



Humanitarian Situation Report for Emergencies, Lao PDR

Issue Date: 23 October 2009

Situational Overview

Following the destruction caused by Typhoon Ketsana to the southern Provinces of Lao PDR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 9 October 2009, held a press conference to appeal for international assistance and report on the assessed damage and immediate needs of the affected people. Damage to agricultural infrastructure (rice field, aquaculture fields and livestock) and basic infrastructure (houses, hospitals, schools, and roads) has been extensive.



According to preliminary figures from the Government, a total of five provinces, 482 villages were affected. An estimated 178,000 people, approximately 27,836 households were affected, with 9,602 households being displaced. Approximately 39,032 Ha of rice and crop field were damaged. The livestock deaths reported were: 648 buffaloes, 2,051 cows, 2,858 pigs, and 26,598 poultry. A total of 17 people lost their lives and 91 were injured. (National Disaster Management Office - NDMO figures as of 22 Oct. 2009)

In support of the governments fund raising efforts, the UN Disaster Management Team¹ issued a CERF appeal, *under the Rapid Response window*, in the amount of USD 3,727,355 on 16 October 2009. The CERF funds will enable the UNCT to provide immediate emergency assistance to the 178,000 affected people for three month. At the same time, the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) issued a Flash Appeal for Lao PDR in the amount of USD 10,153,872 on 19 October 2009, addressing the early recovery needs for the next six months. The Flash Appeal was officially launched by the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, also Chair of the National Disaster Management Committee and the UN Resident Coordinator on 22 October 2009. To date, the Government has disbursed 3 billion Lak (app. USD 360,030) to the affected provinces.

¹ The UNDMT comprises of FAO, UNDP, UNDSS, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, ADB, WB, and IOM.

While fund raising efforts were in progress, the IASC organized a joint assessment led by Government comprised of UN agencies and NGOs to the affected Provinces from 18 October to 24 October. The World Bank is also undertaking a post disaster recovery assessment looking at longer term infrastructure needs. The findings of both the IASC and World Bank assessments will refine the initial figures detailed in the Flash Appeal and identify the actual vulnerable people who will be targeted for emergency and early recovery assistance. The findings will also be used to update the Flash Appeal in one month's time.

Humanitarian Needs, Lao PDR Flash Appeal plan, and Cluster Response

Food Security

Humanitarian Needs

Out of the 178,000 people affected, approximately 115,000 (64% of affected) will need food assistance. Typhoon Ketsana hit provinces that host some of the most food insecure districts with over 50% of the children suffering from chronic malnutrition. The poorest households have exhausted their coping mechanisms options, because flood waters have drastically reduced fishing and wild food harvesting options, and rice farms are inundated.

Lao PDR Flash Appeal 2009 response plan

To address this need, the Provincial Disaster Management Offices, WFP together with implementing partner NGOs (IP-NGOs) - WVI, Oxfam, CARE, Village Focus International, and Health Unlimited, and the development partner IFAD – plan to distribute food to 115,000 people for three months. MAF, MPI, FAO and IP-NGOs also plan to supply 1,320 Mts of rice seeds to 15,000 households.

Response to date under the clusters

- Field Level, Letters of Agreement between WFP and implementing partner were signed for the latter to distribute WFP food, plan distribution areas, and reporting in the affected areas of their operation.
- To date, 215 Mts of food has been distributed to over 70,000 people in Sekong, Saravan, and Attapeu Provinces. Food distributions in Savannakhet Province are currently ongoing.
- An additional 321Mts of rice and fish has been pre-positioned in the four provinces awaiting distribution.
- FAO is analysis satellite imagery information to assist all the clusters in planning appropriate early recovery actions.

Health and Nutrition

Humanitarian Needs

The floods disrupted health services - access to health facilities is hampered by damaged roads, medical supplies washed away, and health structures damaged. There is a real threat that disease morbidity will increase, especially for water borne diseases, malaria, and dengue fever. In Attapeu Province malaria and lymphatic filiarisis was already endemic before the typhoon and are now expected to get worse. Damage to the water and sanitation facilities will likely increase diarrheal related problems. Disruption of prenatal and other reproductive services will impact the already vulnerable pregnant and lactating women.

Lao PDR Flash Appeal 2009 response plan

To address this need MoH, UNICEF and IP-NGOs plan to provide maternal and child care health services, diarrheal treatment (ORS), insecticide treated bed nets, and nutritional interventions to 25,500 children under five years, 9,000 pregnant and lactating women, and 9,600 households. MoH, UNFPA and IP-NGOs plan to provide life saving reproductive and maternal health services to 4,000 pregnant women and 5,000 household in Attapeu Province. MoH, WHO and IP-NGOs will undertake emergency surveillance, supply medical inputs, and carryout vector control to benefit about 178, 000 people.

Response to date under the clusters

- Nutrition services for children and women integrated into mobile health team's and an upcoming maternal & neonatal tetanus elimination (MNTE) campaign.
- Communication materials on the use of multiple micronutrients (sprinkles).
- Treatment of malnutrition and monitoring malnutrition rates.
- Technical and financial support for integrated health mobile services in Attapeu, Saravan, and Sekong Provinces.
- 4,598 insecticide treated nets (ITN) procured for Attapeu and Saravan Provinces.
- UNFPA Dignity kits (personal and contraceptive inputs) have been distributed in Lanum District, Sekong Province.

