DREF Operational Update

Lao People's Democratic Republic Flood 2026



LRC deploys AP700 for water distribution in Savannakhet province (Photo: LRC)

Appeal: **MDRLA012**	Total DREF Allocation: **CHF 500,000**	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: **Flood**
Glide Number: **TC-2026-000098-LAO**	People Affected: **114,037 people**	People Targeted: **13,733 people**	
Event Onset: **Sudden**	Operation Start Date: **24-08-2026**	New Operational End Date: **28-02-2027**	Total Operating Timeframe: **6 months**
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: **24-08-2026**		Reporting Timeframe End Date: **26-10-2026**	
Additional Allocation Requested: -		Targeted Regions: **Oudomxai, Khammouan, Champasak**	

Description of the Event

Date of event

14-08-2026

What happened, where and when?

Since late June 2026, Lao PDR has experienced recurrent flooding, flash floods, waterlogging and landslides associated with the southwest monsoon and Tropical Storm Maysak. The situation worsened throughout July and August as prolonged and repeated heavy rainfall triggered further flooding, particularly in areas already affected by earlier rainfall.

By 18 August, flooding had been reported across eight provinces: Louang-Namtha, Bokeo, Xayabouri, Bolikhamxai, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Sekong and Champasak, with Khammouane and Champasak among the most severely affected. A landslide in Bolikhamxai Province on 16–17 July also resulted in three fatalities.

Further flash floods were reported in Luang Prabang and Oudomxai on 19 August, while weather forecasts warned of continued heavy rainfall and an increased risk of flooding and landslides in northern and central parts of the country during 18–21 August. The repeated weather events prolonged the emergency and increased response needs. Following its assessment of the situation, the (Lao Red Cross) LRC determined on 14 August that additional resources through the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) were required to sustain and scale up its response.



LRC Volunteer assisted moving essential food stocks to safer areas.



LRC Savannakhen branch installed AP700 for water distribution.

Scope and Scale

According to LRC's consolidated assessment dated 17 August 2026, flooding during July and August affected 22,390 households (114,037 people) across 25 districts and 395 villages in six provinces: Khammouan, Savannakhet, Bolikhamxai, Louang-Namtha, Xiangkhouang and Champasak. The assessment recorded 54,699 women, 13 persons with disabilities and one death.

Khammouan was the most severely affected province, with 13,024 households (61,425 people) affected across 10 districts and 210 villages, followed by Savannakhet, with 7,881 households (45,083 people) affected across seven districts and 158 villages. Other affected provinces included Bolikhamxai (1,223 households; 5,929 people), Xiangkhouang (134 households; 838 people), Louang-Namtha (56 households; 428 people) and Champasak (72 households; 334 people).

The floods caused significant damage to agricultural production and household livelihoods, affecting more than 1,530 hectares of paddy land and approximately 244 hectares of other productive land. Flooding also disrupted access to essential services, with some

communities becoming difficult to reach. Following further flooding in August, Oudomxai and Louangphabang were also identified as affected provinces. LRC continues to consolidate information from provincial chapters and local authorities to determine remaining humanitarian needs.

The wider impact of the floods was reflected in the Government-led consolidated assessment updated on 14 October 2026 and published in a UN Lao PDR report on 21 October. The assessment recorded 351,538 people from 72,770 families affected across 15 provinces, including 24 deaths, 9,657 damaged houses, 72,826 hectares of affected paddy land, 770 affected roads, 54 bridges, 168 schools and 9,398 affected water and sanitation facilities. Reported damage and losses were estimated at approximately USD 426.4 million. These figures reflect the wider national impact and differ in geographical coverage and assessment scope from the initial LRC assessment.

Based on the updated needs and response coverage analysis, LRC identified Khammouan, Champasak and Oudomxai as priority provinces where significant unmet needs remain. The revised operation will focus on six districts across these provinces: two in Khammouan, one in Champasak and three in Oudomxai. The revised targeting is expected to reach 13,733 people, compared with the original target of 12,000.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. The Khammouan News	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19ASU2KHvc/?mibextid=wwXIf
2. The Laotian times online news	https://www.facebook.com/share/1BfzeAwZ32/?mibextid=wwXIfr
3. The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Facebook page	https://www.facebook.com/share/1D1hgurLHX/?mibextid=wwXIfr
4. Lao Red Cross	https://lao-redcross.com/
5. UN	https://laopdr.un.org/en/324757-flood-impact-and-needs-assessment
6. Lao News Agency	https://kpl.gov.la/en/detail.aspx/detail.aspx?id=106177

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	**No**
Are you changing the operational strategy	**No**
Are you changing the target population of the operation	**Yes**
Are you changing the geographical location	**Yes**
Are you making changes to the budget	**No**
Are you requesting an additional allocation?	**No**

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

Following the initial identification of eight target provinces and a planned reach of 12,000 people, LRC reviewed the evolving humanitarian needs, local response capacities and assistance provided by other humanitarian actors. Post-flood assessments by Provincial Disaster Management Committees (PDMCs) indicated that Louangphabang and Xiangkhouang had sufficient local capacity to manage the immediate response, while LRC Headquarters had not received formal requests for additional assistance from these provinces.

