

Lao PDR: Floods

Humanitarian Country Team Information Bulletin No.3

(as of 5 October 2018)

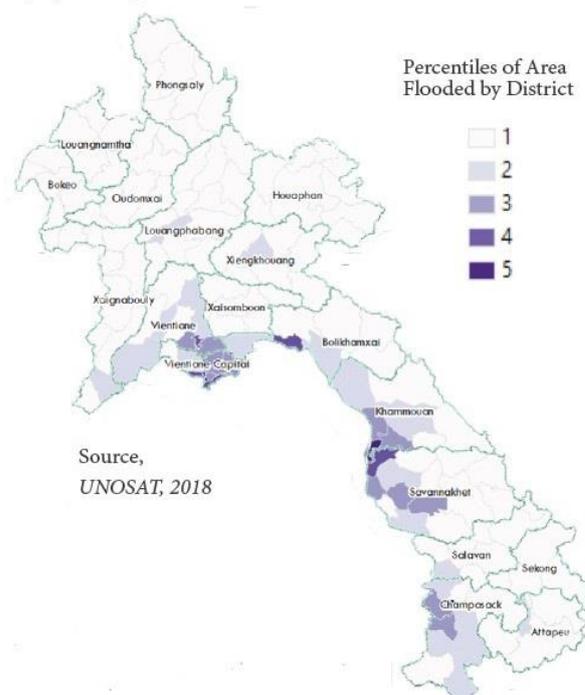


This bulletin covers the entire country, with significant focus on Attapeu province. It is produced by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

Summary

- 133,405 households and 648,605 individuals have been affected by the flooding resulting from tropical storms Sontinh and Bebinca and the sustained rainfalls, according to the latest Government reports. A total of 16,739 people have been evacuated from their villages. With the rainy season expected to continue into November, these numbers could increase. It is expected that the emergency response will be ongoing until the rainy season has ended. At the same time, the early recovery phase has started.
- Across the country, over 90,000 ha of paddy fields and 11,000 ha of other plantations have been destroyed. Currently, villagers depend on food from forests and rivers. Price hikes of food commodities (30-50% increase) have been observed in places where access was limited due to the floods. In Attapeu, the floods have reduced agricultural opportunities for both farmers and laborers, leaving a thick layer of mud on the top of the paddy fields, negatively affecting the soil fertility.
- Priority public health concerns have been reported in Attapeu province. 93 malnutrition cases have been reported in Sanamxay district (76 of Moderate Acute Malnutrition and 17 of Severe Acute Malnutrition), clusters of influenza-like illness cases have been detected in Pindong camp, and a dengue death has been reported in Sanamxay district on 11 September. In Khammouane province, Vitamin B1 was distributed for 14 days, and a monitoring system was established in response to beriberi outbreaks, which was highlighted in the previous Information Bulletin.
- 1,902 houses were assessed as totally damaged and 387 as partially damaged according to National Disaster Management Office data. Moreover, 630 km of roads and 47 bridges have been damaged.
- A Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) led by the Government was launched on 24 September. The PDNA includes 19 subsectors under the four main areas of Productive Sectors, Social Sectors, Infrastructure and Cross-Cutting Issues. The PDNA covers the entire country. A PDNA Secretariat has been established at the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Planning and Investment as co-leads. The World Bank, the United Nations Team and the EU together with INGOs are supporting the Government. The PDNA field assessments are currently underway. In addition to primary and secondary data collection, the PDNA will be utilizing satellite imagery to support the damage and loss assessment for some sectors. Findings are expected to be presented on 23 October. These will feed into the discussion at the National Assembly, the Round Table Implementation Meeting and the Mid-Term Review of 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan.
- On 5 October, the Humanitarian Country Team launched a revised Disaster Response Plan, which covers provinces beyond Attapeu, complementing the Government's response to provide life-saving assistance to those affected by the floods. The plan asks for US\$ 42.7 million, of which US\$ 3,064,000 has been funded. The Humanitarian Country Team has also applied for funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), to address food security, health and livelihoods in Khammouane province.

