

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Cambodia and Thailand: Internally displaced people

Information bulletin n° 2
27 April 2011

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. No external support is sought at this time.

[<click here to see a map of the affected area, or for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

Serious clashes along the Cambodian-Thai border between the two respective militaries have continued over the past five days. The current phase of conflict started on Friday 22 April at 06:00 (local time) along the border of Surin and Buriram provinces on the Thai side, and Oddor Meanchey province on the Cambodian side. The clashes are in the area near to the Ta Krabey and Ta Moan temples. The area is dense jungle and has a history of tension between the two countries. As a result of the clashes, the border crossing at O Smach (Oddor Meanchey) has been closed.

Village dwellers living along both sides of the border have been evacuated. On the Thai side, this includes residents in Pranomdongrak, Prasat and Gabcheong districts, Surin province, and in Ban Guad district, Buriram province. It is reported that up to 50,000 people on both sides of the border have been evacuated.

The setting up of centres for internally displaced people (IDP) in schools, temples and public facilities is part of the contingency planning of the authorities in both Surin and Buriram. The governors of both provinces have coordinated the response involving the Red Cross, NGOs and other actors.

The area is about 200km from the disputed Preah Vihear temple, where clashes broke out between the two sides in February 2011.

It is reported that 12 soldiers have been killed during the violence: seven from Cambodia and five from Thailand. Up to 31 Thai soldiers are reported injured as well as 17 Cambodian soldiers.

The UN secretary general has called on both sides to observe a ceasefire. However, while diplomatic efforts from various quarters continue, reports from Red Cross assessment teams on both sides of the border indicate that the situation on 27 April remains challenging and are likely to worsen.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Cambodian Red Cross

The Cambodian Red Cross headquarters has been supporting its local branches on the ground to help people move to safer areas in both Banteay Meanchey and Preah Vihear provinces. Lessons learnt from the national society's response to the border clashes in February helped refine actions this time around. Cambodian Red Cross is assisting in three IDP centres.

The following are the latest IDP statistics available:

Area	Sub-area	No. of families	No. of people
Somrong Town	Somrong (Reachea Somrong)	1,768	6,820
	Thamyuth pagoda	904	3,578
	O'Russey Primary School	424	1,709
Banteay Ampil District	Beng Village	838	3,223
	Po' Themy	475	2,205
	Kok Laok site	1,317	5,444
	Syleam site	194	766
Total		5,920	23,745¹

In Beng Village, the Cambodian Red Cross has provided relief items to 700 people. The national society headquarters in Phnom Penh has sent the following relief to Oddor Meanchey province:

- 157 tonnes of rice
- 250 plastic sheets
- 3,500 *sarong*
- 3,500 *krama*²
- 3,500 bed nets
- 3,500 blankets
- 3,500 cases of noodles

Up to 150 families received food and other relief from the Siem Reap branch; while 1,000 families received bed nets from the Ministry of Health.

Special Red Cross teams are helping in the reception of new IDPs; this measure is part of the national society's contingency plan. A mobile kitchen in Samrong district is serving food for 545 displaced families in the town. Red Cross mobile kitchens are also continuing to provide food in all three IDP centres in Samrong. Red Cross volunteers and youth installed temporary shelters to provide cover for some families.

The Cambodian government's national council for disaster management (NCDM) held an emergency meeting in Phnom Penh.

ICRC sent a joint assessment team with Cambodian Red Cross to Samraron. French Red Cross has a representative on-site who is helping in the coordination of the Red Cross response. ICRC met various interlocutors including military personnel, representatives from the NCDM as well as provincial officials.

Late 26 April, it was reported that Samrong is not a safe location any more and the NCDM is preparing a safer place 30 km south from the town to accommodate displaced families. ICRC is preparing to provide 1,425 tarpaulins and 2,850 jerrycans for the immediate needs of most vulnerable IDPs, currently located in sites outside of the town of Samrong.

