

Key Figures



13,100
people affected in
Sanamxay District



6,000
people evacuated to
emergency shelters

Humanitarian Response & Recovery



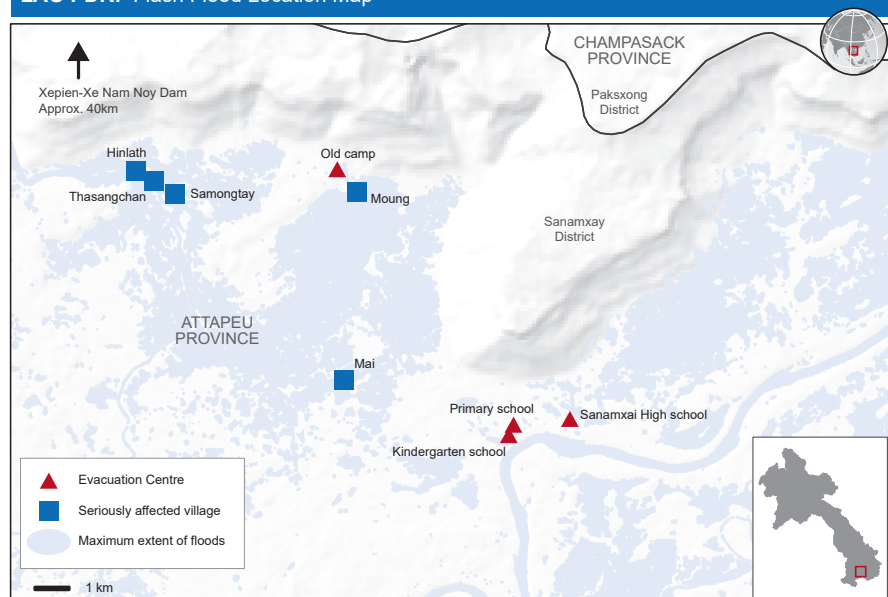
13,100
people targeted in
Sanamxay district



\$5.6M
requested (millions)

SANAMNXAY DISTRICT IN ATTAPEU PROVINCE

LAO PDR: Flash Flood Location Map



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Provide life-saving assistance to people affected by the flash floods and re-establish basic services.
- Support the restoration of livelihoods and self-reliance.
- Provide safety and protection for vulnerable people, including women, girls, boys and men, the elderly and people with disabilities, including through the provision of transitional shelter.

FUNDING

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is seeking US\$5.6 million to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to an estimated 13,100 people in Education, Food Security and Nutrition, Health, Shelter, including camp management, Protection, and WASH over the next four months. Early Recovery activities will extend for a period longer than 4 months, as required.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 18 and 19 July, Tropical Storm Son-Tinh caused heavy rains and flooding in 55 districts of 13 provinces across Lao PDR. According to the Government, over 24,000 families are affected by these floods thus far. With the water levels in the Mekong River and its tributaries due to rise over the coming weeks, the situation is likely to deteriorate and flooding may spread farther.

In addition to seasonal flooding, an unprecedented flash flood occurred on 23 July in Attapeu Province due to water discharge from the Xepien-Xe Nam Noy Dam. Over five billion cubic meters of water, equal to two million Olympic swimming pools, inundated an estimated 55,000 hectares of land covering it with mud and sludge. Initial air and ground assessment results led the Prime Minister of Lao PDR to declare the affected areas as a National Emergency Disaster Zone.

The Government is leading the response through the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, and welcomed international support on 25 July. Development partners and members of the Humanitarian Country Team are augmenting national response efforts.

As of 2 August, the Government informed that 13,100 people in Sanamxay are in need of assistance; 13 people died; and 120 people remain missing (NEOC/AHA). Displacement has an immense impact on the daily life of over 6,000 people located in at least four evacuation sites. Cramped situations may exacerbate the existing risks and vulnerabilities faced in particular by women and girls. While some people have started returning to their houses, others have to wait for the floods to recede and for new houses to be built.