In addition, several initially targeted provinces were receiving, or were expected to receive, assistance from LRC with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Singapore Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross (SRC), Save the Children International (SCI) and the World Food Programme (WFP). This assistance included cash, relief items and food support in several flood-affected districts. Continuing DREF interventions in areas with substantial existing assistance could result in duplication and reduce the complementarity of the overall response.

Based on the updated needs and response coverage analysis, LRC revised its geographical targeting to three priority provinces: Khammouan, Champasak and Oudomxai, covering six districts (two in Khammouan, one in Champasak and three in Oudomxai), where significant unmet needs remain. The overall target has increased from 12,000 to 13,733 people. This revised target is based on LRC's preliminary calculations and is expected to be accommodated within the existing approved budget of CHF 500,000. The MPC transfer value and allocated budget remain unchanged. LRC will conduct a further assessment in mid-November 2026 to verify remaining needs and eligible households. The final caseload may be adjusted slightly following the assessment.

For WASH, the DREF includes the procurement of three additional AP700 water treatment units and spare parts to address LRC's limited capacity to provide safe drinking water during emergencies. This need was demonstrated during the current flood response, when LRC deployed its existing AP700 units using its own resources in Khammouan Province, providing safe drinking water to 6,253 people across 16 villages in three districts. These achievements are part of LRC's own-funded response and are not counted under DREF reach. The additional units are expected to be delivered by December 2026. However, LRC and IFRC will therefore need to review the most appropriate use of this investment in consultation with the relevant technical teams, including its potential contribution to strengthening LRC's emergency WASH response capacity beyond the current operation.

These adjustments reflect LRC's efforts to prioritize available DREF resources towards communities with the greatest remaining humanitarian needs, while complementing assistance provided by other partners. The revised geographical scope does not indicate a reduction in overall flood-related humanitarian needs, but rather a more focused approach to addressing gaps in the ongoing response.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	IFRC continues to closely monitor the impact of the situation and the evolving needs in the affected provinces, in coordination with LRC. IFRC CCD in Bangkok is providing technical support to relevant LRC Departments to design the DREF plan of action, and to plan further support during the implementation of this DREF operation in three affected provinces.
Participating National Societies	During 27 July to 11 August 2026, the Swiss Red Cross (SRC) provided financial support LRC to distribute relief kits to 120 flood-affected households, reaching 373 people, including 194 women and girls in 3 districts of Khammouan. The assistance contributed to addressing the immediate needs of affected communities during the emergency response phase. Through the SAFER project, the SRC is providing cash assistance to 1,474 households (3,623 people) in Bolikhamxai, Khammouan, and Savannaket province with cash assistance and hygiene kits. Singapore Red Cross: Provision of relief kits to 639 households (3,313 people) across five provinces.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

Distributing kitchen kits to 165 households (755 people) in Houaphan Province.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	Khammouan : The Koun Kham District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) coordinated with village authorities to implement preparedness and response measures in flood-affected areas. Households living in low-lying and flood-prone locations were advised to move essential household belongings to higher ground and relocate livestock to safer areas. The DDMC also tasked its secretariat with conducting rapid assessments and collecting detailed information on flood impacts to agricultural production, with findings reported to provincial authorities to support response planning and resource allocation. To support affected communities, the district deployed one long-tail boat to assist with the transportation of household assets and the evacuation of livestock from flooded areas. In addition, a temporary evacuation site was established at Ban Klang School to accommodate workers from a banana plantation company. As of the latest report, the site was hosting 13 households (61 people), including 13 women. Bolikhamxai : The District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) coordinated with district-level military and public security forces, as well as Unit 616 personnel, to mobilize response teams to assist affected communities. Activities included the evacuation of residents and the relocation of belongings and essential assets to safer, higher areas. Relevant sectors at the district, subdistrict, and village levels provided assistance and guided households affected by flooding to move to safe locations. District authorities responsible for disaster management worked closely with village administrations and village-level disaster management committees to provide support to affected communities, including the transportation and evacuation of people, livestock, food supplies, drinking water, and other essential items to safer locations. Louang-Namtha : The District Disaster Management Committees in Louang-Namtha Province, together with the Provincial Red Cross, provided immediate assistance and initial support to affected communities. Security and defense forces were mobilized to evacuate people from flooded areas to temporary evacuation sites and to assist households in moving their belongings to safer locations. Emergency relief was also provided to people staying in temporary shelters and those stranded in their homes. Assistance included the distribution of drinking water, instant noodles, and clothing to meet immediate needs during the emergency. Xiangkhouang : District and village authorities provided immediate assistance and relocated affected residents to safe areas. Disaster response committees at district and village levels coordinated relief efforts. National and provincial authorities continued to coordinate flood response and recovery activities during September and October 2026. On 1 September, the Chair of the National Disaster Management Committee led a delegation to Oudomxai Province to review relief and recovery operations. The delegation provided LAK 300 million in cash and relief supplies valued at LAK 633 million, while urging authorities to