The NCDM has arranged the delivery of 22 mobile shelters from Preah Vihear for a new site for displaced families at Chong Kal District, 42 km from the border. The NCDM is coordinating a joint rapid assessment on registration and security, water and sanitation (health and hygiene included) and information and communication. Each IDP centre has a health post run by the Ministry of Health.

The main needs continue to be water, sanitation and shelter. This was also the case during the [February clashes](#).

A Red Cross Red Crescent Movement meeting, chaired by Cambodian Red Cross, was to be held in Phnom Penh on 27 April.

¹ Calculated with an average of four people per family

² Traditional garment

Thai Red Cross

The current total number is 26,370 IDPs in the two affected provinces of Surin and Buriram are as below:

Province	District	Number of IDP centres	Number of IDPs
Surin	Pranomdongrak	4	5,331
	Prasat	12	15,150
	Sang Kha	2	1,211
	Gabcheong	2	2,905
	Total in Surin	20	24,597
Buriram	Ban Guad	7	4,478
	Total in Buriram	7	4,478
Total		27	29,075

Urgent needs include food, water and sanitation, health care and shelter. Thai Red Cross, along with ICRC, jointly visited 10 camps accommodating more than 15,000 IDPs. There are currently 30 camps serving 7,000 families (35,000 people). Thai Red Cross continues to provide cooked food, drinking water and relief goods to displaced families.

The IDPs left their homes in a hurry and generally were unable to bring belongings such as bedding and so are in need of basic conveniences. Psychosocial support is an issue because of the stress of the situation.

A Thai Red Cross rapid assessment team (RAT) team was dispatched from Surin health station to assess and coordinate with Surin chapter and headquarters. Initial assistance to 2,500 displaced people at IDP centres at Pranomdongrak district was given, comprising canned foods, hygiene kits, clothing, mosquito nets and repellent.

A rapid assessment team from Nakhornratchasima health station was deployed in support of the Surin health station at Ban Guad district, Buriram. Another RAT team from Ubonratchathani was also expected to be deployed to work with the Surin health station at Prasat district. In total, four rapid assessment teams have been deployed to support the ongoing operation in the two provinces.

Up to 700 relief kits have been distributed to IDPs in Buriram province through the Buriram chapter. A mobile kitchen team has been set up at Prasatpitthayakom school, Prasat district, to serve up 3,000 meals per day. Its maximum capacity is up to 7,000 meals per day. In addition, a water purification unit has also been deployed to the school.

The current number of pre-positioned mosquito nets is insufficient to serve all IDPs; therefore, priority is given to those families with children. Thai Red Cross is also monitoring the health conditions among IDPs: thus far, there have been isolated cases of chicken pox and diarrhoea.

Overall to date, Thai Red Cross has provided the following relief:

Type of assistance	No. of people served	Remark
Food distribution	2,700 families	One kit consists of 4 cans of pickled vegetable, 4 cans of sardine in tomato sauce, 2 boxes of chilli paste, three packs of instant noodles, 5kgs of rice.
Hygiene kits	1,500 individuals	
Mosquitoes nets	2,000 families	
Blankets	1,000 individuals	
Mosquito repellent	2,000 individuals	
Hot meals	6,000 individuals	Through mobile kitchen
Safe water	6,000 individuals	Through water team
Total	4,200 families and 17,000 individuals	

The provincial authorities have organized evacuations, provided shelter, mobilized resources, coordinated various actors, including the Red Cross, and organized the spraying of repellents to reduce the risk of malaria and dengue among displaced communities.

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.

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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 nonviolence and peace