Map 1: Composite Index of Population and Crop Exposure to Flooding, 17 July- 31 August 2018



Source, UNOSAT, 2018

 55 reported deaths	 around 100 people missing
 3,616 evacuated households	 648,605 people affected

Humanitarian Response



Food Security & Nutrition

Needs

- In the seven villages affected by the dam burst flood in Attapeu whose inhabitants were not displaced, most villagers with paddy farms had their crop wiped out and the floods left a thick layer of mud (several tens of centimeters thick) on the land. Other villagers have upland farms and were not directly affected by the floods. While landless farm laborers have not been directly impacted, the floods have significantly reduced on-farm labour opportunities, so in food security terms they are currently the most impacted and will continue to be so until the situation returns to normal following next year's harvest. Where paddy fields were flooded, a thick layer of mud covers the land. As this is sub-soil it does not have organic matter and will thus negatively affect soil fertility. Remedying this will require further exploration.
- A rapid food security assessment of the seven affected villages in Attapeu where population has not been displaced is ongoing. The emerging picture shows no acute food security issues as stocks were not affected by the floods and people are used to having stocks until the end of the dry season when the harvest normally occurs. Villagers also depend on fish from the river and gathering food from the surrounding forests. Food insecurity is expected to increase as stocks start running out.
- 76 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and 17 cases of severe acute malnutrition were reported, mostly in the camps.
- A rapid assessment was conducted in Dong Bok district of Khammouane province in order to support the drafting of a CERF proposal. The assessment confirmed that the floods have completely wiped out the paddy crops in large areas close to rivers. Higher up areas are not affected. Floods also cut off specific areas of the province, disturbing normal market mechanisms and resulting in price hikes of food commodities (30-50% increase). With roads becoming accessible again, normal access and market mechanisms are expected to be restored latest by mid-October.

Response

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry leads the agriculture and food security subsector of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment. Joint missions are currently taking place in the provinces of Luang Prabang, Khammouane, Savannakhet and Champasak provinces.
- Displaced people in the camps and those resettled in temporary shelters continue to receive food (20 kg of rice/person/day) and cash (LAK 100,000/person/month plus LAK 15,000/person/3-days).
- Households in the affected not-displaced villages will be receiving in-kind food assistance starting November.
- Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening ongoing in all camps and host communities, and is now included in the integrated health outreach package being implemented each month in the affected villages.
- Children with severe acute malnutrition are being treated with Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food and children with moderate acute malnutrition are given Nutributter provided through the District Health Authorities.
- A nutrition assessment consisting of Mid-Upper Arm Circumference screening of children 6-59 months is being planned for with Ministry of Health; Nutrition Centre and the Provincial and district health authorities.

Gaps

- Current food assistance to the seven affected non-displaced villages in Sanamxay district will continue into early 2019. As there is limited opportunity for a winter crop, the villagers will be dependent on assistance until the next main crop in October 2019. Cash for work would be an opportunity but off farm work is limited so the approach to be used needs to be thought through carefully.
- Though limited, there are options for some winter crops, provided farmers have seeds and other inputs. The nearest physical market is in the Sanamxay district capital which is 25 km away and has limited demand.
- With malnutrition numbers high in the area, given the community remains in a situation of stress, blanket distribution of supplementary food like Nutributter to children under five (6-59 months) into 2019 remains necessary.



Health

Needs

- Priority public health concerns reported through enhanced disease surveillance in Attapeu Province are influenza-like illness, severe acute respiratory illnesses, diarrhea, and dengue fever.
- The Ministry of Health is collecting and consolidating information on the impact of flooding on damages and losses in health infrastructures and health services across the country. This will be conducted as a formal assessment as part of a cross-sectoral Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, with field visits to priority provinces most heavily affected.
- The Ministry of Health is requesting to ensure routine health services are functional not only in Attapeu Province but also in other flood affected areas throughout the country

Response

Coordination

- The Ministry of Health Disaster Response Plan for Attapeu has been shared with health cluster members. This will form the basis of the clusters' ongoing response plans in Attapeu
- The Ministry of Health has developed a response plan for the flood affected provinces outside of Attapeu. This is being finalized and submitted to the National Disaster Committee for review and approval before it can be shared with developmental partners.
- A Post-Disaster Need Assessment in the health sector will be conducted from 3 - 10 October. The tool has been reviewed and the training for data collectors has been completed.

