

DREF operation update

Lao People's Democratic Republic: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRLA004	GLIDE n° FF-2016-000093-LAO
DREF operation update n° 1	Date of disaster: 11-20 August 2016
Date of issue: 23 September 2016	Amount allocated from DREF: CHF 128,687
Period covered: 26 August to 15 September 2016	Operation start date: 26 August 2016
Operation manager (IFRC): Hung Ha Nguyen, Disaster Risk Management Delegate, Bangkok Country Cluster Support Team	Point of contact in Lao Red Cross: Dr. Kaviphone Southy, Director, Disaster Management Department
Total number of people affected: 19,306	Number of people to be assisted: 5,000
Host National Society presence: Lao Red Cross (LRC) consists of a national head office, 17 provincial branches and 47 district chapters. The National Society has at least 3,295 volunteers and 350 paid staff members.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is supporting LRC in the flood response.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change (DDMCC) and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare are actively involved.	

DREF history:

A Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation of CHF 128,687 was approved on 27 August 2016 to enable the IFRC to support LRC in providing food, non-food items and hygiene items as well as undertake hygiene promotion activities for the benefit of 5,000 affected people in Oudomxay province (the most affected province). This update provides information on the progress made during the first 15 days of the operation.

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Heavy rains, which started pouring on 11 August 2016 and continued to 20 August 2016, have caused flooding in five provinces of Lao People's Republic. Initially, rains affected the provinces of Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, Saravan and Sayabouri on 11 to 18 August. As conditions began to improve, a week later there followed more rains fuelled by effects of Tropical Storm Dianmu, mainly affecting the province of Xiangkhouang.

According to information consolidated by the Lao Red Cross (LRC), five casualties were reported with at least 26,328 people affected across five provinces. Specifically, the number of people affected per province is 3,375 in Luangprabang, 19,242 in Oudomxay, 2,760 in Salavan, 891 in Xaignabouli and 60 in Xiangkhouang. A joint assessment convened by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare with other ministries was conducted in the province of Oudomxay. The assessment's findings have reaffirmed the geographical focus of LRC on the province of Oudomxay.



The floods have presented some access challenges including due to damaged roads such as this one in Mokveing village, Bang District, Oudomxay Province, (Photo: IFRC)

Table 1: Affected areas in Oudomxay province (source: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare)

District	No. of affected villages	No. of families affected	No. of affected people		
			Female	Male	Total
Baeng	45	1,944	4,891	5,074	9,965
Houn	42	4,342	5,299	3,494	8,793
La	4	50	198	101	299
Namor	3	7	18	13	31
Parbaeng	1	20	81	73	154
Total	95	6,363	10,487	8,755	19,242

In some sections of Oudomxay and Xiangkhouang provinces, heavy rains caused localised landslides in addition to flooding – with flooding also affecting some roads, slowing down the access to the impacted areas.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Lao Red Cross (LRC) is leading the implementation of this operation with technical support from IFRC, in particular, through the deployment of a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member from the Thai Red Cross Society for an initial period of one month, as well as the deployment of a logistics staff member from the IFRC Country Cluster Team (CCST) in Bangkok for 10 days.

LRC took the opportunity of a national workshop with all LRC branches taking place from 29-31 August 2016 to arrange technical meetings for LRC colleagues from the Oudomxay branch office, focusing on the main features of the operation, its requirements and related plan of action.

Furthermore, LRC leadership visited Oudomxay from 3-7 September 2016 as part of a high-level visit together with government officials. The following week was dedicated to the establishment of an LRC taskforce among departments at national level to manage this flood operation. Detailed assessments in the field for beneficiary selection were initiated on 12 September 2016, along with a survey of rice suppliers in Oudomxay province to inform the planned tendering process.



LRC conducts an assessment in one of the affected villages with support of an RDRT member deployed from Thailand, (Photo: IFRC)

Overview of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC provides technical support to LRC through its CCST office in Bangkok, Thailand. Asia Pacific Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur provides support when needed by the CCST. ICRC and several Participating National Societies (PNS) – Danish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross – have bilateral programmes with LRC. Regular updates on the DREF planning and approvals were provided to in-country PNSs by the IFRC in the initial stage of the operation. French Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross also provides information on the in-country situation as well as available tools for response (including technical support if required by LRC).

Overview of non – RCRC actors in country

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

The ongoing detailed needs assessment and beneficiary selection process led by LRC has been well coordinated with NDMO and local authorities in Oudomxay in general and in the most affected districts as well. Following the assessment, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare recommended the release of emergency fund for the province (200 million Lao Kip (LAK) or equivalence of CHF 23,600).

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall Objective

The immediate needs of 1,000 flood-affected households are met through the provision of food, non-food and hygiene items.

Adopted strategy

LRC is rolling out an immediate response in Oudomxay province, with priority on provision of food items (rice, noodles and canned fish), non-food items (blankets and mosquito nets), essential hygiene items (soap and sanitary pads) and hygiene promotion sessions. The composition of the kit to be distributed to each household follows LRC standard, which is in line with local culture and national standards.

