

Information Bulletin n° 1
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24 October 2011

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Thai Red Cross Society is not seeking international assistance at this time.

Summary: Since late June, Thailand's worst flooding in more than five decades has affected almost one third of the entire country. To date, more than 2.3 million people have been affected, with 283 confirmed dead. At least 3.8 million acres of farmland have been inundated.

Authorities are now working to protect the centre of Bangkok from the flooding. Flood barriers are being erected or reinforced in three vulnerable locations in the city's north.

Thai Red Cross has been active in 32 flood affected provinces. So far, the National Society has reached more than 500,000 people with basic relief, drinking water, hot meals, search and rescue and medical assistance.



Thai Red Cross has reached more than 500,000 people since flooding began in late June. (Photo: Indira Kulenovic/IFRC)

The situation

Almost 2.3 million people have been affected as nearly four months of heavy flooding have washed down from Thailand's northern provinces to the outskirts of the country's capital, Bangkok, further south.

This flooding – the worst to hit the country in more than five decades – is the result in part of heavy monsoon rains coupled with the continuous arrival of the remnants of tropical storms and typhoons that have made their way across the South China Sea and over Viet Nam and Lao PDR, and eventually to the north of Thailand.

Up to 60 of the country's 76 provinces have been affected to some degree. At present, there are 27 affected provinces, with those worst affected – Ayutthaya and Chainat – sitting just north of Bangkok. In Ayutthaya, the UNESCO listed historical park - and home to the ruins of the ancient city - has been under water for more than one week. A giant industrial park in the province has been closed under threat of flooding, worsening fears of the eventual economic impact of these floods on the country.

In Bangkok, authorities are optimistic of protecting the central business district from the worst of the flood waters, though there is concern for communities living in the city's east. The city sits only two metres above sea level, and the period of highest risk (15-19 October) coincides with high tide (16 October). In the past,

officials have diverted flood waters away from Bangkok and into surrounding provinces. But many of these provinces are now already under water.

The Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also set up a facility to coordinate foreign assistance under the Flood Relief Operation Centre at a major airport in Bangkok to help coordinate international aid and facilitate processes such as customs clearance for humanitarian relief supplies.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Thai Red Cross Society has been responding to this crisis since 27 June, working in close coordination with provincial and national authorities. At least 500,000 people have been reached in 32 affected provinces. To date, more than 122,890 family kits have been distributed along with 1.3 million bottles of drinking water.

Two Red Cross emergency kitchens – in Ayutthaya and Chainat provinces – are producing 4,000 hot meals a day. The kitchen in Chainat has been running since 27 September, and the one in Ayutthaya since 11 October.

Red Cross teams have also been involved in evacuating people to safety and have provided flood-affected communities with latrines. Table 1 summarizes the highlights of the National Society's response so far.

Table 1: Thai Red Cross assistance (by region) 27 June to 20 October 2011

Region	Provinces	Assistance							
		Relief kits (kit)	Bottled water (bottle)	Water teams	Shelter box (kit)	Flat bottom boat	Mobile kitchen (meals/day)	Medical teams	Household medicine (kit)
Northern	14	70,109	781,896	2	0	8	4,000 (ended)	1 (ended)	0
Northeast	6	8,043	77,268	-	0	2	0	0	0
Central	7	39,851	478,392	1	448	6	8,000	1	0
East	6	15,998	149,976	-	0	0	0	0	20,000
South	3	3,150	24,000	-	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	36	137,151	1,511,532	3	448	16	8,000	1	20,000

The Thai Red Cross Society is not seeking international assistance at this time. There are no plans for either DREF or an emergency appeal. The National Society has already received some bilateral support from other National Societies in the region (including Indonesia, New Zealand and Singapore) as well as Norwegian Red Cross, and a number of other non-Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners such as USAID, AUSAID, UN OCHA and private sector companies .

IFRC, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), coordinates regularly with TRC to closely monitor the flood situation and response. Red Cross Red Crescent Movement support in the relief operation includes technical support when requested and coordination of relief efforts.