	strengthen early warning, assist affected communities and accelerate repairs to roads, bridges, schools, health facilities, water systems and agricultural areas. On 18 September, the Lao Front for National Construction handed over 100 tonnes of rice and LAK 200 million to support flood-affected families in Champasak Province. Provincial authorities continued to assess damage and prioritise infrastructure repairs and support for affected livelihoods. From 13 to 19 September, Government ministries and United Nations agencies conducted a joint flood impact and needs assessment in 17 villages across 13 districts in six affected provinces. The findings identified priorities for early recovery, including agricultural inputs, irrigation repairs and the restoration of essential services and infrastructure ahead of the dry-season planting cycle. In October 2026, the Government continued coordinating with development partners to support recovery. On 20 October, food assistance donated by the Russian Government was handed over through the World Food Programme to support flood-affected communities in Louang-Namtha Province. Government representatives also highlighted the ongoing need for food and nutritional assistance in affected provinces.
UN or other actors	During early July to early August 2026: UN agencies regularly coordinating across humanitarian partners and monitoring the situation in collaboration with the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology and the Secretariat of the Central Disaster Management Committee. At the request of the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNICEF procured essential emergency supplies for pre-positioning, supplementing existing stocks in regional warehouses across the country. The supplies include 3,000 bars of soap, 800 drinking-water containers with taps, 1,000 10-litre plastic buckets, 300 kg of aluminum sulphate coagulant, water-purification tablets and three water-quality testing kits. UNICEF, as lead of the WASH Cluster and co-lead of the Protection and Health and Nutrition Clusters, also plans to procure 5-horsepower dewatering pumps for cleaning and shock chlorination of shallow dug wells, generators to support flood response in off-grid villages, and empty plastic containers for locally produced chlorine solution. According to information shared by LRC during the development of this Operation Update, several humanitarian partners are supporting the flood response in affected provinces. Save the Children International (SCI): Supporting 1,151 households (4,458 people) in Khammouan Province with cash assistance and hygiene kits. World Food Programme (WFP): Providing cash assistance in flood-affected communities in Sekong Province. According to the UN Lao PDR report published on 21 October 2026, from September to October, the UN supported the Government-led response through joint flood impact and needs assessments. From 13–19 September, three joint teams comprising 36 Government and UN personnel assessed 17 villages across 13 districts in six of the most affected provinces to identify community needs and recovery priorities. The UN also supported inter-agency coordination and identified priorities for early recovery, including agricultural inputs, irrigation repairs, essential services and infrastructure restoration ahead of the dry-season planting cycle in January 2027.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

LRC headquarters has led the nationwide coordination on preparedness and response activities by issuing early alerts to its provincial branches. These alerts instructed branches to closely monitor weather conditions, maintain contact with local disaster management committees, and prepare for immediate response if needed. LRC leadership tasked its headquarters with ongoing coordination, data collection, and situation reporting from affected provinces. This central coordination was supported by regular updates from provincial teams, which enabled timely analysis and informed decision-making at the national level.

LRC also maintained close engagement with the IFRC CCD in Bangkok and key partners in-country, including the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC), and the Swiss Red Cross, ensuring alignment of efforts and resource mobilization. This coordinated approach strengthened preparedness measures and enabled a more effective response across multiple provinces affected by flooding and landslides.

Needs (Gaps) Identified

Shelter Housing And Settlements

Available information indicated although over 114,037 individuals, estimated 22,390 households and 392 villages are affected, at this stage the available assessment reports don't mention significant shelter needs or the condition of displaced households. The government takes lead on supporting people for evacuation and provide a temporary shelter in each province. However, priority needs include emergency shelter support, essential household items and assistance to repair or clean flood-affected houses, particularly for households whose homes have been severely damaged or remain inaccessible. Shelter needs should be further assessed once water levels recede and access is restored.

