

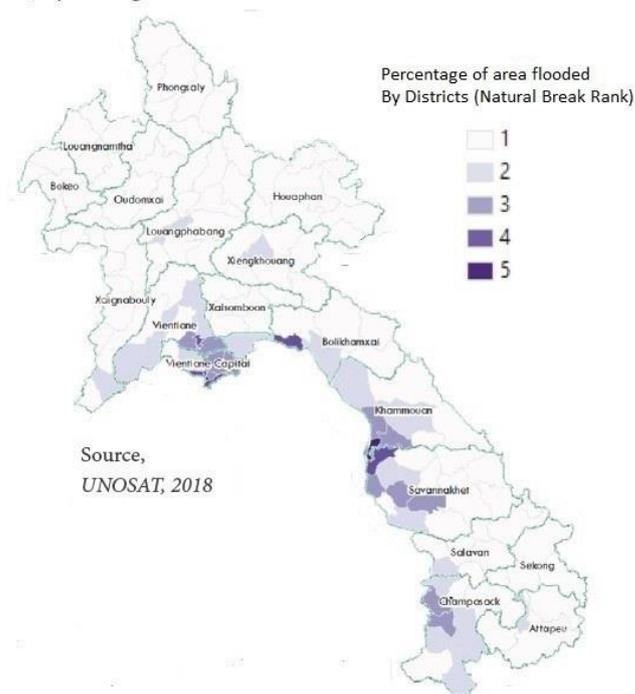


This bulletin covers the entire country, with significant focus on Attapeu province. It is produced by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

Summary

- With the rainy season coming to an end, the disaster damages and losses can be expected to have stabilized. There has been no recent update of Government figures. 2,382 villages, 126,736 families, 616,145 people are reported as affected. 1,779 Houses are destroyed and 514 damaged. 90,000 ha of paddy fields and 11,000 ha of other plantations have been destroyed, and 630 km of roads and 47 bridges have been damaged.
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare presented the findings of the ongoing Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) on damages, losses and recovery needs to the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee on 23 October, one month after launch of the assessment. The PDNA, which covers the entire country, is facilitated by the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union. Total damage reported added up to US\$ 147 million. Total losses – the changes in economic flows, including higher costs in production and lower revenue – added up to US\$ 225 million. The most affected sectors overall are agriculture and transport, which contribute to 90% of damages and losses. The most affected provinces are Vientiane Capital, Khammouane, Huaphanh and Attapeu. Attapeu is most affected per capita.
- Based on the damages and losses and taking into consideration risk reduction and resilience-building, the emerging needs have been calculated at US\$ 493 million. Building on these findings, the Government will develop a recovery framework, which will prioritize the needs and describe how the recovery will take place across sectors, with a special emphasis on financing the recovery.
- The PDNA results will feed into the discussions at the National Assembly starting on 20 November; a pre-consultation to the 2018 Round Table Meeting dedicated to post-disaster recovery foreseen to take place in the course of November; and the main Round Table Meeting expected to take place on 4-5 December. It will also inform the Mid-Term Review of 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan, which is under finalization. The full PDNA Report is scheduled to be available by end November. The recovery framework is expected to be ready early next year.
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare's detailed presentation to the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee, with some figures adjusted since its 23 October meeting, is annexed to this information bulletin. You can find the summary of findings on the next page.
- With the recovery phase well underway, the Humanitarian Country Team continues to support the relief efforts in the disaster affected areas. A new six-month programme has been launched with US\$ 3.5 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to provide humanitarian assistance to 110,000 households in the six most affected districts of Khammouane province. Expected results are improved nutrition through cash transfers (WFP), the containment of disease and emergency healthcare (WHO), the distribution of seed packets to enable resumption of winter cropping for subsistence (FAO), and debris management to enable irrigated agriculture and resumption of health and government service, as well as education concerning unexploded ordnance in flooded areas (UNDP). Around US\$ 7 million have been contributed to the Humanitarian Country Team's Disaster Response Plan, which complements the Government's response. The total budget of the Disaster Response Plan is US\$ 43 million.

Map 1: Composite Index of Population and Crop Exposure to Flooding, 17 July- 31 August 2018





LAO PDR POST-DISASTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT KEY FINDINGS

Process



- On official government request
- September–October 2018
- Led by PDNA Secretariat in Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
- Data collected nationwide

Worst hit provinces



- Vientiane Capital
- Huaphanh
- Khammouane
- Attapeu

Most affected sectors



- Agriculture (crops, irrigation)
- Transportation infrastructure (20% of roads affected)
- Social sector (housing, health, education)

Total damages



- Destruction of physical assets
- Occurs immediately and can be built back

LAK 1,252.42 billion
(USD 147 million)

Total losses



- Production and income losses
- Higher production costs
- Long-term, cannot be recovered

LAK 1,917.23 billion
(USD 225 million)

Recovery & reconstruction needs



Includes short-, medium- and long-term actions & Building Back Better-strategies

LAK 4,212.99 billion
(USD 493 million)

Priorities for recovery



- Development of Disaster Recovery Framework
- Support to affected population through access to restored services
- Assistance to productive sectors: farmers and other livelihoods
- Investment in climate resilience: flood management, early warning systems
- Reconstruction of critical infrastructure, such as roads and water supply
- Gender & inclusion



Humanitarian Response



Food Security & Nutrition

- Communities in Sanamxay will only retain food security when they have a new harvest. Meanwhile, they remain dependent on donated food or cash. Cash for work can be a dignified way to allow them to actively engage in restoring their future food security.
- With already high levels of malnutrition prior to the floods, it is critical to continuously monitor the nutritional status of children and give them access to supplementary food if needed.