Human resources

An LRC taskforce was established among departments to manage this flood operation.

At the same time, an RDRT member from the Thai Red Cross Society was deployed to Laos on 3 September for an initial period of one month together with a Logistics Officer from the IFRC Bangkok CCST to support LRC with the launch of procurement processes as well as detailed needs assessment and beneficiary selection.

Logistics and supply chain

All relief items (food and non-food), included in this operation, will be procured within Laos by LRC following IFRC standard procurement procedures. The logistics officer of CCST Bangkok undertook a mission in Laos to verify the availability of suppliers and the quality of products available, including rice. Transportation of rice to the affected province will be done directly by the local suppliers while NFI will be transported utilizing the LRC fleet.

The IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur and the CCST in Bangkok will provide LRC with technical logistics support according to standard procedures for timely and efficiently sourcing, procurement and delivery of relief items.

Communications

A web-story was published on 30 August 2016 on [IFRC website](#).

Planning, monitoring, evaluation & reporting (PMER)

Field assessments and coordination efforts are ongoing to inform the detailed planning of the distribution activities as well as related health / hygiene promotion sessions. Daily reports are sent by the RDRT member and logistics staff on loan to the IFRC team in Bangkok which in turns provides technical support through phone / Skype / emails as needed.

Administration and Finance

IFRC signed a project agreement with LRC followed by a fund transfer to LRC on 31 August 2016.

C. Detailed Operational Plan

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Outcome 1: Immediate food needs of 5,000 individuals (1,000 households) are met	Outputs		% of achievement
		Appropriate food items are distributed to vulnerable households	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Identify, register, verify and mobilize beneficiary households for distributions	X		20%
Mobilise and transport the food items to the affected areas	X		10%
Distribute food items to beneficiary households	X		0%
Conduct post-distribution satisfaction surveys ensuring SADD is collected	X		0%
Progress towards outcomes			
Initial assessments ongoing in parallel with the market survey both in Vientiane and Oudomxay. The IFRC logistics staff member also discussed with LRC national office regarding the tendering process, in order to analyze the existing regulations within LRC and its compliance with IFRC procurement standards.			

Water, Health and Hygiene Promotion

Outcome 2: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 2.1. Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population.	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Collect and reprint existing IEC materials	X		30%
Conduct a briefing for LRC staff / volunteers on hygiene promotion sessions	X		0%
Conduct hygiene/health promotion sessions during distributions	X		0%
Progress towards outcomes			
Initial assessment of existing tools was done by LRC through coordination between disaster management and health teams at national level. Water and sanitation team of Swiss Red Cross, based in Luangprabang, is supporting the development of IEC material. A suitable firm has been selected and the printing will be done by October.			

Outcome 2: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 2.2: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards are provided to the target population.	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Identify, register, verify and mobilize beneficiary households for distributions	X		20%
Procure soap, detergents, mosquito nets and sanitary pads	X		10%
Organise the distribution of soap, detergents, mosquito nets and sanitary pads along with hygiene promotion	X		0%
Progress towards outcomes			
See text under Outcome 1 for progress on the procurement process. Beneficiary selection is done jointly with other components of the operation (see Outcomes 1 and 4).			

Shelter and settlements (and household items)

Outcome 3: Immediate sleeping item needs of the target populations are met.	Outputs		% of achievement
		Blankets are provided to the target population.	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Identify, register, verify and mobilize beneficiary households for distributions.	X		20%
Mobilize and transport blankets to the affected areas	X		10%
Distribute blankets to beneficiary households	X		0%
Conduct post-distribution satisfaction surveys	X		0%
Progress towards outcomes			
See text under Outcome 1 for progress on the procurement process. Beneficiary selection is done jointly with other components of the operation (see Outcomes 1 and 4).			

Quality programming

Outcome 4: Continuous and detailed assessments and analyses are used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.	Outputs		% of achievement
		Initial needs assessment are updated following consultation with beneficiaries	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Initial assessment integrated across the three components above	X		20%
Continuous monitoring of community evolving needs	X		10%
Conduct one lessons learned workshop	X		0%
Progress towards outcomes			
Assessments are underway since 12 September 2016. The beneficiary selection criteria are following the guidelines in the Minimum Standard Commitments on Gender and Diversity, which were recently approved by the LRC and have already been translated in Lao language.			

Outcome 5: The management of the operation is informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system	Outputs		% of achievement
	Mechanisms are in place to facilitate two-way communication with and ensure transparency and accountability to disaster-affected people		ongoing
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Provide appropriate information, including on the scope and content of the operation, to disaster-affected people	X		ongoing%
Ensure that affected people can deliver feedback on the programmes and report any complaints, including protection and safety concerns, in confidence, and that such are actioned by LRC and its partners.	X		ongoing%

Progress towards outcomes

As part of the assessment, meetings with community members are organized to understand the situation, explain the scope of the response operation as well as the beneficiary selection criteria.

Photos (right): LRC staff and volunteers are conducting community consultation meetings.



Contact information

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How we work

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

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



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



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



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