Livelihoods And Basic Needs

From available information. Agricultural livelihoods have been significantly affected, particularly through inundation and damage to rice fields and other crops. In Khammouan, preliminary reports indicate damage to more than 15,000 hectares of rice fields and other crops, while significant agricultural impacts have also been reported in Savannakhet and Champasak. Flooding has also affected livestock and other productive assets. Affected households may require early livelihood recovery assistance, including support to restore agricultural production, replace productive assets and meet immediate basic needs while income sources are disrupted. Further assessment is required to quantify livelihood losses and identify the most vulnerable households.

Multi purpose cash grants

Preliminary assessments from different sources indicated significant economic losses across the affected provinces. In Khammouan, provincial authorities have estimated preliminary losses of at least LAK 100 billion (approximately USD 4.4 million), while Champasak authorities estimated damages of approximately LAK 1.5 billion (USD 66,540). Damage assessments in other affected provinces, including Savannakhet, Bolikhamxai, Louang-Namtha and Xiangkhouang, are ongoing. A consolidated national estimate of damage and losses is not yet available." The strong preference for cash assistance suggests that cash-based interventions could be the most effective approach in the coming months, enabling recipients to address their immediate multi-sectoral needs in a manner that best suits their specific circumstances

Health

From available information shared, flooding, stagnant water and disrupted access to health services may increase the risk of water- and vector-borne diseases, while displaced and isolated communities may face difficulties accessing essential health services and medicines. Particular attention is required for older people, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, children and people with pre-existing vulnerabilities.

However, the Ministry of Health, with support from relevant UN agencies, is closely coordinating and leading the health response in the affected areas, including disease prevention, health promotion, surveillance and access to essential health services. As these existing mechanisms address the main immediate health needs, no significant gap requiring a standalone LRC health intervention was identified at this stage.

Therefore, LRC will not prioritise a dedicated health component under the DREF operation. Instead, LRC will focus its limited resources on sectors where gaps remain and where it can provide added value through its community presence and volunteer network, while continuing to coordinate with the Ministry of Health and humanitarian partners and monitor emerging health needs.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The UN situation report confirms damage to 2,494 sanitation facilities, 101 groundwater points, 147 wells and one community water supply scheme. It also reports that continued flooding, rising river levels and saturated ground remain a concern for riverside, low-lying and mountainous communities. This supports LRC's prioritization of safe water and hygiene assistance. LRC has already demonstrated operational capacity through AP700 deployments in Khammouan and Savannakhet, including the production and distribution of safe water to affected households. The DREF intervention can therefore build on existing LRC capacity by supporting further AP700 deployment, water treatment and safe water distribution, hygiene promotion and IEC materials in communities with the greatest identified needs. To complement rather than duplicate other assistance, LRC will coordinate with local authorities and humanitarian partners, including WASH actors. The UN report notes that UNICEF has pre-positioned soap, water containers, buckets, coagulant, water-purification tablets and water-quality testing kits and is planning additional equipment for well cleaning and flood response.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

From the available information shared, flood displacement, damaged homes, loss of livelihoods and disrupted access to services may increase protection risks, particularly for children, older people, persons with disabilities, women-headed households and other vulnerable groups. Evacuation and temporary shelter arrangements may also create risks related to privacy, safety and access to assistance. Priority needs include identification and prioritisation of households with specific vulnerabilities, safe and inclusive evacuation and assistance arrangements, protection referrals, and measures to ensure equitable access to relief and services. Sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data should be collected to inform targeting and monitor inclusion. Further assessment is required to better understand the specific protection, gender and inclusion needs and risks faced by different groups affected by the floods.

