Highlights and key priorities

- Twenty provinces have been affected by flooding and flash floods since the third week of September;
- 168 confirmed deaths;
- Some 377,354 households affected and of those some 31,314 evacuated to safe areas;
- Some 231,484 houses, 1,242 schools, 78 health centres and hospitals, and 533 pagodas flooded with roads, bridges and infrastructure damaged;
- Waters are receding in across the country, though more slowly than expected in the worst affected provinces of Battambang and Banteay Meanchey, where parts remain flooded;
- Rains accompanying Typhoon Nairi saw localised flash flooding in the North Western and South Eastern provinces in mid-October;
- A joint multi-agency rapid assessment has been completed in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap, and rapid assessments undertaken in Ratanakiri, Kandal, Kampong Cham, and Prey Veng.
- National and local authorities, the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), UN agencies and NGOs are providing immediate relief assistance to affected families evacuated to safe areas, with an emphasis on food and non-food items;
- The most pressing needs of affected populations are water and sanitation hygiene, shelter and some outstanding targeted food assistance requirements. Food needs may continue in the medium term, but will depend on the extent of crop damage; this will be determined in the coming weeks with crop assessments expected once waters recede.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20</th>
<th>377,354*</th>
<th>1,735,828*</th>
<th>31,314</th>
<th>144,044</th>
<th>168</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affected provinces</td>
<td>Affected households</td>
<td>Affected people</td>
<td>Evacuated households</td>
<td>Evacuated people</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Situation Overview

Heavy rains since the third week of September have resulted in floods across 20 of Cambodia’s 24 provinces throughout the Northwest, and along the Mekong River in central and Southern Cambodia. While waters have receded in Stung Treng, Ratanakiri, Preah Vihear, Kampong Cham and Kampong Thom, the provinces downstream along the Mekong River, such as Prey Veng and Kandal, as well as provinces along the Tonle Sap Lake have seen levels rise in the last week as water moves downstream.

* Following assessments in the most affected provinces of Battambang and Banteay Meachey, numbers of households affected have been revised downwards for Battambang to 74,160 from an initial estimation of 150,000.
The Northwestern provinces, most notably Banteay Meanchey and Battambang, have been most heavily affected by a combination of flash flooding from heavy rains and overflow from rivers internally and the Kamping Pouy and Trapaing Thma dams, as well as from Thailand. Both provinces have seen waters recede more slowly than expected in many areas, while recent rainfall in Banteay Meanchey saw further displacements in Ou Chrov and Thma Pouk districts due to flash flooding; while the waters are receding, 135 affected families remain displaced in surrounding safe areas. In Battambang, heavy rainfall in first week of October saw overflow from the Moung river affecting Moung Ruessei, Koas Krala and Rukhak Kiri districts, while overflow from the Sangke river has seen flooding in Banan, Rotonak Mondul, Sangke, Aek Phnum and Battambang districts and from the Bovel river in Kamrieng, Phnom Prek, Bovel and Banan district. Overflow from the Kamping Pouy dam caused widespread flooding affecting primarily Thma Khoul district, but reaching as far as the southern-most parts of Banteay Meanchey.

The passage of Typhoon Nari bypassed Cambodia but affected Laos and Thailand and resulted in heavy rains and flash flooding in northern parts of the country and a slight increase in water levels in the Srei Pok river in Rattanakiri. The flooding situation in the province has remained largely unchanged since the last Sitrep. The authorities and humanitarian actors continue to closely monitor the situation both in Cambodia and neighbouring countries.

According to latest figures from the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) published on 18 October, there have been 168 confirmed deaths, with approximately 377,354 households (some 1,735,828 people) affected, and more than 31,314 households (approximately 144,044 people) evacuated. In Battambang province authorities continue to assess the extent and impact of the floods, with estimates of affected households revised downwards to 74,160 affected households. In the provinces where waters have receded many evacuated families have returned home, although specific figures on the number of returnees and those families currently remaining in safe areas and evacuation sites are not yet available. The situation varies daily in many provinces. More than 231,484 houses, 1,242 schools, 78 health centres and hospitals, and 533 pagodas have been affected, with sizeable infrastructure damage incurred including some to over 440km of national roads and 3,693km of commune/rural roads.

