



Damaged house in Savannakhet Province (Photo: Pathelao daily)

Appeal: MDRLA009	Country: Lao People's Democratic Republic	Hazard: Flood	Type of DREF Assessment
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Slow	DREF Allocation: CHF 29,001	
Glide Number: FL-2023-000139-LAO	People Affected: 68,800 people	People Targeted: 21,006 people	
Operation Start Date: 2023-08-15	Operation Timeframe: 1 months	Operation End Date: 2023-09-30	DREF Published: 2023-08-16
Targeted Areas:	Bolikhamxai, Khammouan		

Description of the Event



Map highlighting the targeted areas of the operation. (Map: IM, IFRC)

What happened, where and when?

During August 2023, persistent heavy rain led to extensive flooding across central and southern regions of Laos. The flooding has damaged numerous farms and houses, affecting thousands of people in these inundated areas. According to the new released report from National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC), under the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MOLSW) on 9th August 2023, mentioned that 10 provinces, including Vientiane Capital, Houaphan, Xaignabouli, Xiangkhouang, Vientiane, Bolikhamxai, Khammouan, Savannakhet, Champasak and Xaixomboun were affected by floods.

The impact of the flooding was substantial. About 13,777 families, or approximately 68,800 individuals (estimated 35,700 female) living in 417 villages across 38 districts within these provinces were affected. Tragically, the report also confirmed that six people lost their lives due to the flooding, and one person is still missing.

Furthermore, the rainfall brought widespread flooding and landslides causing damaged of agriculture 183,950.35 hector, infrastructure which reported that 67 roads to become impassable, 67 irrigation didn't function, 3 district hospital, 3 schools 110 vehicles, estimated damaged cost was 19,199,305,000 LAK (equivalent 857,422 CHF). Notably, provinces hit hardest, including Borikhamxay, Khammuan. The immediate needs for food and clean drinking water have become urgent priorities.



Due to heavy rainfall, a section of the Mekong River embankment in Vientiane collapsed, causing flooding in low-lying farmlands. There were no reports of any lives lost due to this collapse. The affected embankment is located at Ban Hom village in Hadxaifong district, Vientiane. The collapse occurred after the water level rose shortly after midnight on August 10. There was no report of any significant impacts on the lives of local residents. Authorities however are closely monitoring the Mekong River and its tributaries due to anticipated rising water levels in the coming days. Those residing along the river have been advised to stay vigilant and be prepared to evacuate if required.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department reported that the Mekong river's water levels was near to the danger threshold in certain areas following several days of continuous rain. On August 10, the water levels at the Km 4 point in Vientiane measured 11.82 meters. Forecasts predict water levels to be 11.78 meters on August 11 and 11.51 meters on August 12. These levels exceed the warning threshold of 11.50 meters and are close to the danger level of 12.50 meters.



LRC mobilizing for relief kit and boat to support Bolikhamxai branch. (Photo: LRC)

Current National Society Actions

Coordination	LRC coordinated with National Disaster departments by National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC), The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MOLSW) to receive information for affected areas, as well as Red Cross branch at provincial level and district levels to be prepared for assistance needs.
Resource Mobilization	Since 9 August, 2023, LRC created SWIFT in responding to the floods by utilizing its local funds through its official Facebook page. Both the private sector and the public have generously contributed towards relief kits and cash, amounting to an estimated 92,390,000 KIP (equivalent 4,126 CHF).
National Society EOC	While LRC lacks a formal Emergency Operations Center (EOC), they have made earnest efforts to establish a disaster committee at its headquarters. To facilitate effective coordination, LRC leveraged the WhatsApp platform to establish and operate this committee, extending its reach to branch levels as well.
Livelihoods And Basic Needs	On 6 August 2023, LRC headquarters actively responded by deploying a team of 8, consisting of 1 health staff and 7 Red Cross Rescue Volunteers, along with



	1 boat, 100 relief kits, and 100 packs of drinking water, to support affected individuals in the Bolikhamxai branch.
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Since 8 August, in response to the need for clean water, two LRC branches - Bolikhamxai and Khammouan, have taken action to set up the AP700 system to provide clean water to a total of 208 families, comprising 1,021 individuals.

Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

IFRC	The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in Bangkok, Thailand covers the four Mekong countries of Thailand, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Cambodia, and Viet Nam. The IFRC CCD supports the National Societies in these countries in enhancing institutional capacity, responding to humanitarian needs in the event of disaster and crisis as well as in implementing development programmes. IFRC is closely monitoring the situation and maintaining close coordination with Lao Red Cross (LRC) to provide technical assistance during the development of the DREF application.
ICRC	N/A
Participating National Societies	Swiss Red Cross (SRC) as part of the ongoing Institutional Preparedness for National Society Development (IPNSD) initiative, has extended financial assistance to the LRC headquarters to support the Bolikhamxai branch for rapid response along with relief kits and drinking water.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
	At National Level assistance: The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MLOSW), along with the Ministry of National Defense, provided essential aid to those affected by the floods in three provinces: Borlikhamxai, Khammuan, and Savanakheth. The assistance included consumer goods such as rice, sanitary appliances, household items, and clothing. The total value of this support amounted to 573,927,000 kip, equivalent to 25,631 CHF. Furthermore, the MLOSW extended its aid by distributing fuel vouchers to the flood-affected population in ten provinces. The total cost of this initiative reached 360,000,000 kip, approximately 16,077 CHF. The Ministry of National Defense (MOD) played a crucial role by mobilizing military forces and vehicles to offer support. They distributed non-food items and food items, as well as provided temporary shelter equipment in Borlikhamxay, Khammuan, Savanakheth, and Huaphan Provinces. The Ministry of Health(MOH) took proactive measures by deploying a team



National authorities	equipped with a Mobile Water Purification Truck unit to produce clean water. They also distributed various water containers, including gallons, buckets, and water bowls, alongside essential medicines in Khammuan Province. The total value of this effort amounted to 418,573,868 kip, equivalent to 18,693 CHF. At provincial level assistance: Vientiane Province: The District Disaster Management Committee conducted field visits to gather information on the extent of the damage, the needs of affected individuals, and the condition of roads. Savannakhet Province: The Provincial Disaster Management Committee, in coordination with the District Disaster Management Committee, surveyed the affected areas across 7 districts. They provided essential assistance, including cash, drinking water, and food items, to those in need. Xaignabouli Province: The District Disaster Management Committee took swift action by deploying military forces, policemen, and local authorities to evacuate people from flood-affected areas to safe zones. Additionally, the committee offered guidance to village leaders and residents on post-flood house recovery measures. Champasak Province: Local authorities in Champasak Province conducted visits to flood-affected areas to assess the situation and gather data for reporting to national authorities. They also undertook repair work on roads and drainage systems to restore normalcy. Houaphan Province: The District Disaster Management Committee proactively monitored high-risk areas to ensure readiness for potential responses, including preparing manpower, vehicles, equipment, and safe zones. Khammouan Province: Both the provincial and district Disaster Management Committees vigilantly monitored high-risk zones. They mobilized manpower from various sectors to assist in evacuating affected people to safe locations. Additionally, the committee provided essential assistance in the form of cash, food, and non-food items to flood victims. The total cost of this support amounted to 344,481,000 kip, equivalent to 15,384 CHF.
UN or other actors	N/A

Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?

At the national level, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MOLSW) is taking a key coordinating role, working closely with provincial authorities. The Laos Red Cross (LRC) is actively collaborating with the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) and providing support in the designated areas to assist the affected population, as per its assignment from the government.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This DREF allocation aims at supporting Lao Red Cross to conduct rapid need assessments for the province of Khammoun and Bolikhamxai as assigned by MOLSW. Based on previous experiences where concrete information



was lacking, hindering effective assistance provision, LRC is seeking to apply for a DREF assessment. Furthermore, the existing information is inadequate for LRC to formulate a comprehensive plan of action and outline activities for each sector. The results of the assessments will facilitate the information for decision-making and implementation of the National Response Plan of LRC.

Operation strategy rationale

Following information from NDMC latest released on 9 August 2023, indicated that 10 provinces, including Vientiane Capital, Houaphan, Xaignabouli, Xiangkhouang, Vientiane, Bolikhamxai, Khammouan, Savannakhet, Champasak and Xaixomboun were affected by floods. LRC is closely coordinating with NDMC to provide an assistance to affected people based on capacity of LRC, the final decision for LRC guided by NDMC to support affected people in two provinces of Khammoun and Bolikhamxai. While the rest of 8 provinces will be supported by Government and other agencies assigned by government.

