This report is produced by the Office of the Resident Coordinator Lao PDR in collaboration with humanitarian partners. The next report is expected to be issued on Thursday 23 August 2018.

### Highlights

- The Sekaman hydro-power plant in Attapeu has released water today as river levels are rising due to continuous rain in the area.

- Tropical storm Bebinca is expected to hit the North of Laos during 16-17 August, potentially causing additional damage and further limiting access. Increased rain is also expected in the South over this period. The Division of Natural Resources and Environment and the Meteorology and Hydrology Department have issued a warning on the potential for flash flooding in three districts affected by tropical storm Bebinca: Sanamxay, Samakkhixay and Xaysettha.

- As water levels are rising, UNDSS has recommended UN teams on the ground to move away from hotels near the river.

- Land movement continues to be difficult due to mud and some areas are still only accessible by helicopter. Continuous rain over the past few days further hinders access.

- The Humanitarian Country Team has launched a Disaster Response Plan requesting US$ 5.6 million to provide life-saving assistance and recovery services to 13,100 affected people in Sanamxay District.

- As relief operations progress, the Early Recovery Cluster has determined debris management, UXO clearance and the elaboration of an inter-sectoral Post-Disaster Needs Assessment as priorities over the coming weeks.

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<tr>
<th>39 reported deaths</th>
<th>97 people missing</th>
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<td>6,000 people evacuated to emergency shelters</td>
<td>13,100 people affected</td>
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*For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report*
Situation Overview

Heavy and consistent rain since 13 August has led to rising river levels in Attapeu province, causing flooding over roads and restricting access to Sanamxay. One bridge connecting Attapeu to Sanamxay has collapsed and is currently not passable by vehicles. There is a ferry transporting people from one river bank to another.

Two camps, Pindong and Tamayod, are mainly accessible by air. There have been reports of light vehicles reaching these camps. Another camp that had previously been only reachable by air has been closed. Ban Bok, 16 km from Sanamxay City, is reachable only via a mud road, with trucks frequently getting stuck and taking an entire day. Kindergarten camp residents moved onto roads due to flooding in Sanamxay district.

Sufficient relief goods are in Sanamxay City to cover immediate needs.

Ongoing seasonal rains affect living conditions in the emergency shelters and limit access and relief efforts. Authorities are closely monitoring the level of the Mekong River and its tributaries. Tropical storm Bebinca is expected to hit the North of Laos during 16-17 August, with heavy rain in the South, potentially causing additional damage and further limiting access.

Partners have identified 10 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition and 20 cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition. Out of the 10 Severe Acute Malnutrition cases, 3 were found in the district hospital and the remaining had no complications and are being followed up by camp health post doctors.

A Rapid Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment is ongoing, conducted jointly by the Humanitarian Country Team and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Relief operations continue under the Government’s leadership and with support from the international community. United Nations, Red Cross, INGO and Non-Profit Association partners continue to support local authorities and the ongoing operations, which includes the provision of Non-Food Items such as tool kits, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, water pumps, filters and thousands of water purification tablets to provide clean water, safe delivery kits, and tents; specific nutrition support and screening for malnutrition; delivery of rice, canned fish and food rations; emergency first aid and health services.

Current response priorities include the provision of food and cooking utensils; clean drinking water; specific items such as bins, water tanks and family kits; health support (delivery of medical equipment and supplies, including vaccination to prevent disease outbreaks, medical teams on the ground to focus on preventing of secondary disease outbreaks and to provide psycho-social counselling); shelter; the rehabilitation of infrastructure, including roads and bridges; and search and rescue of missing people. The needs are particularly high in the camps outside Sanamxay.
On 7 August, the Humanitarian Country Team launched a Disaster Response Plan to provide life-saving assistance to 13,100 people affected by the flash floods and re-establish their basic livelihoods. The Plan asks for US$5.6 million in humanitarian relief and recovery support across eight clusters: Education, Food Security and Nutrition, Health, Protection, including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence, Shelter, including camp management, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Early Recovery and Coordination. Each cluster has consulted respective line ministries and members, including UN agencies and NGOs, to prioritize response activities. The Plan is available online at: https://reliefweb.int/node/2731894.

Cluster leads have been encouraged to elaborate cluster response plans linked to the overall Disaster Response Plan, and donors are requested to discuss these contributions with the cluster leads indicated below. Humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - http://fts.unocha.org) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mail to fts@un.org. To date around US$ 1 million have been pledged towards the plan.