Priority needs include clean drinking water, including purification equipment, food, clothes, tents, sleeping mattresses and blankets, personal hygiene kits, psycho-social counselling and medication.

Attapeu is one of the most remote areas of Lao PDR. Flash floods have submerged over 31 kilometres of road and damaged 14 bridges, damaged basic infrastructure, schools, hospitals, and irrigation systems. Rugged terrain and deposits of sticky mud hamper vehicles and boats from accessing some of the worst affected areas and slow down the delivery of much needed assistance. Access is further restricted by the fact that at least 94 per cent of the villages are contaminated by Unexploded Ordnance (UXO).

A timely response is ever more urgent as more rains are likely to weaken the resilience of affected people, and increase the risk of localised flooding and water borne diseases. Aware that flooding across the country may worsen and the overall needs may significantly increase, this Disaster Response Plan covers life-saving activities to support the most affected people in Sanamxay District for a period of four months. However, the planning assumption is that this plan can be expanded to include assistance to other locations in Lao PDR severely affected by floods later in the year.



RESPONSE BY SECTOR



EDUCATION

Target beneficiaries: 3,400 school-aged children (age 3-14)

Funding required: US\$102,000

Lead Agency: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Partners: Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW), Ministry of Health (MoH), Save the Children, Plan International, Child Fund

Sector Overview: The flash floods had an impact on 3,400 school-aged children and adolescents aged 3-14. Many of the affected children and their families are left psychologically affected and staying in emergency shelters. School buildings are being used as emergency camps and planning is needed for the beginning of school year in September. Many other schools in the affected villages were also damaged and destroyed.

Priority Response

- Support facilitation of school registration and tracking of affected school-aged children, and restoration of schooling.
- Provide teaching-learning and IEC materials to the affected schools and children.
- Utilize and support CFS as temporary learning centers to progressively restore formal education (in coordination with CP programme), in locations where schools are not able to be restored before the beginning of the school year
- Training of teachers and facilitators on use of teaching-learning materials, psychosocial support, positive care, health and hygiene practices



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Target beneficiaries: 8,000 (6,000 displaced villagers and 2,000 children < 5 from the affected population of 13,100)

Funding required: US\$743,000

Lead Agency: WFP & FAO

Partners: MoLSW, MoH, UNICEF, Oxfam

Sector Overview: People from six villages were totally displaced and all food stocks were lost. More importantly, people lost their next harvest as their crops were washed away. Therefore, food insecurity for the affected villagers will continue for the coming 4-5 months. Targeted interventions will address fodder needs, animal shelter, and emergency veterinary care to protect remaining livestock. Approximately 1,000 farming households will receive support to recover their fields and replant their paddy rice.

Prior to the floods, the rate of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in Attapeu province, 3rd highest in the country, was estimated to be 15% (Weight-for-height) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) was estimated at 4.2% for children aged 6-59 months. Therefore, after the disaster, there are nutritional support needs for children under five, including prevention and treatment of malnutrition.

Priority Response

- Basic Food support to 6,000 displaced in shelters
- Provision of nutrition support (Nutributter) to 2,000 children under five (in shelters and affected population)
- Acute malnutrition screening for 2,000 children under five (in shelters and affected population)
- Acute malnutrition treatment for 300 children (in shelters and affected population)
- Provision of deworming tablets for 2,000 children aged 1-5 years
- Provide counselling (IYCF-E) for pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under five years of age (approx. target number of 3,200 caregivers)
- Provision of immediate livestock fodder and water, and veterinary services to protect remaining livestock population in the affected areas
- Provision of unconditional cash, agricultural input vouchers, and/or cash for work for immediate land reclamation, irrigation system rehabilitation to recover of 85 hectares of gardening land and 4,300 hectares of paddy land, and 280 aquaculture ponds



RESPONSE BY SECTOR



HEALTH

Target beneficiaries: 13,100
Funding required: US\$680,000
Lead Agency: World Health Organization (WHO)
 Partners: MoH, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, HPA

Sector Overview: Many people in the affected region are living in unhygienic conditions in the camps, with overcrowding, and an expected surge in communicable diseases is creating the ideal conditions for outbreaks to spread. This situation is further exacerbated with health service provision in the province an existing issue. Therefore, disease surveillance needs to be strengthened, with gaps in the provision of health services and protection urgently needing to be filled. This includes the provision of mental health care and services targeting vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women.