Additionally, refresher training on PGI for LRC staff is necessary to enhance their capacity to provide effective support. Furthermore, a child safeguarding analysis will be conducted to ensure that children are protected from violence, abuse, and neglect, with preventive measures and accountability prioritized throughout the operation.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The rapidly evolving situation and continuing rainfall create a need for timely, accessible and trusted information on flood risks, evacuation, available assistance, health and hygiene, and safe return. Communities in isolated and affected villages may have limited access to official information due to disrupted transport and communication. Priority CEA needs include two-way communication with affected communities, dissemination of early warning and preparedness messages, clear information on available assistance and eligibility, and accessible feedback and complaints mechanisms. Information should be provided through appropriate channels and in local languages, with specific consideration for people with disabilities and other groups who may face barriers to accessing information.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Due to delays in information sharing, the available information on needs and gaps remains limited. The local authorities and LRC provincial branches are currently conducting joint assessments in the affected areas to better understand the situation. Pending the allocation of DREF funding, LRC plans to undertake detailed needs assessments through its local branches in the targeted provinces. Once these assessments are completed, more comprehensive information on the humanitarian needs and response gaps will be available.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The original objective of this DREF operation was to cover eight provinces affected by flooding associated with Tropical Storm Maysak and monsoon rainfall: Louang-Namtha, Oudomxai, Louangphabang, Xiangkhouang, Bolikhamxai, Khammouan, Savannakhet and Champasak. Following discussions between LRC and the NDMO in September 2026, the geographical coverage was revised to prioritize three provinces identified as the most affected: Oudomxai, Khammouan and Champasak. This revised focus aims to concentrate available resources where needs are greatest and enable LRC to provide more effective and targeted assistance to flood-affected people.

The overall objective of the six-month DREF operation is to assist 13,733 people (approximately 3,394 households) across the three prioritised provinces affected by Tropical Storm Maysak and monsoon rainfall to meet their immediate basic needs. Primarily through multipurpose cash assistance, the operation will enable affected households to make autonomous decisions based on their specific needs, including food, livelihoods, household items and other essential goods and services.

Additionally, the DREF operation integrates WASH, alongside cross-cutting PGI and CEA considerations, to ensure equitable distribution and transparency, prioritize vulnerable groups and ensure that assistance is responsive to the needs of affected communities across the three targeted provinces.

Operation strategy rationale

To achieve this objective, the operation combines needs assessment, multipurpose cash assistance and WASH interventions, with PGI and CEA integrated throughout the response. The main priorities under this DREF operation include:

1. Needs Assessment

Needs assessment is a critical step in confirming the situation on the ground and informing the design of an appropriate and targeted response. Led by LRC, the assessment will span a total of four weeks: two weeks dedicated to field data collection, followed by one week for consolidating and analysing the findings, and one week for preparing the assessment report. Data will be gathered at the household level using either the KoBoToolbox or printed forms, depending on the security conditions and the accessibility of the affected areas. Given the dispersed nature of some communities and the distance between households, flexibility in the method of data collection will be essential. Each household interview is expected to take approximately 30 minutes. The assessment will capture essential information across sectors to better understand the immediate and unmet needs of affected people and inform the response strategy.

2. Multipurpose Cash Assistance

(i) Assessment findings and priority needs

The LRC rapid assessment identified immediate needs among flood-affected households, including food, essential household items and other basic goods and services. These findings are supported by the Government-led Flood Impact and Needs Assessment (September 2026), which found that farming was affected in all 17 assessed villages, ten villages reported that replanting was not possible during the current season, and five villages had average remaining food stocks of 30 days or fewer. The assessment recorded 334 households requiring food assistance and noted that assistance received in many villages was insufficient in duration. These findings highlight the continued needs of households that lost crops or have limited food stocks. The assessment did not collect sufficiently detailed household expenditure data to quantify the gap between household needs and available resources, nor did it establish the resources available to each targeted household. The multipurpose cash assistance will therefore contribute towards immediate priority needs, particularly food and essential household items, without claiming to cover a quantified household expenditure gap.

(ii) Transfer value and its limitations

WFP's emergency Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) for Lao PDR, estimated at USD 237 per month for a household of approximately 5.3 people, including USD 149 for food and USD 88 for essential non-food needs, provides a reference for the cost of essential expenditure. Using the exchange rate of USD 1 = LAK 22,584 reported in the UN assessment, the monthly MEB is equivalent to approximately LAK 5,352,408 per household, including LAK 3,365,016 for food. LRC proposes a one-off transfer of LAK 500,000 per targeted individual, equivalent to LAK 2,650,000 for a household of 5.3 people. This represents approximately 49.5 per cent of the monthly MEB or 78.8 per cent of its food component. These figures provide a reference for the transfer's relative value; they do not establish the proportion of actual household needs that will be met. The transfer is intended as a contribution towards priority emergency needs, rather than full

coverage of the MEB. The individual-based transfer was selected to simplify beneficiary verification, cash preparation and distribution through the cash-in-envelope modality. Beneficiaries will be selected from flood-affected households based on assessed needs and community-level verification, with priority given to vulnerable groups. The available assessment data do not confirm whether each targeted household has sufficient resources or other assistance to meet its remaining needs; this limitation will be considered in beneficiary selection and coordination with other responders.

