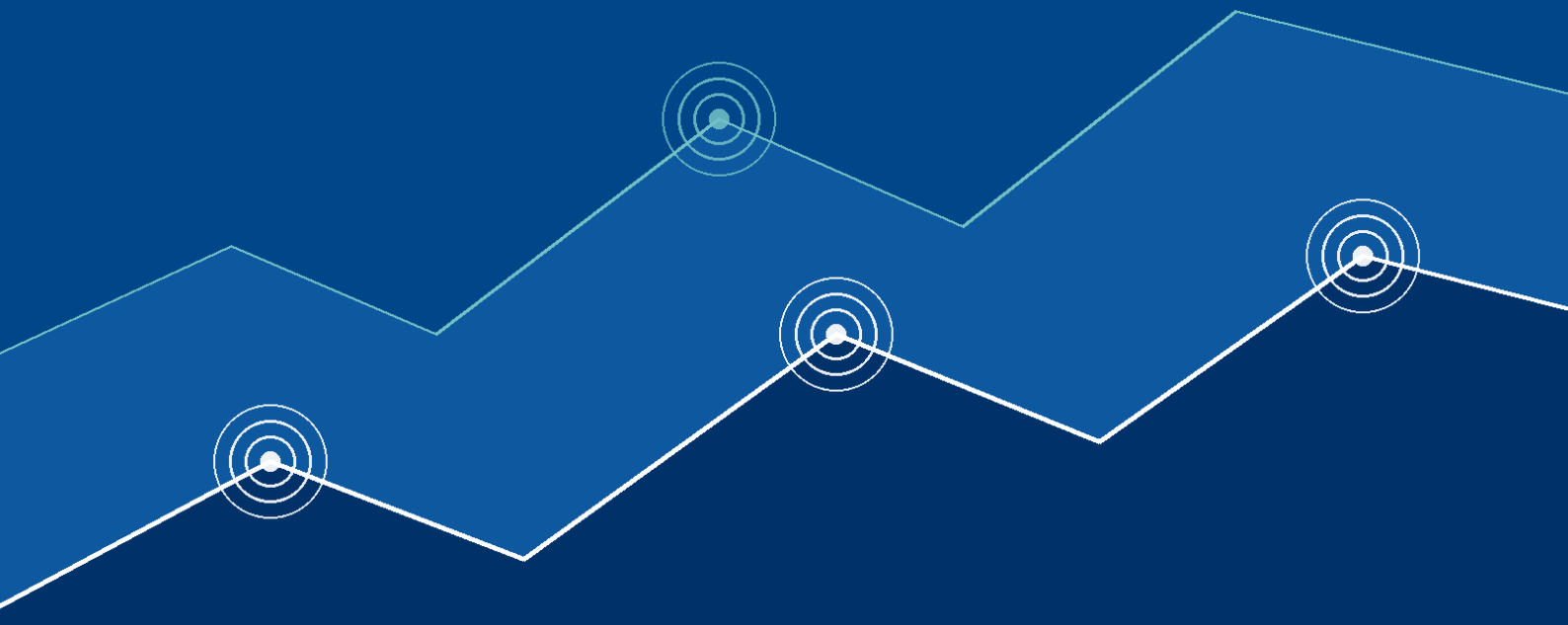
UNITED NATIONS
LAO PDR

FLOOD IMPACT AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

September 2026, Lao PDR



REPORT ATTRIBUTION

Rapid Flood Impact and Needs Assessment in Lao PDR, 2026

This report was prepared under the leadership of the Secretariat of the Central Disaster Management Committee, Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, based on the findings of the Government-led joint flood impact and needs assessment conducted in six affected provinces. The United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office coordinated technical and logistical support from participating United Nations agencies and IASC clusters.

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UN agency participation: FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, WFP and WHO contributed technical staff and logistics support during the field mission through the IASC cluster system. Individual team members are listed in Annex A.

Field assessment: Northern, central and southern joint assessment teams. The complete list of assessment team members is provided in Annex A.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Secretariat of the Central Disaster Management Committee and United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office. 2026. Rapid Flood Impact and Needs Assessment Report, Lao PDR. Vientiane, Lao PDR.

ABOUT THIS REPORT AND ITS FIGURES

The damage, loss and cost figures in this report are secondary data. They were reported by village, district and provincial authorities, consolidated by provincial disaster management committees, and consolidated by the Secretariat of the Central Disaster Management Committee. They are reproduced here as reported, and each is attributed to its source document and date.

The United Nations did not calculate or verify any monetary figure in this report. The joint assessment collated and cross-checked existing government data and added qualitative primary information from 17 villages in six provinces. No damage, loss or recovery cost here was independently costed by the United Nations or its partners.

This is not a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment. A rapid assessment of this kind establishes the scale and pattern of impact and the priorities that affected communities identify. It does not produce validated damage and loss accounts, engineering estimates or financing requirements. The monetary figures are provisional administrative estimates and are not a basis for allocation, appeal or investment decisions without further technical assessment.

Photographs in this report were taken by members of the joint assessment teams during the field assessment of 13–19 September 2026, unless otherwise credited.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 2026 monsoon season, Tropical Storm Maysak and successive periods of heavy rainfall caused river floods, flash floods, landslides, waterlogging, riverbank erosion and storm damage across northern, central and southern Lao PDR. The first flooding occurred on 30 June in Bokeo and Phongsaly. From 3 July to 30 August, 15 of the country's 18 provinces had reported impacts.

Government data consolidated by the Secretariat of the Central Disaster Management Committee for the flooding caused by Tropical Cyclone Maysak and associated heavy rainfall between 3 July and 30 August 2026, as updated on 14 October 2026, record that 351,538 people, including 161,638 women, from 72,770 families were affected across 15 provinces, 110 districts and 1,548 villages. The event caused 24 deaths, ten injuries and one missing person. It damaged 9,657 houses, 72,826 hectares of paddy land, 770 roads, 54 bridges, 168 schools and 9,398 water and sanitation facilities. Damage and losses were estimated at LAK 9,561,136,257,590, approximately USD 426.4 million. These figures cover the flooding events between July-August 2026 only and are not Lao PDR's total disaster impact for 2026. National impact figures triggered a disaster risk insurance payout of USD 2.275 million under the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility.

At the request of the Secretariat of the Central Disaster Management Committee, the United Nations Resident Coordinator activated the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) clusters to support a government-led flood impact and needs assessment in six of the most affected provinces. Three joint teams, comprising 36 members from Government ministries and United Nations agencies, conducted the assessment from 13 to 19 September 2026. The northern team covered Luang Namtha and Oudomxay, the central team Bolikhamxay and Khammouane, and the southern team Savannakhet and Champasak.

The assessment followed a validation-focused approach. Teams supported provincial and district authorities to verify existing disaster data, collect information where gaps remained, and prepare consolidated provincial reports for review and endorsement by the provincial authorities. The teams also assessed 17 villages across 13 districts, using discussions with village authorities and village disaster management committees, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, direct observation, and case story documentation. Village-level data were recorded using Kobo Toolbox.

Provincial assessment reports show the scale of impact in each province:

- Khammouane: 127,525 people affected; damage and losses of LAK 648.6 billion (USD 28.72 million).
- Savannakhet: 47,200 people; LAK 160.3 billion (USD 7.10 million).
- Champasak: 45,059 people; LAK 303.4 billion (USD 13.43 million).
- Luang Namtha: 22,908 people; LAK 5,421.8 billion (USD 240.07 million).
- Bolikhamxay: 7,405 people; LAK 282.7 billion (USD 12.52 million).
- Oudomxay: 5,441 people; LAK 293.6 billion (USD 13.00 million)[1].

In the 17 assessed villages, 23,292 people were reported affected, including 11,656 women and girls. In the assessed villages, 5,041 hectares had been planted, of which 3,524 hectares were totally lost and a further 338 hectares partly damaged. Farming was an affected livelihood in all 17 villages, and ten villages reported that replanting was not possible this season. Housing damage in the assessed villages was more limited, with 43 houses destroyed and 97 damaged, concentrated in Hua Nambak and Nam ngern villages in Oudomxay[2].

Access is the main constraint on assistance and recovery. Eleven of the 17 villages reported roads that were poor or cut off, and 16 requested road repair. Damage to services is uneven:

- Health: 16 of 17 nearest health facilities remained fully functioning, but eight villages reported difficulty reaching them, and outreach services were a recurring need.
- Water and sanitation: 773 households reported having no drinking water, and 87 latrines were unusable.
- Education: 13 of the 19 schools in the assessed villages were partly damaged and four were closed, the longest for 16 days.

No immediate life-threatening gaps were reported in the assessed villages. However, significant unmet needs remain:

- food assistance for households that lost standing crops.
- safe drinking water and hygiene supplies.
- mosquito nets and shelter support.
- restoration of road access.
- agricultural inputs for the next planting season.