Priority Response

- Facilitate distribution of supplies, services and surveillance to protect the affected population and also prevent worsening of health outcomes in the affected population
- Support the appropriate management and provision of services/supplies in the evacuation centres to ensure affected populations are protected and have access to adequate health services and psychosocial support/treatment
- Support the administration, distribution, procurement, equipment and training for health services/ vaccine-related activities and needs
- Support health activities both in the camps and also to the affected population beginning to resettle
- Improve health communication/education strategies and dissemination methods across all areas of health



PROTECTION

Target beneficiaries: 13,100 people including women and 5,300 children under 18
Funding required: US\$248,000
Lead Agencies: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF
 Partners: MoLSW, MoH, MoES, Lao Women Union, Lao Red Cross, CARE, Save the Children, Plan International, Child Fund

Sector Overview: A rapid assessment conducted by the Ministry of Health and UN agencies has indicated protection concerns among affected population, including overcrowded temporary shelters. Protection mechanisms should be in place to ensure the safety and security of women and children, and reduce the risk of gender based violence (GBV) and abuse against women and children. Camp management should be strengthened and sensitive to protection concerns. There is also an urgent need to respond to psychological trauma in a manner which is appropriate for women and children who experienced the disaster, in addition to ensuring risk mitigation measures of GBV and to guarantee community participation in the disaster response.

Protecting displaced women and girls, adolescent boys, older persons and people with disabilities by improving community-driven mechanisms that safeguard against GBV and ensuring survivors the access to life-saving interventions are urgent needs. The protection cluster will focus on reducing risks to GBV as well ensuring that GBV survivors receive life-saving care and services.

Priority Response

- Reduce the risk of violence
- Ensure access to appropriate life-saving care to survivors, as needed
- Establish and operationalize a women-friendly space to ensure protection and empowerment of women/girls affected by crisis, to facilitate an organized and gender-responsive way of delivering services to displaced women, including psychosocial support.
- Establish, operate and monitor Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) at emergency camps, including provision of psychosocial support and Early Childhood Development serves, and referral to mental health and other medical services.
- Develop and operate a Child Protection (CP) monitoring and reporting mechanism, and conduct awareness sessions on CP risks, referral pathways and reporting mechanisms

RESPONSE BY SECTOR



SHELTER, INCLUDING CAMP MANAGEMENT

Target beneficiaries: About 6,000 displaced people including 40% children in 5 evacuation sites from the 8 most affected villages

Funding required: US\$700,000

Lead Agencies: IOM and UN Habitat

Partners: Ministry of Public Works and Transport, MoLSW

Sector Overview: Approximately 6,000 people were displaced to camps, raising concerns of overcrowding. About half may need to stay in camps or relocate for longer-term as many houses were damaged or destroyed. Those who can return home also need adequate assistance to rebuild their housing. The Department of Housing and Urban Planning (DHUP) is shelter's key counterpart and will actively take part and/or lead in the planning and implementation of rebuilding upon receiving findings from the ministry's assessment taskforce; and is ready to coordinate, support, cooperate and collaborate with line ministries and international agencies at any stage of operations especially technical issues related its responsibility.