(iii) Beneficiary selection, coordination and delivery

LRC will coordinate with the National Cash Working Group and relevant humanitarian actors to review the proposed transfer value, align assistance with prevailing practices and minimize duplication. The UN assessment documents assistance provided by Government, WFP, Lao Red Cross and private-sector actors, including food assistance and cash support in selected locations. However, the available information does not establish that these assistance packages are directly comparable to LRC's proposed transfer. LRC will seek to confirm current transfer values and coverage with relevant actors. LRC will distribute cash directly to recipients using the cash-in-envelope modality, which is suitable for remote areas with limited access to banking and financial services. IFRC technical support will be sought to help LRC develop a framework agreement with a suitable financial service provider.

LRC recognizes the importance of establishing an FSP mechanism to strengthen cash and voucher assistance delivery. Through this DREF allocation, LRC will initiate the process and seek technical support from IFRC to guide engagement with banking partners and facilitate the establishment of an FSP arrangement in line with operational requirements and standards.

3. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

LRC has established experience in emergency WASH response, particularly through the deployment of AP700 water purification units by provincial branches. During the current floods, LRC has already deployed AP700 units in Khammouan and Savannakhet, providing safe drinking water to affected communities. However, continued flooding, rising river levels and potential contamination of water sources are increasing the risk of waterborne diseases and limiting access to safe water in affected communities. The DREF operation will support LRC to provide safe drinking water and hygiene assistance to the most affected and vulnerable populations, based on rapid assessments and coordination with local authorities.

Due to staff rotation in some provinces, the operation will also provide refresher WASH training for provincial staff and volunteers, including AP700 operation, water treatment and safe water distribution. This will strengthen LRC's capacity to deploy WASH assistance rapidly and safely. In addition, LRC will conduct hygiene promotion activities and disseminate IEC materials covering key messages on safe water storage and treatment, hand hygiene, food hygiene and sanitation during and after flooding. The WASH response will prioritise communities with the greatest needs and complement assistance provided by local authorities and other humanitarian actors.

4. Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA)

PGI and CEA considerations will be integrated through inclusive targeting, clear communication of eligibility criteria and distribution arrangements, and accessible community feedback mechanisms.

The DREF operation will integrate PGI and CEA throughout assessment, targeting, implementation and monitoring. Particular attention will be given to vulnerable and potentially excluded groups, including female-headed households, older people and persons with disabilities, to ensure assistance is accessible, safe and equitable. CEA activities will provide affected communities with timely and accurate information on available assistance, eligibility and distribution processes, while establishing accessible feedback and complaints mechanisms. LRC staff and volunteers will communicate expected behaviours and their responsibilities to strengthen trust and accountability. Local Red Cross volunteers and community members will be actively engaged throughout the response cycle to help identify needs, support communication and ensure that the response reflects local priorities and community dynamics.

To maintain the integrity and accountability of the operation, all LRC staff and volunteers involved in the assessment and response will adhere to LRC's code of conduct and staff regulations. Safeguarding measures will be implemented to protect both personnel and affected individuals, with an emphasis on creating a safe environment for all participants in the response. Additionally, all volunteers participating in the field assessments will be provided with appropriate insurance coverage to safeguard their wellbeing while on duty. This measure ensures that volunteers are protected in the event of injury or other incidents during the operation.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

With the DREF allocation, LRC aims to reach 13,733 people (approximately 3,394 households) across three provinces (Oudomxayi, Khammouan, and Champasak). This target was based on the decision of the LRC DREF Committee, guided by the NDMC, and the households identified in the rapid needs assessment conducted by local government. The primary target population included those severely affected by the floods, focusing on vulnerable groups including economically vulnerable households, households without support from other organizations, families with disabilities or serious illnesses, female-headed households, pregnant women, families with children under five years old, isolated individuals, and elderly persons aged 60 and above.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria for the targeted population included households significantly affected by the floods as identified by the relevant authorities, focusing on vulnerable groups including economically vulnerable households, households without support from other organizations, families with disabilities or serious illnesses, female-headed households, pregnant women, families with children under five years old, isolated individuals, and elderly persons aged 60 and above.