Latest information from NCDM is summarized in Table 1 overleaf and mapped out in Figure 3.
## Table 1: Impact of flooding in Cambodia (as of 18 October)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Affected Districts</th>
<th>Affected Communes</th>
<th>Affected (families)</th>
<th>Affected (people)</th>
<th>Evacuated (families)</th>
<th>Evacuated (people)</th>
<th>Houses affected</th>
<th>Victims</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Injured</th>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Pagodas</th>
<th>HC / Hospitals</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>377,354</td>
<td>1,735,828</td>
<td>31,314</td>
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<td>168</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1,242</td>
<td>553</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NCDM, 18 October 2013

## Figure 3: Impact of flooding in Cambodia
The effect of the floods on crops will remain unclear until the waters have fully receded; barring further rains, this could likely be in the next two to three weeks. According to data published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) on 9 October, the impact of floods on rice fields recorded so far is of 244,456 hectares (ha) of transplanted rice/seedlings affected and 23,505 ha damaged, out of 2,554,102 ha planted.

On Tuesday 22 October 2013, the NCDM activated a system entitled Disaster Loss Database (CamDi) (www.camdi.ncdm.gov.kh) which covers information disasters and losses noted through a wide variety of disaster events, including floods, fires, storms, droughts, lightening, pest outbreaks, riverbank collapses and epidemics.

**Humanitarian Needs and Response**

**Needs:**

NCDM, PCDMs and local branches of CRC, as well as local and international NGOs and UN agencies have conducted a series of initial joint assessments in several provinces including Otdar Meanchey, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Kratie, Kampong Cham, Stung Treng, Kandal and Prey Veng.

A joint rapid initial assessment was undertaken by NCDM and the HRF participants in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap in the immediate aftermath of recent flash floods. International NGOs are also conducting assessments in Pursat and Ratanakiri, in collaboration with the Provincial Committees for Disaster Management (PCDs).

Headline findings from the joint rapid initial assessment to Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap that was undertaken between 10-16 October by the NCDM and HRF noted that:

- Battambang (BTB) and Banteay Meanchey (BMC) provinces were found to have been the worst affected in terms of both scale and scope. The latter has seen two sizeable rounds of flooding since mid-August (some parts of the province experience four rounds of flooding). Flooding in both provinces has reportedly been more extensive than in previous years, with some safe areas also flooded.

- In BTB, flash flooding and drainage from Thailand saw extensive and unexpected flooding in the second week of October. This was compounded by flooding from the Kamping Pouy Dam that affected most of Thma Khoul district and into the southern-most parts of BMC. While all of the province’s 14 districts have been affected, 8 were most seriously affected including Thma Koul, Banan, Kamreang, Bavel, Koas Krala, Rukhak Kiri and Moung Ruessei; subsequent to the assessment the situation in Sangke district also worsened. Extensive flooding saw 260 schools of 728 schools flooded and most closed, with many now starting to reopen. With floods unexpected in this province and thus limited preparedness, a key recommendation is for the strengthening of local emergency preparedness and response plans. With initial food and non-food items as well as boat provision being facilitated largely by the provincial authorities, CRC, Caritas, World Vision and ICRC, pending immediate needs centered around the provision of safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and awareness raising, medicine, shelter and some localized pockets of food assistance where distributions have yet to happen across all of the affected districts. In the medium term, with Battambang the major rice-producing district, assessments of crop damage and subsequent assistance in terms of seed provision and infrastructure repair will be required. Livelihoods assistance, including for livestock lost, will be critical to the recovery stage.