Contact information

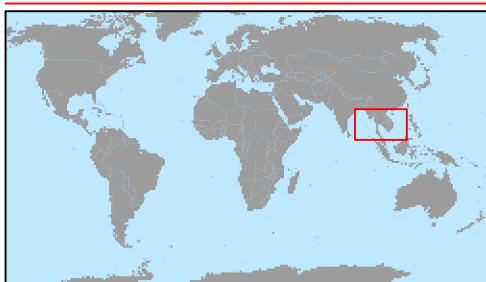
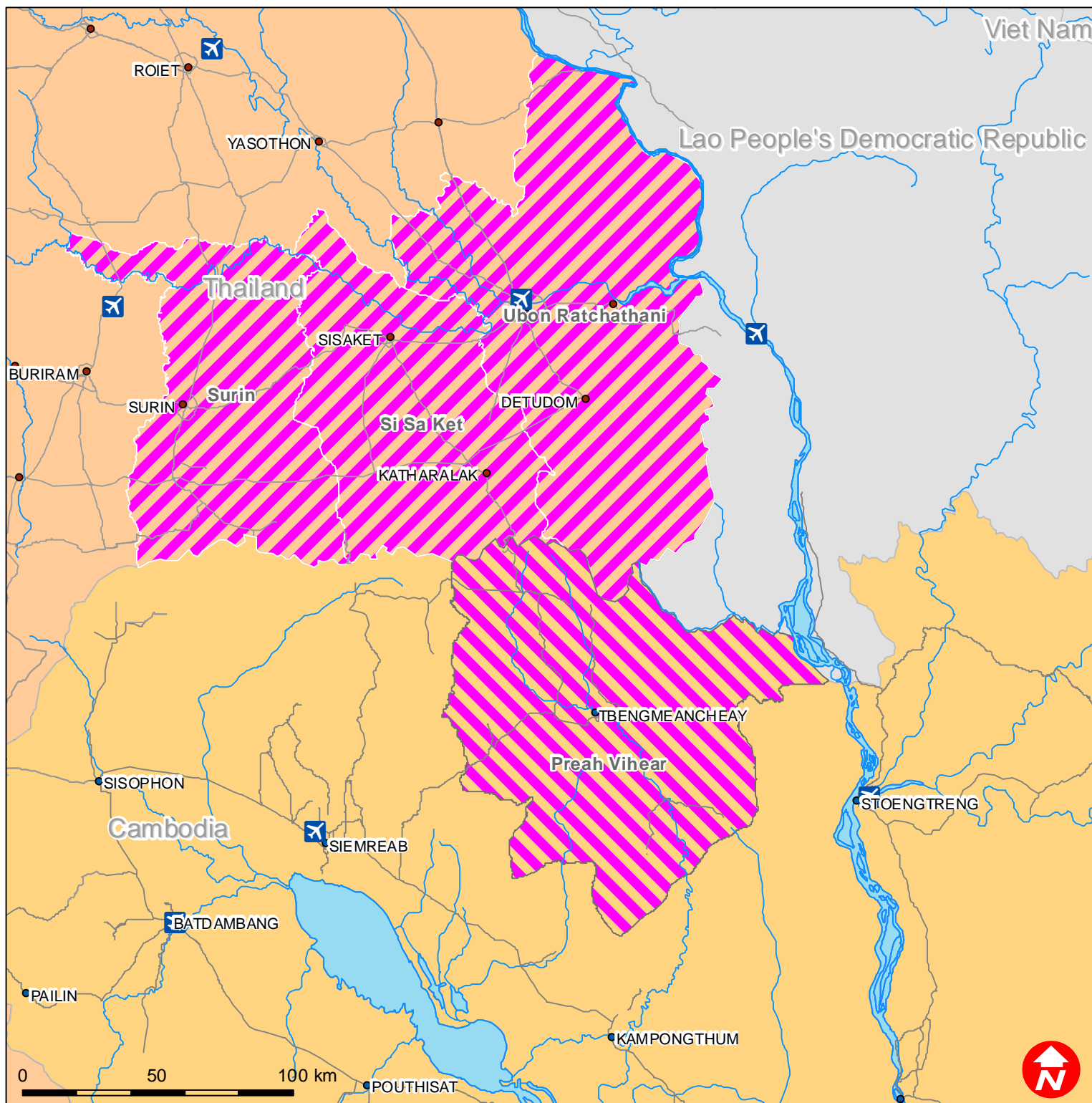
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[<map below; click here to return to title page>](#)



Cambodia/Thailand: Internally Displaced People



- Cities in Thailand
- ▨ Affected districts in Thailand
- Cities in Cambodia
- ▨ Affected province in Cambodia