



Lao Red Cross personnel conducting needs assessment in Khammouan province (Photo: Lao Red Cross)

Appeal: MDRLA009	Total DREF Allocation CHF 499,985	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: FL-2023-000139-LAO	People Affected: 110,129 people	People Targeted: 21,143 people	
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 2023-08-15	New Operational end date: 2024-02-29	Total operating timeframe: 6 months
Additional Allocation Re- quested 470,984	Targeted Areas:	Bolikhambxai, 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 21 August 2023, mentioned that 12 provinces including Vientiane Capital, Bokeo, Houaphan, Luang Prabang, Xaignabouli, Xiangkhouang, Vientiane, Bolikhamxai, Khammouan, Savannakhet, Champasak and Xaixomboun were affected by flood. The impact of the flooding was substantial.

The geographical scope covers 550 villages across 50 districts within 12 provinces were affected by flood, including Vientiane Capital, Bokeo, Houaphan, Luang Prabang, Xaignabouli, Xiangkhouang, Vientiane, Bolikhamxai, Khammouan, Savannakhet, Champasak and Xaixomboun. The agriculture sector was heavily affected by the flood, with massive damage of the crop as well as washing away the fishponds which put the households in a crisis as this flood hit just before the harvesting season. Roads were damaged and accessibility at village level was challenging due to the stagnant water and raised water level in some areas. The physical impacts on irrigation systems, schools, hospitals, electric poles, vehicles and roads have hindered adequate support to the affected population. The disruptions in telecommunication system and damaged water supply increase the risk of shortage of daily water consumption and affect on the sanitation of the people in the affected areas.



Lao Red Cross personnel conducting needs assessment in Khammouan provinces (Photo: LRC)

Scope and Scale

According to updated information from the government report, which was released on 21 August 2023, the information on the flood has been revised. It was estimated that 22,024 families, comprising 110,120 individuals (including an estimated 55,170 females), residing in 550 villages across 50 districts within 12 provinces, including Vientiane Capital, Bokeo, Luang Prabang, Houaphan, Xaignabouli, Xiangkhouang, Vientiane, Bolikhamxai, Khammouan, Savannakhet, Champasak, and Xaixomboun, were affected. There were six people lost their lives, and one person is missing due to the flooding from the first report. However, there was no additional loss of life reported after the first report.

Furthermore, the flood and landslides caused damage of agriculture 190,467 hector, Barn 106 (storage to stock rice), 18,776 loss of livestock, 154 road to become impassable, 79 irrigations didn't function, 10 schools, 3 district hospitals, 225 toilets, 12 electric poles, 310 vehicles resulting total damaged cost of 151,912,785,473 LAK (equivalent 6,873,355 CHF).

The affected population groups are substantial and estimated at 110,120 people. Vulnerable individuals especially children under five years old face risks of malnutrition due to loss of crops, rice storage, damage to plantations and food sources.

The Lao Red Cross (LRC) conducted a need assessment involving 4,125 households or 21,143 individuals (10,593 women) in three districts (Khamkerth, Khoun Kham and Na Kai), which are part of two provinces (Bolikhamxai and Khammoun). The two provinces were mostly affected on the basis of the government update and government of Laos PDR assigned to conduct the assessment in those provinces. The assessment was conducted to assess the situation of the affected households and provide the assistance in the most affected areas. The comprehensive assessment reports outlining priority areas, target groups and recommended interventions can be found in the attached assessment report, with the key data points further described in the Needs (Gaps) Identified section below.

Summary of changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	Yes
Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes



Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Is this a request for a second allocation	Yes
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification

Furthermore, due to these developments, the end date of the operation has been revised to 29 February 2024.

This Operation Update (OU) No. 1 provides information regarding changes made to the initial allocation, specifically for assessment purposes. The adjustments come in response to the findings of a comprehensive needs assessment carried out by LRC in two provinces, Bolikhamxai and Khammouan, from 15 August to 7 September 2023. The assessment has revealed a significant impact on food security resulting from the recent flooding in these provinces.