All of BMC’s nine districts have been affected by flooding, with six the most seriously affected in descending order; Monkul Borei, Preah Netr Preah, Phnum Srok, Ou Chrov, Paoy Paet and Serei Saophoan. Water levels have started to recede, particularly in areas of higher ground, however this is happening at a slower rate than expected and in some districts households may be unable to return to their homes for a further couple or more weeks. The recent round of flooding compounds previous flooding in the province, which has seen flash flooding and river overflow heavy rains prompting two major rounds of flooding (once in August and a second round commencing from late September and through early

![Flooding on National Road 5, Battambang](image)
October). Immediate needs identified centered around the provision of safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and awareness raising (given extensive practice of open defecation in flooded areas, often in waters then used for drinking), as well as shelter needs and some localized pockets of food assistance where distributions have yet to happen (most notably in parts of Monkul Borei, Preah Nevr Preah, Phnum Srok, Ou Chrov and Paoy Paet districts). There were some concerns around the suitability of some safe areas, most notably in Paoy Paet market where security is of sizeable concern for the 400 families displaced there and in Phnum Srok around the Trapaiing Thma dam. There was also sizeable concern about the impact on crop damage particularly to districts largely dependent on farming, given the length of time during which crops have already been exposed to flood waters and the impact of flash flood washing away new crops. Consecutive years of flooding have left many poorer households in debt and seen ongoing migration trends to Thailand with associated child protection concerns. Potential crop damage will thus exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and livelihood challenges making the latter a key part of recovery plans. Infrastructure rehabilitation, particularly of commune roads where parts have been washed away, will also need to form a key part of recovery activities.

- The assessment found Siem Reap (SRP) to be far less affected than BTB and BMC, with much of the flooding relating to seasonal flooding around Tonle Sap Lake, where there were pockets of immediate vulnerability. While most of the waters have receded across the high-grounds in the province, water around the lake has been rising. The worst affected districts in the province included Pouk, Chey Kren, Kralagn, Srey Snam, Siem Reap. Some immediate needs were identified centering around water and sanitation (due to some open defecation in waters used for drinking/washing; however sanitation awareness was higher than in BMC), shelter and some localized food needs in Pouk district (Kaev Poar and Samraong Yea Communes) and Chey Kren district (Sangvayeu). The main concern amongst displaced and affected families was around longer term livelihoods and basic needs, with many households already in debt given subsequent years of flood and drought, and a concern that damage to crops and other livelihood sources this year will push them further into debt. Migration to Thailand has reportedly increased in some areas.

- Concerns were also raised around over-crowding in BTB and SRP prisons as over capacity following the transfer of 866 prisoners from BMC, and associated concerns on health, hygiene and sanitation.

- The assessment found that a further concern is the capacity of local water system infrastructure to withstand high levels of pressure subsequent to extensive water build-up. A recommendation therefore is that infrastructure capacity assessment and, where required, rehabilitation/strengthening form a key part of future preparedness plans.

- Based on findings, response plans focusing on WASH and shelter are underway and $50,000 has been confirmed as available through a UN Emergency Cash Grant to contribute to these needs.

**A joint recovery needs assessment was undertaken in Ratanakiri between 6-12 October** led by CARE jointly with local NGOs and INGOs found approximately one third of the area of cultivated lowland and upland rice reportedly affected, with around 20 to 28 percent respectively destroyed. Around 40 percent of other crops were affected or destroyed. Livestock losses were also significant; one CARE project suffered 50 percent poultry losses, and some food shortages were identified in the localities assessed. Common diseases identified by communities suggested poor hygiene and sanitation practices (related in part to widespread reported open defecation), where the flooding is likely to have exacerbated pre-existing conditions. Health centres and schools suffered some damage, but most were able to provide services both during and directly after the flooding. Child protection issues were not a major concern. The three priority needs identified for the affected population in Ratanakiri included:

- Food provision for targeted households, with a particular focus on young/malnourished children, vulnerable groups and school children;
- Provision of seeds (vegetable and rice varieties) due to the widespread loss of crops;
- Water provision, which included household water provision, water treatment and repair of water infrastructure

Based on the needs identified CARE Cambodia will implement a WASH and food response in two provinces, Prey Veng and Ratanakiri (in three districts each), distributing WASH items (hygiene kits, water treatment and jerry cans), food and vegetable seeds to 5,412 of the most vulnerable flood-affected households, and with a particular focus on women and girls, including female headed households, the disabled and the elderly.

