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## Information bulletin

### Lao People's Democratic Republic: Hydroelectric dam collapsed

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Glide n° XXX</b>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 24 July 2018
<b>Date of disaster:</b> 23 July 2018	<b>Point of contact:</b> Dr Kaviphone Southy, director, DM Department
<b>Operation start date:</b> -	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> -
<b>Host National Society(ies):</b> Lao Red Cross	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> 7,000	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> -
<b>N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation:</b> Thai Red Cross Society	
<b>N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation:</b> -	

*This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Lao Red Cross (LRC), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), is currently mobilizing its response through its own resources. Based on the ongoing needs assessment, LRC, with the support of IFRC, will determine whether external assistance is required.*

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

## The situation

Hundreds of people are missing and an unknown number death after the Xepian-Xe Nam Noy hydropower dam under construction in Attapeu province, southeast of Laos has collapsed on Monday, 23 July 2018 releasing five billion cubic metres of water (more than two million Olympic-sized swimming pools) causing flash flooding which has affected nearly 7,000 residents in six villages, according to the official Lao News Agency also known as Khaosan Pathet Lao (KPL) on 24 July 2018.

The incident triggered flash flooding that has affected nearly 7,000 residents in six villages, including Yai Thae, Hinlad, Mai, Thasengchan, Tha Hin and Samong, according to the news agency. The reason for the dam's collapse is still uncertain.

Local authorities are requesting appeals to government bodies and other communities for emergency assistance for the affected people such as clothing, food, drinking water and medicine. According to the ABC Laos news, the officials have sent rescue boats to evacuate stranded people in San Sai district in Attapeu as water level is rising after the dam collapsed.

The Provincial Committee on Disaster Prevention and Control Committee as well as Military and Police forces are supporting the evacuations and have deployed search and rescue teams (equipped with three helicopters and rescue boats) to Attapeu. A coordination meeting was convened by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to provide an update on the situation and to outline a response plan. The public authorities have called for support from partners towards meeting the immediate needs of affected people.

The Prime Minister and Member of National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee visited Attapeu and distributed relief items to the affected people.



People stranded on the roof top waiting assistance in Attapeu province on 24 July 2018.  
(Photo: [BBC News](#), 24 July 2018)

According to the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), immediate needs include shelter assistance, family kits, hygiene kits, shelter/housing repair kits and the need to set-up a field office with operation system and support equipment.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Lao Red Cross (LRC) has at least 3,295 volunteers and 350 staff members. The LRC is mobilizing Red Cross staff and volunteers to provide support together with local authorities, including evacuating affected people to safer places and evacuation centres. The LRC is mobilizing relief teams to deliver immediate assistance, including distributing 200 sets of clothes and 30 sets of blankets from its main warehouse in Vientiane. A water purification unit has been readied for dispatch to Attapeu from Champasak provincial branch to provide safe water to the affected people. In Attapeu, the LRC branch is actively engaged in search and rescue as well as evacuation efforts.

The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Bangkok will deploy one member of its team to Laos tomorrow to provide in-country coordination and is preparing to dispatch 1,400 food relief kits in coordination with the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS). There are sufficient stocks of non-food supplies (including tarpaulins and hygiene kits) in IFRC Asia Pacific regional office in Kuala Lumpur warehouse which can be mobilized to Laos immediately by air. The regional logistics team is already checking estimates for a charter.

IFRC CCST Bangkok is liaising with the TRCS for logistic and relief support, particularly for supply of food and non-food items from its TRCS provincial Red Cross Chapter located close to Lao PDR. In addition, IFRC stands ready to provide communication and coordination assistance to the Lao Red Cross especially during the early days after the incident. The IFRC through its CCST in Bangkok is preparing to issue Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to enable LRC to increase support to affected people.



Map shows the location of the dam in Attapeu Province that collapsed on 23 July 2018. (Photo: [Mekong – Cuu Long, 25 April 2016](#))



**Click here**

1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page.

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## Contact information

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

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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 (NGOs) 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.

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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**.

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