Fifteen of the 17 villages had received assistance, but most described it as insufficient in duration.

Seed, fertilizer and irrigation repair are prioritized and requested by the affected people to be in place before the dry-season planting cycle begins in January 2027.

[1] provincial assessment reports of September 2026

[2] Joint assessment village survey, KoBo Toolbox records, 17 villages in 13 districts, 13–19 September 2026

Early recovery priorities for the next three to six months are:

- restoring productive capacity through seed, fertilizer, tools, livestock vaccination and irrigation repair;
- repairing water systems, latrines, classrooms and health facilities;
- permanently repairing priority rural roads and bridges.

Medium-term priorities include:

- risk-informed reconstruction of roads, bridges and embankments;
- irrigation rehabilitation;
- school reconstruction and flood protection;
- restoration of electricity networks.

Longer-term priorities include:

- catchment and drainage planning where flooding recurs.
- livelihood diversification.
- designated and equipped evacuation sites.
- strengthened early warning and evacuation arrangements.
- integration of recovery works into provincial socio-economic development plans.

The assessment indicates that response and recovery can proceed together. Recommended priorities include consolidating immediate, early, medium- and long-term actions within a government-led recovery framework linked to national and provincial planning and budget processes. They also include protecting food security and livelihoods before the next production cycle and restoring access and essential services early. Other recommendations are to apply risk-informed standards and technical, environmental and social assessments to major reconstruction, and to support safe housing recovery. Further priorities are inclusive assistance for persons with disabilities, and other risk groups, and stronger early warning, evacuation and community preparedness.

A home destroyed by flooding in Oudomxay province.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Lao People's Democratic Republic is highly exposed to floods, flash floods, storms, landslides, droughts and other climate-related hazards. Its geographical terrain, extensive river systems, dispersed rural settlements and dependence on climate-sensitive agriculture increase the risk. Flooding regularly damages houses, crops, livestock, roads, bridges, water systems, schools and health facilities. Remote communities, poor households, women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and ethnic communities often face greater difficulty receiving warnings, evacuating safely and accessing assistance.

The recent pattern indicates that Lao PDR is facing increasingly complex disaster risk. Communities may experience several hazards during the same monsoon season, while damage to roads, communications and public infrastructure can create secondary impacts across several sectors. Rapid and unplanned urban development, settlement in flood-prone areas, environmental degradation, limited drainage capacity and weaknesses in some public infrastructure can further increase exposure. The World Bank[3] has noted that urbanization is increasing climate risk and that, without preventive measures, more frequent and intense flooding could result in substantial economic losses and damage to critical infrastructure.

During the 2026 monsoon season, successive periods of heavy rainfall caused river floods, flash floods, landslides, waterlogging, riverbank erosion and storm damage across northern, central and southern Lao PDR. The first flooding of the season occurred on 30 June in Bokeo and Phongsaly. Through July, Tropical Storm Maysak and sustained monsoon rain concentrated impacts in Khammouane, where all ten districts reported flooding. In August the event widened; rivers in central and southern Lao PDR exceeded danger levels, the Mekong at Pakse passed its flood threshold, and at the end of the month severe flash flooding reached the northern provinces of Luang Namtha and Oudomxay, which are not usually among the most flood-exposed parts of the country. By 14 October, 15 of the country's 18 provinces had reported impacts by flooding.

Disaster response and recovery in Lao PDR are led by the Government through the Central Disaster Management Committee and relevant ministries and local authorities. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) supports this government-led system. In Lao PDR, the IASC mechanism is co-chaired by the Head of the secretariat of Central Disaster Management Committee and the United Nations Resident Coordinator. Its nine clusters are led by relevant government ministries and co-led by United Nations agencies or humanitarian partners.

In 2026, the Government and IASC partners continued this collaboration for flood impacts and need assessment. Three multidisciplinary teams conducted assessments from 13 to 19 September in six heavily affected provinces; Luang Namtha and Oudomxay in the north, Bolikhamxay and Khammouane in the center, and Savannakhet and Champasak in the south.

This report consolidates government reports, national situation reports, village-level assessment data, interviews, field observations, photographs and case stories for flooding impacts. It presents the main impacts, immediate humanitarian needs and early recovery priorities identified through the assessment.

The assessment provides a rapid overview and does not replace detailed sector assessments, engineering surveys or a full Post-Disaster Needs Assessment.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report consolidates the evidence available on the impacts of the 2026 floods, storms and landslides, and on the needs that remain. It is intended to support Government decision-making, the targeting of remaining humanitarian assistance, early recovery planning, the preparation of recovery programmes and projects, the mobilization and allocation of financial and technical resources, and the integration of recovery priorities into existing Government and development partner programmes.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSESSMENT

- Verify impacts and current conditions in the most affected provinces.
- Identify the people and services most affected, including women and girls, persons with disabilities and other groups at heightened risk.
- Document assistance already received, by provider and date, and the coverage that remains.
- Identify priority response and recovery actions for the affected communities and local authorities.

[3] https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lao/publication/lao-pdr-country-climate-and-development-report

1.4 INTENDED USERS

This report is intended for the Central and Provincial Disaster Management Committees, relevant government ministries, United Nations agencies, IASC cluster partners, development partners, donors, international financial institutions, and other organizations working in the Lao PDR and affected provinces.

1.5 RESPONSE, EARLY RECOVERY AND RECOVERY

At the time of the assessment the emergency phase was closing in most of the affected locations. Five of the 17 assessed villages reported that flooding had ended and ten that water was stable or receding; two villages still reported rising water. Life-saving needs were largely met, and the assistance recorded by the assessment teams was mostly food, water and household items delivered by government and private contributors. The remaining support needed by the government is on early recovery and recovery support including seed and fertilizer support, irrigation repair, road and bridge repair and health, education related critical infrastructure restoration.

Floodwaters deposited debris on agricultural land in Luang Namtha Province.

2 DISASTER OVERVIEW

2.1 CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS

The 2026 monsoon season unfolded through successive waves of flooding, flash floods, storms and landslides from late June to early September. Impacts were recorded across northern, central and southern Lao PDR, with some provinces experiencing repeated events that caused deaths, damaged infrastructure, inundated settlements and farmland, and disrupted transport, electricity and water services. The chronology below summarizes the principal events developed in four distinct waves.

TABLE 1: Chronology of principal flood, storm and landslide events, 2026

Period	Location	Recorded event
30 June	Bokeo, Phongsaly	First flooding of the season; flash floods affect villages and farmland.
3–17 July	Khammouane	Tropical Storm Maysak and monsoon rain flood all ten districts. Phase 1 provincial figures: 121 villages, 6,291 families, 31,381 people.
5 July – 31 August	Bolikhamxay	Flooding and landslides across seven districts; five deaths recorded in Khamkeut district.
16–17 July	Bolikhamxay (Khamkeut)	Landslide buries a house in Thabak village, killing three people.
1–30 August	Oudomxay	Monsoon flooding in seven districts; seven deaths and ten injuries recorded in Xay district
4–11 August	Khammouane (Khounkham)	National Road 8A severely damaged for a second time in the Phou Pha Man and Phou Hai areas.
8–25 August	Champasak	Monsoon flooding affects nine districts and Pakse city. Mekong at Pakse exceeds the 12 m flood threshold from 19 August, peaking at 12.51 m; 21 villages flooded in Pakse city.
18–21 August	Savannakhet	Xe Bang Hieng at Songkhone reaches 17.57 m against a 15 m danger level, ten villages submerged for four to five days, province-wide figures issued 24 August.
19–20 August	Oudomxay, Luang Prabang	Flash floods in Beng district, Oudomxay, and Nan district, Luang Prabang; a truck was swept from Vang Lam bridge and the driver died.
29–30 August	Luang Namtha	Flash flooding at Boten on the Lao–China border after the Tha River rises to 6.58 m against a 6 m warning level, the Boten Special Economic Zone, checkpoint area, airport, two schools and a hospital were inundated. The province declared a disaster emergency zone on 30 August.
29–30 August	Oudomxay	Third and most severe flood wave of August affects 81 villages in Namor, Xay and La districts.