Health Operations

- Surveillance in the affected areas has detected increased cases of influenza-like illness and severe acute respiratory infection. Dengue case numbers are also being closely monitored, following the easing of rain throughout the country
- Psychological first aid training was completed on 26 and 27 September to continue supporting the capacity of health care workers in Attapeu Province. Psychological first aid training materials were developed with health partners, Lao and Thai mental health teams; also, an advocacy workshop was completed that introduced the WHO Mental Health Global Action Programme to Ministry of Health, Attapeu Provincial and district health offices, Champasak Province Provincial Health Office and Sekong Province Provincial Health Office
- Maternal and child health services are being provided in temporary emergency shelters in Sanamxay District including antenatal and postnatal care, delivery assistance and family planning. The District Health Office in Sanamxay continues to monitor pregnant women in affected areas, including identifying pregnant women at the last stage of pregnancy. From 19 September to 2 October, 13 safe deliveries were reported by the District Health Office.
- The Minimum Initial Service Package is about to start in Sanamxay District to respond to reproductive health needs supported by health partners.
- A joint data collection tool for Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health has been developed by health partners and sent to Attapeu Provincial Health Department for use.
- There is ongoing distribution of hygiene kits and hygiene promotion in Attapeu Province with the plan to expand to other flood affected areas.

- Family planning services have also been provided in Huaphanh Province.
- Outcomes from the ongoing arsenic water testing have been made available and partners provided technical recommendations to the Ministry of Health based on these tests.
- Construction of an incinerator at Sanamxay District Hospital has begun to address the issues surrounding medical waste disposal.

Public Health Interventions

- **Immunisation:** Staff have been deployed for seasonal influenza vaccination in targeted villages in Huaphanh and Xiengkhuang Province. Preparation for a second round of supplementary immunisation activities for routine immunisations is being planned in 9 provinces starting around the second week of October. The oral cholera vaccine has completed its second round. In total 10,086 vaccines have been administered in both the camps and other villages, bringing the total number of doses administered to 17,428, including 7,342 from the first round. A third round of oral cholera vaccine immunisation is planned to start mid-October and will be co-administered with typhoid vaccine. This is the first time these two vaccines have been administered together in Laos. A request has been received at central level to send typhoid vaccine to Oudomxay Province in response to detection of 29 cases.
- **Mental Health:** Psychological First Aid and mental health mobile clinics have been provided to the 7 main camps covering more than 4,300 people. 299 people were identified with psychological distress and managed by the medical team. More than 2,000 Mental health pamphlets were distributed in Sanamxay District for further awareness campaigns and training. More than 100 Psychological First Aid Guidelines in English and Thai versions were distributed. The Psychological First Aid guide was translated into Lao language and distributed
- Joint statement on breast milk substitutes use has been released.
- Vector control activities are continuing with larvae surveys and fogging ongoing in Sanamxay District. Larvae have been detected in host villages.

Outbreaks investigation

- **Thiamine deficiency causing acute beriberi outbreak in Khammouane Province:** Active beriberi case finding was conducted in September for the period June 2018 to 20 September 2018 in 10 districts of Khammouane. Weekly surveillance for suspected beriberi was established and will continue tentatively until 18 October. Vitamin B1 distribution monitoring form was developed. Vitamin B1 was distributed for 14 days, in 4 villages. The second round of vitamin B1 distribution is planned with the next supplementary immunisation campaigns during the 20-30 October. Health education products are being produced to inform communities of the symptoms of thiamine deficiency and how it can be prevented.
- Surveillance reports from Sanamxay District have detected clusters of influenza-like illness cases in Pindong camp. Rapid Response Teams have been deployed to collect samples.
- Dengue death was reported on 11 September from Sanamxay District. Provincial Health Department is investigating this death and outcomes are pending.

Gaps

- Collection of drugs that were given by donors and foreign medical teams with no labelling or labels in a foreign language is ongoing.
- Medicine supplies have been sent to Huaphanh Province but needs still have to be quantified for the other provinces.
- Engagement of community in vector control in affected areas.
- Maintenance of mental health support and expansion to other affected areas.



Logistics

Needs

- Additional resources to assist the Government in organizing and recording donated relief items.

Response

- Warehouse support continues to be provided to the Government. Reorganization of relief supplies that have arrived in Vientiane has been completed.

- Confirmation has been received that ASEAN will donate 1,000 mts of rice to Lao PDR through the Asean Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve.

Gaps

- Information on road access continues to be an issue. If partners have information they are encouraged to share with the cluster lead for further dissemination.



Shelter including Camp Management

Needs

- Housing damage was identified in 11 provinces. 1,902 houses were assessed as totally damaged and 387 as partially damaged, as per data from the National Disaster Management Office. No updates are available yet, as information obtained is being processed.

