

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Lao PDR: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRLA001
GLIDE n° FL-2008-000131-LAO
DREF Operations Update n° 2
12 November 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update:

30 September to 4 November 2008.

Summary: CHF 200,000 (USD 176,404 or EUR 129,528) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support Lao Red Cross in delivering assistance to 8,000¹ beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.

The Mekong River reached its highest peak in 100 years during August 2008, causing damage to houses, infrastructure, and agricultural land. This DREF allocation was used to support 1,656 households in the worst affected areas with relief food items and hygiene kits. This operation is expected to be completed by November 2008. In line with the International Federation reporting standards, the final report (narrative and financial) is due by 28 February 2009.

Support for this DREF operation has been received from Netherlands Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, and the French Red Cross through a grant from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Directorate General (ECHO).

[<click to view attached budget² or contact details>](#)



Lao Red Cross staff distribute relief items to a household of beneficiaries in Sayphai village (photo by IFRC)

The situation

Typhoon Kammuri lingered over northern Lao PDR for several days in August, causing the Mekong River to exceed historically high levels on 15 August, reported to be the worst in 100 years. The government of Lao PDR appealed for international assistance on 25 August and a rapid assessment of the impact and needs by the inter-agency standing committee (IASC) and the Lao government was conducted on 21-29 August, in which Lao Red Cross (LRC) staff participated. The areas worst affected are the provinces of Luangphrabang, Luang Namtha, Bokeo, Khammuane, Vientiane and Borikhamxai, and the capital city of

¹ In previous DREF operations updates, the figure of 10,100 included the 8,000 beneficiaries targeted by this DREF and the 2,100 beneficiaries targeted by the United States government contribution under [Plan of Action 1](#).

² The amount outstanding in the closing balance is due to the pending receipt of a pledged contribution.

Vientiane. It is estimated that a total of 204,190 people in some 866 villages of 53 districts across the country have been affected by the floods. Fortunately, fears of a second major flooding have proven unfounded, despite this occurring regularly in the past.

The flood-affected areas are Lao PDR's most productive and these normally supply rice for the rest of the



19 October: Damage caused by the floods to farmland and crops in the Paksan district bode a season of possible food shortage for many vulnerable households. (Photo by Lao Red Cross)

country. Damage to the agricultural infrastructure, assets, and crops has been severe, compromising food production and affecting the availability and access to food during the ensuing season. This, compounded by rising food prices, may have severe implications for national and household food security, both in the short and longer term. The loss of livelihood opportunities may further restrict access to food, which is already limited for many vulnerable households, by high food prices.

The Needs

Assessments of the impact and needs by IASC and the Lao government conclude as follow:

Most Immediate Needs (September - November 2008)

- Clean drinking water and sanitation
- Food supplies
- Essential medicines and primary health care
- Immunization and surveillance for disease outbreaks and nutrition status
- Emergency replacement seeds

Medium Term Needs (December 2008 onwards)

- Credit and cash transfers for work
- Food security and livelihoods
- Early recovery for agriculture and livestock
- Food availability
- Micronutrient supplementation
- Immunization
- Infrastructure roads, schools and health facilities, shelter
- Vulnerability and stress of affected people

Coordination and partnerships

The Lao Red Cross (LRC) is a permanent member of the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) and has actively participated in IASC meetings. As LRC focuses on food aid, it participates in the Food Security Task Force, with World Food Programme (WFP) as lead. Partners to the Food Security Task Force are working on common standards for food rations and coordination of operational areas to prevent overlapping. A partnership on joint relief food distribution has been signed between LRC and WFP. LRC's branches in the operating provinces are coordinating with other organizations as well as authorities and disaster management committees at sub-national levels.

Both the French and Danish Red Cross are supporting longer-term LRC development programmes and have also supported the LRC in the response to the floods. The French Red Cross have secured funds from ECHO for agricultural rehabilitation as well as to replenish the DREF, while Danish Red Cross supports the operation by fully funding the delegate currently assisting the LRC.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Support for this operation has trickled in irregularly from various sources over time. To be as efficient as possible, the LRC decided to work with smaller Plans of Action (PoA) as soon as funding became available.

The LRC identified the need for food as the most urgent need in this operation and has focused its efforts in this area.

- **Plan of Action 1:** The first Plan of Action was developed around the United States government contribution of USD 50,000 (CHF 58,950) and will support families in the province of Borikhamxai with both rice and hygiene kits. Plan of Action 1 aims to reach 2,100 beneficiaries in two districts.
- **Plan of Action 2** is developed around the DREF allocation and will also support families with rice and hygiene kits. Plan of Action 2 will be implemented in Vientiane province and the capital city of Vientiane. Plan of Action 2 aims to reach 8,000 beneficiaries in three districts.
- **Plan of Action 3:** A partnership agreement has been signed with WFP to jointly provide relief food to approximately 14,000 beneficiaries in Louang Namtha, Bokeo, and Borikhamxai provinces.

The objectives of Plans of Action 1 and 2 have been achieved. Each province had its own distribution team consisting of LRC staff, consisting of 3-4 team members from headquarters and 4-5 others from the local branch. Prior to the first distribution in each province, a brief induction training session on relief distribution was provided to the team by the International Federation delegate.