Sources: Lao PDR Monsoon Situation Reports Issue 1–5, including the media monitoring and Provincial assessment reports. Figures in this table are as reported at the time of each event

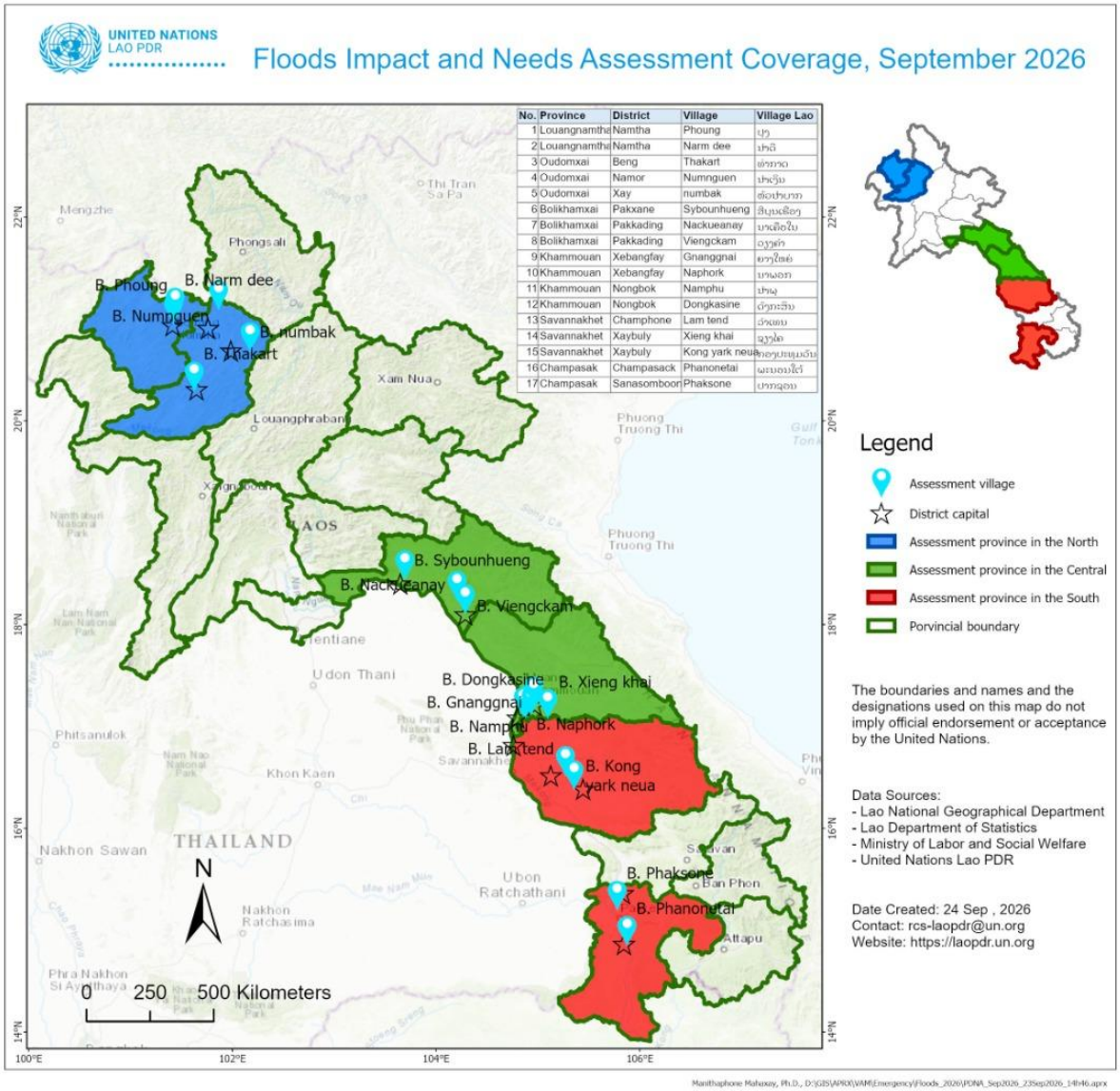
Flash flooding caused severe riverbank erosion and deposited large boulders close to homes in Luang Namtha Province.

2.2 GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION OF IMPACTS

The disaster expanded geographically rather than intensifying in a single location. By 6 August, impacts had been recorded in 10 provinces, increasing to 13 provinces by 28 August and 16 by 7 September. The consolidated national update of 14 October 2026 records 15 affected provinces, Attapeu having been removed from the list. The affected provinces were Phongsaly, Luang Namtha, Oudomxay, Bokeo, Luang Prabang, Huaphanh, Xayaboury, Xieng Khouang, Vientiane Province, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Salavan, Sekong, Champasak and Attapeu. The six provinces selected for the joint assessment represented three main geographic impact patterns: the late-August flash floods in the north, the July–August River flooding in the central region, and the August flooding along the Mekong River and its tributaries in the south.

Reporting expanded as successive events were recorded. Across Situation Reports 1 to 5, the figures reported at the time rose from 20,135 people in 84 villages and 10 districts to 403,133 people from 81,484 families across 1,756 villages, 89 districts and 16 provinces by 7 September, and recorded losses from LAK 27.03 billion (USD 1.20 million) to LAK 851.42 billion (USD 37.70 million). These were interim figures issued during the season; the consolidated position is set out in Section 5[4].

2.3 MAP OF THE ASSESSMENT AREA



[4] Lao PDR Monsoon Situation Reports Nos. 1–5, United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, 2026. These were interim figures issued during the season and are superseded by the consolidated position in Section 5.

3 ASSESSMENT COORDINATION AND TEAM COMPOSITION

3.1 GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP

The Flood Impact and Needs Assessment was led by the Government through the Secretariat of the Central Disaster Management Committee, under the Department of Social Welfare of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. At the Government's request, United Nations agencies and partners under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee provided technical and logistical support. In response to a request from the Secretariat, the United Nations Resident Coordinator activated the IASC clusters to support the Government-led assessment in six of the most affected provinces: Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Champasak, Luang Namtha and Oudomxay.

3.2 ROLES

Secretariat of the Central Disaster Management Committee. Coordinated the Government side of the assessment, led the central assessment teams that worked with provincial disaster management committees to validate, verify and agree remaining humanitarian needs, short term, medium term and long-term recovery project lists along with proposed timeline and costed plans for affected sectors. The secretariat coordinated with the respective provincial, district and village level authorities, support sub-national authorities in verifying and collecting remining data, and prepare report to be submitted to the chair of the provincial disaster management committee, a governor of the respective provinces.

UN Resident Coordinator's Office. The United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office coordinated UN and IASC support and facilitated the participation of all nine clusters: Early Recovery; Health and Nutrition; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Education; Shelter; Protection; Logistics; Information and Communication Technology; and Agriculture and Food Security. The village-level assessment form was revised to align with government priorities and the purpose of the assessment, then digitized using Kobo Toolbox. The assessment teams received orientation on the assessment form, Kobo data collection, protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, and appropriate conduct during fieldwork.

Throughout the assessment, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office maintained regular contact with the field teams and provided technical guidance as required. Following the fieldwork, it compiled the primary Kobo data, provincial reports submitted to the respective provincial administrative authorities, team field notes, photographs and case stories. The analysis also drew on a desk review of situation reports, media monitoring and information received from government authorities before and during the assessment.

3.3 TEAM COMPOSITION

The joint assessment was carried out by three multidisciplinary teams covering the northern, central and southern provinces affected areas. Each team included representatives from the Secretariat of the Central Disaster Management Committee and relevant sectoral ministries, including social welfare, agriculture and environment, health, education, public works and transport, and finance. The United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office and UN agencies provided technical expertise through the relevant IASC clusters, including WASH, health and nutrition, protection, shelter and non-food items, agriculture and food security, education, and early recovery.

This composition enabled the teams to examine the impacts and priority needs across sectors while working closely with provincial, district and village authorities.

The joint assessment team visits a flood-affected site in Oudomxay Province.

4 METHODOLOGIES

4.1 APPROACH

The assessment followed a government-led, validation-focused approach. Its primary purpose was to support provincial and district authorities in validating and verifying existing disaster data and collecting additional information where gaps remained. Before and during the fieldwork, the teams reviewed available secondary information, including government reports, situation reports, media monitoring and other relevant sources. In each province, the assessment began with a briefing involving the provincial administrative authority, the Provincial Department of Labour and Social Welfare, and relevant sector departments. The teams then conducted visits to selected affected sites, combining direct observation, discussions with local authorities and community members, and completion of the village-level assessment form to collect primary data. The findings were reviewed and discussed with district and provincial authorities through debriefing sessions. Based on the verified information, the teams supported the preparation of a consolidated provincial report for submission to the Chair of the Provincial Disaster Management Committee and review and endorsement by the provincial authority.

The assessment did not independently measure, survey or cost any damage. The monetary values in this report are those reported by provincial authorities and consolidated by the Secretariat of the Central Disaster Management Committee. Verifying them would require engineering survey, technical costing and a full Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, none of which formed part of this exercise.

Methods used in the field were discussions with village disaster management committees, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, case stories documentation, direct observation and transect walks, and review of existing village records. Of the 17 assessments, all 17 drew on the village authority or village disaster management committee, seven used both village authority discussion and focus group discussions, four used village authority discussion and key informants and four included village authority discussion and transect observation.