Response

Government and UN Agency representatives have visited the provinces of Xiengkhuang, Luangprabang and Oudomxay between 27 September and 2 October, and Attapeu on 4 October for the Shelter and Settlements subsector of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment.

- A third round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix in Attapeu has been completed and the draft Temporary Shelter Report is currently under translation and review.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- Waste (Liquid and Solid) management needs to be improved
- Mobilization of Hygiene Volunteers, Health Workers and communities in remote camps is required for hygiene promotion and health care.
- Hygiene and WASH management needs to be improved in Hadyoa temporary site
- WASH assessment needs to be conducted in the flood affected villages where people have not been displaced

Response

- Installation of 12 Pour Flush toilets as per Provincial Nam Saat request completed in Pindong camp in early September.
- 5 Boreholes drilled in Tamayod and 4 boreholes in Pingdong camps.
- 8 latrines and 4 bath cubicles constructed in Pingdong.
- 5 new mobile latrines installed in Tamayod camp. Installation of 15 mobile latrines are planned.
- 6 more latrines provided in Ban Bok Camp as 46 families (194 people from Oudomxay /Sanamxay camps) moved in the Ban Bok camp.
- 200,000 Chlorine tablets provided (one tab equivalent to disinfect 5 liters of clear water).
- Provincial and central Nam Saat has been collecting and testing essential 5-6 parameters in accordance to the WHO water quality guideline in emergency. Water samples for testing and validating arsenic concentration were collected from all boreholes in all camps. After testing, it is found a low Arsenic contain in boreholes in Pindong camp.
- Low level arsenic below the standard was detected in two boreholes. The last report shared by Ministry of Health. Testing was done in University Science and Chemistry Lab and all water samples collected from the water points are lower than the Standard.
- Samples for e-coli have been regularly collected from all water sources, tanks, treated/filtered water at point of uses. E-coli result (59 per 100mg) for one borehole in Tamayod camp was not complying with the national and WHO standard, and recommendation with SOP for cleaning and disinfecting borehole were given to the government counterparts.

- Other parameters such as residual chlorine, turbidity and pH for operational monitoring were compiled the drinking water quality standard in all water sources, storage, delivery and point of use. However, the rapid test for those operational monitoring indicators will be continued, as the results can be changed due operation of water supply.
- All health posts have been provided with on-site training on medical waste management. Basic supply (black and yellow bins, plastic bags, personal protective equipment for waste handlers) for general and infectious waste separation, storage and disposal procured and provided to all health posts. Sharp waste management equipment (safety box and needle cutters) was provided to all health posts.
- The construction of an incinerator for medical waste disposal at the health facility for temporary use was supported.
- Installed 5 sets of hand washing systems in 4 camps/ tents for Child Friendly Spaces
- Training for partners and field assessors on the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment has taken place 26 September and orientation on the field assessment on 2 October in Central Nam Saat. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, the WASH and Health Team are travelling to six provinces to conduct the field assessment (data verification and validation) starting from 3 October until 12 October.
 - Group 1: Houaphanh and Xiengkhouang Provinces: Houaphanh: Houameuang and Xiengkhor Districts; Xiengkhouang: Kham and Nonghaed Districts
 - Group 2: Khammouane and Savanakheth Provinces; Khammouane: Boualapha, Sebangfai and Mahaxay Districts; Savanakheth: Viraburi, Sayburi and Songkhone Districts
 - Group 3: Champassack and Attapeu Provinces: Champasack: Mounlapamok and Phonthong Districts; Attapeu: Sanamxay and Saysetha Districts

Gaps

- Water quality monitoring and surveillance (water sample testing at source and point of use)
- Hygiene promotion specifically hand hygiene (hand washing with soap and clean water)
- Drainage and waste water management
- Technical support to Hadyao shelters for waste water management
- Improve water system and hand washing station in Banbok primary school is needed.
- Availability of quality data from the affected provinces for PDNA is a challenge.



Education

In Attapeu

Needs

- A total of 29 schools including 57 buildings and 172 classrooms affected with about 4,500 students (more than 3,300 in 24 primary schools and about 1,200 in 5 secondary schools). Out of which, 7 schools seriously damaged, including 2 schools totally destroyed. About 26,900 textbooks and teacher guides, and 1,300 sets of desks and chairs in those schools damaged.
- Government has announced “Back to School” as a top priority as the new school year started in September, aiming to ensure all children, including disaster-affected children and those in host communities, will get registered and attend school by end of September.
- While schools in Sanamxay district are partially open to date, some grades and classes remain closed. There are continued shortages of classrooms, teachers and materials in schools in host communities to accommodate increased number of students with evacuated children. Temporary learning spaces are necessary both for primary and secondary levels.

