

Information bulletin

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Southeast Asia: Typhoon Ketsana

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This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Cambodian Red Cross and the Lao Red Cross will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

Typhoon Ketsana, proving to be one of the most destructive typhoons in recent years, continued its path of destruction across Southeast Asia on Wednesday, 30 September, flattening houses and collapsing infrastructure in both Cambodia and Lao PDR, after submerging 80 per cent of Metro Manila in the Philippines, and wrecking life and property across central Viet Nam.



Cambodian Red Cross staff and volunteers delivering assistance amidst the challenges of road access

Ketsana continued into Cambodia, striking Kampong Thom, hardest by razing many homes in the five districts of Sandan, Baray, Santouk, Balang and Sambo.

Neighbouring Lao PDR also did not escape the fury of Ketsana. Lao Red Cross assessments indicate that many areas in Savannakhet, Saravan, Sekong and Attapeu and other provinces in the south were affected by floods. To date, Lao Red Cross has stated that up to 16 people are reported dead while 143 are missing. At least 37,500 people have been displaced due to flash flooding caused by Ketsana. Lao Red Cross branch volunteers and staff continue to help evacuate people to safer sites.

The International Federation is currently in the process of applying for disaster relief emergency funding (DREF) to support operations in Cambodia.

[<view a map of the affected areas, or detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

In **Cambodia**, Typhoon Ketsana struck the northern part of the country on the evening of 29 September, causing destruction in several provinces including Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, Siem Reap and Orddor Mean Chey, Mondulkiri and Rattanakiri.

In the central province of Kampong Thom, at least 100 houses in five districts were flattened. These include 39 in Sandan district, 45 in Baray, 15 in Santouk, two in Balang, and two in Sambo. Up to 12 people are reported dead and 20 injured in Sandaan, with 18 injured in Baray.

Emergency response from the national headquarters and the Kampong Thom CRC branch provided emergency response the next day (30 September), especially in the hardest-hit district of Sandan. This included assistance to 39 families with cash, rice, tinned fish, instant noodles, sarong, krama, one mosquito net per family. Similar relief items were planned for distribution to the four other districts the next day.

In Preah Vihear, four districts are affected with Chhey Sen district the worst hit. To date, 1,026 families have been evacuated to safer ground. Up to 230 families in Khum Putrea, Chey Sen district bordering Roveang district were accessible by road and received aid in the form of tents (250 from local authority and 200 from Cambodian Red Cross), 25 kg of rice per family, 500 boxes of instant noodles, sarong, krama and mosquito nets. Rice and instant noodles constitute the primary need followed by mosquito nets, as the area is deemed malaria-endemic.

The CRC Preah Vihear branch is working in close cooperation with the provincial authority and has mobilized local resources for the response operation. Immediate needs in Preah Vihear are plastic sheets, drinking water, mosquito nets, and instant food items. Boats are needed for the evacuation of families and transport of relief items to beneficiaries.

In Rattanakiri, the five districts affected are Ondoung Meas, Lum Phat, Veun Say, Ta Veng and O Yadao. Most severely affected is Ondoung Meas, where 777 houses are damaged and 860 families evacuated. Access to these areas is highly precarious as water currents are still very strong. So far, three people are reported dead, and 10 houses collapsed. Damage assessments continue in these areas.

In Mondulkiri, an estimated four districts are affected. Despite relatively milder rain and wind, the access road to Kos Nhek district is sinking up to 0.5 metres at some points.

In Siem Reap province, the storm has abated. However, in Sot Nikum district, furious winds flattened 50 houses while in Angkor Thom district, one death and five injuries have been reported and eight houses destroyed. As field assessments are ongoing, fresh information from the field is expected over the next few days.

In **Lao PDR**, Lao Red Cross has identified six southern provinces that have been hard-struck by Ketsana. Up to 155,500 persons were directly affected, and 37,500 displaced. The national society has reported 16 dead, 143 missing and 120 injured. Lao Red Cross branches continue to help evacuate people to safer sites. To date, 3,500 people have received assistance from the national society with the help of 25 national staff and 120 volunteers.