4.2 ASSESSMENT COVERAGE

TABLE 2: Assessment coverage at the village level

Province	Districts assessed	Villages assessed	KoBo records
Luang Namtha	Luang Namtha	Namdee, Poung	2
Oudomxay	Xay, Namor, Beng	Hua Nambak, Nam ngern, Tha kad	3
Bolikhamxay	Pakkading, Paksan	Viengkham, Nakheua Nai, Sibounheaung	3
Khammouane	Xebangfai, Nongbok	Yangkham, Naphok, Dongkasin, Namphou	4
Savannakhet	Xonnabouly, Xaybuly, Champhone	Kongpathoumvanh, Xiengkhai, Lamtane	3
Champasak	Champasak, Sanasomboun	Pranonetai, Paksone	2
Total	13	17	17

Source: joint assessment village survey, KoBo Toolbox records, 13–19 September 2026 (17 villages in 13 districts). Primary data collected by the joint assessment teams.

4.3 LIMITATIONS

- Purposive selection: Villages were chosen with district authorities on grounds based on severity of damages, and accessibility, not by sampling. Seventeen villages out of 1,548 recorded as affected nationally cannot support provincial or national estimation, village figures describe the assessed villages only.
- Access constraints: Eleven villages were reached by roads described as poor or cut off and five required travels on foot or by boat. The southern team could not visit some severely affected villages, for which local authorities provided the information. Nam ngern reported 611 people in locations that remained inaccessible.
- Short field assessment: Limited time for in-depth interviews and verification, and that some assessment form sections were left incomplete or unverified due to short time allocated for the affected sites visits and interaction with the village level authorities.
- Incomplete disaggregation: the data collected by provincial and district authorities are not adequately disaggregated by sex, disability, ethnicity, age or youth status. At the village level, Age-disaggregated data were reported by 11 of 17 villages.
- Estimated information: The economic damages figures during the assessment are estimated and preliminary values, which may require additional verification.
- Incomplete technical costing: Provincial project lists have not done technical review. For example; the Bolikhamxay report states that post-monsoon road rehabilitation cannot be costed until survey and design are complete.
- Concentration of the damage figure: 57 per cent of the national damage figure is attributed to Luang Namtha and 46 per cent to a single public works entry in that province.
- Scope of the national dataset: The national figures cover the flooding caused by Tropical Cyclone Maysak and associated heavy rainfall between 3 July and 30 August 2026 only. They are not comparable with annual disaster totals for Lao PDR, and they exclude events outside that window, including the flooding recorded on 30 June in Bokeo and Phongsaly.

Aerial view of floodwaters inundating farmland and surrounding areas in Savannakhet province

5 NATIONAL FLOOD IMPACT OVERVIEW

As of the national update of 14 October 2026, consolidated Government data indicated that flooding associated with Tropical Cyclone Maysak and heavy rainfall between 3 July and 30 August 2026 had affected 351,538 people from 72,770 families across 15 provinces, 110 districts and 1,548 villages. The disaster caused 24 deaths, ten injuries and one missing person, while damaging 9,657 houses, 72,826 hectares of paddy land, 770 roads, 54 bridges, 168 schools and 9,398 water and sanitation facilities. Recorded damage and losses were estimated at LAK 9,561,136,257,590, approximately USD 426.4 million. This supersedes the update of 6 September 2026, which recorded 414,450 people affected and LAK 5.038 trillion (USD 223.08 million) in losses across 16 provinces; the increase reflects the completion of provincial submissions rather than further flooding.

Scope of the national figures. The data in this section, and every national figure quoted in Section 7, cover one event: the flooding caused by Tropical Cyclone Maysak and associated heavy rainfall between 3 July and 30 August 2026, as consolidated by the Secretariat of the Central Disaster Management Committee. They are not Lao PDR's total disaster impact for 2026. Other disaster events recorded during the year are held separately in the national disaster database and are not included here, and nor is the flooding recorded on 30 June in Bokeo and Phongsaly, which falls outside the event window.

TABLE 3: Consolidated national flood impacts — Tropical Cyclone Maysak and heavy rainfall, 3 July to 30 August 2026

Category	Impact data
People affected	351,538 including 161,638 women
Families affected	72,770
Provinces / districts / villages affected	15 / 110 / 1,548
Deaths / injured / missing	24 / 10 / 1
Houses damaged	9,657
Transport infrastructure affected	770 roads and 54 bridges
Services affected	168 schools, 175 electricity network points, 9,398 water and sanitation facilities and 18 local hospitals
Agriculture affected	72,826 ha of paddy land, 23,062 livestock and 487 irrigation places
Total recorded losses	LAK 9,561,136,257,590, approximately USD 426.4 million

Source: Secretariat of the Central Disaster Management Committee, report on flooding associated with Tropical Cyclone Maysak and heavy rainfall, 3 July to 30 August 2026, update of 14 October 2026. These figures cover this event only; they are not Lao PDR's total disaster impact for 2026.

5.1 DEATHS, INJURIES AND MISSING PERSONS

Of the 24 deaths recorded nationally, seven occurred in Oudomxay Province, five in Bolikhamxay, five in Savannakhet, two in Phongsaly, two in Huaphanh, two in Khammouane and one in Luang Prabang. Ten people were injured and one person remained missing in Xay District, Oudomxay Province.

Provincial reports from the six assessed provinces record 19 deaths in total: seven in Oudomxay, together with ten injuries, all in Xay District; five in Bolikhamxay, including one woman, all in Khamkeut District; five in Savannakhet; and two in Khammouane, both in Nongbok District. Luang Namtha and Champasak record no deaths. The Oudomxay provincial letter of 2 October 2026 records eight deaths and no missing person, against seven deaths and one person missing in the national update.

5.2 DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN

Provincial reporting shows mostly short-term displacement with returns largely complete before the assessment period. Savannakhet moved 8,677 people (1,455 families) from 23 villages, 3,977 of whom stayed with relatives as per provincial preliminary report; Champasak relocated 368 people (60 families); Khammouane evacuated 7,346 people (1,489 families) in Phase 2, all since returned; and Luang Namtha opened six temporary shelters after the Boten flood.

5.3 DAMAGE AND LOSSES BY SECTOR

Housing damage at national level is recorded as 9,657 houses. The largest recorded physical impacts are to agriculture, with 72,826 hectares of paddy land affected, 23,062 livestock lost and irrigation damage at 487 places, and to transport infrastructure, with 770 roads and 54 bridges affected. Sanitation is the largest single service impact by count, with 9,398 water and sanitation facilities including toilets.

One hundred and sixty-eight schools and 18 local hospitals were affected nationally, together with electricity network damage at 175 points.

The Government's consolidated figure for recorded damage and losses is LAK 9,561,136,257,590, approximately USD 426.4 million at the rate published with it. It is an administrative estimate compiled from the submissions of all 15 affected provinces. It is not a recovery cost, not a financing requirement, and not a validated damage and loss account, and no part of it was independently costed or verified by the United Nations or its partners.

6 FINDINGS FROM THE SIX ASSESSED PROVINCES

This section presents findings from the six assessed provinces, drawing on province-wide administrative data and primary information collected from 17 villages across 13 districts. The assessed villages accounted for 23,292 affected people and provided field-level evidence on impacts, remaining needs and recovery priorities. Provincial and village-level figures have different coverage, and they are not combined or directly compared in the report, as the selected villages do not represent all affected communities within each province. Province-wide figures come from provincial disaster management committees and cover every affected village in the respective province. Assessed village figures come from the 17-village level assessment from using Kobo toolbox records and cover only those villages.

TABLE 4: Provincial summary

Province	Region	Period (2026)	Districts	Villages	Families	People	Women	Deaths	Damage (LAK bn)	Damage (USD million) *
Luang Namtha	North	10 Aug – 13 Sep	5	92	8,058	22,908	10,473	0	5,421.8	240.07
Oudomxay	North	1 – 30 Aug	7	73	1,028	5,441	2,661	7	293.6	13.0
Bolikhamxay	Centre	5 Jul – 31 Aug	7	47	1,910	7,405	4,256	5	282.7	12.52
Khammouane	Centre	Aug	10	385	25,505	127,525	51,010	2	648.6	28.72
Savannakhet	South	6 – 13 Aug	14	177	7,116	47,200	22,657	5	160.3	7.10
Champasak	South	8 – 25 Aug	10	245	9,892	45,079	22,627	0	303.4	13.43

Sources: The provincial assessment reports, Converted at USD 1 = LAK 22,584, Bank of Lao PDR selling rate of 2 October 2026.

6.1 NORTHERN PROVINCES

Luang Namtha

Heavy monsoon rain between 10 August and 13 September 2026 produced flooding in five districts: Luang Namtha, Sing, Long, Viengphoukha and Nalae. The most severe event was the flash flood of 29–30 August at Boten, when the Tha River rose to 6.58 meters against a 6-metre warning level, inundating the Boten Special Economic Zone, the checkpoint area, the airport, two schools and a hospital. The province was declared a disaster zone on 30 August, six temporary shelters were opened, and flights were suspended after the airport was affected.

