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## DREF operation update Lao PDR: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

# Lao PDR: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRLA002  
GLIDE n° **FL-2011-000077-LAO**  
Update n° 1  
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The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by IFRC in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of IFRC's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

**Period covered by this update:** 18 July 2011 to 15 August 2011

### Summary:

CHF 329,778 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 18 July 2011 to support the Lao Red Cross (LRC) to reach 5,000 people affected by Tropical Storm Haima in Borikhamxay and Vientiane provinces. The operation involves the distribution of food and hygiene supplies (coupled in some areas, with hygiene promotion activities).

People to be reached have been identified, and work is now underway with communities to prepare for distributions in early September. LRC national disaster response teams (NDRTs) have been supporting branches in sharing distribution plans and in liaising closely with district authorities and community leaders.



**Selection of beneficiaries in Borikhamxay province by members of Lao Red Cross, national disaster response team (NDRT) and regional disaster response team (RDRT). (Photo: RDRT)**

At the beginning of August, LRC drew from its existing emergency funds to provide assistance through food and hygiene items to 1,052 beneficiaries (some 200 families) in four villages in Bolikhan district, Borikhamxay province.

In the first week of August, Tropical Storm Nock-Ten hit Lao PDR, affecting many of the communities still recovering from Tropical Storm Haima. Nock-Ten, and the arrival of the monsoon season, have added new complications to the already complex task of reaching affected communities.

This operation will be implemented over six months and completed by 15 January 2012. In line with IFRC reporting standards, the final narrative and financial report will be published 90 days after the end of the operation by 15 April 2012.

Contributions to replenish the DREF in support of this operation have been received from Cambodian Red

Cross, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Netherlands Red Cross/SEF government, and the Directorate-General European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO).

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## The situation

Families affected by Tropical Storm Haima continue to draw on their remaining, undamaged food stocks, as well as on the support of their communities for food. However, these supplies are limited and there is a clear need for support from the government and humanitarian actors in the medium term. Fresh flooding across the country has also added to the urgency and complexity of the situation.

In the first week of August, Tropical Storm Nock-Ten brought heavy rains, flash flooding and landslides to Lao PDR's central and northern provinces. At least 165,247 people were affected, with some 21,800 hectares of rice fields damaged. In the southern province of Savannakhet, the LRC branches supported eight villages with sandbags in an attempt to protect homes from rising waters. In Khammouane and Champasak provinces, LRC branches worked with local authorities to distribute dry food stuff and drinking water to affected communities, and to carry out needs and damage assessments. All activities were undertaken in close communication and coordination with LRC headquarters in Vientiane.

The onset of monsoon rains in the week following Nock-Ten caused rivers overflow and more communities to be affected. In Savannakhet province, rising waters claimed five lives and affected more than 48,000 people in 206 villages, while in Champasak province, some 26,000 residents were affected by flooding with 22,500 hectares of rice fields damaged. The Champasak provincial government has called upon the central government for assistance.

These new crises have added further complexity to this Lao Red Cross DREF operation. Many of the provinces affected by Nock-Ten and the monsoon rains were also affected by Tropical Storm Haima earlier. Fresh flooding has made access to many of these communities even more difficult while exacerbating the needs of many families. For example, the severe weather has meant that families and villages have been unable to plant rice seeds that were distributed by the government following Haima, potentially prolonging the need for humanitarian assistance. The need to respond to these latest disasters has also stretched, to some extent, the capacity of local authorities and humanitarian actors to support people affected by Tropical Storm Haima.

## Coordination and partnerships

LRC communicates and coordinates closely with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). At the provincial level, LRC branches and provincial governments have worked closely in developing operation plans. LRC has also hosted a coordination meeting for the DREF operation, bringing together all Red Cross partners in the country.

Through its country representative and regional team, IFRC has liaised closely with UN agencies in Lao PDR. In late July/early August, the UN and the World Bank carried out a joint damage, loss and needs assessment to better understand the impact of Haima. The results of this assessment will be published on 22 August.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Progress towards outcomes

Beneficiaries for the operation have been identified and the first consignment of supplies will be delivered soon for distribution. Challenges have included the aforementioned impact of fresh storms and flooding as well as a number of issues related to procuring supplies of the requisite quantity and quality in-country. The first round of distributions and hygiene promotion activities are scheduled to take place at the beginning of September.

## Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Outcome:** 5,000 flood-affected people (approximately 1,000 families) receive food and sanitation assistance for three months.

### Outputs and activities planned:

- Conduct a needs assessment
- Develop a strategy to reach the beneficiaries and a registration system to deliver intended assistance
- Identify, select and register beneficiaries to deliver intended assistance
- Identify and prepare distribution points and plan
- Distribute relief supplies (15kg rice/month, canned fish, soap and detergent) and control supply movement from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions
- Monitor and collect beneficiary feedback
- Develop an exit strategy

## Progress

The beneficiary selection process was carried out by the LRC national disaster response team (NDRT) with support from the in-country regional disaster response team (RDRT) disaster management coordinator, deployed from Indonesian Red Cross. NDRT members received a short refresher training before being deployed to Borikhamxay and Vientiane provinces.

The selection criteria emphasized support for the worst-affected and most vulnerable: those who had lost 90 per cent of their rice fields and rice stocks; disabled people; and families with pregnant women, children and elderly members. The selection process was carried out in close collaboration with community members themselves and the local authorities.

Relief packs now also include sachets of oral rehydration solution (ORS) of which each family will receive six for three months.

A total of 4,999 beneficiaries from 886 families in 28 villages in five districts of [Borikhamxay and Vientiane](#) provinces have been identified as well as the points from which distribution will be made. With LRC branch staff ready to receive the first batch of supplies, arrangements have been made for suppliers to deliver these to the sites. Items that will contribute to Red Cross visibility such as rice sacks and plastics bags are being prepared in anticipation of the distribution process beginning by end-August.