Priority Response

- Map the affected villages and temporary shelters / evacuation centres and track movements of return/relocation and needs and gaps in both locations for improved response capacity
- Provide camp management support, guidance and material resources to temporary shelters / evacuation centres including direct mentorship and training where possible
- Provide emergency shelter kits, toolkits and non-food items based on needs and response phase as recovery commences
- Support Ministry of Public Works and Transport to conduct an assessment of shelter-related damage and participate in reconstruction efforts with an agreed shelter recovery strategy
- Support families to return or relocated as quickly as possible to enable schools (used as temporary shelters) to reopen for children and provide child friendly spaces in camps and most affected communities until education services and infrastructure are re-established
- Repair and rehabilitate shelters with Building Back Better & Safer principles, as well as develop guidelines and training, in the 8 most affected villages



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Target beneficiaries: 13,100 people

Funding required: US\$286,000

Lead Agency: UNICEF

Partners: MoH, WHO, Oxfam, World Vision

Sector Overview: Access to clean water and sanitary conditions are putting the health of affected population in the communities, temporary shelters and evacuation centers at risk. Diarrhoea and other water borne diseases which are common in natural disasters pose a serious threat especially to children and the elderly in the affected areas.

Priority Response

- Distribute water treatment and hygiene kits (purification tablets, buckets and water containers).
- Support construction of latrine facilities in the temporary emergency centers and safe sludge management.
- Rehabilitate/restore damaged water supplies, sanitation facilities, pipes, fixtures and fittings in damaged facilities, including health centres and schools.
- Support water quality testing for essential parameters (E-coli, chlorine residual, Ph, turbidity, arsenic) and promotion of household water treatment (chlorination, bio-sand filters, rainwater jars, etc).
- Conduct WASH promotion activities and distribute safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene materials.
- Develop water safety plan for sustainable and safely manage water quality including increasing ownership of community people.
- Support the government to coordinate WASH emergency response and early recovery efforts by leading the WASH cluster



RESPONSE BY SECTOR



EARLY RECOVERY

Target beneficiaries: 13,100

Funding required: US\$2.8 million

Lead Agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Partners: MoLSW, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Provincial People's Assembly, Lao Women's Union, National Regulatory Authority, UXO Lao, Provincial Authorities; District Authorities, FAO, UNHABITAT, IOM, UNICEF

Sector Overview: The Early Recovery cluster is an important part of this plan as the humanitarian efforts can be hindered by some key issues related to the national context of Lao PDR, needs not being met by the other clusters and cross-cutting issues such as gender and disaster risk reduction. Experience and lessons learnt from other emergencies have clearly made the case for early activation of the ERC and the interface between emergency response, humanitarian activities and early recovery are along a continuum rather than with definite demarcations. Many households lost their productive livelihood assets and equipment due to the floods. Households and community groups will be supported with cash transfers for partial livestock restocking, training for improved animal rearing, and rehabilitation of fish and aquaculture ponds. Additionally, Lao PDR is recognized for being heavily contaminated by UXOs and Attapeu Province is one of the most affected with 94% of villages contaminated, caution is therefore needed in access to areas and activities such as search and rescue, clearance, and debris removal. Cluster specific activities will include 1) debris management 2) assessment of potential UXO cover and risk; 3) restoration of livelihoods 4) environmental management 5) adjustment of governance systems to address emergency and recovery aspects 6) coordination and implementation of Post Disaster Needs Assessment

Priority Response

- Debris management (clearance of infrastructure and construction rubble, solid waste disposal)
- UXO assessment clearance and risk awareness
- Cash for Work Programmes, restoration of livelihoods, farming and animal husbandry activities; aquaculture cultivation recovery and livestock restocking
- Adjustment of governance systems for emergency and recovery
- Environmental management, reforestation, slope stabilization
- Promotion of Social and environmental safeguards in the affected areas and beyond
- Coordination and implementation of Post Disaster Needs Assessment



COORDINATION

Funding required: US\$25,000

Coordination Overview: The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has activated eight clusters for the flood response plan in Attapeu. Each cluster will coordinate with its designated line ministry's counterpart. The UN Resident Coordinator will coordinate and provide overall direction to the HCT while the UN Resident Coordinator's Office will provide inter-cluster coordination support.

A diagram outlining the overall coordination structure is on the following page.