The Lao Red Cross disaster management has informed the regional disaster management unit (RDMU) in Bangkok that present flooding in the country far exceeds the floods that occurred in August 2008. The government of Lao PDR has allocated about USD 120,000 (CHF or EUR) to assist those affected through the procurement of relief items.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Cambodian Red Cross coordination response group immediately took action, working in close contact with local provincial CRC branches to promptly mobilize resources for effective and efficient delivery of goods and services to those affected by Typhoon Ketsana. Led by the senior national headquarters manager and in consultation with the governing board and the president, the team worked in close coordination with the national disaster management office (NDMO) and local authorities.

As of 2 October, the national society has given aid comprising food and shelter materials, to up to 960 families. Other relief supplies include food aid, plastic sheeting, *sarong* (traditional skirt), *krama* (local shawl), blankets, mosquito nets, and cash assistance. Initial supplies were mobilized from the Cambodian Red Cross national headquarters including five tonnes of rice, 250 plastic sheets, 250 *sarong*, 250 *krama*, 250 mosquito nets, 250 blankets, 500 boxes of instant noodles and 1,000 tins of canned fish. The Cambodian Red Cross currently has up to 300 tonnes of rice available for relief distribution.

The high level of flooding in Kampong Thom caused great difficulty for trucks to access the affected areas and as such, caused some delay in response. In order for relief items to get through, it was necessary to transfer the goods from trucks into cars to get through the long and flooded access road and ultimately, to ox cart in order to reach the final destination.

Boats are normally used to transport relief items to those affected. However, as only small boats were available, many more trips would have been required to transport the goods. Road conditions in Mondulkiri and Rattanakiri have been seriously deteriorated and are highly dangerous.

All Cambodian Red Cross staff have been mobilized for emergency relief activities and needs assessments. The national headquarters has taken the lead in guidance, support and supervision of activities in close coordination with national, provincial and district disaster management committees.

Cambodian Red Cross also received a USD 4,500 (CHF 4,679 or EUR 3,085) donation from German Red Cross and the general public. The national society is doing its utmost at all levels to deliver valuable assistance to those most vulnerable and affected, especially in remote areas.

Lao Red Cross is a member of the damage assessment and needs analysis programme organized by the Lao national disaster management office (NDMO). This group is composed of national disaster management office, international and national non-governmental organizations and other humanitarian parties present in the country.

Damage and needs assessments by both Cambodian Red Cross and Lao Red Cross are ongoing.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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