## Challenges

The compounded impact of Tropical Storm Nock Ten and monsoon rains has already been taken into account. From an operational point of view, new flooding and landslides has made access to already remote villages even more difficult.

The strict nature of LRC's beneficiary selection criteria also posed challenges. The measured approach adopted by the national disaster response teams and LRC branches also prolonged this process but was crucial in terms of fostering community understanding and support, particularly in villages where not all members were included in beneficiary lists.

## Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Outcome:** The risk of water-related diseases has been reduced through the provision of hygiene promotion to 5,000 flood-affected people (approx 1,000 families) over three months.

### Outputs and planned activities:

- Conduct information sessions on good hygiene behaviour and distribute information, education and communication materials together with hygiene items, such as soap and detergent
- Monitor the use of hygiene items
- Attend water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cluster meetings

## Progress

LRC headquarters has been working with branches to identify health and hygiene information, education and communication (IEC) materials that may already be available. LRC branches have coordinated with local health organizations and provincial institutions, while the LRC headquarters has liaised with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF.

LRC branches have also been mapping the health promotion activities that are already underway in targeted districts and villages in an effort to avoid duplication. In Borikhamxay province, it was found through these assessments that local health authorities had already carried out health promotion activities in the areas that LRC had intended to target for similar activities. In Vientiane, LRC has already engaged with health authorities and is ready to begin its planned hygiene promotion activities.

## Challenges

A more concrete strategy to deliver health and hygiene promotion should be formulated more promptly during the early stages of response.

## Logistics

LRC logistics procedures require that items are purchased locally through open tender. IFRC deployed a logistics delegate based at the Myanmar country office to support LRC with this process. A significant challenge has been the lack of suppliers in Lao PDR who are able to supply the quantity and quality of goods required, particularly rice. In relation to this, delivery times for items to distribution points are longer than anticipated.

Beneficiaries will receive relief packages that will help sustain them for three months. These packages will contain: 15kg of glutinous rice per person, six cans of fish per family, five pieces of soap per family, 1kg detergent powder per family and six sachets of oral rehydration solution (ORS) per family.

With the suppliers delivering items to distribution points, LRC branches are also identifying potential storage sites for these items, such as public buildings or community halls.

## Communication

The LRC communications division has provided a regular flow of information about the operation to the public and donors. This engagement has led to strong support from organizations inside Lao PDR, including from Lao Helping Hearts (LHH) (with food, non-food items and funding), and ANZ Bank (Lao) Ltd. (with some LAK10.4 million and food items).

To profile the work of LRC, and the ongoing needs of those affected by Haima, LRC will arrange a media visit to a distribution site. Distributions will also be used as opportunities to disseminate information about the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles.

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## Contact information

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

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## DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 18 July 2011 for CHF 329,778 for six months to assist 5,000 beneficiaries.



**Click here**

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2. See beneficiary [selection lists](#)

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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.

## List of beneficiary districts/villages and distribution points in Vientiane province

No.	District/Villages	House holds	Number of beneficiaries			Distribution point
			Men	Women	Total	
I	<b><u>Vengvieng district</u></b>					
1	Vengxong village	46	142	110	252	Point 1, Phonzu
2	Phonzung village	27	86	74	160	
3	HuayNgam village	31	103	90	193	Point 2, HuayNgam
4	Kanmark village	50	143	130	273	Point 3, Kanmark
5	Viengxay-CEnaluang village	38	162	91	253	Point 4, Viengxay
6	Nakea village	32	109	110	219	Point 5, District
<b>Total</b>		<b>224</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>1,350</b>	
II	<b><u>Kasy district</u></b>					
1	Thongmeud village	47	122	125	247	Point 1, Thongmeud
2	Namonemai village	4	8	9	17	Point 2, Nathean
3	Nathean village	18	55	52	107	
4	Namonyai village	13	47	37	84	
5	Phokham village	61	144	138	282	Point 3, Phokham
6	Viengkeo village	42	125	124	249	Point 4, Viengkeo
7	Nongbuathong village	38	98	66	164	Point 5, Nongbuathong
<b>Total</b>		<b>223</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>1,150</b>	
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>447</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>2,500</b>	

**List of beneficiary districts/villages and distribution points in Borikhamxay province**

No.	District/Villages	Households	Number of beneficiaries			Distribution point
			Men	Women	Total	
I	<b><u>Pakxan district</u></b>					
1	Songkhonkao village	62	185	168	353	Point 1, Songkhonkao
2	Thabor village	4	3	4	7	
3	Sibounhouang village	54	127	125	252	Point 2, Sibounhuang
<b>Total</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>612</b>	
II	<b><u>Thaphabath district</u></b>					
1	Hadkai village	29	84	73	157	Point 1, Hadkai
2	PhonNgam village	9	20	18	38	Point 2, PhonNgam
<b>Total</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>195</b>	
III	<b><u>Borlikhan district</u></b>					
1	Numpa village	24	133	52	185	Point 1, Numpa
2	Thaheua village	31	91	70	161	
3	Hadyeud village	45	138	94	232	
4	Phiengdy village	23	122	61	183	Point 2, Phiengdy
5	Songkhonmay village	35	159	76	235	Point 3, Songkhonmai
6	Thasy village	8	29	33	62	Point 4, Thasy
7	Xiengxian village	24	78	77	155	
8	Nonsombuon village	22	66	60	126	Point 5, Hadpho
9	Sisavath village	10	13	13	26	
10	Hadpho village	59	134	193	327	
<b>Total</b>		<b>281</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>1,692</b>	
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>439</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>2,499</b>	