Province-wide, the provincial assessment report records 92 villages and 13 *Tasseng* affected, 4,612 households, 8,058 families and 22,908 people including 10,473 women, with 229 houses destroyed and 4,361 partly damaged. Affected facilities include the Boten checkpoint and special economic zone, the airport, 27 schools, a hospital, temples and government offices. It records 558 hectares of paddy and 20 hectares of fishponds flooded, 113 road sections and 18 bridges damaged, and electricity damage in three district towns. In education, 1,654 students including 775 girls could not attend school and 76 teachers including 52 women were affected.

The provincial assessment report records total damage and losses of LAK 5,421.75 billion (USD 240.07 million), of which public works and transport accounts for LAK 4,384.41 billion (USD 194.14 million), covering 1,949.09 kilometres of damaged roads and 18 bridges, and household assets account for LAK 377.94 billion (USD 16.73 million). These are provincial administrative estimates reported as submitted.

The northern assessment team assessed Namdee and Poung in Luang Namtha district, recording 1,851 people and 364 households affected. Namdee reported four houses destroyed and two damaged, one evacuation centre holding 17 people, 28 households without drinking water and 36 people needing hygiene items. Poung reported 147 households with lost food or seed stores, 147 without drinking water, 383 needing kitchen sets and 24 mobile and internet sites affected. Both ranked food security and agriculture priority. Lao Red Cross provided rice and drinking water in both villages; Namdee also received LAK 10 million (USD 443) for six severely affected households, water and 36 dignity kits from private sector, company and central government contributions, with the remaining gap dependent on further support.

The Luang Namtha assessment report proposes two recovery packages. For emergency recovery over three to six months, it lists 191 projects with a combined value of LAK 384.31 billion (USD 17.02 million), comprising 113 public works and transport projects (LAK 227.60 billion; USD 10.08 million), 29 agriculture and environment projects (LAK 40.71 billion; USD 1.80 million), 36 health projects (LAK 7.21 billion; USD 319,253), 11 education and sports projects (LAK 74.38 billion; USD 3.29 million) and two social welfare projects (LAK 34.41 billion; USD 1.52 million).

For long-term recovery, it lists 140 projects with a combined value of LAK 4,367.53 billion (USD 193.39 million), comprising 83 public works and transport projects (LAK 4,197.98 billion; USD 185.88 million), 26 agriculture and environment projects (LAK 84.81 billion;

USD 3.76 million), 22 education and sports projects (LAK 70.76 billion; USD 3.13 million) and nine health projects (LAK 13.98 billion; USD 619,022). Public works and transport accounts for about 96 per cent of the long-term value, reflecting the road lengths recorded in the provincial damage assessment.

Oudomxay

Oudomxay experienced three flood waves in August 2026. Between 1 and 30 August, flooding affected 73 villages across seven districts of Oudomxay Province: Xay, Namor, La, Beng, Houn, Nga and Pakbeng. A total of 1,028 households and 5,441 people were affected, including 2,661 women. Seven deaths and ten injuries were recorded in Xay District, and one person remained missing. Housing damage included 60 houses rendered uninhabitable and 968 partially damaged. Agricultural losses included 1,726 hectares of flooded paddy, 265 hectares of damaged upland rice and 1,085 hectares of other damaged crops, 8,401 livestock lost, and damage to 226 fishponds, 1,501,365 released fish, 50 irrigation headworks and 117 canals. Infrastructure damage affected 67 road routes, two national, six provincial, 11 district, 46 rural and two municipal together with seven concrete bridges, four fords, 127 concrete electricity poles and 185 meters. In addition, 27 schools in 27 villages were unable to open for the new school year and 13,842 textbooks were lost, while two district hospitals, 44 gravity-fed water supply systems, 157 latrines and five government offices were affected. Total damage and losses were recorded at LAK 293.61 billion (USD 13.00 million).

The assessment team assessed Hua Nambak in Xay district, Nam ngern in Namor district and Tha kad in Beng district, recording 3,237 people and 506 households affected. Oudomxay accounts for most housing damage found in the whole assessment; Hua Nambak reported 37 houses destroyed and 28 damaged and Nam ngern two destroyed and 48 damaged, with 62 households in temporary shelter and 42 hosted by other families. Hua Nambak reported 446 households without drinking water, 50 boreholes, 60 dugwells and 110 wells damaged or contaminated, open defecation, a dengue and influenza alert, 20 pregnant women needing care and the only three injuries recorded in the assessment. Nam ngern reported 611 people in locations that remained inaccessible, 21 electricity poles, 147 meters and 147 kilometres of line affected, and the only non-functional communications status recorded. Tha kad reported comparatively limited damage.

Assistance in Hua Nambak came from Lao-Viet Bank as family kits and from Bounkhong Company and the provincial government as tents, bedding, rice and LAK 5 million (USD 221) for each of nine severely affected families; the recorded gap is that a second group of affected households received less. Nam ngern received LAK 5 million (USD 221) each for five severely affected families and LAK 2 million (USD 89) for the rest, with 17 households not reached. Tha kad received relief assistance from Lao Red Cross.

Oudomxay identified 26 emergency recovery projects with a total estimated cost of LAK 121.77 billion (USD 5.39 million), comprising 12 public works and transport projects (LAK 116.67 billion; USD 5.17 million), seven agriculture and environment projects (LAK 2.10 billion; USD 92,986), three health projects (LAK 1.49 billion; USD 65,976), three education projects (LAK 0.86 billion; USD 38,080) and one social welfare project (LAK 0.65 billion; USD 28,781). Of this total, LAK 31.85 billion (USD 1.41 million) covers public works already completed but not yet paid to contractors.

For long-term recovery, the province proposed 31 projects valued at LAK 1,007.12 billion (USD 44.59 million), comprising 13 public works and transport projects (LAK 959.34 billion; USD 42.48 million), 12 agriculture and environment projects (LAK 41.54 billion; USD 1.84 million), four health projects (LAK 2.63 billion; USD 116,454), one education project (LAK 1.76 billion; USD 77,931) and one social welfare project (LAK 1.85 billion; USD 81,916).

6.2 CENTRAL PROVINCES

Bolikhamxay

Between 5 July and 31 August 2026, sustained monsoon rain raised the main rivers above warning level and, in places, above danger level. Bolikhamxay reported impacts across 47 villages in seven districts — Paksan, Bolikhan, Thaphabath, Pakkading, Khamkeut, Viengthong and Xaychamphone — affecting 1,910 families and 7,405 people, including 4,256 women. Five houses were damaged, with losses estimated at LAK 20 million (USD 886), while one additional house was recorded as 60 per cent damaged by a landslide and was not costed. Five deaths, including one woman, were recorded in Khamkeut District.

Agricultural impacts covered 109 villages in six districts — Paksan, Pakkading, Thaphabath, Bolikhan, Khamkeut and Viengthong — and affected 986 families and 4,495 people, including 2,047 women, of whom 46 villages, 799 families and 3,995 people, including 1,897 women, were recorded as more severely affected. Damage included 2,021 hectares of inundated paddy, 563 hectares of production area lost, 1,197 hectares of planted crop area flooded and 655.1 hectares of crops damaged, together with 21 irrigation schemes, 262 fishponds, 281,500 fish, 14 pigs, 1,208 poultry and eight river-gauging points. Agricultural losses were estimated at LAK 114.63 billion (USD 5.08 million).

Damage to 35 road routes was valued at LAK 167.71 billion (USD 7.43 million). This included National Road 8A through the Phou Pha Man and Phou Hai sections as a single route at LAK 37.26 billion (USD 1.65 million), three provincial roads at LAK 30.16 billion (USD 1.34 million), 19 district roads at LAK 77.76 billion (USD 3.44 million) and 12 rural roads at LAK 22.53 billion (USD 997,609). Including one damaged water-supply headworks valued at LAK 0.035 billion (USD 1,550), total infrastructure damage amounted to LAK 167.74 billion (USD 7.43 million).

In the education sector, six schools in Pakkading District were affected, comprising two kindergartens, three primary schools and one secondary school. Damage included 1,661 textbooks, five desks, two sound systems, two sets of musical instruments and a cracked building floor. Education losses were estimated at LAK 0.263 billion (USD 11,645).

In the health sector, the province recorded 731 wells, seven boreholes and 787 latrines as inspected but not damaged. One gravity-fed water system in Khamkeut District was damaged, with damage valued at LAK

600,000 (USD 27). Total damage and losses for the province are recorded at LAK 282.65 billion (USD 12.52 million) in the national update of 14 October 2026; the provincial letter states LAK 276.41 billion (USD 12.24 million), the national update having adopted the sum of the sector values.