According to the information that is currently available establishes levels of affectation and losses only of a general type, which does not allow to identify which population is most affected, where actions should be reinforced or which aspects should be prioritized to minimize the damage caused by the emergency and those that will continue to be caused by the expected increase in rainfall and flooding. As this result, it is necessary for LRC to have damage assessments and needs analysis with a multi-sectorial approach, including Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI), which will allow to identify the real needs of the affected population and response strategies to address those.

A total of 27 personnel from both the headquarters and branches will be deployed for the assessment of this initiative. Additionally, an estimated 235 volunteers from 47 villages across 3 districts and 2 provinces (Bolikhamxai and Khammouan) will join the LRC team to work at the village level. These individuals will be divided into four teams, each responsible for collecting data in different villages. Within each team, one person will take the role of coordinating with provincial and district authorities, while the remaining members will engage in data collection using the Kobo toolbox. Upon the conclusion of the data collection phase, the teams will collaborate to consolidate and analyze the gathered information in order to produce a comprehensive report. The assessment will encompass approximately 4,718 families, comprising a total of 21,006 individuals, of which 10,331 are female, and they will be the target interviewees.

The assessment phase will consist of two weeks of field work, one week for the analysis of results and one week for the preparation of the assessment report. Therefore, in line with DREF procedures, the assessment is expected to be concluded within one month from the start date of the operation with the potential to do an Operational Update in between to transition to a DREF for Response during the duration of the assessment.

The necessary data will be gathered from family records using the KOBO tool or printed forms, taking into account security conditions and the distance between households. Anticipated survey duration for each assessment is a maximum of 30 minutes.

The Kobo assessment will primarily focus on household evaluations, incorporating a relevant questionnaire as outlined below:

- Shelter Condition Assessment: This section aims to estimate potential losses and displaced populations that still require assistance from the LRC. While the government will handle completely damaged houses, the LRC can offer support for partially damaged houses through multiple cash assistance options.
- Health Component: This questionnaire will gather data related to historical disease outbreaks in the affected areas. It will encompass vaccination and nutritional statuses for children under five years of age. Additionally, the access to health care services will be also identified during this assessment.
- Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI) Component: This section of the questionnaire will address the impact of the emergency on diverse and marginalized individuals. This includes various gender, age groups, individuals with disabilities, different health statuses, people from various ethnic backgrounds, and those with migrant status.
- Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) Component: This aspect ensures that individuals can access timely and accurate information about the nature and extent of assistance and services provided by the LRC. It also



emphasizes making people aware of the expected behavior of both staff and volunteers. Throughout the entire operational cycle, LRC's local volunteers and community members will be mobilized to support these assessments and remain involved.

To uphold the integrity of these operations, LRC staff and volunteers will adhere to LRC's staff regulations and receive pertinent safeguarding mechanisms.

To ensure comprehensive coverage of potential information, LRC will conduct refresher training on data collection using the Kobo toolbox. This training will include sessions on PGI and CEA components specifically tailored to LRC personnel and volunteers, with a focus on managing these aspects during emergencies.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Within this DREF operation (Assessment), LRC's main focus is on conducting rapid need assessments for the provinces of Khammoun and Bolikhamxai, as assigned by MOLSW. Based on previous experiences where concrete information was lacking, hindering effective assistance provision, LRC is applying for a DREF assessment. This initiative aims to facilitate swift and accurate need assessments, encompassing the identification of affected regions. Additionally, LRC intends to formulate an action plan that will support potential additional DREF requests, thereby aiding the affected population more effectively.

The primary target beneficiaries for assessment encompass individuals significantly affected by the floods. This group includes those with limited income or inadequate support from other organizations, households with disabilities or serious illnesses, families headed by women, pregnant women, families with children under 6 years old and elderly individuals aged 65 and above.

LRC's assessment is estimated to cover two provinces, namely Borlikhamxai and Khammuan, including three districts: Khamkerth (Borlikhamxai), Khounkham, and Nakai (Khammuan). This will involve a total of 47 villages, comprising 4,718 families in total. The number of affected individuals is 21,006, with 10,331 females.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The primary target beneficiaries for assessment encompass individuals significantly affected by the floods. This group includes those with limited income or inadequate support from other organizations, households with disabilities or serious illnesses, families headed by women, pregnant women, families with children under 6 years old, and elderly individuals aged 65 and above.