**An initial two-day initial rapid flood assessment in Kampong Thom by Médecins Sans Frontières-France** focused on Baray and Sandan districts and found sizeable damage to commune gravel roads in Sandan district with the two worst affected communes, Cheurl Teal and Mean Chey. Water, sanitation and health care needs were identified for 51 families in Kork Trabek village, Sralau commune, Baray district. MSF-F will commence distribution for those families.
Response:

Education Needs:
- Many flood affected schools were able to reopen and resume teaching and learning activities over the past week, but some 400 schools remain closed as of 21 October.
- School directors and teachers in flood-affected schools report that destroyed textbooks need to be replaced.

Response:
- Minister of Education HE Hang Chuon Naron and officials visited some flood-affected schools in Kampong Cham last week and advised the Department of Construction of the Ministry of Education (MoEYS) to conduct an assessment of the level of damage to school buildings and propose a budget for repairs.

Gaps & Constraints:
- To ensure minimal disruption to education, there is a need to establish informal or temporary learning spaces in flood-affected provinces.

Protection Needs:
- Flooding has increased exposure of affected population to anti-personnel mines sliding from secured areas. To date, 3 anti-personnel mines were reported by community members in Pailin province, and 1 unexploded ordnance (UXO) and 2 anti-tank mines were reported in Battambang province.

Response:
- An announcement letter issued on behalf of H.E Chum Bon Rong, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Secretary General of the Cambodia Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), noted that the recent flash floods have washed landmines and UXO from contamination areas to cleared and safe areas which have heightened the risk for flood-affected populations. To prevent accidents and injuries during flooding and after water receding, the letter provided the following instructions to Provincial Mine/UXO Committees, Mine Action Agencies and relevant institutions as follows:
  1. Continue to closely monitor affected communities with relevant authorities at the safe areas and amongst those who have returned home
  2. Provide refresher training to Mine/UXO Representatives at all levels on mine risks in emergencies
  3. Review Generic Mine Risk Education messages, teaching materials to be more specific and targeted to the most at risk populations
  4. Immediately respond to community reports and deal with reported threats
  5. Mark all suspected mine and UXO areas where contaminated areas have been washed by flash floods to warn affected populations
  6. Provide mine risk education to at-risk populations living in safe areas as well as in their own communities
- UNICEF is contributing US$50,000 to support Mine Risk Education (MRE) in Otdar Meanchey, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pailin where there is a risk of landmine/UXO movement as a result of flooding.
- In line with an HRF rapid assessment recommendation, mine risk education-in-emergency training will be conducted by MoEYS and the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) in Otdar Meanchey on 25 October 2013. Participants will include at least 125 primary school teachers, from flooded schools close to contaminated areas, and 20 local authorities.
- The Cambodia Mine/UXO Victim Information Team of the CMAA will deploy a team to conduct landmine/UXO situation survey from 23-26 October 2013, in Pailin, Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Further risk of landmines washed away in heavily mined areas.
- Concerns of prison over-crowding in Battambang and Siem Reap following transfers from Banteay Meanchey

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Needs:
- The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) estimates that damage to WASH infrastructure is significant in 18 flood-affected provinces. Nearly 40,000 water wells require rehabilitation and some 78,000 household latrines
need rehabilitation or reconstruction. In schools, 336 latrines need repair in Kratie, Otdar Meanchey and Kampong Thom.

