

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Thailand: Floods

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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Thai Red Cross Society (TRC) with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

The southern part of Thailand was affected by heavy rains which have led to severe flooding in those areas over the last seven days.

Between 23-30 March 2011, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) reported that floods hit eight provinces, namely, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Phatthalung, Surat Thani, Trang, Chumphon, Songkhla, Krabi and Phang Nga.

The flooding has led to a total of 716,110 persons (about 257,786 households) from 3,464 villages in 536 sub-districts across 80 districts being affected. To date, 11 people have been reported dead.

Preliminary damage is mainly inflicted to housing, construction, public utilities, farmland and livestock, and the flooding has reported to have cost the nation THB 300 million (CHF 9.1 million or USD 9.9 million¹).

In the provinces of Chumphon, Krabi, Phang Nga, and Trang:

In **Chumphon**, the Langsuan district opened one lane of the Asian Highway after debris from mudslides was removed. At this time of writing, workers are still clearing all sections of the highway.

In **Krabi**, a bridge was damaged, disrupting traffic from the main government building to Krabi airport.

In **Phang Nga**, floods hit farmlands and extended across a wider area of the province. Flash floods damaged roads and toppled electric poles which caused road blocks on the Takuapa-Phang Nga road.

Damage in **Trang's** Nayong district to date is estimated at THB2 million (CHF 60,667). The Nayong district is experiencing continuous flooding from the Bantad mountain range into several subdistricts with the overflow of the Trang River. Flooding has affected low-lying areas in the municipality, including the main municipal market which is under one metre of water. Several roads are also submerged.



Thai Red Cross (TRC) pre-positioned stock in place for disaster preparedness helped facilitate rapid response to people affected by the floods. On 28 March, TRC distributed 500 relief kits and 500 bottles of water to people affected at Pak Parg, Don Sak, Suratthani. Photo credit: Thai Red Cross Society

¹ Exchange rates are indicative only.

Follow-up action included warnings given to local residents in low-lying areas, along slopes and hillsides in 11 southern provinces. These include: Chumphon, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Ranong, Surat Thani, Phatthalung, Trang, Satun, Songkhla, Phang Nga, Krabi and Phuket. Residents in these provinces have been warned of possible mudslides and flash floods.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Between 24-30 March 2011, the relief and community health bureau of the Thai Red Cross (TRC) sent rapid assessment teams to assess damage and needs in the south, through its health station 12 in Nakhon Si Thammarat, and its provincial chapter.

In addition, the Thai Red Cross also provided 5,006 relief kits; 1,000 packets of cooked food and 3,900 packs of drinking water (with 12 bottles per pack), and some THB 4 million (CHF 121,335 or USD132,343) in aid of the affected people in the following four provinces;

1. Kuan Kanun in Phatthalung
2. Tha Sala, Sichon, Nopphitam and Pakpanang in Nakhon Si Thammarat
3. Don Sak in Surat Thani
4. Ratsada and Na Yong in Trang

Relief kits consist of canned food, first aid kits, candles, plastic bags, household medicines and medicines for foot diseases.

TRC is also providing a mobile relief kitchen to prepare 3,000 food packages per day for people affected by the floods in Surat Thani. The mobile relief kitchen will stay in the area until the situation improves.

In addition, six TRC flat-bottom boats have evacuated flood-trapped people from the four provinces of Phatthalung, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Surat Thani and Trang. The National Society also provides trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles to be used when buying food and drinking water, as well as for distribution to the affected people.

According to the national disaster management plan, four government mandates held by TRC are:

- The pre-positioning of medical drugs, medical supplies and relief items for disaster response;
- Provision of relief to people affected through medical services;
- Provision of blood and blood component supply at the national level, and,
- The request for international assistance upon government approval.

TRC itself is highly adept in fundraising with events such as the organization of Red Cross fairs, campaigns and investments in assets contributed to the national society by donors. While one-third of the national society's budget is supported by the Thai government, TRC receives the rest of its funding through donations and fundraising activities.

Disaster preparedness and capacity building programmes are carried out with the support of the IFRC Southeast Asia regional disaster management unit, and the regional logistics unit based in the Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur. This includes rapid assessment team training, disaster management plan development, capacity building of the disaster operation centre (DOC), capacity building in logistics, and the establishment of a volunteer management system. These were activities under the 2004 tsunami recovery programme, supported by IFRC.

Presently, the TRC disaster operation centre is monitoring the situation closely. Meanwhile, a [domestic emergency appeal](#) following the national disaster management plan has been launched by TRC.

The IFRC's Southeast Asia regional office and the Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur are also assisting the situation with technical support and liaising with the media.

How we work

All International Federation 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 Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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.

IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Please send all pledges of funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org

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