## Humanitarian Response

### Food Security & Nutrition

#### Needs

The food needs for the 6,000 displaced people in shelters would amount to approximately 80 tons per month, and double that if the needs of the total affected population are counted. The urgent nutrition needs to address are:

- Nutrition screening of children in camps and implementation of treatment/protocol and exclusive breastfeeding guidelines.
- Provision of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food and F-75/F-100 to district hospitals and health posts to treat severe acute malnutrition in children under five.
- Support livestock production including reallocation, vaccines for various animal diseases, water pumps, animal feeding and animal health services.
- As the access to the camps has been interrupted over the past few days due to rains and a vital bridge has been washed away, the food situation in the camps has become more critical.

#### Response

- A rapid food security and nutrition assessment jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture (MAF), UN agencies and NGO is ongoing in Sanamxay assessing the food security situation and looking into how to best restart livelihoods for the displaced population in the 10 camps. The assessment is taking place from 12 to 16 August. The team is experiencing difficulties to access part of the affected population due to the weather situation and the road to Sanamxai being cut off. Alternative ways to assess the situation are explored.
- 154 cooking kits have been distributed in the camps.
- 456kg of Nutributter was distributed to the affected children under five, covering their needs for some two weeks. A new stock of 5 MT of nutributter has been brought to the WFP Pakse office, in time to continue the distribution to affected children, and pregnant and lactating women.
Together with the nutrition center, Provincial Health Office and district teams, the UN is screening children for acute malnutrition in all the camps. As of 16 August, 10 SAM cases and 20 MAM cases identified and being followed up.

On-the-job training and support are being provided to the Sanamxay District Hospital and Attapeu Provincial Hospital staff to improve capacity to respond to cases of acute malnutrition.

Breastfeeding promotion is done in the camps through putting up banners.

Gaps

- Provision of nutrition support for children under five.
- Nutrition baseline assessment.
- Quality and supervision of screening for acute malnutrition and treatment for children under five.

Health

Needs

- The most pressing health risks remain potential outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases and dengue. Potential outbreaks of measles, respiratory infections (e.g. influenza), malaria and food-borne diseases are also a concern.
- Disease surveillance continues to pick up cases of diarrhoea, influenza-like illness, Rickettsia and dengue.
- Screening has detected a number of tuberculosis cases among those living in the camps. While tuberculosis is endemic in the affected region, the close living conditions in the camps increases the risk of further transmission.
- There is a need to ensure continued access to essential and life-saving health services, including mental health, and maternal and newborn child.
- The Ministry of Health has requested televisions, DVD players and speakers for the promotion of protective health behaviours and mental wellbeing.

Response

- Boxes of soap, 500 boxes of hand sanitizer and a further 50,000 water purification tablets have been delivered to the District.
- 4,500 long-lasting insecticide treated bed nets have been distributed.
- International emergency medical teams continue to stand alongside local health workers in serving the affected community.
- Almost 440 people have been screened for tuberculosis.
- A new system is being implemented for the logistical management of medicines and supplies.
- 5,000 doses of oral cholera vaccines have arrived in-country.
- Dignity kits have been distributed in all the camps.
- Psychological first aid has been provided to more than 3,000 people. The team extended services beyond the previously accessible camps to Tamayod from 12 Aug.
- A total of 147 participants (community representatives/leaders, student volunteers, district hospital staff and village health workers) have now been trained in psychological first aid.
- In close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the UN has provided technical support to the health workers in Pindong camp in the areas of management of childhood illnesses and health promotion.

Gaps and Constraints

- The collapse of a bridge has cut off road access to Sanamxay, hampering the transport of staff and supplies.
- Several villages remain hard to reach and are only accessible by helicopter.
- Further doses of oral cholera vaccines are being requested.
Logistics

Needs
- Additional information is needed on what relief items are required in which camps so that gaps can be met.
- Access to camps could be improved.

Response
- WFP continues to support the Government with warehouse space in Vientiane. Items continue to arrive with dispatched occurring as well. Items that are dispatched are moving to other flood affected parts of the country.
- Training on storekeeping and commodity management for district officials in Sanamxay including a stock report template so that the Government can better manage the storage in place on the ground.