For recovery, Bolikhamxay proposes 26 emergency projects valued at LAK 140.43 billion (USD 6.22 million), comprising ten public works and transport projects (LAK 121.95 billion; USD 5.40 million), eight agriculture and environment projects (LAK 9.68 billion; USD 428,622), five health projects (LAK 6.20 billion; USD 274,531), two social welfare projects (LAK 2.34 billion; USD 103,613) and one education project (LAK 0.263 billion; USD 11,645).

For long-term recovery, the province proposes 49 projects valued at LAK 145.13 billion (USD 6.43 million), comprising 24 agriculture and environment projects (LAK 99.37 billion; USD 4.40 million) and 25 public works and transport projects (LAK 45.76 billion; USD 2.03 million). The province states that the entire emergency public works and transport amount of LAK 121.95 billion (USD 5.40 million) is owed to contractors for work already completed.

The central team assessed Viengkham and Nakheua Nai in Pakkading district and Sibounheaung in Paksan district, recording 5,294 people and 856 households affected — the largest assessed caseload of any province, driven by Viengkham alone at 4,623 people. No housing damage, deaths or injuries were recorded in these villages. Paddy damage dominates. Viengkham reported 197 hectares planted with 83 totally lost and 80 partly damaged, and Nakheua Nai 112 hectares planted with 32 lost. Sibounheaung, described as among the less affected areas assessed, reported 723 hectares planted, 96 hectares partly damaged, and identified drainage as its priority. Two households in Paksan sheltered with relatives for three days before returning. One woman reported skin rashes in the community, and the team recommended basic medicines and health supplies. Participants raised no protection incidents arising from the flood, but women participants were concerned that girls and children could be at risk when travelling on roads with inadequate lighting and said they would report any incident to village authorities.

Khammouane

Khammouane was the first province affected and remained among the most affected. Khammouane reported flood impacts during August 2026 across all ten districts Thakhek, Nongbok, Xebangfai, Mahaxay, Xaybouathong, Boualapha, Yommalath, Nakai, Hinboun and Khounkham affecting 385 villages, 25,505 families and 127,525 people, including 51,010 women. Two deaths were recorded, both in Nongbok District, and two houses were destroyed and five partially damaged. Of the 91,472 hectares of planted rice, 35,633 hectares were flooded and 21,557 hectares were damaged. Of 12,260 hectares of planted gardens, 2,433 hectares were flooded and 1,152 hectares damaged, while 172 of the province's 241 irrigation schemes were affected, along with 583 flooded canals and 14 water gates; recorded irrigation damage covers five pump houses, 13 weirs, two water gates and 36 canals. A total of 24,975 animals were affected, 9,856 were reported dead and 731 were lost, and 395 fishponds were affected.

Damage to essential services affected 285 boreholes, 172 wells and 672 latrines. These impacts, together with replacement of medicines used during the response and emergency stocks across the ten districts, were valued at LAK 2.40 billion (USD 106,270). Transport infrastructure damage covered 84 road routes and 15 bridges, valued at LAK 131.12 billion (USD 5.81 million).

Fifty-eight schools were recorded as affected, of which six school buildings, comprising four primary and two secondary schools in Thakhek, Nongbok, Hinboun and Xaybouathong districts, were recorded as damaged. Losses of 282 books and assorted equipment were valued at LAK 0.041 billion (USD 1,815).

Total damage and losses were estimated at LAK 648.62 billion (USD 28.72 million). For recovery, the province proposes 37 emergency projects valued at LAK 58.98 billion (USD 2.61 million) and 98 long-term projects valued at LAK 170.99 billion (USD 7.57 million). Neither recovery package includes an education project.

The assessment team assessed Yangkham and Naphok in Xebangfai district and Dongkasin and Namphou in Nongbok district, recording 4,361 people and 733 households affected. These villages show the most acute food security and service problems in the assessment. Naphok reported 306 households needing temporary shelter, 30 persons with disabilities, 15 pregnant and 80 breastfeeding women and 100 people needing hygiene items. Yangkham reported the longest school closure of 16 days with 53 students out of class, a diarrhoea and cough alert, and 420 hectares planted crops entirely lost. Dongkasin and Namphou lost 246 and 172 hectares of crops respectively. The assessment recorded that Yangkham lost its staple rice crop despite receiving food assistance from government and private sources, that households were likely to have enough food for a few months, and that assistance would be needed from October 2026 until the dry-season harvest; farmers could not replant and needed rice seed and inputs. Kindergarten classes in Yangkham remained closed because mud had buried the classroom.

6.3 SOUTHERN PROVINCES

Savannakhet

Continuous heavy rain from early August produced widespread flooding and, in some districts, flash flooding. The Xe Bang Hieng at Songkhone reached 17.57 meters against a 15-metre danger level, leaving ten villages submerged for four to five days, and the Xe Champhone exceeded its danger level in Champhone district.

Savannakhet reported flood impacts across 177 villages, affecting 7,116 families and 47,200 people, including 22,657 women. Five deaths were recorded. Housing damage included 29 houses destroyed and 15 partially damaged. Agricultural impacts included 17,500.35 hectares of damaged rice and 578 hectares of other productive land. Livestock losses comprised 26 cattle, four buffaloes, 73 pigs, 53 goats and 261 poultry. A further 45 irrigation schemes were affected.

Damage to infrastructure and essential services included 34 concrete electricity poles across eight districts and Kaysone Phomvihane city, seven health centres, 1,451 boreholes, 1,484 latrines and 38 schools, comprising 32 primary, three pre-primary and three secondary schools.

Education sector damage was estimated at LAK 1.34 billion (USD 59,334). The province identified 118 road and bridge projects with an estimated cost of LAK 67.88 billion (USD 3.01 million).

Total damages cost estimated at LAK 160.34 billion (USD 7.10 million). For recovery, the province proposes 180 emergency projects valued at LAK 201.67 billion (USD 8.93 million), of which seven projects worth LAK 6.88 billion (USD 304,640) cover work already completed.

The southern team assessed Kongpathoumvanh in Xonnabouly district, Xiengkhai in Xaybuly district and Lamtane in Champhone district, recording 4,260 people and 719 households affected. Kongpathoumvanh reported 635 hectares of paddy planted and entirely lost, about 500 poultry lost and more than 1,000 people evacuated who have since returned. Xiengkhai reported 334.59 hectares planted with 280 lost, 45 boreholes damaged or contaminated, three older people identified as unaccompanied or separated, and isolation during the flood. Lamtane reported 156.14 hectares lost, 60 households requiring mosquito nets and one school closed for five days. Road access was disrupted in all three villages, with reported isolation of six to 60 days, and electricity and communications were out for up to eight days. Assistance came from district and provincial government, a monk, businesspeople and an influencer, and consisted of noodles, canned fish, water, eggs, rice, clothes, light bulbs and cash of LAK 10–17 million (USD 443–753) per village; all three villages recorded it as insufficient and asked for more food and water.

Champasak

Monsoon rain between 8 and 25 August 2026 caused flooding in nine districts and Pakse city. The Mekong at Pakse exceeded its 12-metre flood threshold from 19 August and peaked at 12.51 metres, flooding 21 villages in Pakse city, nine of them along the Xe Don River.

Province-wide, the certification records 245 villages, 9,892 families and 45,059 people affected, including 22,627 women. Housing impacts cover 2,961 families and 14,404 people, including 7,344 women, in eight districts and

Pakse city. Forty-six houses were completely destroyed, affecting 215 people, including 110 women. A further 61 families, comprising 375 people, including 193 women, had houses damaged by 60 per cent or more and were relocated.

Agriculture was affected in eight districts and Pakse city, covering 225 villages, 7,625 families and 30,083 people, including 15,562 women. Of the 7,584 hectares of production area affected, 4,636 hectares were damaged, comprising 4,555 hectares of paddy and 81 hectares of plantation. A total of 4,712 families and 22,738 people were recorded as losing 60 per cent or more of their crop. Losses also included 186 fishponds, 47 fish cages, 706 cattle and buffalo, 149 goats and 585 poultry. Twenty-six irrigation schemes were damaged.

Fifty-five rural roads were damaged, and riverbank erosion was recorded at 15 points. Thirty-six schools were affected, eight of them damaged, together with one health centre and 582 latrines. Total damage and losses are recorded at LAK 303.37 billion (USD 13.43 million) in the national update of 14 October 2026..

For recovery, the province proposes 25 emergency projects valued at LAK 52.62 billion (USD 2.33 million) and 46 long-term projects valued at LAK 98.07 billion (USD 4.34 million), giving a combined total of 71 projects worth LAK 150.68 billion (USD 6.67 million).

Cleanup is underway at a house affected by flooding.