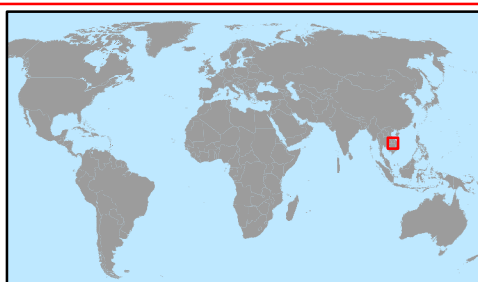
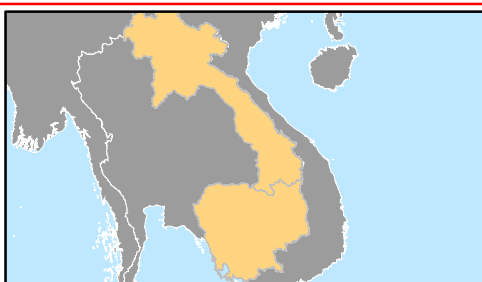
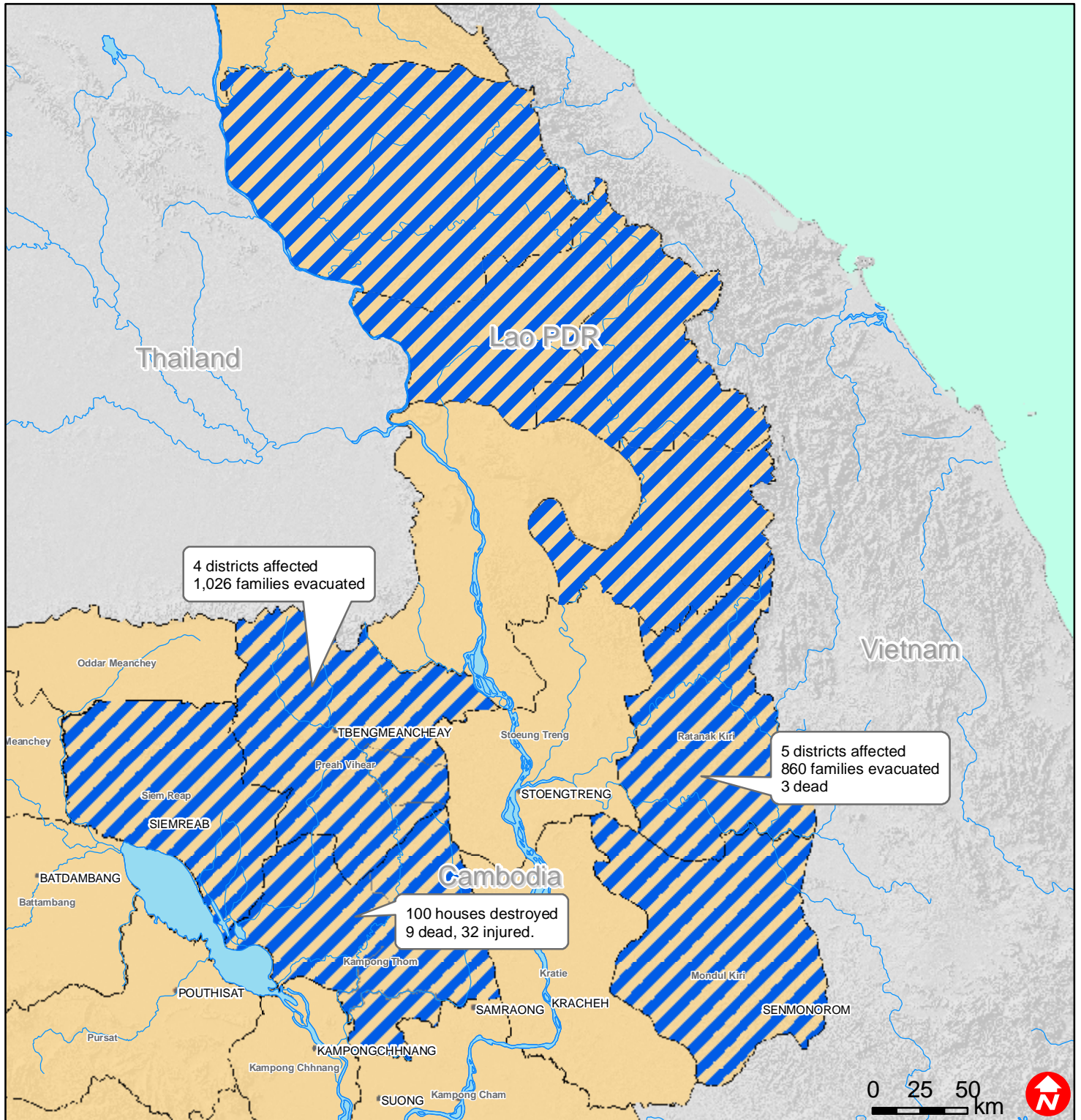
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[<map below; click here to return to title page>](#)



Cambodia and Laos: Typhoon Ketsana



- Settlements
- ★ Capitals
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Provinces

Lao, 6 southern provinces were affected
 155,000 persons affected, 37,500 displaced.
 16 people died, 135 missing and 105 injured