Gaps
- Field coordination in the affected district of Sanamxay continues to be challenging.
- One of the 10 bridges connecting Attapeu town to Sanamxay has been washed away. This has temporally cut off some access between the provincial capital and the district.
- Repair work on the roads connecting Sanamxay with the evacuation camps, which are currently only accessible by helicopter, has begun. However, progress is slow and time consuming.
- Distributions of relief items are taking place but there is still lack of understanding on what is being prioritized for distribution.

Shelter including Camp Management

Needs
- Because of overcrowding, more tents have been set up. The majority of camp residents at kindergarten and primary school in Mitsamphan have moved out to tents by the roadside. However, the road sides become a water way/drainage when it rains, and residents suffer from the rain water coming into their tents due to the continued heavy rain.
- Kitchen utensils and sleeping sets are the major needs in camps according to the head of Primary school and Kindergarten in Mitsamphan.
- Tamayod and Pindong camps need clean water to use and drink, food and other Non-Food Items (sleeping set, clothes, dignity kits, kitchen utensils).
- Not enough water and sanitation facilities including bathing space, especially in the Oudomxay, Ban Bok, Pindong and Tamayod camps while construction of WASH facilities continued.
- 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.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Planning (DHUP) has requested partners to contribute in the elaboration of a questionnaire to develop a shelter needs assessment, to be analysed by the designated taskforce.

Response
- There are 11 camps, including a new camp site called Khontutue. The Government has identified four areas to build temporary shelters.
- NDMO brought in eight teams from different departments of Attapeu provincial offices, led by MLSW to conduct damage assessment in 18 villages in Sanamxai from 13-21 August 2018.
- Distribution of Non-Food Items such as mosquito nets, clothes, hygiene kits and dignity kits continued by shelter cluster partners and private donors.
• Displacement Tracking Matrix (second round) has been completed in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and other partners. The collected data is currently validated by the government partners.
• A questionnaire for a further shelter assessment is currently being defined and it will be implemented by the Department of Housing and Urban Planning (DHUP).

Gaps
• Distribution of shelter-related supplies remains a challenge as some camps are still inaccessible by car and the demographic information as well as their needs and gaps remain unknown.
• Due to the heavy rain, the road from Attapeu provincial capital to Sanamxay district was cut off on 14 August, hindering the access to the camp sites for further assistance. The road to Ban Bok and Thaone villages became inaccessible by car as well.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs
• Ban Bok camp and the two camps mainly accessible by helicopter, Pindong and Tamayod, need water and sanitation facilities urgently.
• New boreholes with electric or handpumps, temporary toilets and temporary bath cubicles segregated by gender are needed.
• Boreholes in host communities need rehabilitation.
• Waste water management remains an issue.
• Water quality testing needs to be conducted regularly to ensure the quality of water used in the camps.
• Soap, buckets, jerry cans, bowls, hand sanitizer and chlorine tablets are needed in hospitals and camps.
• IEC materials for hygiene promotion.

Response
• In close collaboration with the Saravane Namsaat and the Attapeu Namsaat teams, the UN has provided 35 water points (boreholes with hand pumps and electric pumps, stand pipes, etc) in the camps.
• 7 latrines have been constructed in Ban Bok camp.
• Soap, tarpaulins, buckets, bowls and water jerry cans have been distributed to all camps except the inaccessible ones.
• Four water filter machines with a capacity of 700 liters per hour have been installed in Tamayod.
• Almost 2,000 hygiene kits and 500 tarpaulins distributed by NGO partners among affected populations. Drinking water delivered to 120 affected families.
• Two UN specialists on WASH and hygiene Promotion have been deployed to provide technical support to the Government.
• WASH material has been printed and sent to the emergency zone.
• 30 solar lamps from the Government of Australia have been received and are to be installed near the toilets.
• A long-term support plan is currently being elaborated.

Gaps
• Access to three camps – Ban Bok, Pindong and Tamayod – continues to be limited, and therefore the WASH situation there remains critical. More sanitation facilities are needed.
• Sanitation facilities in some villages have been destroyed and, thus, the situation of host communities in terms of WASH is to be re-assessed.
Education

Needs

- 13 schools affected with over 1,800 students (more than 1,200 in 11 primary schools and about 600 in two secondary schools). 56 teachers affected. One school is totally destroyed. Five schools are currently used as emergency shelters. About 5,400 textbooks, and 3,100 desks in those schools damaged.
- As the new school year starts in September, there is a pressing need to have short-term and longer-term planning to ensure all affected school-aged children have access quality education opportunities (formal/non-formal) in time.
- Planning is also necessary for school-aged children in the host communities whose schools will continue to be used as temporary shelters beyond August.