In this Operation Update (OU), the primary focus is on providing immediate assistance to 4,125 families, totaling 21,143 individuals, with 10,593 of them being female. This support will take the form of multipurpose cash assistance, including health promotion initiatives, considerations for Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) in emergency response efforts, as well as measures to engage the community and ensure accountability through Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) activities. Additionally, the operation update also outlines plans for Post Distribution Monitoring and a Lesson Learned workshop as part of the ongoing efforts to improve and refine LRC assistance programmes.

To accommodate these expanded efforts, LRC has requested a second allocation, totaling CHF 470,985, thereby increasing the total IFRC-DREF allocation to CHF 499,985.

Furthermore, due to these developments, the end date of the operation has been revised to 29 February 2024.

Current National Society Actions



LRC deployed WASH team to assist affected people in Khammouan province (Photo: LRC)



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. The meeting was done with District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) and NDMC after the flood where they assigned three districts for need assessment to LRC.
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.
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.
Assessment	LRC received DREF for assessment on 15 August 2023, and during 22 August to 7 September 2023, LRC conducted need assessments in 44 villages across 3 districts and 2 provinces (Bolikhamxai and Khammouan). The total number reach is 21,143 people (10,593 female) for 4,125 families.
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.
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 CHF 4,126).

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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.



ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

N/A

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>At National Level assistance:</p> <p>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 Savanakhet. The assistance included consumer goods such as rice, sanitary appliances, household items, and clothing. The total value of this support amounted to KIP 573,927,000, equivalent to CHF 25,631. 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 KIP 360,000,000, approximately CHF 16,077.</p> <p>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, Savanakhet, and Huaphan Provinces.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health (MOH) took proactive measures by deploying a team 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 KIP 418,573,868, equivalent to CHF 18,693.</p> <p>At provincial level assistance:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>



	<p>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.</p> <p>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 KIP 344,481,000, equivalent to CHF 15,384.</p>
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<p>UN or other actors</p>	<p>Save the Children conducted rapid need assessment at in six villages of Atsaphone district, in Savannakhet province Lao PDR and also observed the situation in August 2023.</p> <p>Swiss Red Cross have been in regular coordination with LRC to provide information on response provided by other actors. To date, MoFA has not approved any INGOs for cash transfer.</p>
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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.



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Health

The result of assessment highlights that several households have difficulty accessing the health services as the road condition, and some family members found to be sick with fever, common cold, red eyes, abdominal pain and diarrhea. In addition, more than half of the affected people feel stressed because they are short of the food available to them.

Risk factors associated with vector and waterborne diseases, such as dengue fever, malaria, and diarrhea were heightened due to the limited access to health facilities, including adequate sanitation facilities are also lacking. As people have lost their daily appliances such as toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, washing powder and shampoo, the situation of health have started to deteriorate. It has also found in the assessment that children in the 5 per cent families are left without vaccination as well.

The Ministry of Health has played a pivotal role in disseminating crucial health information regarding the health impacts of flooding. The Ministry of Health would facilitate the vaccination demand and also the health surveillance. However, LRC will complement these efforts by providing supplementary assistance to promote health awareness on communicable diseases along with PFA in the target area.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

During the assessment, several households reported difficulties accessing clean water. This issue has been exacerbated by flooding, which has disrupted local water sources. As a result, people are compelled to seek alternative water sources that are distant and often necessitate navigating challenging road conditions. In certain areas, viable water sources are entirely absent. People commonly store water in containers such as jerry cans, lidded buckets, and open containers. However, the flooding has also caused the loss of these water storage options.

At early stage, LRC branches has taken an action to set up AP700 system to provide clean water to these two provinces. However, to address this situation, and according to the assessment many villagers have resorted to water treatment methods, for example boiling, filtration, and chlorination. In additional local authorities have been responding some of the essential needs including providing clean water. Therefore, LRC will prioritize initiatives that promote hygiene awareness within the broader context of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH).



