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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-2011-00077-LAO  
Update n°2  
26 September 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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:** 16 August to 16 September 2011

### Summary:

CHF 329,778 was released from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 18 July 2011 to support Lao Red Cross (LRC) in reaching 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.

Significant progress was made during this reporting period, with the major objectives of the operation completed well ahead of schedule. Suppliers were selected, materials procured, and, most importantly, all planned distributions were carried out. Beneficiaries had already been selected in the first weeks of August. The operation was originally forecast to last six months (ending 15 January).



Relief distribution in Borikhamxay province. (Photo: LRC/IFRC)

A total of 885 families – 4,999 people – were reached with distributions of food and non-food items such as rice, canned fish, oral rehydration solutions (ORS) and soap. The distribution process began on 30 August and was finished on 12 September, reaching 28 villages in five districts across the two provinces. All activities have involved close collaboration with district authorities and community leaders.

The health promotion component of the operation is still ongoing and is expected to wrap up by 6 October. In line with IFRC reporting standards, the final narrative and financial reports are expected to be published 90 days after the end of the operation by 6 January 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).

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

## The situation

As outlined in the previous [DREF update](#), the impacts of Tropical Storm Haima were compounded in early August by the arrival of Tropical Storm Nock-Ten and the beginning of the monsoon season. Of serious concern is the fact that seeds provided by the government in the wake of Haima were not planted because of the flooded paddy fields and ruined irrigation systems. This will have a long-term effect for many communities as the next planting season is not until October 2012. There is, therefore, a clear need for longer-term humanitarian assistance.

The additional flooding has also added additional complexity to LRC distributions, though none of these challenges proved to be insurmountable.

## 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 also worked closely.

Through its country representative and regional team, IFRC has continued to liaise closely with UN agencies in Lao PDR.

German Red Cross has provided additional financial assistance to LRC to support LRC health promotion in 13 villages across three districts of Vientiane province. These activities are underway and are expected to be completed by 6 October. LRC also received funding from *Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation* to carry out relief distributions in Xieng Kuang province. This will take place in the end of September.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions started as planned on 30 August 2011 and were completed by 12 September.

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

**Outcome:** 5,000 flood-affected people (approximately 1,000 families) receive food and sanitation assistance<sup>1</sup> 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:

Two relief distribution teams – one for each targeted province – were appointed. Relief packs, containing canned fish, soap, detergent and oral rehydration solutions (ORS), were stored at LRC headquarters in Vientiane. Rice was delivered by the suppliers directly to the distribution sites in immediate advance of scheduled distributions.

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<sup>1</sup> Hygiene items

The tables below summarize distributions across both provinces:

**Table: Relief distributions across Vientiane and Borikhamxay provinces under the MDRLA002 DREF operation**

	<i>Distribution Point</i>	<i>Village name</i>	<i>N<sup>o</sup> Households</i>	<i>N<sup>o</sup> Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Overall total distributions</i>
<b>I.</b>	<b>VIENTIANE province</b>				
i.	<b>Kasy District</b>				
1	Thongmeud	Thongmeud	47	247	Rice 51,750 kgs Canned fish 3,996 tins Detergent 666 kgs Soap 3,330 pieces ORS 3,996 pieces
2	Nathean	Nathean	18	107	
		Namonemai	4	17	
		Namonyai	13	84	
3	Viengkeo	Viengkeo	41	249	
4	Nongbuathong	Nongbuathong	38	164	
5	Phokam	Phokam	61	282	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7 villages</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>1,150</b>	
ii.	<b>Vengvieng District</b>				
6	Kanmark	Kanmark	50	279	Rice 60,750 kgs Canned fish 2,304 tins Detergent 672 kgs Soap 3,360 pieces ORS 4,032 pieces
7	Nakhea	Nakhea	32	219	
8	Phonzung	Phonzung	27	252	
		Vengxong	46	160	
9	Huay Ngam	Huay Ngam	31	193	
10	Viengxaynaluang	Viengxaynaluang	38	253	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6 villages</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>1,356</b>	
<b>II.</b>	<b>BORIKHAMXAY province</b>				
iii.	<b>Pakxan District</b>				
1	Sibounhouang	Sibounhouang	54	252	Rice 27,540 kgs Canned fish 2,160 tins Detergent 315 kgs Soap 1,800 pieces ORS 2,160 pieces
2	Songkhonkao	Songkhonkao	62	353	
		Thabor	4	7	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3 villages</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>612</b>	
iv.	<b>Thapabath District</b>				
3	Hadkai	Hadkai	29	157	Rice 684 tins Canned fish 315 kgs Detergent 877 kgs Soap 1,800 pieces ORS 684 pieces
4	Phon Ngam	Phon Ngam	9	38	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2 villages</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>195</b>	
v.	<b>Borlikhan District</b>				
5	Songkhonmay	Songkhonmay	35	235	Rice 76,140 kgs Canned fish 5,058 tins Detergent 843 kgs Soap 4,215 pieces ORS 5,058 pieces
6	Numpa	Numpa	24	185	
		Hadyeud	45	232	
7	Phiengdy	Phiengdy	23	183	
		Thaheua	31	161	
8	Hadpho	Hadpho	59	327	
		Nonsombuon	22	126	
		Sisavath	10	26	
9	Thasy	Thasy	8	62	
		Xiengxian	24	155	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10 villages</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>1,692</b>	