Response

- The collected data from a detailed assessment for “Back to School”, which was undertaken by a Ministry of Education and Sports-development partners joint team, was analyzed, covering all the 29 affected schools in Sanamxay district. Key results of the assessment were presented at the 4th Education Cluster meeting held on 25 September. It will also inform the ongoing Post-Disaster Needs Assessment for the education sector.

- Data collection and validation for Post-Disaster Needs Assessment for education is being conducted during 1-7 October.
- Based on the detailed assessment results, more updated needs for support are being identified. Based on which, 250 pre-primary teacher guides have been provided; and 25 large size tents have been procured and transported to Attapeu for Temporary learning spaces. Setting up of Temporary learning spaces using those tents will start during the week of 8 October. Reprinting of textbooks and other teaching-learning materials, as well as procurement of school furniture and equipment is underway.
- Close and regular monitoring and consultations with the local authorities continue to fulfill “Back to School”, as the camp population and location keep moving fast and the schooling situations remain fluid.
- In linkage with the child protection response for Child Friendly Spaces, and in coordination with the Government, Early Childhood Development / Early Childhood Education and psychosocial support is currently being provided in five camps, as complementary to formal schooling.

Gaps

- On-time monitoring and support for fast-changing schooling situations
- Finalization of updated information on the priority needs for development partners’ coordinated support for actions
- Long-term recovery and development support plan

Other Provinces

Needs

- While specific and updated information on the impacts and needs are yet to be identified, initial information by the Government on the affected schools indicates as follows:
 - Vientiane capital (35 schools in 5 districts)
 - Huaphan (16 schools in 4 districts)
 - Udomxay (7 schools in 7 districts)
 - Bokeo (5 schools in 5 districts)
 - Luang Prabang (7 schools in 3 districts)
 - Xaiyaboury (15 schools in 5 districts)
 - Xiengkhuang (26 schools in 7 districts)
 - Borikhamxai (4 schools)
 - Khammouane (82 schools in 7 districts)
 - Savannakhet (25 schools in 2 districts)
 - Sekong (2 schools)
 - Champasack (18 schools in 10 districts)
 - Vientiane province (30 schools in 4 districts)

Response

- Situation and needs assessments are underway for Savannakhet, Khammouane, Sayaboury, Luang Prabang, Bokeo and Oudumxay provinces, by MoES-development partners joint teams. Key results will be presented in the next Education cluster meeting.
- Post-Disaster Needs Assessment field mission is ongoing in Khammouane and Savannakhet.

Gaps

- Situation and needs assessment covering all the affected districts and provinces, to plan for concrete actions for the full school registration of affected children and their continuous school attendance, and the operationalization of schools as soon as possible.



Protection

Needs

- More and continuous training for volunteers that is needed in the Child Friendly Spaces due to turn over and relocations of people in the camps

Response

- Total number of 1725 children (828 boys and 897 girls) including 593 (316 boys and 277 girls) aged 3-5 years; 557 (258 boys and 299 girls) aged 6-10 years; 575 (254 boys and 312 girls) aged 11-18 years attended activities in five Child Friendly Spaces located in Sanamxay Kingdergarten School, Sanamxay Secondary School, Mitsamphan Primary School, Pindong and Donbok. A needs assessment was conducted and preparation underway for establishment of a new Child Friendly Space in Tamayod Camp.
- A checklist and key questions for sectors' assessment are developed and shared with all sectors for Post-Disaster Needs Assessment field assessment to ensure that gender and social inclusion issues including people with disability and ethnic minority are well covered during assessment. Many sectors have shown interests to accommodate this specific issue and invite the cluster to join specific sector assessment; however due to limited resources, protection cluster is only able to provide technical guidance to other sectors.
- Two teams from protection cluster led by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare will conduct field assessment for Post-Disaster Needs Assessment in two affected provinces: Attapeu and Vientiane on 4 - 7 October and will cover child protection, gender-based violence and gender and social inclusion issues. Data and information from other affected provinces will be collected by Lao Women's Union and Labour and Social Welfare office at province level.

Gaps

- Limited resources available to provide technical training on the ground that are needed such as psychosocial support.
- Limited resources to join sectors' assessment for addressing gender and social inclusion as cross cutting issue under Post-Disaster Needs Assessment.