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Among 4,125 targeted households, there are 5 per cent elderly people and they are in need of basic food, health and WASH facilities which was suffered due to flood and its impact. They have limited access to health facilities and clean drinking water as they cannot walk far and fetch the water as well. Similarly, pregnant mothers and children under 5 years are also more vulnerable to malnutrition due to shortage of food and children are under 5 years of age reported that their children are not vaccinated. Their well-being is a cause for concern due to damaged shelters, lack of health and WASH facilities and basic food which raises concerns about privacy, child



safety, and protection in these areas. There are people living with disability who have difficulty on movement due to their limitations. The people living with disability reported having less access to health facilities and also raises the issue of nutrition due to lack of enough and proper food to eat.

Affected people face increasing vulnerability due to lack of proper housing, limited access to health care, sub optimal WASH facilities and economic insecurity, often due to loss of immediate livelihood. Vulnerable population, such as children, elderly, people with disabilities or a chronic medical condition, face barriers in accessing assistance and increased risk of violence and abuse. There is a need to protect these people and incorporate their specific needs while planning implementation and ensure Sex, Age and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD) is available, to ensure accountability and inclusiveness of the response.

In light on on-going situation and the critical role played by staff in supporting the affected communities, there is need for refreshing training course that would focus on the staff work specifically on PGI. The staff in Lao Red Cross are in need of training related to PGI. By providing staff with updated knowledge and skills in these crucial areas, it will enhance their capacity to effectively and compassionately address the needs of affected population. In addition, child safeguarding analysis will be conducted to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect in all PRC-IFRC programmes, preventive actions are prioritized, and accountability is ensured.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Agriculture and animal husbandry were also significantly affected. 94 per cent of families reported agricultural damage and lost domestic animals. The major damages were on rice farmland, rice storage, cassava and rubber garden. Similarly, they also lost cows, buffaloes, pigs, poultry, frog pool, fish pool and goats. This loss of livelihood will undoubtedly exert a substantial impact on the affected individuals and their communities. Local government authorities are spearheading assessments and providing ongoing support to those affected in this area. their livestock and farmland. In response, LRC has committed to providing support to these affected families in the form of multiple purposes cash assistance, enabling them to purchase essential food items and basic hygiene items.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The people in affected areas were found to have access to information through different channels. Almost half of the households prefer to use social media to receive information, while television, local radio, and head of village to announce to members). Only few of the households (21 per cent) were found to be aware on how to provide the question or feedback with Lao Red Cross. The need of communication and engagement were seen with the affected people as women, children and vulnerable people need the assistance. Furthermore, these affected households require support from both government and non-government organizations. It's crucial to provide information about the types of available support and how households can access it. This information should be readily available to ensure that affected households are aware of the assistance they can receive.

Moreover, it's essential to continuously monitor the needs of different groups within the community. Different people may have varying needs, necessitating targeted support to address these specific requirements. Two-way communication plays a vital role in providing aid during disasters. Mere information provision to affected households is insufficient; equally important is listening to their needs and feedback. Information serves as a life-saving mechanism during disasters, underscoring the importance of ensuring that accurate and up-to-date



information reaches affected households. Additionally, integrating Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) is crucial for gathering feedback and addressing beneficiaries' concerns and complaints. This approach helps ensure that beneficiaries' voices are heard, grievances are addressed, and future distribution programs are improved based on their perspectives.



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Flooding damaged numerous households, impacting house structures, including roofs, walls, floors, and doors, as well as essential facilities like bathrooms. Assessment conducted by Laos Red Cross shows that flooding has caused damage to 14 per cent of the households, with 33 per cent reporting severe damage, 62 per cent reporting moderate damage and 5 per cent reporting minor damage. They also sustained damage to their bathrooms, van, car, and rice mills. Heavy damage occurred to people's own vehicles, including cars and motorcycles.

Although the community have sustained the damage on their shelters but LRC wouldn't be able to conduct shelter related support due to budget constraints, limited timeframe and capacity of operation team to implement them. The Ministry of National Defense (MOD) provided temporary shelter equipment in Borlikhamxay, Khammuan, Savanakhet, and Huaphan Provinces after flood and would also continue to provide the support.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of the second allocation operation is to enable 21,143 people (4,125 families) affected by floods, to meet their immediate basic needs. With the second allocation, LRC will provide multipurpose cash assistance, along with hygiene and health promotion initiatives, Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) considerations in emergency response, and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) measures in Bolikhamxai and Khammouan provinces.