The team assessed Pranonetai in Champasak district and Paksone in Sanasomboun district, recording 4,289 people and 849 households affected. Paksone is the second-largest assessed caseload at 3,448 people, with 426.53 hectares planted and 195.5 totally lost, 126 households displaced but sheltering in their own homes, 112 households needing food assistance and 13 latrines damaged. Pranonetai reported 120 hectares planted and 53 lost and 40 households requiring mosquito nets. No school damage was reported in either village and health services remained operational with no damage to health workers, medicines or supplies. Irrigation is the defining issue, the team recorded that canal damage has disrupted water management and may affect the dry-season cycle beginning in January, and that verification of rice-field damage is a priority. Both villages received survival bags from district and provincial government with private contributions and recorded them as insufficient — lasting about a week in Paksone against a need of two, and two days in Pranonetai against a need of at least five.

7 SECTOR IMPACTS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

This section presents the main sector impacts, assistance provided, remaining gaps and priority needs identified through the assessment. Findings from the 17 assessed villages are considered alongside provincial and national data, field observations and consultations with communities and government authorities. As these sources have different geographic coverage and reporting periods, village-level and province-wide figures are clearly distinguished. Priority actions are organized by immediate, early recovery, and medium to long-term needs.

7.1 SHELTER AND ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Nationally 9,657 houses were damaged. The six provincial assessment reports record 371 houses destroyed or rendered uninhabitable and about 5,350 partly damaged: Luang Namtha 229 destroyed and 4,361 partly damaged; Oudomxay 60 uninhabitable and 968 partly damaged; Champasak 46 destroyed, with a further 61 families whose houses were damaged by 60 per cent or more and who were relocated; Savannakhet 29 destroyed and 15 partly damaged; Khammouane two destroyed and five partly damaged; and Bolikhamxay five damaged at LAK 20 million (USD 886), with one further house 60 per cent damaged by a landslide.

In the assessed villages 43 houses were destroyed and 97 damaged, with 71 households needing shelter support. Damage is concentrated in Oudomxay, where Hua Nambak and Nam ngern account for 39 of the 43 destroyed houses. Most affected households shelter in their own homes (897 households), with 44 hosted by other families, 62 in temporary or improvised shelter and four in schools or temples; none was recorded without shelter.

Luang Namtha opened six temporary shelters, and government and private contributors provided bedding, mats, kitchen sets and cash in Oudomxay and Luang Namtha. Mosquito nets remain the most widely requested item, sought by 13 of 17 villages for 1,658 households, followed by temporary shelter (five villages, 326 households), tarpaulins (three villages, 237 households), kitchen sets (six villages, 141 households) and bedding (six villages, 138 households). Namdee and Tha kad report evacuation centre capacity gaps for about 50 people. Seven villages report safety concerns in shelter locations, most commonly poor lighting and privacy and land issues.

Immediate: distribute mosquito nets, bedding and kitchen sets against the per-village household figures, and in coordination with sub-national authorities to beyond assessed villages.

Early recovery: repair or replace the 43 destroyed houses, prioritizing Hua Nambak and Nam nger villages in Oudomxay province; address lighting and privacy in evacuation sites.

Medium and long term: resolve the land and tenure constraints identified in three villages and establish designated evacuation sites with basic facilities.

7.2 FOOD SECURITY, AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

Agriculture and livelihoods recorded the largest impacts across national and provincial datasets and in the 17 assessed villages. Nationally, 72,826 hectares of paddy land were affected and 23,062 livestock were lost, with irrigation damage recorded at 487 places. Savannakhet reported 17,500.35 hectares of damaged paddy. In Champasak, 7,584 hectares were affected, of which 4,636 hectares were damaged. Khammouane reported 35,633 hectares of flooded paddy, including 21,557 hectares assessed as damaged. The Provincial Agriculture Office recorded the highest proportions of flooded paddy damaged in Hinboun (90.9 per cent), Nongbok (87.2 per cent), Xebangfai (85.0 per cent), Mahaxay (68.4 per cent) and Thakhek (50.2 per cent). Oudomxay reported a further 1,726 hectares of flooded paddy, 265 hectares of damaged upland rice and 1,085 hectares of other damaged crops. Bolikhamxay recorded 2,021 hectares of inundated paddy, 563 hectares of production area lost and 655.1 hectares of crops damaged, and Luang Namtha 558 hectares of paddy flooded with 501 hectares assessed as lost.

In the assessed villages 5,041 hectares were planted, 3,524 hectares totally lost and 338 partly damaged. Losses are nearly total in the central and southern villages: Kongpathoumvanh lost all 635 hectares planted, Yangkham all 420 and Naphok 474. Farming was reported as an affected livelihood in all 17 assessed villages, while livestock rearing and fishing were each affected in 10 villages, and small businesses in seven.

WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare delivered about 600 metric tonnes of food baskets, a 30-day ration for up to 37,500 people, in Luang Namtha; WFP holds USD 137,000 from the SEADRIF payout for cash in Sekong and USD 1.2 million from the US Global Award Fund expected to support about 24,000 people for 30 days.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment delivered a LAK 5.89 billion (USD 260,804) package to Savannakhet including eight tonnes of rice seed. Ten of 17 villages report that replanting is not possible this season. All 17 villages requested seed; 13 villages requested irrigation or fishery repair and nine livestock vaccination. The recorded food assistance caseload in the assessed villages is 334 households, with average remaining stocks of 30 days or fewer in five villages. Sixteen of 17 primary market's function, but market access is difficult for eight villages; ten villages prefer cash and in-kind combined and six in-kind only.

Immediate: targeted food assistance for households that lost standing crops, from October 2026 to the next harvest, as requested in Yangkham, with cash where markets function and access allows.

Early recovery: deliver rice and vegetable seed, fertilizer and tools in time for the dry-season cycle beginning January 2027; restore irrigation headworks and canals; provide livestock vaccination.

Medium and long term: rehabilitate and upgrade irrigation to reduce future flood damage, diversify livelihoods in single-crop villages and restore fishponds and cages.

7.3 WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Nationally 9,398 water and sanitation facilities were affected. Savannakhet records 1,451 boreholes and 1,484 latrines flooded and Champasak 582 latrines damaged. Khammouane records 285 boreholes, 172 wells and 672 latrines damaged. In Oudomxay, 44 gravity-fed systems and 157 latrines were affected, and in Luang Namtha 35 gravity-fed systems. Bolikhamxay inspected 731 wells, seven boreholes and 787 latrines and recorded them as not damaged, with one gravity-fed system in Khamkeut District damaged at LAK 600,000 (USD 27).

In the assessed villages 773 households reported no drinking water and 87 latrines were unusable. Water system damage was reported in every village, boreholes in three, wells in three, gravity-fed systems in two, dugwells in one, and other infrastructure including piped supply in 11. The drinking water gap is concentrated in Hua Nambak (446 households), Poung (147), Namphou (90) and Nam ngern (62). Seven villages report insufficient safe water, six lack soap and water for handwashing, 13 have no safe waste disposal site, six report stagnant water or debris and three report open defecation.

UNICEF deployed and later repaired a water purification truck in Khammouane, producing 162,000 litres for 50 villages in Hinboun, Xe Bang Fai and Nongbok districts, and supplied soap, buckets, dippers and water containers; Savannakhet's mobile unit at Ban Koy produced 9,300 litres for 729 people; purification powder was distributed in Nakheua Nai. Six villages request water system repair, six a water supply, five treatment and two testing; ten request latrine repair, five desludging and three emergency latrines; 13 request drainage clearance and 11 debris removal. A total of 349 people were recorded as needing hygiene or menstrual items.

Immediate: safe drinking water and household treatment in the four villages with the largest gaps; hygiene kits; disinfection of contaminated water points.

Early recovery: repair damaged boreholes, dugwells, gravity-fed systems and piped supply; repair unusable latrines; clear drainage and debris before the next rains.

Medium and long term: water quality testing where complaints persist and safe waste disposal in the 13 assessed villages that lack it and beyond.

7.4 HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Eighteen local hospitals were affected nationally; Savannakhet records seven health centres flooded and 58 flood-related cases treated, Champasak one health centre, Oudomxay two district hospitals, and Luang Namtha one hospital, the Luang Namtha district health office, three health centres and a COVID-19 treatment building in Nalae District.

In the assessed villages one hospital was affected and 16 of 17 nearest facilities were fully functioning. The problem is access rather than infrastructure: eight of 17 villages report that reaching the nearest facility is difficult. Disease alerts were reported in three villages — diarrhoea and cough in Yangkham, athlete's foot in Nakheua Nai and dengue and influenza in Hua Nambak — and both teams recorded skin infections among children. No case of acute watery diarrhoea in children under five was reported. Reported reproductive health caseloads are high but concentrated; 3,933 people needing services, of which 1,847 in Hua Nambak, 1,414 in Poung and 626 in Nam ngern, and 31 pregnant women needing care.

Health centers received emergency supplies through provincial health departments; first-aid kits were provided in Paksone and hygiene kits through the district hospital in Tha kad. Four villages report a gap in medicines, three in equipment, one in staff and one in referral or transport; 13 report no gap. Seven villages identify reproductive health supplies as an immediate gap and two safe deliveries, and three state that outreach teams are needed because services were unavailable before and after the disaster.