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 Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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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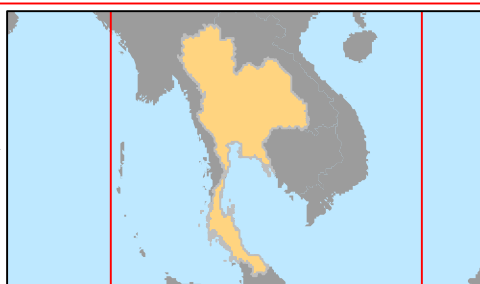
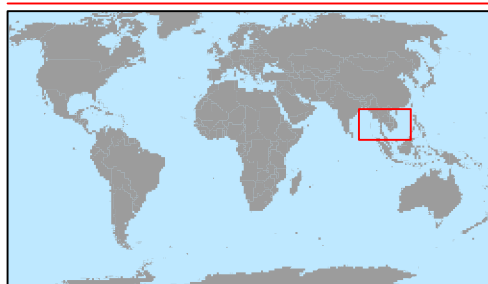
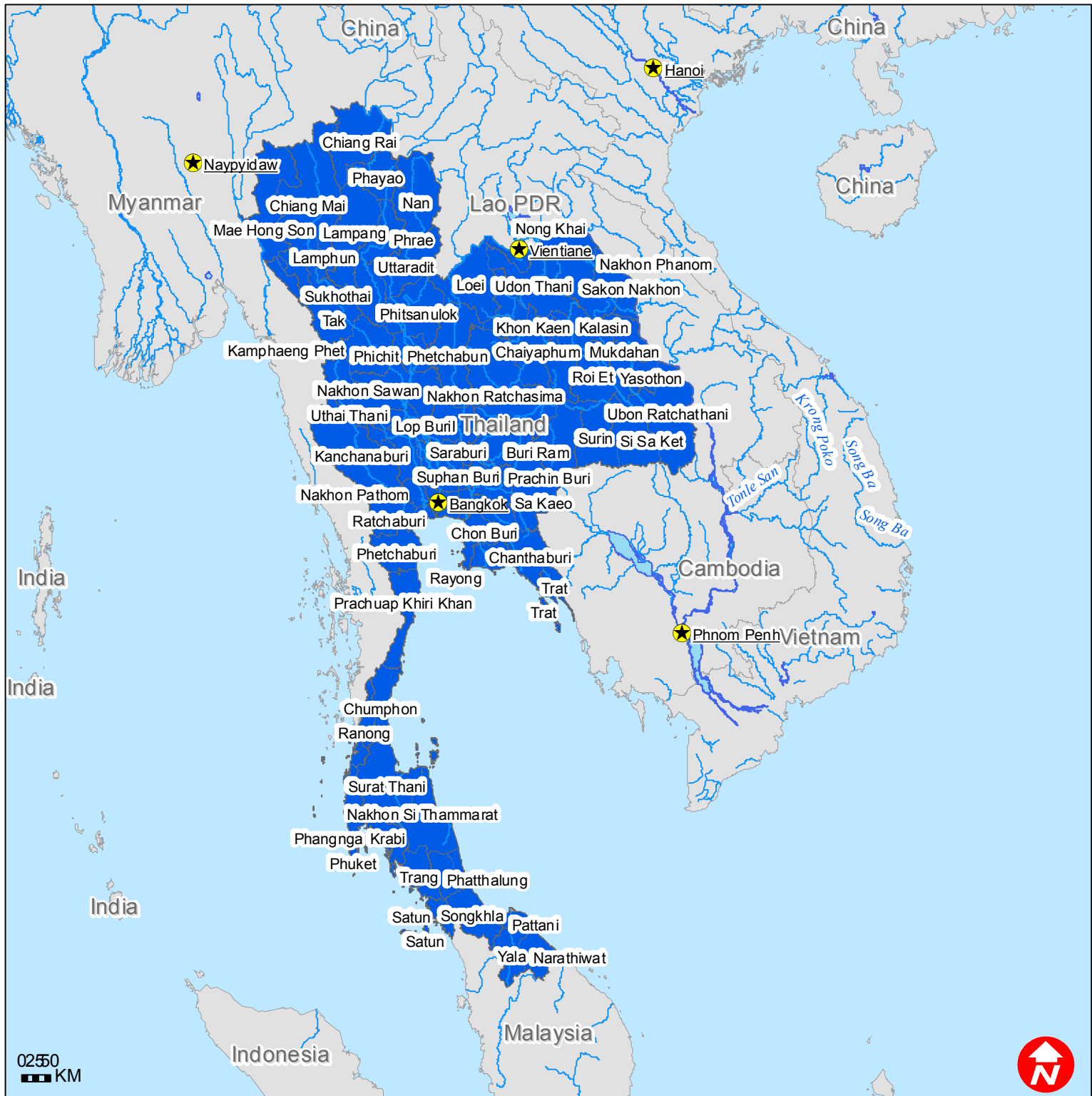





IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.



Thailand: Floods



-  Capitals
-  Perennial Rivers
-  Affected provinces