The specific objectives are as follows:

1. Support the basic needs of the families for a month with multi-purpose cash assistance
2. Increase the health and hygiene awareness among the affected families
3. Enhance the LRC CEA and PGI response capacities

Operation strategy rationale

MOLSW released the second report on 21 August 2023 where total 12 provinces including Vientiane Capital, Bokeo, Houaphan, Luang Prabang, Xaignabouli, Xiangkhouang, Vientiane, Bolikhamxai, Khammouan, Savannakhet, Champasak and Xaibomboun were affected by floods. Based on capacity of LRC, the final decision for LRC guided by NDMC to support affected people in two provinces of Khammoun and Bolikhamxai as the most affected areas. While the rest of 10 provinces will be supported by Government and other agencies that are assigned by government.



In alignment with the second DREF allocation, the LRC aims to provide support to 4,125 families who have been impacted by the floods in Bolikhamxai and Khammouan provinces.

1. Multipurpose Cash assistance: Multipurpose cash assistance will be sufficient to cover food, WASH (hygiene), and HHI (essential household items) needs of a family for one month. Each beneficiary family will be receiving cash support on the basis of their family size. Although there are 5.3 people in each household on average, it is common practice in Laos for two or more families to live together, which results in households with more than 11 people. This means that the fundamental needs of all the residents cannot be met by a single standard amount of monetary assistance.

The transfer values have been calculated based on the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) recommended by the Lao Cash Working Group, led by the World Food Programme (WFP). The MEB calculation was last updated in the last quarter of 2022. The total MEB amount, which covers Food, Water, Sanitation, and Non-Food Items (NFI), is LAK 3,146,323. This figure includes a 25.88 per cent inflation rate reported by the Laos National Bank in August 2023.

To determine the average monthly cost per person, LRC divided the total MEB amount of LAK 3,146,323 by 5.3, which represents the average family size identified by the WFP. This calculation yields an average cost of LAK 593,636 per person per month. However, as the disaster identified as yellow category level, and with limited budget, LRC has to adjust the transfer value to cover maximum 45 percent of expenditure for each level as follows:

- Families with 1 to 3 members will receive LAK 1,000,000 for one month. (totaling 837 families).
- Families with 4 to 6 members will receive LAK 1,700,000 for one month. (totaling 2,357 families).
- Families with up to 7 members will receive LAK 2,100,000 for one month. (totaling 931 families).

It is important to note that LRC does not have any framework agreement signed with a Financial Service Provider (FSP). Hence, the cash transfer mechanism will be “cash in envelope”, and it will be distributed by the LRC finance team. The LRC disaster management team will provide orientation to district government, traders and leaders of the villages on cash distribution process and criteria of the families getting different amount as support so that they can facilitate and coordinate the distribution process when there comes any conflict or issues of security. Commercial agencies and traders would also be involved in the orientation to avoid the potential inflation. District government and police would be involved as observer during the cash distribution. Awareness and information dissemination on cash distribution would be done by CEA before the distribution through miking (loudspeaker) where head of village would flow the information. LRC would paste stickers with message on criteria of cash distribution and also hotline number to call for the feedback or any query to Laos Red Cross in distribution points.

Regarding the FSP agreement, LRC is dedicated to developing the Financial Service Provider agreement in the first quarter of 2024 as part of the Red Ready project, with support from IFRC CCD Bangkok, which will offer technical assistance throughout the FSP procurement process.

Refer to lessons learned from previous relief operations implemented in 2020 and 2022, procurement was lengthy and complicated with a need to build the capacity of staff in the procurement process and procedures. Procurement took around 4-6 weeks as opposed to a faster cash distribution mechanism mobilized then, and hence, LRC proposes for the same cash distribution mechanism to also be used now through this operational update.

Any kind of cash assistance depends on a functioning market, according to the needs assessment report, there has been an increase in the percentage of households purchasing food from the market, rising from 10 to 17 per cent after the flood. This data suggests that the local market remains operational, and people continue to have access to both food and non-food items.