Needs

- In Sanamxay district of Attapeu, household stocks in the seven flood-affected villages, of which the population was not displaced, are running low with the end of the rainy season. The lowest social classes like landless labourers who failed to get harvesting jobs this year are suffering the most. Although they have access to fish from the rivers and different foods they can gather in forests such as bamboo shoots, roots and tubers, they need to complement this in the absence of the rice they would otherwise have harvested.
- Temporary resettlements of the displaced people continue in Sanamxay district. The displaced households find it difficult to engage in home gardening or holding small livestock like poultry due to space limitation in the camps. Both home gardens and poultry would be welcome food sources for the displaced population to meet the protein intake and food diversity needs of the households, especially for the children.
- In the flood affected districts of Khammouane province, a total of 26,590 hectares of paddy fields, 203 hectares of maize, 21 hectares of cassava and 240 hectares of vegetables were completely destroyed by the floods. An additional 10,850 hectares of paddy fields were partially damaged, which will be resulting in a reduced harvest. Approximately 32,000 households in 435 villages have been affected by these floods.

Response

- A mission was deployed last week to brief the provincial and district agriculture and forestry offices and to engage with provincial and district authorities of Khammouane province. The mission planned to organize the distribution of unconditional cash transfers as food assistance, as a part of the CERF-funded assistance. Actual cash distributions are expected to start in the second half of November. Suppliers of seeds (rice, maize, vegetables) and agriculture inputs (fertilizer) were identified to help the affected farmers in the districts of Himboun, Nongbok, Mahaxai and Xebangfai of Khammouane province in the dry season. Support to vaccinate livestock is scheduled for Himboun and Nongbok districts.
- In Sanamxay district, displaced people in the camps and those resettled in temporary shelters continue to receive food (20 kg of rice/person/month) and cash (LAK 100,000/person/month plus LAK 15,000/person/3-days) through the local authorities.
- Households in the affected not-displaced villages will be receiving in-kind food assistance starting in November.
- In Sanamxay, mid-upper arm circumference screening continues as a part of integrated health outreach services. During the period of 18 -23 October, a total of 326 children aged 6-59 months were screened. 50 new cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified. The screening was carried out in 17 villages within the district.
- Other nutrition-related services in the integrated health outreach package included the distribution of vitamin A supplements and deworming tablets among target children. Distributions of Nutributter to under-5-year-olds is integrated into these outreach campaigns for the flood affected villages. Provincial and District health teams will conduct integrated health outreach each month till the end of the year in Sanamxay district as part of their transition back to routine programming.
- Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition training for health care providers in Sanamxay district is planned for November. In Khammouane district, such a training will be conducted for a team of 25 provincial and district health staff during the week 5-9 November. The training will focus on how to perform active case-finding or screening during integrated outreach. It will also cover out-patient management of cases of acute malnutrition and management of micronutrient deficiencies, especially vitamin B1.
- In Sanamxay district, the Ministry of Health's provincial and district health teams are currently carrying out integrated health outreach in 23 villages. This includes a comprehensive set of maternal, child health and nutrition

services, including family planning, Antenatal and Postnatal Care, immunization for children, provision of Iron folic acid for pregnant and lactating women, provision of vitamin A and deworming medication to children 6-59 months old, Weight for Height and Height for age measurements, mid-upper arm circumference screening and referral for Severe Acute Malnutrition treatment. Distributions of Nutributter to under-5-year-olds is integrated in these outreach campaigns for the flood affected villages.

Gaps

- Current food assistance to the seven affected non-displaced villages in Sanamxay will continue into early 2019. As there are limited opportunities for winter crops, the villagers will be dependent on assistance until the next main crop in October 2019. Cash for work would be an opportunity, but the approach to be used needs to be thought through carefully.
- Though limited, there are options for some winter crops, provided farmers have seeds and other inputs. The nearest physical market is in the Sanamxay district capital which is 25 km away and has limited demand.
- With malnutrition numbers high in some of the affected areas, blanket distribution of supplementary food like Nutributter to children under five into 2019 remains necessary.



Health

Needs

- Priority public health concerns reported through enhanced disease surveillance in Attapeu Province are influenza-like illness, severe acute respiratory illnesses, diarrhea, and dengue fever.
- The Ministry of Health is requesting to ensure functional routine health services not only in Attapeu Province but also in other flood affected areas throughout the country.

Response

Coordination

- Both the Ministry of Health Disaster Response Plan for Attapeu and National Flood Affected Response Plan have been shared with the health cluster members. The cluster members will discuss how to best support the Ministry of Health with their response and advocate for funding to cover the gaps.
- An after-action review is being planned by the Ministry of Health to assess their performance in the response and to assist with preparedness for events like this in the future.