- UNICEF compiled needs assessments from Provincial Departments of Rural Development (PDRDs) in 4 provinces (Siem Reap, Otdar Meanchey, Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom) where support has been requested for 6,865 families. The largest needs are for 2,790 families in Otdar Meanchey. Similar assessments are being undertaken for other provinces through UNICEF field offices.

**Response:**

- UNICEF continues to meet the immediate needs of households with supplies for water purification and hygiene, and basic information for safe excreta disposal. WASH lifesaving materials and supplies for 10,000 families are being procured with UNICEF emergency funds. A shipment of 1.6 million water purification tablets arrived at Phnom Penh International Airport on Saturday 19 October. UNICEF is reviewing the prepositioned supplies in provinces and will provide funds for assessment and monitoring of supply distribution in affected provinces, as needed.
- Public service messages being broadcast on radio, as part of the global hand-washing campaign, are emphasizing the importance of washing hands with soap to reduce diarrheal diseases.
- A consolidated flood response report will be compiled by MRD following a meeting with NGOs on 25 October 2013 to assist in identifying gaps in response and highlight partners’ response capacity.
- World Vision International (WVI) is making available to NGO partners water purification supplies of ‘PuR’ that are effective in heavily turbid waters. Interested parties should contact Nong Davith, WASH Program Manager at Davith_Nong@wvi.org or 012994252.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Information on WASH household needs requires collection and analysis to better respond to the emergency. Consolidation of current information from HRF for WASH is taking place.
- There are insufficient local supplies of chlorine (for water purification) and suitable storage containers.

### Shelter

#### Needs:

- Initial findings from rapid assessments identify shelter needs as of particular concern in unstructured safe areas (i.e. elevated ground where no or very little infrastructure exist);

#### Response:

- Several organizations have provided tarpaulins and plastic sheeting as part of their relief kits to families displaced to safe areas and evacuation sites; DCA/CA has distributed tarpaulins to displaced households in Ratanakiri; the CRC in Pursat; WVI-C in Kampong Chhnang, Battambang and Siem Reap; Caritas in Kampong Cham, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey. To date Caritas distributed lots of 531 plastic sheets in Banteay Meanchey and 66 in Battambang for displaced families.
- People in Need (PIN) plans rehabilitation of flood affected households, as well as technical training and capacity building for reconstruction teams in Pursat.
- The Emergency Cash Grant (ECG) from UNOCHA will allow IOM to provide shelter materials (tarpaulin, plastic sheet and rope), non-food items (hammer, axe, and hand-saw), transportation of shelter and NFIs, provide transport for affected families and provide labourers to assist affected families during distribution. 650 households in three districts of Kampong Cham province (with average 2,990 individuals) will receive direct shelter assistance.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Shelter is identified as one of the immediate concerns for evacuated families in unstructured safe areas, however the assistance provided so far has been largely focused on food needs; deteriorating weather conditions could worsen the already difficult living conditions of displaced families.

### Health

#### Needs:

- With very limited access to safe water, there is a concern for an increase in cases of water-borne and excreta related diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea (AWD). Young children and other vulnerable persons with compromised immunity or malnutrition are at risk to suffer the greatest from contaminated water sources and increased pathogens within the environment.
• Seventy-eight health centres and hospitals have been affected by the floods to varying degrees.

Response:
• The Ministry of Health (MoH) has provided health education and treatment of patients through mobile clinics in some affected areas; so far no disease outbreaks have been recorded.

Gaps & Constraints:
• Mobile clinics and provision of health care in safe areas and evacuation sites and where health centres have been rendered less functional due to floods.

Food Security and nutrition

Needs:
• While food and non-food items have been prioritized in assistance provision to date, some pockets of unmet need remain. Efforts are underway to coordinate distributions between the CRC and NGOs.
• With the extent of crop damage currently unclear until waters recede and fuller assessments are undertaken, the longer term impact on food security is likewise not yet fully clear. It is likely that in certain areas, where crops and animals have been washed away or killed by floods, and where crops have been damaged by extended submersion in flood water, there will be a medium/long term need for assistance to ensure food security of the most affected families.