To address the concern of the people with disability in cash distribution, LRC would deliver the cash in envelope to their household as LRC has record on the household with disability so that they wouldn't be missed to receive the cash support from distribution point. To reach them with health and hygiene awareness, LRC would conduct household visit and provide orientation to ensure them in promotion activities.



To support the implementation of cash transfer activities, IFRC will deploy one CVA coordinator with capacity to help with Operation Management to Lao PDR for two months in the country along with remote support prior to their arrival in Laos. The surge deployment order will be sent out right after the second allocation is approved. The Surge personnel will be based in Lao PDR and will provide technical assistance to the LRC programme, finance, and PMER team during field implementation. In terms of Risk management for Cash distribution, LRC has previous experience to reduce the risk and security prevention. They also have the cash distribution guideline developed which would be followed during the cash distribution.

2. Health Promotion: LRC will also implement health promotion along with Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) activities in Bolikhamxai and Khammouan provinces. The families that will receive MPCA will also be supported with health promotion and PFA activities.

3. Hygiene Promotion: LRC will conduct the hygiene promotion sessions in the communities to mitigate the hygiene related issues. Health and WASH team will first provide health and hygiene promotion training including basic PFA to volunteers who will then support the dissemination of hygiene promotion messages in target communities. IEC material with hygiene promotion messages will be printed that will be used by volunteers during field implementation.

4. Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI) in emergency, LRC will provide guidance on how to work with the communities in humanitarian sector during emergency to LRC staff and volunteer in two Bolikhamxai and Khammouan provinces. The Volunteer will disseminate the PGI message, during Cash distribution.

5. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): 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.

6. Child safeguarding assessment will be done during sensitization of PGI and CEA session.

7. Post distribution monitoring (PDM), The PDM survey will provide feedback on the operation and input for response preparedness in the long run. This will be done through community visits, focus groups with LRC staff/volunteers, and engagement with community leaders and members. PDM would allow LRC to capture relevant information regarding the distribution process, gather feedback and data from beneficiaries, and identify any gaps or areas for improvement.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

With the DREF allocation, LRC aims to reach 4,125 families (approximately 21,143 people) in Bolikhamxai and Khammoun provinces as assigned by MOLSW and also the households were included in the need assessment conducted by Laos Red Cross. Based on the result of the assessment, the primary target beneficiaries for this DREF operation 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.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

LRC received secondary data from the MOLSW report on August 9, 2023, and was tasked with conducting a needs assessment in two provinces, Bolikhamxai and Khammouan. The selection criteria for the targeted population include the households mostly affected by flood on the basis of the government of Laos, individuals with limited income or insufficient support from other organizations, households with disabilities or serious illnesses, families led by women, pregnant women, families with children under 6 years old, and elderly individuals aged 65 and above.



Total Targeted Population

Women:	9,004	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	1,589	62.70 %	37.30 %
Men:	9,179	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	1,371	1.00 %	
Total targeted population:	21,143		

Risk and security considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Conflict emerges during the distribution of cash due to the differing amounts provided to families based on different family sizes.	Pre cash distribution launching meeting would be done with district government, police, traders and commercial agencies on cash distribution process, criteria of selection and would be involved as observer to avoid any security issues and conflict among people.
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.
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.
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.


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

	Protection, Gender And Inclusion	Budget	CHF 3,000
		Targeted Persons	262
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of volunteer trained on PGI	235	0	
# of staff received sensitization on PGI during emergency training	28		


Progress Towards Outcome

List of Planned Activities:

1. PGI during emergency training will be integrated to refresher KOBO data collection training, no budget required under this activity.
2. Sensitize staff on PGI in emergency in target provinces.
3. Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis Tool will be presented during PGI sensitization.

Progress to date:

Although the PGI during emergency to 27 LRC staff and 235 Volunteers was planned during refresher training of KOBO data collection, LRC couldn't provide the training due to lack of enough time and PGI focal person, so the training has been planned for early October 2023. In addition, the volunteers have limited knowledge on PGI and wouldn't be able to disseminate the PGI messages during the IFRC-DREF operation. LRC plans to provide the PGI sensitization training to staff under the second allocation and scaled-up response.