A national security and safety officer from UNDSS has been deployed to the affected area to assist and support operations.

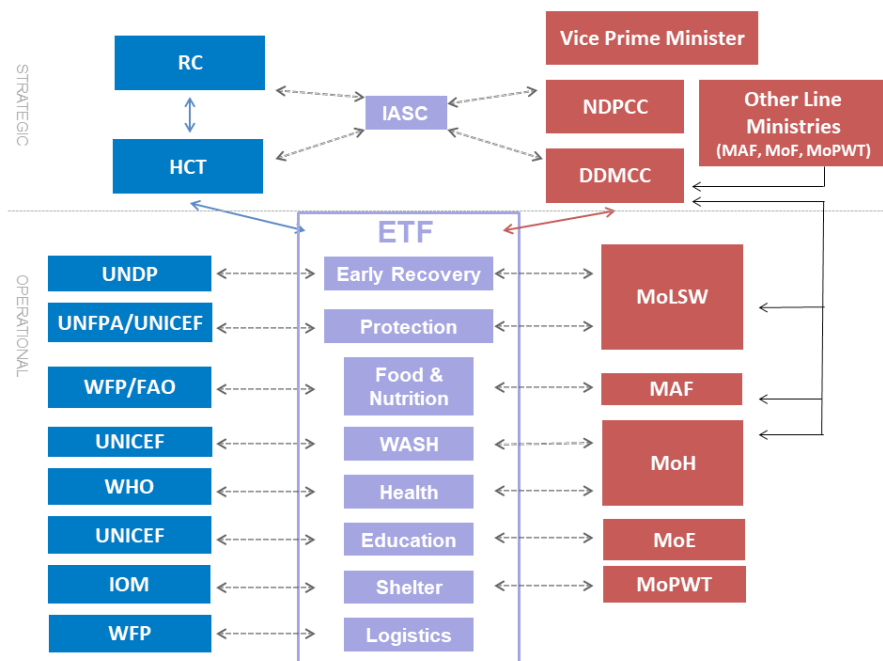


LOGISTICS

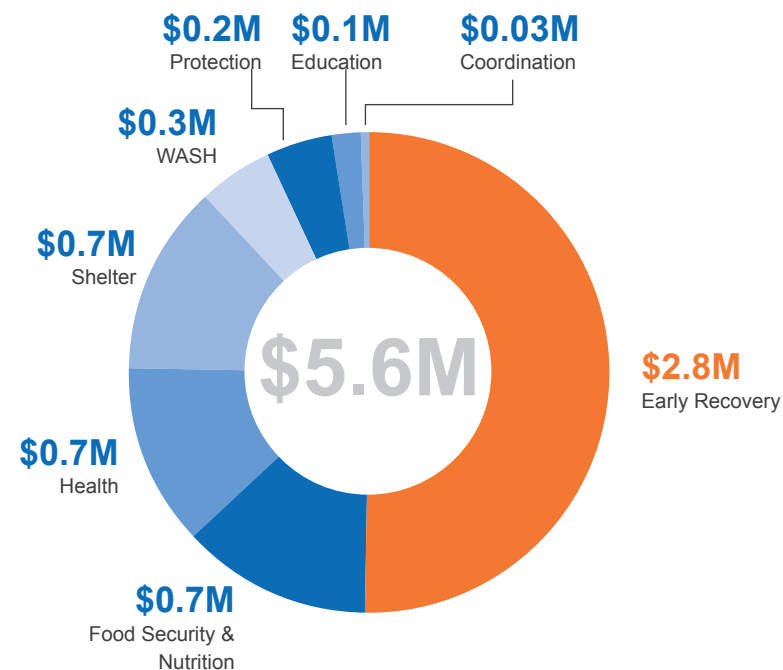
The Logistics Cluster is engaged in coordinating with partners and sharing relevant information on transportation and storage of relief items. Organizations are expected to budget for their own logistics expenses.



COORDINATION STRUCTURE



FUNDING



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TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