Response:
• Food distributions have taken place in most provinces, in particular by the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) which has currently targeted 63,914 households across 18 districts. Focus has been on Banteay Meanchey (where 15,088 households have been targeted to date), Battambang (where 10,029 households have been targeted) and Kampon Cham (where 11,300 households have been targeted). CRC will continue to focus particularly on Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces as the worst affected areas, as well as focus on its traditional target groups of prioritizing the needs of the elderly, disabled, orphans, widows and people living with HIV/AIDS.
• In a meeting hosted by the NCDM on 18 October (see General Coordination section on page 9) the Green Trade (the public entity that manages the national rice reserve) informed that they have released 750 metric tonnes (MT) rice to CRC with an additional 300 MT available pending further request.
• Food kit content currently varies, usually including approximately two weeks of rice for a five-person family, canned fish, oil, sugar, and fish sauce. Other items might also be included.
• Caritas Cambodia has distributed food items to over 9,400 households in, Kampong Cham, Kratie, Ratanakiri, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, Kandal and Prey Veng. Caritas continues distributions in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces. In the latter, 2,300 households across 4 districts (Serey Sophan, Mongkal bori, Malay, Poipet) to date with a family pack (including: 25kg of rice, 10 cans of canned fish, 1 blanket, 3 pieces of bathing soap, 0.5kg of washing soap, 1 box of sanitary pads, 1 box of tooth paste and 3 pieces of tooth brush). In Battambang distributions have focussed on Bovel, Kdul Tahen and Ampil Bromdeum.

Gaps & Constraints:
• Limited access to isolated areas or where the extent of floods and lack of transport continues to hamper delivery of assistance.
Funding

Following preliminary results of the assessments conducted in the previous week, HRF participants have had an initial Emergency Cash Grant (ECG) for US $50,000 approved to prioritize life saving and life supporting activities on WASH and shelter, where needs are deemed to be more immediate and less covered by ongoing response.

Organizations are currently responding by utilizing internal funds, which are limited. HRF participants will discuss further if a need of scaling up the response in support to national and local authorities is foreseen and thus if further funding should be requested to donors.

The UNICEF head office has released US$ 215,000 from its Emergency Programme Fund to support the humanitarian response, notably for WASH interventions. CARE Cambodia has also raised funds for immediate support from CARE International of some US $90,000 for WASH activities in Rattanakiri and Prey Veng provinces.

General Coordination

The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), which oversees coordination of assistance and response to disasters, hosted a coordination meeting on Friday 18 October which included Provincial (PCDM) representatives from the most affected provinces, UN and NGOs. The NCDM noted it is taking full responsibility in coordinating with all relevant authorities and line ministries, development partners, NGOs, and the Cambodian Red Cross to respond to the recent floods, and that no appeal for international assistance was being made as the Government has made available funding, food, crops, and rice and vegetable seeds for affected populations. The Governor of Kampong Cham province noted a request to the government for 25 MT of rice to support relief needs.

The overall medium term priorities noted by NCDM in the above meeting included agricultural inputs (especially rice seeds due to expected crop damage) and road rehabilitation. In the shorter term, priorities centre around drinking water and sanitation.
The WATSAN Working Group, led by the Ministry of Rural Development, will be facilitating a meeting to discuss the flood impact with an emphasis on issues relating to drinking water supply and sanitation, on **Friday 25 October** between 9:00-11:30am, in the WATSAN meeting room at the MRD.

The HRF next meeting is planned for the **Thursday 24th October** between 3:00-5:00 pm at the WFP conference room, with the agenda focusing on the results of ongoing assessments and prioritization of response.

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**DISCLAIMER:** This document is a compilation of information gathered from various sources, including relevant UN agencies, NCDM, CRC, INGOs and the media.

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