Protection

Humanitarian Needs

The typhoon hit Phouvong and Sanxay districts in Attapeu Provinces, which are among the most UXO contaminated districts in Lao PDR. The flood waters are expected to unearth and carry away UXOs in previously mapped locations to new locations. Clearing unearthed UXOs, re-mapping new contamination sites, and raising awareness are urgent interventions to allow the population to resume agricultural and other activities quickly, and also prevent an increase in UXO related injuries.

Displaced households need to quickly return to their homes or rebuild new ones, and replace lost household and personal effects. Long periods of displacements will increase protection concerns for children and women who are prone to exploitation and gender based violence.

Lao PDR Flash Appeal 2009 response plan

To address this need MSLW, Lao Women's Union, UNICEF, and IP-NGOs – SC, Handicap International-Belgium, WVI, and Red Cross - plan to provide psycho-social support and life skills education for about 15,000 children and their families, and 5,000 women. National Regulatory Authority, Lao UXO programme, UNDP plans to undertake emergency UXO action in the affected areas.

Education

Humanitarian Needs

A total of 21,300 primary school children (9,585 girls) and 579 teachers were affected, with 125 schools in 12 districts in the four provinces being damaged or completely destroyed. These schools will need to be repaired or replaced.

Lao PDR Flash Appeal 2009 response plan

To address this, MoE, UNICEF, and IP-NGOs – SC, plan to ensure the above affected schools environment is safe, hygienic and protective for 21,300 children (9,585 girls).

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Humanitarian Needs

About 235 villages in 12 districts in the four provinces had damage to their water supply and sanitation facilities. Specifically, 25 gravity flow irrigation schemes, four water treatment plants, 275 bore holes, 12 health facilities, 2,678 household latrines, and will need rehabilitation.

Lao PDR Flash Appeal 2009 response plan

To address this, MoH, MPI, UNICEF and IP-NGOs plan to provide WASH inputs to 13,500 families, and rehabilitate the WASH faculties in 92 schools. MPWT and UNHABITAT also plan to rehabilitate and reconstruct water supply and sanitation infrastructure in urban and peri-urban areas in three provinces targeting about 45,000 people and 20 schools.

Response to date under the clusters

- MoH and Min. of Defense have joint WASH response teams repairing water facilities in affected villages.
- UNICEF is in the process of procuring 5,000 collapsible water jerry cans, 10,000 bars of soap, and 5,000 plastic buckets.

Emergency Shelter

Humanitarian Needs

The immediate needs include: providing emergency and transitional shelter and non food items (household items), and repairing damaged housing.

Lao PDR Flash Appeal 2009 response plan

To address this, MPWT, Lao Women’s Union, and IP-NGOs – Asian Coalition of Housing Rights, and others – plan to ensure 2,120 families have safe and sanitary transitory shelter, and 5,000 households receive shelter related non food items.

Response to date under the clusters

- CARE have distributed shelter and water kits to 214 households in 29 villages in Lanam district, Sekong Province.

Early Recovery

Humanitarian Needs

The typhoon damaged roads leading to essential services (e.g. health services) and vital agriculture and economic infrastructure affecting 9,600 displaced households. Repair to damaged agriculture land, fish ponds as well as socio-economic infrastructure rehabilitation is a priority – e.g. bridges, roads, essential services centers, communication office and government offices that facilitate relief efforts.

Lao PDR Flash Appeal 2009 response plan

To address this need, MLSW, MPWT, UNDP, and IP-NGOs plan to restore essential services infrastructure, access to these services by clear debris, open up drainage etc. At the same time provide

short term employment opportunities and cash-for-work programmes to enable about 10,000 affected people resume normalcy quickly. In addition, this intervention will strengthen national and community capacities to address and manage emergencies during disasters.

Logistics

The Logistics Cluster is contacting NDMO and MoFA with the request to ease customs clearance procedures and for tax exemptions for the relief goods that are not available in Lao PDR.

Coordination

The overall aim is to strengthen humanitarian coordination between Government, UN agencies, Red Cross, and NGOs within the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) structure and the Inter Agency Standing Committee mechanisms.

Lao PDR Flash Appeal 2009 response plan

Coordination support from the Resident Coordinator (UNORC), will focus on the IASC and NDMO.

Response to date under the clusters

- A CERF appeal was submitted to OCHA head quarters on 16 October 2009, followed by a Flash Appeal submitted on 19 October. The requested amounts were USD 3,727,355 and USD 10,153,872 respectively.
- An IASC inter agency joint assessment led by the Government and NDMO ongoing from 18 to 24 October in the five affected provinces (Sekong, Saravan, Attapeu, Savannakhet, and Champassack).
- MPI and World Bank are currently conducting a post disaster recovery assessment focusing on longer term infrastructural needs.

Contacts

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<p>Disclaimer: The information in this report is consolidated from the National Disaster Management Office, Line Ministries, UN, Red Cross Societies, INGOs, and other and subject to availability of data. Although the UN RC Office aims to confirm reports independently, occasional factual inaccuracies can occur. For inputs, questions or comments please contact directly the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator.</p>