Total Targeted Population

Rural %	Urban %
%	%
People with disabilities (estimated %)	
%	
Total targeted population:	21,006



Risk and security considerations

Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Injuries or loss of life of staff or volunteer due to road accidents during assessments.	Due to the road condition and difficulty of accessing villages there might be an unexpected accident for LRC staff and volunteers. LRC will ensure availability of first aid kit in vehicles, first aid-trained staff, keep distance from potential targets, real-time monitoring of the situation and advising staff and volunteers, communication of activities and movement with all stakeholders, use of the protective emblem, Critical Incident Management and Emergency plans in place, movement monitoring.
The flood situation could potentially worsen.	LRC is planning to expand its operations and is considering requesting additional funding support from IFRC and its partners.
Health related risks: Water borne diseases (Cholera, Malaria, and Dengue fever) and vector-borne disease with reflecting increasing inundated spots as potential mosquitos breeding sites.	Given the context, there is a risk (in some area) of the spread of water-borne diseases consisting of fecal-oral diseases, water-related diseases, aquatic diseases and increasing inundated spots as potential mosquitos breeding sites. LRC together with volunteers at branches will provide health promotion sensitization to affected people in targeted communities, the topics will cover water-borne diseases and vector-born disease which are common in Laos. They will inform families about the risks of transmission and about cleaning their homes and surroundings, removing stagnant water and curbing pollution. In case of suspicion, they will inform the local health authorities to prevent the spread of a potential epidemic at an early stage. Volunteers will be given information on how to properly protect themselves against waterborne diseases and will be provided with protective equipment such as alcohol gel.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Adequate measures were taken to ensure the safety and security of all RCRC personnel involved in this operation. All Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers were encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses.

For personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support and integrated Participating National Societies deployed to the area, the existing IFRC country security plan, including security regulations, contingency plans for medical emergencies, relocation and critical incident management were applied. Field missions undertaken by IFRC personnel were undertaken following the current IFRC travel approval process, current health advisories and business continuity planning (BCP) guidance regarding COVID-19.



Planned Intervention

	National Society Strengthening	Budget	CHF 25,231
		Targeted Persons	27
Indicators		Target	
# of damage and needs assessment report		1	
# of refresher KOBO data collection trainings		4	
Priority Actions:		1. Form 4 teams to conduct the assessment, the team includes LRC personnel from headquarter and branches including volunteer at village level. 2. Conduct refresher KOBO data collection training at district level 3. Conduct assessment in 3 districts of Bolikhamxai and Khammouan provinces 4. Conduct a meeting to consolidate and finalize data 5. Develop assessment report and operation update	

	Protection, Gender And Inclusion	Budget	CHF 0
		Targeted Persons	262
Indicators		Target	
# of LRC personnel trained on PGI		27	
# of volunteer trained on PGI		235	
Priority Actions:		1. PGI during emergency training will be integrated to refresher KOBO data collection training, no budget required under this activity	

	Community Engagement And Accountability	Budget	CHF 0
		Targeted Persons	262
		Indicators	
		Target	
# of LRC personnel trained on CEA		27	

# of volunteers trained on CEA	235
Priority Actions:	1. CEA during emergency training will be integrated to refresher KOBO data collection training, no budget required under this activity

	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 3,770
		Targeted Persons	2
Indicators		Target	
# of IFRC personnel for monitoring field visit		2	
Priority Actions:		1. IFRC will participate in Monitoring visit	

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

A total of 27 personnel from both headquarters and branches will be deployed for this initiative's assessment. Additionally, an estimated 235 volunteers from 47 villages in 3 districts and 2 provinces will be joining the LRC team to work at the village level.

These individuals will be divided into four teams, each team will collect data in different villages. Within each team, one person will take the lead in coordinating with provincial and district authorities, while the others will engage in data collection using the Kobo toolbox. Once data collection is concluded, the teams will consolidate and analyze the gathered information to produce a comprehensive report.

Personnel from IFRC-CCD Bangkok office will be providing support to LRC in monitoring field visits.

Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRLA009 - Lao Red Cross
Floods 2023

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	0
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	0
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	29,001
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	2,130
National Society Strengthening	26,871
TOTAL BUDGET	29,001

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



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