion sessions in all camps.
- **Response:** So far installation of five sets of electric pumps in five camp and 26 mobile latrines have been completed. In total, 15 water taps were set up in the camps and are providing water to more than 3,000 affected people, who are using the water for daily use including showering, toilet cleaning, flushing etc. WASH supplies for 1,500 people in the camps has been provided.
- **Gaps and constraints:** Personal hygiene remains an issue of concern. Partners are in the process of organizing hygiene promotion sessions for affected populations.



Logistics

- **Situation:** A second Logistics Cluster meeting was held on Monday. Reports based on visit to the affected areas in Sanamxay district over the weekend indicate that the road from Pakse is filled with trucks and personal vehicles carrying relief items. Most of these items are from civil society organizations. Important quantities of items are stacking up in Sanamxay town. Distribution is taking place without order and therefore it is difficult to determine who is receiving what.
- **Response:** A Mobile Storage Unit has been put up in Sanamxay town and handed it over to the Government in order to accommodate a portion of the large quantity of goods which have arrived. In addition, two cargo flights have landed in Pakse.
- **Gaps and constraints:** Coordination both in Pakse and Sanamxay needs urgent strengthening. In addition to this, tracking of relief cargo, especially for distributions, is a challenge.



Shelter

- **Needs:**
 - Department of Housing and Urban Planning (DHUP) under the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) has requested partners to support shelter recovery activities for return and reconstruction. They gave provisional guidance to the cluster on shelter toolkits and this will be shared with cluster partners in the coming days.
 - Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) has requested to provide specific guidance and support on camp management, and is planning to begin decongestion of sites in schools and other location in Sanamxay.
 - DHUP provincial colleagues are requesting support on shelter and camp planning and set-up, particularly for WASH and Site Planning for decongestion.
 - Shelter needs assessment required once the initial relief phase has calmed to establish damage and destroyed housing and public facilities mapping for partners and Government response.

- **Response:**
 - A Risk Assessment with forms for basic data on temporary evacuation sites in Attapeu with five sites identified undertaken and initial findings expected in coming day.
 - A Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) primer has been produced for field officers and translated into Lao for use in the field and has deployed health and emergency staff in Sanamxay to support the planning of the camps if people are leaving schools and tented areas need to be set up.
 - Detailed shelter related information – damage, needs is being collected; and has assistance with DPWT on essential items is beginning to be provided. Apart from cash support 1 architect, 1 engineer, 1 GIS specialists and 2 assessment specialists could be made available immediately.
 - Ensuring child protection is being addressed thru the Shelter Cluster for the moment and in close collaboration with partners a plan is being prepared to establish Child Friendly Spaces. There will be a child protection group

- **Gaps and constraints:**
 - Shelter and Non-Food Item 5Ws information is still sporadic only, and Information Management support to National Disaster Management Office is likely needed to ensure that the shelter cluster can assess the amount of supplies provided directly to Attapeu and Sanamxay to avoid duplication and over-saturation of relief items.
 - National expertise on CCCM is limited and MLSW has requested this support, but agencies with background in camp management should reach out to shelter cluster to provide support to MLSW and the local emergency teams in the field.



Health

- **Needs:**
 - The most pressing health risks include potential outbreaks of dengue and diarrhoeal disease. Potential outbreaks of measles, respiratory infections (e.g. influenza), malaria and food-borne diseases are also a concern. Vaccination activities have started in some shelters.
 - Two health facilities serving more than 7000 people in six villages of Attapeu Province have been damaged. One of these has been completely destroyed. Other health facilities may be inaccessible due to floodwaters and damaged roads.

- This disruption in the provision of regular health services puts the lives and health of women and children at particular risk as they are unable to access essential maternal, child and newborn health care.
- **Response:**
 - Almost 3,000 people have now accessed health services, with 600 using the health services available in the shelters.
 - Patients continue to arrive at the Sanamxay District Hospital and some were referred to the Attapeu provincial hospital.
 - There are 4 mobile and 3 health teams with five people per team working in seven temporary shelters.
 - These local teams are working in coordination with international Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) from China, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam. WHO is supporting the Ministry of Health to coordinate these EMTs.
 - Enhanced surveillance is currently being established in the camps. Additional support in the form of Field Epidemiology Training (FET) graduates are being organized to facilitate the rapid detection, investigation and response to potential disease outbreaks.
 - A mental health expert has provided training to local health workers and to staff from UNICEF and WHO. Following this training, a team from Mahosot Hospital has now arrived in Attapeu and, accompanied by WHO, are providing psychological first aid.
 - The Ministry of Health's response plan has received inputs from partners, has been translated and is now with the National Incident Management Structure Planning Function to review.
 - UNFPA has focused on the sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence needs of the affected communities and has provided life jackets, 1,350 Dignity Kits, 50 Clean Delivery Packs and 1 Clean Delivery Kit for birth attendants. Four staff members were deployed to support the health rapid assessment and one global logistics adviser is supporting the distribution of supplies.
- **Gaps and constraints:**
 - Some camps continue to be largely inaccessible.
 - Challenges with WASH contribute to the risk of potential outbreaks.
 - There is a need for basic medical equipment in some of the camps, including blood pressure monitors, thermometers and equipment to measure height and weight.
 - Bed nets have been delivered to the Province but have not yet made it to the affected area due to logistical constraints.

