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Information bulletin

Thailand: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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| Glide n° FL-2017-000004-THA | Date of issue: 18 January 2016 |
| Date of disaster: 9 January 2017 | Point of contact: see contact information |
| Host National Society: Thai Red Cross Society | |
| Number of people affected: 1.6 million | |

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) is providing assistance to the affected population and has – together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) – analyzed that external support is not required.

The situation

Continuous heavy rains, that started pouring on 1 January 2017, have caused widespread flooding across 12 provinces in southern Thailand, killing dozens of people and leaving a trail of destruction. The affected provinces are Chumphon, Krabi, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Narathiwat, Pattani, Phatthalung, Prachaub Khirikhan, Ranong, Songkhla, Surat Thani, Trang and Yala.

According to an update issued by the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) on 16 January, 44 people have been confirmed dead as a result of the floods, with two missing. The floods have forced thousands of people to evacuate to safer places. In some areas, such as Nakhon Sri Thammarat province, many villages have been isolated and are only accessible by boat.



Flooding has isolated many villages in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, rendering them accessible by boat only. (Photo: TRCS)

In all, it is estimated that more than 1.6 million people have been affected by the floods and over 531,911 houses have been damaged. The floods have also damaged or destroyed infrastructure such as roads, bridges and drainage ditches.

The national authorities have mobilized personnel and resources from various ministries, agencies, provincial and local governments to provide immediate assistance to affected in the floods areas. On Saturday, 7 January, the central government released THB 50 million (CHF 1.4 million) to each affected province for the emergency phase, with priorities identified as evacuation, search and rescue (lifesaving), provision of immediate assistance (including water and food) in all affected areas, draining of floodwater (to the ocean) and immediate repair of critical infrastructure.

Meantime, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has indicated that the situation remains manageable and as such international support is not required. The National Disaster Emergency Command Center (NDECC), along with the Ministry of Interior (which DDPM is part of), is leading coordination of the humanitarian operations. Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) is working closely with the authorities to deliver assistance in affected areas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to the disaster, TRCS has been working closely with national, provincial and local authorities to address the most immediate needs of the affected communities, including relief. The National Society has prioritized the distribution of rice, other food items and safe water to the most vulnerable communities.



In addition to food and safe water, TRCS is providing family relief kits including torches and batteries, mosquito nets, basic medicine and other essential household items. TRCS aims to distribute more than 49,000 of these kits in ten of the affected provinces by 25 January.

During the period 11 to 24 January, TRCS will deploy two mobile water purification units for the provision of safe drinking water to the flood-affected communities in Nakorn Sri Thammarat. One unit can produce 10,000 litres of water per hour, while the other can produce 3,000 litres of water per hour.



In contributing towards meeting immediate health needs, TRCS has deployed 30 health staff to support health stations in the affected provinces. The National Society has also provided five large tents in Prachaub Khirikhan province to accommodate people affected by flood. Each tent is able to shelter five people.

The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Bangkok has coordinated with the TRCS to determine whether the National Society requires support for its response. Based on the coordination, it has been determined that the situation is within the capacity of TRCS to address with resources available locally. As such, no external support is being requested.

Contact information

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.
