Lao PDR: Flooding in Sanamxay District
Office of the UN Resident Coordinator Situation Report No. 03
(as of 27 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 several provinces, the most severe being Sanamxay District, Attapeu Province. This is the largest flood the country has seen in the past ten years.
- Response activities have begun with staff from several UN agencies joining government staff for rapid assessment teams on the scope of the disaster.
- The initial rapid assessment started on 26 July, clusters are using some of the report from the field for planning and finalizing their response plan and to confirm caseloads.
- The UN is consolidating a list of support for the disaster response from the UN Agencies, INGOs and development partners to submit to the Government.
- The UN has activated 5 clusters, namely WASH, Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Logistics. Clusters are working on a detailed matrix which shows the needs, response and gaps, under each cluster.
- Moderate to heavy rains have been forecast across Laos for the coming days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People in shelters</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>3,060</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11,034</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>1,494</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
- Sanamxay District:
  - It has a population of 35,553 of which 17,622 are females, a total of 6891 families.
  - 11,034 people were affected, of which 5,123 are females, 131 people remain missing. 587 households (3,060 people) registered in the emergency shelter.
• Impacts on Lifelines and Public Infrastructures include the following: 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 needs have been identified:
  o Rescue boats
  o Mobile toilet
  o Tents for emergency shelter for 1,370 families
  o Personal Hygiene Kits for 6,630 people
  o 1,370 set of housing repair kits
  o Command post tent with operations and support equipment
  o Psychological-social support

**Humanitarian Response**

The provincial and district Disaster Prevention and Control Committee are continuing with the response actions. Incident Command Posts have been set in the districts to control the situation in an effective and timely manner.

UNDP Crisis Board met on 26 July and has approved the Declaration of Level 1 Crisis. Initial fund allocation of USD$ 100,000 has been approved to support humanitarian and recovery needs assessment and coordination. UNDP Administrator has written to H.E. Prime Minister of Lao PDR reiterating UNDP support and the letter was officially handed over to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 27 July 2018.

**Food, Security and Nutrition**

• **Needs:** The immediate food needs for the 6,400 displaced people in Sanamxay District would amount to approximately 96 tons per month. Additionally, Attapeu Province had a very high wasting rate before the floods, (15% in the recent LSIS2), therefore, these kinds of calamities will exacerbate malnutrition to even worse levels. There are urgent nutrition support needs.

• **Response:** In this initial phase WFP is providing food assistance to be transported from the Pakse warehouse and distributed through the local committee during the weekend (28-29 July). The plan is to transport a 2-weeks supply for the 6,400 affected people consisting of two food items; Nutributter, a special nutritious food in sachets for children, and canned fish for families.

• **Gaps and constraints:** As no new contributions in food assistance have been identified, there exists a 96 ton gap of food next month. In the long-term communities will have lost their harvest and sources of food for the season, long-term recovery efforts will need to focus on supporting communities to become productive again and addressing their food security.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

• **Needs:** More mobile latrines and clean water to meet the needs of the affected families.

• **Response:** Temporary mobile latrines are set up at shelter, and current water established point produced about 5000 litre of water per day of drinking water. Water purification tablets have been sent to the shelter.

**Logistics**

• **Needs:** Organizations expressed a need to know about road conditions and access. The direct route Pakse to Attapeu is damaged, although repairs are underway. However, the road from Pakse to Attapeu via Thateng is open and is being used for the movement of cargo.
**Response:** Efforts will use WFP’s existing logistics infrastructure in the area. This includes a warehouse and mobile storage unit which is available. Prepositioning of cargo will be at WFP’s warehouse in Pakse before transporting to affected areas. WFP’s has transport contracts in place for the movement of goods from Pakse to Attapue. WFP also sent a mission from Pakse to Attapeu via Thateng on Thursday morning to inform the logistics cluster on road conditions access.

**Gaps and constraints:** The major issue is information on where affected person are and how to deliver cargo the final mile. Additionally, a forward command center needs to be set up in the field, preferably Pakse as organizations are starting to send staff and need to know how to coordinate at the field level.

**Shelter**

**Needs:** There are 13 affected villages comprising 2,836 HHs, 13,067 people of whom 6406 are women. There are 6 severely affected villages comprising 1,611 HHs, 7,095 people of whom 3,452 are women.

**Response:** Immediate shelter needs are still required with no partner distributions reported to date. The cluster will focus will be to rebuild after the water recedes. DHUP is ready to co-ordinate with agencies and requested UN-Habitat to act as a focal point in co-ordinating with agencies to develop a recovery and reconstruction strategy. The DG DHUP mentioned a detailed multi-agency/Cluster level assessment needs to be carried out at a later date and suggested DHUP and UN-Habitat form a team to conduct this. IOM is focusing on establishing information on evacuation shelter locations, demographics and contact information for each site to support immediate response needs. UNICEF will join the shelter cluster with a focus on ensuring child protection.

**Gaps and constraints:** The current focus is still on rescue of those who are still stranded and missing, and assistance to affected people currently evacuated and residing in six temporary shelters. A damage assessment is required for the full shelter response, but this will come later in the post relief phase.

**Health**

**Needs:** 48 cases were treated for trauma, 71 cases for fever and 3 cases for rash. There will be villagers needing support for trauma/injuries, diarrhoeal and fever in the coming days.

**Response:** From 24-25 July, 24 patients were admitted in provincial hospital, 159 cases were admitted in Sanamxay District Hospital. There are 4 mobile health teams with 5 people per team working in the 7 temporary camps. There are 3 health teams (fixed team) working in the field. About 210 people (including female: 131) who had used health service in the field. Foreign medical teams from Korea and Thailand have arrived to work with the local health authority.

**Gaps and constraints:** Measles vaccine, vitamin A and therapeutic milk can be made available immediately. Disease surveillance will continue in the field. 3000 personal hygiene kits will arrive in 3-5 days. Health equipment and consumables and emergency health and disease kit can be supplied within 72 hours. Measles vaccine, vitamin A and therapeutic milk can be made available immediately.

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