	Community Engagement And Accountability	Budget	CHF 550
		Targeted Persons	28
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of LRC personnel trained on CEA	27	0	
# of staff receive sensitization training on CEA during emergency	28	0	
# of sets of CEA key messages printed and stick at the affected districts	44	0	
# of volunteers trained on CEA	235	0	

Progress Towards Outcome

List of Planned Activities:

1. Conduct CEA during emergency training integrated with KOBO data collection refresher training
2. Produce printed CEA key messages on how to access the information on assistance and service provided by LRC. The messages would be pasted in the public areas where people receive the cash assistance and can read the messages.

Progress to date:

Although the CEA during emergency training to 27 LRC staff and 235 Volunteers was planned during refresher training of KOBO data collection, LRC couldn't provide the training due to time constraints. Therefore, the training as been planned for early October 2023. LRC plans to provide the CEA sensitization training to staff under the second allocation and scale up of the IFRC-DREF response.

	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 53,515
		Targeted Persons	2
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of IFRC personnel deployed for monitoring field visit	2	2	
# of IFRC surge personnel deployed	1	0	

Progress Towards Outcome

List of Planned Activities:

1. IFRC will participate in Monitoring visit
2. IFRC will deploy CVA coordinator with capacity of Operational management to help with this operation and to support LRC for two months
3. Since the LRC currently lacks Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) mechanism and does not have a designated CEA focal person, it is imperative for the IFRC to deploy CEA technical experts. These experts will provide guidance and assistance to the LRC in implementing cash distribution procedures effectively. Additionally, the IFRC will assign PGI technical staff to support the PGI LRC team in reviewing PGI materials and messages related to cash distribution. This collaborative effort aims to ensure that all aspects of cash distribution align with best practices and established standards.

Progress to date:

The IFRC programme officer joined the LRC assessment team in the field and provided technical support for KOBO training, including monitoring the assessment process. Additionally, an IFRC PMER from the Asia Pacific Regional Office provided technical support to LRC in finalizing the operation update in September 2023.

	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Budget	CHF 0
		Targeted Persons	5888
Indicators	Target	Actual	
	5888	0	



of people (and households) reached by hygiene promotion activities in the response period

Progress Towards Outcome

List of Planned Activities:

1. Conduct hygiene promotion activities in two districts in Bolikhamxai and Khammoun Provinces, with the integration of PFA
2. Produce Hygiene promotion IEC material

Progress to date:

Water storage containers were found to be a need. However, this will be addressed through the multi-purpose cash which will be given as part of the IFRC-DREF. In relation to provision of safe water to the affected communities, this is being addressed by the local authorities. The budget needed to carry out the planned WASH activities will be covered under Health section.

	National Society Strengthening	Budget		CHF 44,457
		Targeted Persons		27
Indicators	Target	Actual		
# of damage and needs assessment report	1	1		
# of refresher KOBO data collection trainings	4	4		
# of PDM conducted	1	0		
# of lesson learned workshop conducted	1	0		

Progress Towards Outcome

List of Planned Activities:

1. Form four teams to conduct the assessment, which include LRC personnel from headquarter and branches, as well as volunteers at the village level.
2. Conduct refresher KOBO data collection training at the district level.
3. Conduct assessment in three districts of Bolikhamxai and Khammouan provinces
4. Conduct a meeting to consolidate and finalize data
5. Develop assessment report and operation update
6. Conduct PDM in target village (20% of 4,125 families)
7. Conduct lesson learned workshop.

Progress to date:

LRC completed refresher KOBO data collection for 23 staff, including 9 female participants. Additionally, LRC conducted a needs assessment in three districts of Bolikhamxai and Khammoun provinces, covering a total of 4,125 families.

Furthermore, an operation update was developed alongside the second allocation of the IFRC-DREF to support people affected by the flood. To consolidate and finalize the data, LRC organized a meeting with branch and HQ



staff on 6 September, with the participation of 19 staff, including 6 females. Subsequently, on 12 September 2023, LRC conducted a second meeting to share the findings of the data collection and provide feedback and recommendations on this assessment, with the participation of 31 people, including 6 females.