Response

- Data collection for planning of the return to school is underway, led by the Ministry and supported by development partners. Further detailed assessment is being planned to be conducted by an MoES-development partners joint team in the next weeks.
- In linkage with the child protection response for child-friendly spaces and in coordination with the Government, support for Early Childhood Development / Early Childhood Education is in the process of being provided in the accessible camps. Teams deployed in the ground will use interventions in child-friendly spaces as a platform to ensure that children get prepared for getting back to school.

Gaps

- Data collection and child-friendly spaces establishment in inaccessible camps.
- Concrete action plans for the full school registration of affected children and their continuous school attendance, and the operationalization of schools in time for the beginning of the school-year.
- Concrete action plans for the necessary support for school-aged children in the host communities for full school registration and continuous school attendance.

Protection

Needs

- There are protection concerns in the camps, and protection mechanisms such as safety and security of women and children are required.
- Risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and abuse against women identified for which mitigation measures are required.
- Community participation mechanisms in the disaster response is required, including protecting displaced people by improving community driven mechanisms that safeguard against GBV and ensuring survivors the access to life-saving interventions
- Psychological support for people affected, including women, girls and boys.
- Spaces for children to play and learn are needed.

Response

- Rapid assessment on establishment of child-friendly spaces completed for accessible camps. One child-friendly space will be piloted at Mitsamphan Camp primary school. On the job training is being provided to child-friendly spaces volunteers.
• A UN Gender-Based Violence specialist is in country for a two-month deployment to provide technical support to and handle GBV coordination for Protection Cluster.
• Ministry of Health is coordinating the assessment of the Samanxay district hospital and Provincial Hospital in Samakkhixay, Attapeu province in terms of its current capacity to provide life-saving clinical care for sexual violence victims-survivors.
• Protection Cluster is working closely with Lao Red Cross to provide technical assistance on their upcoming assessment in Attapeu province to ensure that protection risks and concerns will be captured.

Gaps
• Limited availability of health care workers from district hospital to participate in mental health training.
• There is a need to reach to other relevant agencies who are not members of the GBV Task Force or Child Protection Working Group but are working on protection-related interventions in Attapeu Province.
• Lack of data in terms of protection risks.
• Mapping of available services for GBV victims-survivors has yet to be conducted. Safe, confidential and appropriate systems of care (i.e. referral pathways) for GBV victims-survivors have yet to be identified and disseminated to affected communities.
• Lack of psychosocial support for affected population, especially for women and adolescent girls and boys.
General Coordination

The Government of Lao PDR is leading and coordinating the response operation through the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee (NDPCC) chaired by the Vice Prime Minister. The Disaster Management Division within the Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is the lead coordinator.

To support the Government, the Humanitarian Country Team has activated eight clusters for the flood response plan in Attapeu. Each cluster coordinates with its designated line ministry’s counterpart. The UN Resident Coordinator coordinates and provides overall direction to the HCT while the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office will provide inter-cluster coordination support. A field coordinator to support coordination with Government and between sectors and clusters is expected to travel to Attapeu shortly to support inter-cluster coordination in the field.

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Background on the crisis

On 18 and 19 July, Tropical Storm Son-Tinh caused heavy rains and flooding in 55 districts of 13 provinces across northern, central and southern Lao PDR. According to the Government, over 24,000 families are affected by these floods thus far. In addition to seasonal flooding, an unprecedented flash flood occurred on 24 July in Attapeu Province due to water discharge from the Xepien-Xe Nam Noy Dam. Over five billion cubic meters of water inundated an estimated 55,000 hectares of land. In Sanamxay District, the flash flood affected 13,100 people and displaced 6,000 people. Priority needs include clean drinking water, including purification equipment, food, clothes, tents, sleeping mattresses and blankets, personal hygiene kits, psycho-social counselling and medication. The Government is leading the response and declared Attapeu Province as a National Emergency Disaster Zone. Access to affected communities is hampered by floods, mud and UXO contamination of the area. The rainy season typically lasts from July to September. With the water levels in the Mekong River and its tributaries due to rise over the coming weeks, flooding across the country may spread further.

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