Total Targeted Population

Women	8,220	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Men	5,513	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	13,733		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	No
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	No
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	No
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	No

Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	No

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
The flood situation could potentially worsen.	LRC will implement a flexible response mechanism to scale up relief efforts if the flood situation worsens. A contingency budget under the IFRC-DREF operation will support the rapid procurement of supplies and deployment of additional personnel. LRC will coordinate closely with the authorities and stakeholders to enable timely decisions. To ensure safe operations, volunteers and staff will receive safety training and protective equipment.
While cash-in-envelope distribution is practical and preferred by the community, it presents higher institutional risks, as the National Society are responsible for managing all cash withdrawals and packaging	LRC will ensure the up to date of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that cover comprehensively all aspects of cash-in-envelope distribution, from fund withdrawals to post-distribution recapitulation. Emphasis should be placed on segregating duties, with different teams handling cash withdrawals, packaging, and distribution to reduce risks and enhance accountability.
Target provinces and districts may change as the flood situation evolves and further assessments are conducted.	Regularly review needs assessments and assistance mapping with provincial branches and local authorities, and adapt targeting to verified needs and gaps, in coordination with IFRC and in line with DREF procedures.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

Comprehensive measures were implemented to ensure the safety and security of all Red Cross Red Crescent personnel engaged in the operation. All Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers are strongly encouraged to complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses, which provide essential safety and security training.

For those personnel under IFRC security management, including surge teams and deployed participating National Societies, the IFRC country security plan fully applies. This plan covers key protocols such as security regulations, medical emergency contingencies, relocation procedures, and critical incident management. Additionally, all field missions conducted by IFRC personnel must adhere to the established IFRC travel approval processes and follow current health advisories and business continuity planning

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	No

Planned Intervention

Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 352,792
Targeted Persons: 13,733
Targeted Male: 5,513
Targeted Female: 8,220

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people provided with unconditional cash assistance(approximately 3,394 households)	13,733	0
% of households who report being able to meet the basic needs of their households, according to their priorities (minimum expenditure basket).	80	0

Progress Towards Outcome

List of Activities:

1. Conduct needs assessments in targeted flood-affected communities.
2. Organize coordination and planning meetings to prepare for cash distributions.
3. Conduct refresher/training for LRC staff and volunteers on needs assessment and cash distribution.
4. Distribute cash assistance to eligible 3,394 households through the cash-in-envelope modality.
5. Establishment of FSP arrangement to strengthen LRC's cash and voucher assistance delivery.
6. Provide communication support for cash distributions.
7. Conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM) in targeted villages.

Progress:

LRC has revised the geographical targeting to focus on Khammouan, Champasak and Oudomxai, covering six districts and 55 villages. The operation aims to provide unconditional cash assistance to 13,733 people (approximately 3,394 households) affected by flooding.

However, delays in fund transfers and administrative processes have affected the implementation timeline. LRC therefore plans to conduct the needs assessment by mid-November 2026, follow by the relevant activities.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 47,286
Targeted Persons: 13,733
Targeted Male: 5,513
Targeted Female: 8,220

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people are covered with hygiene promotion activities.	13,733	0
# of people reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services.	13,733	0

Progress Towards Outcome

List of Activities:

1. Conduct refresher WASH training for LRC staff and volunteers.

2. Provide WASH assistance to flood-affected households in targeted communities, including the distribution of safe drinking water and water storage containers, and hygiene promotion on safe water use and disease prevention.
3. Develop and disseminate information, education and communication (IEC) materials.
4. Deploy and operate AP700 water treatment units to provide safe drinking water to flood-affected communities in targeted locations.

Progress:

In August 2026, LRC provincial teams deployed existing AP700 water treatment units using their own resources in Khammouane Province, providing safe drinking water to 6,253 people (3,335 men and 2,918 women) across 16 villages in three districts. This response demonstrated the value of AP700 units in meeting the safe drinking water needs of flood-affected communities.

IFRC has initiated the procurement process for additional AP700 water treatment units and spare parts to strengthen LRC's WASH response capacity.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 2,237
Targeted Persons: 13,733
Targeted Male: 5,513
Targeted Female: 8,220

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of assessments and analysis carried out incorporating protection, gender & diversity and inclusion considerations as part of emergency operations.	1	0
Conduct Child safeguarding risk analysis and mitigation measures integrated into the operation (1=Yes' 0=No)	1	0
% of LRC staff and volunteers involved in the operation receive PGI/PSEA/child safeguarding orientation	100	0

Progress Towards Outcome

List of Activities:

1. Conduct PGI sensitisation sessions for LRC staff and volunteers on integrating protection, gender and inclusion considerations into emergency response activities.
2. Integrate PGI considerations throughout needs assessment, beneficiary selection, assistance delivery and monitoring to ensure safe, equitable and inclusive access to assistance.
3. Conduct a Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis (CSRA) and integrate appropriate risk mitigation measures into the operation.
4.Conduct Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and safeguarding briefings or training for all LRC staff and volunteers involved in the operation.
5. Collect and analyse sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) to identify specific needs, monitor equitable access to assistance and inform operational decisions.
6. Establish and communicate clear referral pathways for protection and safeguarding concerns, in coordination with relevant authorities and service providers.