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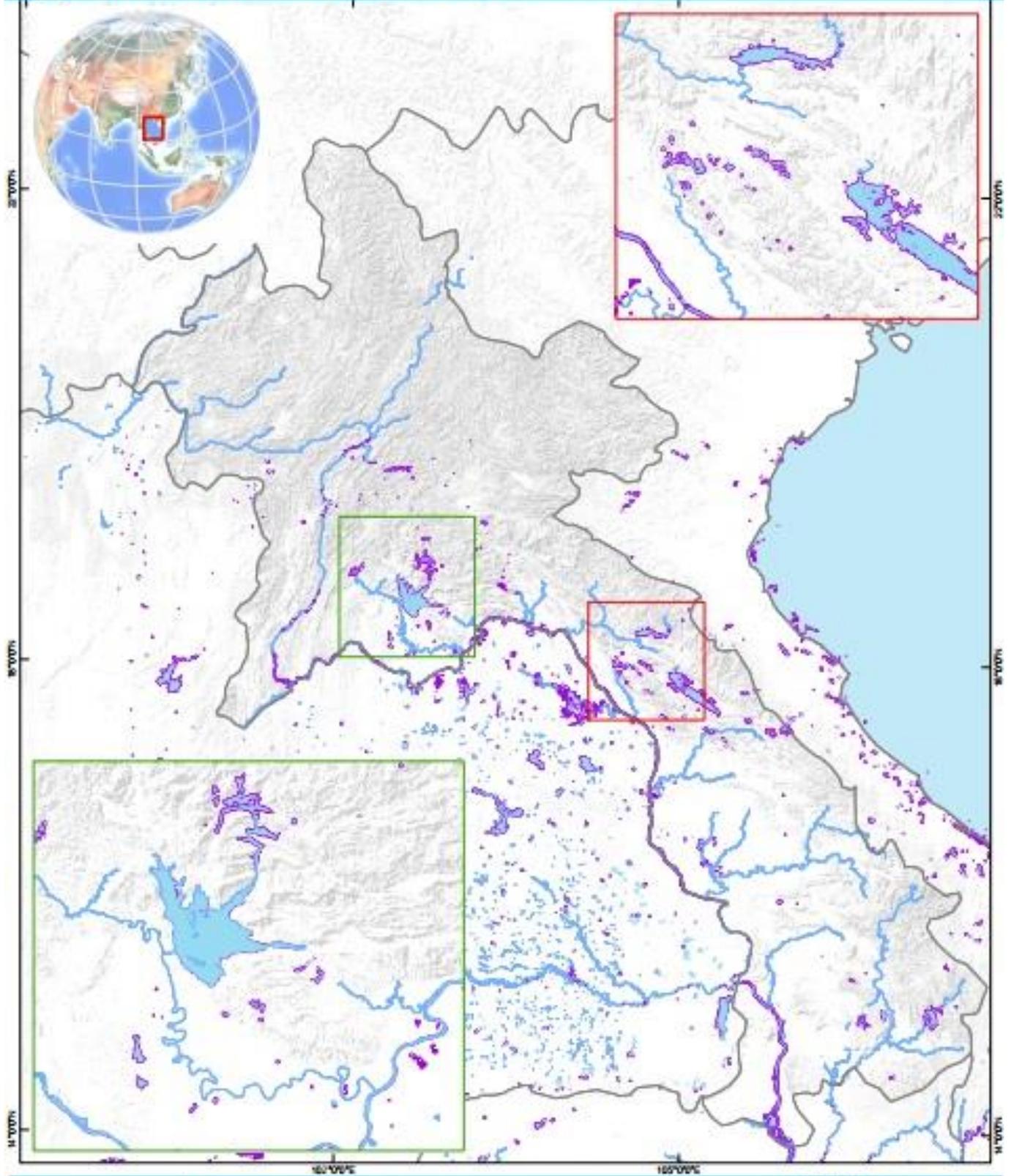
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Lao PDR

Map of MODIS Satellite Flood, 04 October 2018



Date Created: 4 Oct 2018

Contact: manithaphone.mahaxay@wfp.org

Website: www.wfp.org

Legend

- Current floodwater
- Permanent water body
- Country boundary



DATA SOURCES:

- Lao Department of Statistics
- Lao National Geographical Department
- WFP Lao PDR
- NASA, Earth Data

The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply a formal endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.