

Lao PDR: Floods

Humanitarian Country Team Information Bulletin No.2

(as of 21 September 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

- Lao PDR was hit by two tropical storms, Sontinh and Bebinca, with sustained rainfalls over the past three months and with the rainy season expected to continue for a few more weeks. According to latest Government reports, all provinces have been affected, including an estimated 116 districts, 2,400 villages and 132,000 households. Around 17,000 people are currently evacuated from their villages, and 1,772 houses have been destroyed. Approximately 150 km of national and provincial roads, as well as 133 km of district and 350 km of rural roads and 47 bridges have been damaged. Moreover, around 100,000 hectares of paddy field have been damaged, and a large number of livestock has been lost, including 17,000 large animals and 79,000 poultry. Irrigation systems have been heavily damaged. The most affected provinces are Attapeu, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Champasak and Oudomxay.
- A Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) led by the Government will be launched on 24 September. The PDNA provides a platform for the international community to assist in recovery and reconstruction. It comprises a Damage and Loss Assessment, a Human Recovery Needs Assessment and a Recovery Framework. The findings, scheduled to be presented on 31 October, are expected to inform the National Assembly, the Mid-Term Review of 8th NSEDP and the Round Table Meeting. 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 UN Team and the European Union together with INGOs will be supporting the Government across several sectors, with country-wide geographical scope.
- Schooling has partially resumed and in Attapeu families staying in the camps in school areas have been relocated to other areas to provide space for classes. The UN Team and INGOs are working closely with the Ministry of Education and Sports to ensure education continuity for all children. The Government estimates 272 schools across the country have been affected by flood. While the damage is distributed among 12 provinces, Khammouane province alone is accountable for 30 percent of the number with 82 damaged schools.
- Residents of camps in Sanamxay receive 20 kg of rice and LAK 250,000 per person per month from district authorities. This amount of rice should be sufficient to serve families' needs from a carbohydrate perspective. To complement the diet, other products can be procured in the local markets, which are working well, in and around most of the camps. Meanwhile, a beriberi outbreak has been reported in Khammouane province. Beriberi is linked to a lack of diet diversification, which may be related to the floods, but may also have other causes. Price increases of essential goods were reported in the regions with damaged road access.
- Apart of flooding and landslides, the country is also currently affected by a continuing locust outbreak in five provinces in the North, a flood-related White Back Hopper outbreak in Xayaboury and Xekong and a rat epidemic in Luang Namtha.

 **55** reported deaths

 around **100** people missing

 **3,616** evacuated households

 **647,000** people affected

Humanitarian Response



Food Security & Nutrition

Needs

- There are reports of beriberi outbreaks in one district of Khammouane province. This could be an indication of deteriorating food security situation due to a lack of diversification in the diet, though beriberi can also have other causes.
- There is some anecdotal information from Khammouane Province indicating a hike in prices due to difficulties to access the districts. This is yet to be confirmed and will be looked into in the coming days.

Response

- Nutrition assessment for children under five years of age is being planned for Khammouane Province within the next two weeks.
- B complex vitamins are being provided by the Ministry of Health to affected villages in Khammouane Province to address the rise in beriberi (thiamine deficiency).
- Micronutrient Powder will be sent to Khammouane province for children 6-23 months to supplement dietary intake of micronutrients.
- Residents of camps in Sanamxay receive 20 kg of rice and LAK 250,0000 per person per month from district authorities. This amount of rice should be sufficient to serve families' needs from a carbohydrate perspective. To complement the diet, other products can be procured in the local markets in and around most of the camps. Access to the villages with affected but not displaced people remains challenging. While the district authorities are also providing assistance there, the overall picture on their food security situation remains unclear.
- Screening for acute malnutrition continues in Sanamxay district in Attapeu. The total number of Moderate Acute Malnutrition to date is 42 and total number of Severe Acute Malnutrition is 12.
- All cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition are being treated as out-patients with ready to use therapeutic food and weekly monitoring by Attapeu Provincial and Sanamxay District health teams.
- Nutributter is being provided as supplementary food to all children 6-59 months of age as well as pregnant and lactating women through the District Health Office during health campaign visits on a monthly basis to all 13 affected villages, and on a bi-weekly basis to those in camps.
- Training on management of acute malnutrition for provincial and district hospital health staff is planned for end of September.
- Infant and young child feeding counselling is being provided to all camps via health teams in Pindong, Tamoyod and Ban Bok and by District Maternal, Child Health team in Sanamxay city camps.



Health

Needs

- Priority public health concerns are influenza-like illnesses, severe acute respiratory illnesses, diarrhea, and dengue fever, based on enhanced surveillance data collected in Attapeu Province.
- The Ministry of Health is collecting and consolidating information on the impact of flooding on health services across the country. Initial reports have revealed that 34 health facilities were damaged in 10 provinces. There is a need to conduct further assessments of the damaged facilities to identify barriers to accessing health services in those locations.