	Multi-purpose Cash	Budget	CHF 383,213
		Targeted Persons	21143
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of families supported through multipurpose cash grants	4125	0	
# of refresher orientations conducted on cash distribution to LRC staff and volunteers	28	0	

Progress Towards Outcome

List of Planned Activities:


1. Provide cash distribution refresher orientations for LRC staff and volunteers
2. Launching meeting with provincial governor, elected department from provinces, commercial traders, public security on cash distribution process and selection criteria
3. Multi-purpose cash distribution to the targeted families.

Progress to date:

Preparations are underway for the cash distribution process. The cash would be distributed on the basis of the family size as below:

- Families with 1 to 3 members will receive LAK 1,000,000 (CHF 50) for one month-total 837 families.
- Families with 4 to 6 members will receive LAK 1,700,000 (CHF 85) for one month-total 2,357 families.
- Families with up to 7 members will receive LAK 2,100,000 (CHF 105) for one month-total 931 families.

It will be a one-off distribution to 4,125 families through cash in envelope in the affected communities. After the distribution, LRC will conduct a post-distribution monitoring of the cash provided to ensure transparency, effectiveness, and accountability to the people assisted. This will also provide opportunities for learning and improvement, ultimately contributing to more efficient and impactful humanitarian responses.

	Health	Budget	CHF 15,250
		Targeted Persons	5888
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of people received health promotion with PFA integration	5888	0	
# of staff and volunteers received PFA training	28	0	

Progress Towards Outcome

List of Planned Activities:

1. Conduct Health promotion with PFA integration in two districts in Bolikhamxai and Khammoun Provinces
2. Conduct PFA training to staff and volunteers.

Progress to date:

The planned activities will be reported in detail in the next report.



About Support Services

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

A total of 28 personnel from both headquarters and branches will be deployed for this IFRC-DREF allocation. Additionally, an estimated 2220 volunteers from 44 villages in 3 districts and 2 provinces will be joining the LRC team to work at the village level.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

One Operation Manager with Cash profile will be deployed for two months to support LRC in managing the early stages of the Laos IFRC-DREF operation. She/he supports the LRC in successful planning and implementing the most appropriate response in a timely manner. The Operation Manager will report to the IFRC CCD Programme Coordinator. Her/his main responsibilities are related to strategy and priorities definition, management of overall operation, Movement coordination, Coordination with other actors, security management, and transition to early recovery. Surge Personnel will be deployed to provide technical support for both LRCC at HQ and provincial levels. IFRC technical support in place will help ensure the quality and timeframe of the operation. An Operational Manager is required in this case.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

The procurement related to the IFRC-DREF would be done by LRC in regular coordination with IFRC.

How will this operation be monitored?

The IFRC CCD Bangkok will conduct monitoring visits and regular coordination with LRC. This will help identify and resolve any issues where possible and necessary. Appropriate monitoring system (M&E) will be established for the operation. Necessary tools and templates for regular data collection and reporting will be adopted from existing PMER resources. Furthermore, reporting will be carried out as per IFRC reporting standards. Regular updates will be issued, as necessary for relevant stakeholders. A final report will be issued within three months after the end of the operation. A lesson learned workshop will be organized at the end of the IFRC-DREF operation to capture recommendations for LRC to consider and/or incorporate in future emergency operations. Throughout these processes, LRC will be provided with relevant PMER support from IFRC CCD Bangkok and APRO teams.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.

IFRC will be supporting LRC communications capacity through the communication team in the Bangkok CCD and APRO. IFRC will provide assistance in media relations and content gathering, producing and distributing communication material and resources, as well as using social media (Facebook, Twitter..) to promote advocacy messages through the global and regional platforms. Furthermore, IFRC will support in managing reputational risk at the country level and will ensure that the Movement actors at the country level speak and act with a unified voice to build trust towards partners, donors and other stakeholders. IFRC will also ensure communication with stakeholders and partners are in place.



Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[Click here for the reference](#)





DREF OPERATION

MDRLA009 - Lao Red Cross Floods 2023

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	428,143
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	408,121
Health	16,241
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	3,195
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	586
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	71,842
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	24,495
National Society Strengthening	47,347
TOTAL BUDGET	499,985

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)