**Table: Total relief distribution under the MDRLA002 operation**

Province	District	N° of villages	N° of households	N° of people reached	Rice (45kg /person)	Canned fish (18pcs/hh)	Detergent (3 kg/hh)	Soap (15 pcs/hh)	ORS (18 pcs/hh)
Vientiane	2	13	446	2,500	112,500	8,028	1,338	6,690	8,028
Borikhamxay	3	15	439	2,499	112,455	7,902	1,317	6,585	7,902
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>4,999</b>	<b>224,955</b>	<b>15,930</b>	<b>2,655</b>	<b>13,275</b>	<b>15,930</b>

**Challenges:**

As mentioned, new flooding in early-mid August created additional challenges in terms of accessing remote communities, resulting in short delays to some distributions.

**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 activities planned:**

- 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 branches coordinated closely with local health organizations and provincial institutions to avoid unnecessary duplication. In Borikhamxay province, health promotion activities had already been carried out by local authorities. LRC adapted its plans and organized short health briefings during its relief distributions. These briefings focused on the importance of hygiene and food preparation; prevention and treatment of diarrhoea; and demonstrations on preparing ORS for consumption.

In Vientiane, LRC will carry out joint health promotion sessions with local authorities. These will be organized in 13 villages across three districts.

**Challenges:**

When preparing the plan of action, different departments should be involved from the beginning. Joint planning helps save resources.

**Logistics**

A robust procurement process was established for the operation with support from an IFRC logistics delegate based in Myanmar. Relief items, apart from rice, were packed in bags that could be carried as backpacks.

Rice suppliers were asked to deliver rice to the distribution sites in order to minimize storage and transportation costs. This worked effectively overall, despite occasional late deliveries causing some delay in distributions. In the future, the ideal situation would be for suppliers to deliver rice the evening before the distribution.

**Challenges**

An open tender to purchase relief items was arranged. However, among rice suppliers who participated, only one supplier was able to provide all the necessary documents.

## Communication

This operation has had a clear positive impact on the perception of LRC within Lao PDR. The LRC communications division has provided a regular flow of information about the operation to the public and donors, a point that was noted by the US Ambassador to Lao PDR.

As outlined in the DREF plan, LRC organized a media visit to a distribution site in Borikhamxay. The visit catered to ten journalists from three Lao newspapers, an English-language paper; and one television network. This visit generated strong coverage country-wide and helped to enhance the profile of the national society in general.

The distributions were also used as opportunities to disseminate information about LRC and 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 affected people.
  - Two DREF operation updates (including this) issued.
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[Click here](#)

1. Interim financial report<sup>2</sup> [below](#)
  2. [Return](#) to the title page
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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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<sup>2</sup> Attached financial report up to end-August 2011. Financial report for September 2011 currently being processed.

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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.
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MDRLA002 - Laos - Flash Floods

Appeal Launch Date: 15 jul 11

Appeal Timeframe: 15 jul 11 to 15 jan 12

Interim Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/7-2011/8
Budget Timeframe	2011/7-2012/1
Appeal	MDRLA002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	<b>329,788</b>					<b>329,788</b>
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	329,788					329,788
<b>C4. Other Income</b>	<b>329,788</b>					<b>329,788</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)</b>	<b>329,788</b>					<b>329,788</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>329,788</b>					<b>329,788</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>100%</b>					<b>100%</b>

## II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>C. Income</b>	<b>329,788</b>					<b>329,788</b>
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	<b>-301,454</b>					<b>-301,454</b>
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	<b>28,334</b>					<b>28,334</b>

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### III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>329,788</b>					<b>329,788</b>	
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>								
Food	234,000	1				1	233,999	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	12,000						12,000	
Medical & First Aid	4,500						4,500	
<b>Total Relief items, Construction, Su</b>	<b>250,500</b>	<b>1</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>250,499</b>	
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Computers & Telecom	4,000						4,000	
Office & Household Equipment	1,000						1,000	
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>5,000</b>						<b>5,000</b>	
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	5,000						5,000	
Distribution & Monitoring	3,000						3,000	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	3,000						3,000	
<b>Total Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>11,000</b>						<b>11,000</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff	15,000	1,574				1,574	13,426	
Volunteers	3,660						3,660	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>18,660</b>	<b>1,574</b>				<b>1,574</b>	<b>17,086</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	7,500						7,500	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>7,500</b>						<b>7,500</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	10,000	6,562				6,562	3,438	
Information & Public Relations	2,500	25				25	2,475	
Office Costs	1,000	121				121	879	
Communications	1,500	70				70	1,430	
Financial Charges	500	1,326				1,326	-826	
Other General Expenses	1,500						1,500	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>8,104</b>				<b>8,104</b>	<b>8,896</b>	
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions		273,376				273,376	-273,376	
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>		<b>273,376</b>				<b>273,376</b>	<b>-273,376</b>	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>								
Programme & Services Support Recov	20,128	18,399				18,399	1,729	
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>20,128</b>	<b>18,399</b>				<b>18,399</b>	<b>1,729</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>329,788</b>	<b>301,454</b>				<b>301,454</b>	<b>28,334</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>28,334</b>				<b>28,334</b>		