Response

- As reported by the Attapeu Provincial Health Department, a total of 40 provincial health staff were deployed for the flood response to health posts in emergency shelters and the District Hospital in Sanamxay.
- A Thai Medical Team provided two days of clinical consultations in Sanamxay District between 5 – 6 September.

- Influenza vaccination was provided to a cumulative number of 4,368 patients. A cholera vaccination campaign was conducted, where the first dose of the vaccine was administered to 7,342 individuals between 23 August – 2 September. WASH and health promotion activities have been integrated into this vaccination campaign to increase awareness of diarrheal diseases and the importance of hand hygiene. The second round of the cholera vaccination campaign is scheduled to start on 19 September. Support to Attapeu Provincial Health Department for routine vaccination is ongoing.
- Rapid Response Teams were deployed to 5 villages in Sanamxay District where clusters of influenza-like illnesses were reported. The teams collected samples for investigation, conducted health education on hygiene and cough etiquette, and provided masks to patients and contact person. Also, 8 cases of a food poisoning were reported in Tamayod camp on 4 September. The Rapid Response Teams provided health education to those affected and their relatives in the village.
- The Provincial Anti-malarial Unit, Centre for Malaria, Parasitology and Entomology, along with the UN, conducted on-the-job training of ten community volunteers on Indoor Residual Spraying activities in the newly constructed Hadyao temporary village and Pindong emergency shelter.
- Maternal and child health services are being provided in eight 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 6 September to 18 September, 8 safe deliveries were reported by the District Health Office.
- Capacity building of the District Health Office and Sanamxay health workers in health promotion and service provision for routine immunization, management of diarrhea and acute respiratory illnesses, as well as the referral of children with danger signs is ongoing.
- Psychological First Aid and mental health mobile clinics were provided in 7 emergency shelters covering more than 3,500 people. 257 people were identified with psychological distress and managed by medical teams. 7 PFA training sessions were provided to 171 participants (community representatives/leaders, student volunteers, district hospital staff and village health workers) from the 4 main emergency shelters.
- An alert was generated and investigated by the Rapid Response Team in Khammouane Province. Preliminary results of the investigation have identified suspected cases of Thiamine Deficiency. Administration of Vitamin B1 treatment is being provided in two districts.

Gaps

- Scaling up Psychological First Aid services in the Sanamxay District. Training on Psychological First Aid and mental health global action plan – humanitarian intervention guide, is planned to be implemented on 26-27 September at Attapeu provincial health office.



Logistics

Needs

- Continued information on access is important so that updates can be shared with partners. Organizations are encouraged to share information with the cluster, so they can update members.

Response

- Additional storage support will be provided to the Government. Reorganization of relief supplies that have arrived in Vientiane is under process. A better idea of what is in stock is now available. Continued work is needed, however, as there are large quantities of unorganized goods.

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, with 1,772 houses totally damaged and 514 partially damaged.

Response

- The Department of Housing and Urban Planning has informed that master plans for the four most affected villages Tamayod, Pindong, Done Bak and Done Bok are currently under review by the Government. The affected people of these four villages will be resettled on a priority basis. It is therefore expected that by beginning 2019 the remaining nine affected villages will be provided assistance based on Build Back Better principle.
- 21 Government Officials received training on data collection in Attapeu and the third round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix was conducted together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and other line ministries. The results will feed into the third Temporary Shelter Report as well as the second round of the Joint Rapid Assessment Report to be led by the Ministry of Health.

Gaps

- Resettlement master plans were developed by a private company and shared with the Government recently. There is still no information about these plans' characteristics and the way they will be implemented.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- Additional 128 latrines are needed in the camps to meet the Sphere Standard (20 users/toilet).
- Additional water points and waste (liquid and solid) managements are needed.
- Mobilization of health communities, including hygiene volunteers and health workers, in remote camps is required for hygiene promotion and healthcare provision.

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 Pindong camps.
- 8 latrines and 4 bath cubicles constructed in Pindong.
- 5 new mobile latrines installed by Red Cross 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 disinfecting 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. Testing revealed low levels of Arsenic contained in boreholes in Pindong camp.
- Low level arsenic below the standard was detected in two boreholes. The last report was shared by the Ministry of Health and testing was done at the Science and Chemistry Lab (Ministry of Education and Sports). Testing for e-coli has been regularly conducted at all water sources, tanks, treated/filtered water at point of uses. E-coli results (59 per 100mg) for one borehole in Tamayod camp did not comply with the national standards nor with the WHO standards. Recommendations with Standard Operating Procedures for cleaning and disinfecting boreholes were given to the government counterparts.
- Other parameters such as residual chlorine, turbidity and pH for operational monitoring were considered for the water quality test. 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.
- Five sets of hand-washing systems were installed in four camps.
- For the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, WASH will form three groups to go to the field starting from 1 October. group 1 will cover Huaphanh and Oudomxay provinces as well as Vientiane province; group 2 will cover Khammouane and Savanakhet; and group 3 Champasack and Attapeu.