Response by other humanitarian actors

- **Australia** provided initial and immediate response package of AUD 800,000 to support shelter, water hygiene and emergency kits for affected communities. They have mobilized two aircrafts with supplies and a third one will arrive on 4 August. They are providing tents and dignity kits, family kits, and water filters, among other supplies, with a focus on women and girls. Their main concern at the moment is the distribution of supplies from Pakse to the affected areas.
- The **United States** has granted USD 100,000 to UNICEF to procure supplies for WASH efforts and address other identified urgent needs.
- **Singapore** has pledged S\$50,000 in humanitarian aid.
- **Thailand** has provided water, purification units, blankets and relief kits (5 million Thai Baht) and in-kind support (worth 20 million Thai Baht).
- **Japan**, through JICA, has sent 400 sets of tents, 4,000 sheets of blankets, 10 sets of handy water purifiers.
- **China** has sent 100 rescue workers along with equipment and medicines.
- **Vietnam** handed \$200,000 to the Lao Ambassador in Vietnam and committed to do anything possible to help Lao PDR overcome this tragic. They have sent medical workers and hundreds of personnel to join rescue and relief efforts.

- **Hungary** has provided a high-volume mobile water treatment container to address water and sanitation issues which has been already installed and started to produce drinking water for the affected populations.
- **Canada** has allocated C\$ 120,000 to the Canadian Red Cross for relief efforts in Attapeu and will provide C\$50,000 to a local organization. In addition, they have contributed with C\$37,200 to Vientiane Rescue for their humanitarian assistance.
- **Switzerland:** Swiss Government's Swiss Humanitarian Assistance Unit will contribute 300,000 Swiss Francs (300,000 USD) to deliver assistance and support to 7,500 people for 18 months with a focus on relief, recovery, and National Society Development. Sectors: Shelter, WASH, health and livelihoods.
- **Luxembourg** has announced an immediate contribution of 250,000 EUR to the Emergency appeal of the IFRC.
- The Embassy of **France** has provided water, dry food, stoves, diapers for babies, among other items. In addition, they have provided technical support in Attapeu.
- **Malaysia** has donated 25,000 USD to the Government of Lao PDR to support the emergency relief efforts.
- **Germany** and the German Red Cross contributed 200,000 EUR to the IFRC emergency appeal. This will deliver immediate assistance and support to 5,000 people for the next five months, focusing on shelter. Through IFRC and the Laotian Red Cross, the German Red Cross will distribute 1,000 Shelter-Tool-Kits, 2,000 canvas tarpaulins and will send a Shelter-expert to assist and support the LRC capacities.
- The **European Union** has mobilized 200,000 EUR for the International Federation of the Red Cross.
- The **World Bank** has received a request from the Government to strengthen capacity for safe hydro. The Country manager mentioned at the Development Partners meeting that they are exploring the possibility of reallocating some funds from existing projects to the emergency.
- **AHA Centre** - ASEAN offered relief items including mosquito nets and its Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) is on standby for deployment. The In-Country Liaison Team (ICLT) is supporting the Emergency Operation Centre of NDMC, Department of Social Welfare of Lao PDR.
- The **Norwegian People's Aid** has provided supplies including tents, tarpaulins, petrol-driven generators, camp beds, water pumps, shoes, rain coats, small cooking equipment, trucks and vehicles.
- **Child Fund Laos** have funding available for needs based NFIs. Ready to respond to medium and long term needs related to education, child protection and health.
- **IFRC** is supporting shelter, food, water and logistic in the field with the provision of tents, blankets, mosquito nets, hygiene kits, and water purification units, among other supplies.
- **Health Poverty Action** will mobilize Emergency Response Fund of USD 25,000 for life-saving support to affected communities. An Emergency Response Team of 50 people including 4 staff is currently based in Attapeu Province and in Sanamxay District. They have activated the Emergency Response Fund of 25,000 USD for life-saving support to affected communities.
- **The Asia Foundation** has mobilized 1,000 USD.
- **Plan Laos** is anticipating funding, approximately 100,000 USD for Child Friendly Spaces within evacuation centers.
- **ADRA Lao** has provided Non-Food Items for approximately 140 families including soap, towels, lighters, matches, buckets, mosquito nets, etc.
- **World Vision** has allocated 50,000 USD for the WASH response, mainly hygiene kits.
- **CRS** has deployed a needs assessment team. Shelter and WASH technical advisors are providing support.
- **World Education:** Mental health counselling and psychosocial support team.
- **Mercy Malaysia** has sent 9 members to Lao PDR to support with the emergency response. Part of the team is now in Attapeu providing humanitarian assistance.
- **Singapore Red Cross** has three members in Attapeu to assess existing needs. They have also sent food, water, clothes and blankets to the disaster area.
- **Oxfam** initial response has been focused on WASH, EFSVL, gender and protection (50,000 USD that might increase in the coming days).

- **Mines Advisory Group:** emergency UXO risk education in a later stage.