Health Operations

- Mental health surveillance and support is still ongoing in the affected populations.
- Surveillance in Sanamxay and other affected areas is monitoring cases of influenza-like illness, severe acute respiratory infection and dengue case numbers.
- An emergency medical team orientation meeting was held on 29-30 October in Vientiane Capital. Multiple line ministries and partners were invited and attended the two-day meeting.
- Maternal and child health services are being provided in temporary emergency shelters in Sanamxay District including antenatal and postnatal care, delivery assistance and family planning. The District Health Office in Sanamxay continues to monitor pregnant women in affected areas, including identifying pregnant women at the last stage of pregnancy. Between 2 and 15 October, eight safe deliveries were reported by the District Health Office and there is one complication case referred to province hospitals.

Public Health Interventions

- Typhoid conjugate vaccine has arrived in Lao PDR. Typhoid vaccine will be co-administered with oral cholera vaccine in Attapeu Province for the first time in Lao PDR.
- Additional vitamin B complex stock is anticipated to arrive in Lao PDR soon to continue supporting the distribution of the vitamins in the heavily flood affected areas in Khammouane.



Logistics

Needs

- Additional resources to assist the Government in organizing and recording donated relief items continue to be a priority need.

Response

- Warehouse support continues to be provided to the Government both in Vientiane and Sanamxay. Reorganization of relief supplies, stored in Vientiane warehouse, has been completed.
- Additional Mobile Storage Units are being sourced to assist with the storage of items.



Shelter including Camp Management

There have been no updates since Information Bulletin #4.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- The displaced people in Sanamxay district require continuous improvement of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in the camps.
- It is necessary to have a better coordination and update of information on the ground among the development partners.

Response

- The Humanitarian Country Team supports water supply system repairs in the Sanamxay secondary school and Mitsamphan primary schools district town camps, and de-sludging in the Sanamxay school camp.
- 8 more latrines and 2 bathing cubicles in Sanamxay school camp and 4 latrines and 2 bathing cubicles in Mitsamphanh school camp were newly constructed.
- Five new shelters, located in District Industry and Commerce Office, District Training Center, District Information, Culture & Tourism, District Home Affair and District Administration office, have been constructed, which includes water supply and toilets.
- Partners are supporting the improvement of WASH in Pindong, Tamoyod, Donebok, Hadyao and Dongbak camps.
- Two consultants were deployed to support coordination with Provincial and District Namsaat on WASH responses.

Gaps

- Water quality monitoring and surveillance (testing at source and point of use) needs to be conducted.
- There is shortage of water in new camps, especially Hadyao Camp. There is need to strengthen the communication between Camps and District Government Authorities.
- Hygiene promotion, specifically hand hygiene and drainage and waste water management, are needed in the camps, especially in Hadyao camp.
- Improve water system and hand washing station in Banbok primary school are needed.



Education

There have been no updates since Information Bulletin #4.



Protection

Needs

- The Child Friendly Spaces for age group 3-5 in Sanamxay Kindergarten School and Mitsamphan Primary School may need to be moved, as families are reallocated to different temporary settlements areas. In addition, the Child Friendly Spaces needs more volunteers.
- In addition to six Child Friendly Spaces, the UN is supporting the establishment of two Women Friendly Spaces in temporary shelters in coordination with the Lao Women Union. The Women Friendly Spaces will run for two months, from November to December, providing a safe place for women and girls to access information and reproductive health services. Trained counsellors will advise women who have health issues or have experienced domestic violence. A referral system will be established and strengthened among sectors. Women can also call the hotline of the Lao Women's Union at 1362 to receive counselling.

Response

- 1,626 children attended activities in six Child Friendly Spaces located in Sanamxay Kindergarten School, Sanamxay Secondary School, Mitsamphan Primary School, Pindong, Donbok and Tammayord between 21-27 October. Preparation is underway to set up a new Child Friendly Space in Hadyao camp.
- A second training on Psychological First Aid for Frontline workers in Attapeu took place on 23-25 October for village volunteers and district-, provincial- and central-level officials.
- First Gender Based Violence education training will be conducted on 13-14 November 2018 in Attapeu for 35 participants, from Lao Women's Union, medical doctors and other service providers from Sanamxay.
- Information, education and communication materials, 400 t-shirts and 2,000 fans, are being produced and printed. These materials with key messages on promoting reproductive health, family planning and prevention of gender-based violence will be distributed to those participating in awareness activities at the Women-Friendly Spaces and temporary camps/shelters in Sanamxay, Attapeu.

Gaps

- A Child Friendly Space in Hadyao temporary shelter needs to be established as soon as possible.



Early Recovery

Needs

- With emergency response phase coming to an end there is a strong need to ensure farmers will not miss the next planting season.
- Early recovery cluster is working on a framework to support recovery in most affected provinces.

Response

- CERF project implementation mission to Khammouane (conducted by FAO UNDP, WFP and WHO) took place this week. Discussion with government officials and affected communities about selection of beneficiaries for food security and cash-for-work programme and cash transfers is ongoing.

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