Gaps

- Access by road to Pindong, Tamayod and Ban Bok camps remains challenging. Now accessible via Ban Mai.
- Water quality monitoring and surveillance. E-coli test should be done again after disinfecting, in the borehole where E. coli was not complying with the standard. Arsenic should be tested during the construction of a borehole, as advised to the contractors to drill it.
- Hygiene Promotion, specifically hand hygiene (hand-washing with soap and clean water).



Education

Across Lao PDR

Needs

- While specific and updated information on the impact and needs are yet to be identified, initial information by the Government on the number of affected schools is as follows:
 - Vientiane capital (35 schools in 5 districts)
 - Huaphan (16 schools in 4 districts)
 - Oudomxay (7 schools in 7 districts)
 - Bokeo (5 schools in 5 districts)
 - Luang Prabang (7 schools in 3 districts)
 - Xayaboury (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 assessment is under preparation for Savannakhet, Khammouane, Xayaboury, Luang Prabang, Bokeo and Oudomxay provinces and will be undertaken by the Ministry of Education and Sports and development partner joint teams. Discussions are ongoing to explore possibilities for combining the assessments with the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment for efficiency in overlapping provinces.

Gaps

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

In Attapeu

Needs

- A total of 29 schools including 57 buildings and 172 classrooms are affected with a total of around 4,500 students (more than 3,300 in 24 primary schools and about 1,200 in 5 secondary schools) affected. Of these, 7 schools have been 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 have been damaged.

- The Government has announced “Back to School” as a top priority as the new school year started in September, aiming to ensure all children, including those affected by the disaster and those in host communities, will get registered and attend school by the end of September.
- While schools in Sanamxay district are partially open to date, many grades and classes remain closed, since some classrooms continue to be occupied as shelters, and there are shortages of classrooms and teachers 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

- Detailed assessment for “Back to School” was completed covering all the 29 affected schools in Sanamxay district, by 16 September by a joint team including members of the Ministry of Education and Sports and development partners. Collected data is being analyzed and will be presented in the next cluster meeting. The data will inform the upcoming Post-Disaster Needs Assessment.
- Based on the detailed assessment results, more updated needs for support are being identified. Accordingly, procurement of key supply materials is in process, including tents for temporary learning spaces and re-printing of textbooks. Close and regular monitoring and consultations with the local authorities will continue to fulfill “Back to School”, as the camp population and location keep moving fast and the schooling situations remain fluid.
- Preparation for PDNA in process, to be further discussed in the next Cluster meetings.
- In linkage with the child protection response for Child Friendly Space, and in coordination with the Government, Early Childhood Development / Early Childhood Education and psychosocial support is currently being provided in 5 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’ support for actions.
- Long-term recovery and development support plan.



Protection

Needs

- Continuous training for staff and volunteers working in the Child-Friendly Spaces is needed due to staff rotation and recruitment of new volunteers to fill in the human resource gaps is required.
- Capacity building for Lao Women’s Union and its network at province and district levels to implement Women Friendly Spaces.
- Need to build national capacity for sustainable and post disaster phase child protection system development and on gender-based violence prevention and response.
- Depending on the scale and methodology of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, there might be a need for more human and financial resources.

Response

- The Child Friendly Spaces continue the services and have provided services to a total cumulative number of 3,805 children since its operation started on 18 August.
- A joint field visit to Attapeu was conducted by the Lao Women’s Union and the National Commission on the Advancement of Women, Mother and Child from 13 to 15 September to collect data on gender-based violence reported cases after the flood and to assess the capacity of counselling units and hospitals in the province and district to provide multi-sectoral services for the Gender-Based Violence survivors.
- Based on the data from the counselling units of the Lao Women’s Union in Attapeu province and Sanamxay district, there have not been cases of Gender-Based Violence reported since the beginning of the emergency.
- Locations for the establishment of Women Friendly Spaces have been identified and the Lao Women’s Union at district level is following up with the district governor office and the camp manager for the preparation.

- Members of the protection cluster have been actively engaged during the preparation of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment and to provide support for the protection sub sector's assessment and on gender and social inclusion as the one of cross cutting issues under the assessment.

Gaps

- Limited resources available to provide technical training on the ground such as psychosocial support etc.
- Limited organizations working on Gender-Based Violence prevention and response in Sanamxay and lack of community involvement in the prevention and response in the camps and temporary shelters.
- Limited spaces in the newly constructed temporary shelters for establishing friendly spaces for women and children.

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