Progress:

By the end of September 2026, the IFRC PGI Technical Lead had provided guidance to LRC's PGI focal point on PGI in emergencies, with a

particular focus on cash distributions. LRC plans to conduct PGI sensitization, CSRA and relevant activities for relevant staff and volunteers by the mid-November 2026.

Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 2,865
Targeted Persons: 13,733
Targeted Male: 5,513
Targeted Female: 8,220

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of methods established to communicate with communities about what is happening in the organization/programme/operation, including selection criteria if these are being used	2	0
% of survey who report receiving useful and actionable information	50	0

Progress Towards Outcome

List of Activities:

1. Conduct sensitization training on CEA for LRC staff and volunteers during emergencies.
2.Provide CEA key messages using appropriate communication methods (e.g. community meetings, volunteers, IEC materials, feedback desks, hotline, village loudspeaker announcements, social media/Facebook) to communities

Progress:

By the end of September 2026, the IFRC CEA Technical Lead had provided guidance to LRC on CEA in emergencies, with a particular focus on cash distributions.

LRC plans to conduct CEA sensitization and relevant activities for relevant staff and volunteers by mid-November 2026. The CEA sensitization will strengthen staff and volunteer capacity to share key messages with affected communities through appropriate communication channels, including community meetings, volunteers, IEC materials, feedback desks, hotlines, village loudspeaker announcements and social media.

These channels will support timely information sharing, enable communities to provide feedback and raise concerns, and promote community participation in the response. Progress in implementing these activities will be monitored and reported in the next report.

Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 40,687
Targeted Persons: 5
Targeted Male: 2
Targeted Female: 3

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual

# of monitoring visits conducted	5	0
# of public communication materials produced (e.g., social media posts/ videos, web articles, infographics, media article/ interview)	2	0

Progress Towards Outcome

List of Activities:

1. Conduct monitoring visits to assess operational progress, verify the delivery of assistance, identify implementation challenges and provide technical support to LRC.
2. Develop and disseminate communication materials.

Progress:

IFRC continued to coordinate closely with LRC on the DREF implementation plan. However, due to delays in fund transfers and internal administrative processes, no planned activities were implemented during the reporting period.

The launch of this six-month DREF operation in Lao PDR was published on the IFRC social media accounts in August 2026.

Public communications outputs:
- https://x.com/IFRC_DREF/status/2093328244669927536
- https://x.com/IFRCAsiaPacific/status/2094061672252182809
- https://x.com/ElkhanRahimov/status/2092777864479523218
- Photo collection: https://shared.ifrc.org/collections/_QGwM4jPd

National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 54,134
Targeted Persons: 30
Targeted Male: 10
Targeted Female: 20

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of damage and needs assessment report developed	1	0
# of workshops conducted to consolidate and finalize assessment data	2	0
# of lessons learned/reflection workshop conducted	1	0

Progress Towards Outcome

List of Activities:

1. Finalize needs assessment data.
2. Conduct a lessons learned workshop.

Progress:

Due to delays in fund transfers and administrative processes have affected the implementation timeline. LRC therefore plans to conduct the need assessment by mid-November 2026

About Support Services

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

A total of 20 personnel from both LRC headquarters and branches will be deployed to implement cash distribution activity across the targeted villages in 8 targeted provinces under this DREF allocation. In addition, a total of 40 volunteers will support operation in conducting the needs assessment in target villages and assisting with cash distribution in 8 provinces.

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

Yes. A Financial Service Provider (FSP) will need to be procured for the cash assistance component. LRC will lead the procurement process, with technical and operational support from IFRC throughout the DREF operation. In addition, the AP700 material700 material will be procured by IFRC, due to limited supplier in Laos.

How will this operation be monitored?

LRC will oversee all operational, implementation, monitoring, and reporting aspects of the present operation in the flood affected areas through its branches and volunteers. The IFRC CCD in Bangkok will provide technical support in project management to ensure the operational objectives are met.

Operation updates will be scheduled to provide necessary information in relation to the progress of the operation, any changes in the situation during the reporting period, and any problem, constraint or unmet needs. A final report on the operation will be made available three months after the end of the operation.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

IFRC will be supporting LRC communications capacity through the communication teams in the IFRC 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 is in place.

Budget Overview

DREF OPERATION

- Lao Red Cross
Laos Flood

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	**405,179**
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	352,792
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	47,286
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2,237
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	2,865
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	**94,821**
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	40,687
National Society Strengthening	54,134
TOTAL BUDGET	**500,000**

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Internal #V2022.01

Click here to download the budget file

Contact Information

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

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Click here for the reference