Lao PDR: Flooding
Office of the UN Resident Coordinator Situation Report No. 02
(as of 25 July 2018)

This report is produced by Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

Highlights

- Tropical storm Son-Tinh has affected many provinces causing heavy rainfall and flooding in Borkeo, Oudomxay, Xayaboury, Luang Prabang, Huaphan, Xiengkhuang, Bolikhamxay, Khammouan, Savannakhet, Xekong and Attapeu. This is the largest flood the country has seen in the past ten years.

- The report will focus on the most seriously affected areas of Sanamxay District. Attapeu Province.

- An incident at the Saddle Dam D, Xepien-Xenamnoy Hydropower dam construction in Attappeu Province affected thirteen villages (eight were more affected) and displaced 587 families.

- The Government has declared the affected areas as National Disaster Area. Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Sonexay Siphandone has been appointed to lead the emergency relief.

- Response activities have started with several UN agencies joining ministries rapid assessment teams to the field today.

- The UN has advised against all but essential travel to Attapeu Province as disaster relief efforts are underway. If travel is needed, please be aware of the potential risks as heavy rainfall is anticipated from 26 to 30 July. This will continue to hamper response activities in the field.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affected families</th>
<th>People killed</th>
<th>Affected people</th>
<th>Missing</th>
<th>Evacuated people</th>
<th>Damaged bridges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,747*</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16,256*</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>1,494*</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers reported nationwide

Situation Overview

- The flash floods have caused severe damages to properties by submerging basic infrastructure, roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, cultivation fields and irrigation system. This has long term socio-economic impacts as it disrupt the livelihoods and well-being of the local communities.

- Sanaxay Districts:
  - 43 villages of which 13 are affected
  - It has a population of 35,553 of which 17,622 are female, a total of 6891 families.
  - 587 families (around 3,060 people) are displaced and registered to stay at temporary emergency shelter
  - 243 houses damaged, of which 20 are totally damaged
  - 131 people remains missing

Source: National Disaster Management Office, Lao PDR
• Impacts on Lifelines and Public Infrastructures include the following:
  - Clean water systems were cut off.
  - Helicopters and boats are the only means of transportation in the affected areas. The road system is disconnected.
  - Schools in the safe areas are being used as evacuation centres.
• Based on the initial assessment conducted by the Government, the following immediate needs have been identified:
  - Rescue boats
  - Mobile toilet
  - Food
  - Tents for emergency shelter for 1,370 families
  - Personal Hygiene Kits for 6,630 people
  - 1,370 set of housing repair kits
  - Command post tent with operations and support equipment
  - Clothing
  - Drinking water

Humanitarian Response
• Staff from several UN agencies have joined field mission with government staff to the affected areas for the assessment of the scope of the disaster.
• The UN consolidated a list of support for the disaster response. It will include development partners, embassies and INGOs stockpiles which can be mobilized immediately.
• The UN has activated 5 clusters, namely WASH, Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Logistics. The cluster members, who come from the UN, INGO and Government meet on 26 July to discuss the response.
• The UN RC a.i. had a meeting with Minister of Labour and Social Welfare on 26 July to discuss on the UN-INGOs Menu of support and other issues.
• UNITAR-UNOSAT has activated the International Space Charter on behalf of World Food Programme that will support satellite/remote sensing analysis of flooded areas. These products will be shared with the UN agencies and Ministry of Labour, Social Welfare to support the response efforts and identification of needs.
• The local Disaster Prevention and Control Committee at provincial and district levels are continuing with the response actions.
• Military and police officers together with concerned government sectors have been deployed to search, rescue and evacuate victims to safer areas. Three helicopters and rescue boats have been deployed to evacuate the victims.
• Incident Command Posts have been set in the districts to control the situation in an effective and timely manner.
• The Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare as the Secretariat for the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee called an emergency meeting on 24 July, with the participation of Disaster Management Focal Points from line ministries, to exchange information and discuss the situation. Immediate counter-measures have been identified and are expected to be endorsed shortly.
• Press Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the focal point for any media inquiries.
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