Relief distributions took place between 11 and 21 October. For eight days, 14 distributions were conducted, reaching all 2,088 targeted households. These households received their relief entitlements of 30 kilograms of rice per person and one hygiene kit per household. This means that 10,100 beneficiaries have received rice through the intervention of Lao Red Cross by now, covering about 25 per cent of all the 40,000 people identified by IASC as in need of relief food.

Relief distributed to beneficiaries in accordance with Plans of Action 1 and 2:

Province	District	Number of villages	Households	Beneficiaries	Rice (kg)	Hygiene kits
Vientiane capital ²	PakNgum	15	495	2,000	60,000	495
Vientiane capital ²	Sangthong	7	409	2,000	60,000	409
Vientiane province ²	Toulakhom	11	752	4,000	120,000	752
Borikhamxai ¹	Thaphabath	13	133	660	19,800	133
Borikhamxai ¹	Paksan	20	299	1,440	43,200	299
TOTAL		66	2,088	10,100	303,000	2,088

¹ Plan of Action 1; ² Plan of Action 2 (funded by DREF)

For Plan of Action 3, a partnership agreement has been signed between LRC and WFP to provide relief food (of 30 kilogrammes of rice per person) to 15,770 beneficiaries in three provinces: Louang Namtha, Bokeo, and Borikhamxai. Beneficiary selections have been jointly conducted by LRC branches and WFP provincial focal points. Distributions are planned to start on 13 November and are scheduled to be finished by the end of the month.

Proposed Set-up of Plan of Action 3

Province	District	No. of Villages	Households	Beneficiaries	Rice (kg)
Bokeo	Huayxai	17	185	1,151	34,530
	Meung	12	171	955	28,650
	Phaoudom	13	118	704	21,120
	Paktha	11	99	554	16,620
	Tonpheng	8	180	1,087	32,610
Bokeo Total		61	753	4,451	133,530
Luangnamtha	Long	7	128	710	21,300
	Nalae	13	272	1,790	53,700
	Namtha	10	73	485	14,550
	Sing	11	128	628	18,840
	Viengphoukha	11	201	964	28,920
Luangnamtha Total		52	802	4,577	137,310
Borikhamxai	Pakading	-	480	2,512	75,360

	Thaphatath	-	397	2,103	63,090
	Paksan	-	432	2,127	63,810
Borikhamxai Total		-	1,309	6,742	202,260
Grand Total		-	2,864	15,770	473,100

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Plan of Action 3 - Objective: approximately 14,000 beneficiaries are supported with rice according to assessment and selection criteria that identify actual needs and vulnerable groups.

Activities planned:

- Organize and distribute relief supplies together with WFP.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities, and report on relief distributions.

The floods happened during a time when food supply is generally low. Already high prices of rice prior to the disaster have increased even more, leaving many families facing food shortages. Unsustainable coping mechanisms might plunge households into poverty and the sale of productive and household assets may impede the recovery process. As such, relief supplies to the most vulnerable will fill the dual purpose of providing food and protecting assets from being sold for food. The relief distribution for Plan of Action 3 will begin on 17 November and each beneficiary will be provided with 30 kilograms of rice to last for two months.

Monitoring and Evaluation

There are two additional activities planned under the DREF. *First*, in order to learn as much as possible from this operation, all branches involved and the headquarters will reflect on the lessons that can be learned from implementing Plans of Action 1 and 2. This will provide ways of improving future relief operations. The synthesis will be documented in a short Lao Red Cross DREF Lessons Learned Brief. *Second*, a beneficiary survey will be conducted in Plan of Action 1 and 2 areas. This will likely to be based on individual beneficiary/household interviews. The objective of this survey is to ensure that all beneficiaries have received what they were entitled to, and that the identification, selection and distribution processes have been transparent and efficient.



Beneficiaries reviewing the selection criteria and beneficiary list in Ban Chaeng village. (Photo: International Federation)

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 operation please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRLA001 - Laos - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/9-2008/10
Budget Timeframe	2008/9-2008/11
Appeal	MDRLA001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	231,765					231,765
B. Opening Balance	200,000					200,000
Income						
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	0					0
D. Total Funding = B + C	200,000					200,000
Appeal Coverage	86%					86%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	200,000					200,000
C. Income	0					0
E. Expenditure	-206,208					-206,208
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	-6,208					-6,208

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		231,765					231,765	
Supplies								
Food	150,000						150,000	
Other Supplies & Services	15,000						15,000	
Total Supplies	165,000						165,000	
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	10,000						10,000	
Total Transport & Storage	10,000						10,000	
Personnel								
International Staff	29,700	4,007				4,007	25,693	
National Society Staff	3,500						3,500	
Total Personnel	33,200	4,007				4,007	29,193	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	500						500	
Total Workshops & Training	500						500	
General Expenditure								
Travel		429				429	-429	
Information & Public Relation	1,500						1,500	
Office Costs	2,500						2,500	
Communications		48				48	-48	
Professional Fees	4,000						4,000	
Financial Charges		284				284	-284	
Total General Expenditure	8,000	761				761	7,239	
Programme Support								
Program Support	15,065	13,295				13,295	1,770	
Total Programme Support	15,065	13,295				13,295	1,770	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		188,145				188,145	-188,145	
Total Operational Provisions		188,145				188,145	-188,145	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	231,765	206,208				206,208	25,557	
VARIANCE (C - D)		25,557				25,557		