Immediate: deploy reproductive health and general outreach teams to Hua Nambak, Nam ngern and Poung and replenish medicines in the villages reporting gaps.

Early recovery: repair the affected facilities, restore referral transport and maintain surveillance for diarrhoeal disease, dengue, leptospirosis and skin infections as both teams recommended.

Medium and long term: strengthen outreach capacity for remote villages and build reproductive health into preparedness arrangements.

7.5 EDUCATION

One hundred and sixty-eight schools were affected nationally during the two months period July-August 2026, of which 140 fall in the six assessed provinces. The six assessed provinces, record 192 schools were affected. The difference of 52 is entirely Khammouane, where the province counts 58 schools affected and the national dataset the six school buildings recorded as damaged. Luang Namtha records 27 schools affected, of which nine were expected to reopen, with 1,654 students including 775 girls unable to attend and 76 teachers including 52 women affected, at LAK 145,256,286,000 (USD 6.43 million). Champasak records 36 schools affected and eight damaged, with 6,234 zinc sheets, 260 desks and 800 textbooks lost, at LAK 8,676,400,000 (USD 384,183). Savannakhet records 38 schools 32 primary, three pre-primary and three secondary with 471 textbooks, 20 blackboards, 31 desk sets, one computer and six cabinets lost, at LAK 1,337,017,000 (USD 59,202). Oudomxay records 27 schools in 27 villages unable to open for the new school year, 13,842 textbooks, five computer sets and the Namor district education office, at LAK 2,898,280,000 (USD 128,333). Bolikhamxay records six schools flooded in Pakkading District with 1,661 textbooks and five desks damaged, at LAK 262,825,000 (USD 11,638). Khammouane records 58 schools affected, of which six buildings were damaged, at LAK 41,225,000 (USD 1,825).

In the assessed villages, 13 of 19 schools were partly damaged and four closed. The longest closure was 16

days in Yangkham, where 53 students were out of class and kindergarten classes remained closed because debris had buried the classroom; Poung and Lamtane reported closures of 14 and five days. School-level needs recorded are water in four villages, latrines and handwashing in three each and learning materials in four.

Immediate: clear mud and debris from classrooms and replace lost textbooks and furniture.

Early recovery: repair roofs and classrooms in the 13 partly damaged schools and reopen those identified in Luang Namtha as not yet able to reopen.

Medium and long term: implement the school reconstruction and flood-

works in the Luang Namtha and Champasak project lists, with site-specific flood risk screening.

7.6 PROTECTION, GENDER, DISABILITY AND INCLUSION

Women and girls are half the affected population in the assessed villages, at 11,656 of 23,292. Ninety persons with disabilities were recorded, 30 of them in Naphok, together with 186 women-headed households, 72 pregnant women, 282 breastfeeding women and 36 single or child-headed households. No village reported sexual or gender-based violence or child abuse as a primary concern; three identified stress and psychological distress. Nine of 17 villages report that gender-based violence and child protection services are not accessible; seven report that persons with disabilities cannot access information, sites and services. Three older people were identified as living without family or caregiver in Xiengkhai, and two villages reported loss or damage to civil, land or family records. The village assessment recorded that women in one of the assessed provinces were generally concerned about the safety of girls and children travelling on poorly lit roads, including the possibility of children getting lost or separated.

Recorded needs are 3,974 women and 827 girls requiring dignity kits, 1,929 people requiring psychosocial support and 15 people requiring assistive devices across four villages out of 17 assessed.

Immediate: distribute dignity kits against verified caseloads and provide assistive devices where recorded.

Early recovery: extend gender-based violence and child protection referral pathways to the nine villages that report them as inaccessible, support replacement of lost documents and provide psychosocial support through existing structures.

Medium and long term: make information, sites and services accessible to persons with disabilities as a standard condition of reconstruction and address road lighting where communities identified safety risks.

7.7 INFRASTRUCTURE, LOGISTICS AND PUBLIC WORKS

Nationally 770 roads and 54 bridges were affected, with irrigation damage at 487 places. Savannakhet records 118 road and bridge projects estimated at LAK 67.88 billion (USD 3.01 million), Luang Namtha 113 damaged sections and 18 bridges at LAK 4,384.41 billion (USD 194.14 million), Champasak 55 rural roads and 15 erosion points at LAK 117.69 billion (USD 5.21 million), Bolikhamxay 35 routes including National Road 8A at LAK 167.71 billion (USD 7.43 million), Khammouane 84 routes and 15 bridges at LAK 131.12 billion (USD 5.81 million), and Oudomxay 67 routes, seven concrete bridges and four fords at LAK 117.36 billion (USD 5.20 million).

In the assessed villages 21.8 kilometres of road, eight bridges and three culverts were affected, predominantly rural roads. Eleven of 17 villages report roads poor or cut off, with reported isolation in the southern villages ranging from six to 60 days. National Road 8A in Khammouane was severely affected twice; National Road 8A in Bolikhamxay reopened to light vehicles on 8 August and heavy vehicles on 10 August 2026.

Provincial public works departments carried out emergency repairs, in Bolikhamxay under Ministry of Public Works, and military and community teams cleared debris and built temporary crossings, including a timber repair in Hua Nambak that allows students and motorcycles to cross. Sixteen villages request road repair and six clearances; seven request transport support and eight coordination.

Three provinces record emergency road works already completed; Bolikhamxay at LAK 121.95 billion (USD 5.40 million), Oudomxay at LAK 31.85 billion (USD 1.41 million) and Savannakhet, covering seven projects, at LAK 6.88 billion (USD 304,640).

Immediate: clear and temporarily repair cut-off routes, prioritizing villages isolated for more than two weeks.

Early recovery: permanently repair damaged rural roads, bridges and culverts and reinstate the temporary crossing in Hua Nambak.

Medium and long term: rebuild to a higher standard with raised levels and improved drainage, as requested by Kongpathoumvanh and Lamtane, and construct embankments on the routes in the Luang Namtha long-term list.

7.8 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Electricity network damage was recorded at 175 points nationally. Luang Namtha recorded 1,890 damaged electricity meters and 219 broken concrete poles, with energy-sector losses valued at LAK 8.22 billion (USD 363,974). Seven factories were also damaged, with damage valued at LAK 47.12 billion (USD 2.09 million).

Oudomxay recorded damage to 185 meters, 127 concrete poles, 129 cross-arms, 43 service lines and 168 brackets, valued at LAK 1.66 billion (USD 73,503). Savannakhet recorded damage to 34 concrete poles across 38 villages, valued at LAK 484 million (USD 21,431).

In the assessed villages 39 poles, one transformer, 1,047 meters, 147 kilometers of line and 27 mobile and internet sites were affected. Communications were functional in 13 villages, partial in three and non-functional in one, Nam ngern. Damage is concentrated in Hua Nambak (900 meters, 16 poles) and Nam ngern (147 meters, 21 poles, 147 kilometres of line); Poung reported 24 mobile and internet sites affected, and southern villages reported disruption of up to eight days. Three villages — Namdee, Nam ngern and Poung — request restoration of power and network; the other 14 report no support needed. Mobile and internet remain the dominant information channels.

Immediate: restore power and network in the three villages that have requested.

Early recovery: replace damaged poles, meters and transformers and restore mobile and internet sites in Poung village.

Medium and long term: strengthen network resilience on routes that were cut and maintain radio and other offline channels for early warning.

7.9 EARLY RECOVERY

In the assessed villages, early recovery was already under way in 15 of the 17 villages. Recorded actions include road repair and debris removal in Namdee, temporary bridge repair and military-assisted house rebuilding in Hua Nambak, well disinfection in Nakheua Nai, cleaning of temples, houses and village facilities in Nam ngern, and restoration of electricity, phone signal and water within a day or two in Tha kad and Nam ngern.

Gaps recorded by villages are the absence of evacuation shelters, continued isolation of up to 60 days in Xiengkhai, insufficient food and drinking water, and roads still flooded or unrepaired. Two households in Hua Nambak remained in shelter awaiting completion of their houses.

Immediate: complete debris and mud clearance and house repairs for households still in shelter.

Early recovery: restore productive assets and services and equip evacuation sites in villages that lack them.

Medium and long term: integrate recovery works into provincial and district socio economic plan including provincial and districts disaster preparedness and response plans rather than managing them as standalone emergency projects.

Flood induced riverbank erosion and damage to protective infrastructure observed in Khammouane.

8 IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND REMAINING GAPS

In the assessed villages, no immediate life-threatening gaps were reported. However, significant unmet needs remain and require timely action to prevent further hardship and support recovery. Priorities include food assistance for households that lost standing crops, safe drinking water, hygiene supplies, mosquito nets, shelter support, restoration of road access, and agricultural inputs for the next planting season. Response planning gives particular attention to households facing multiple vulnerabilities, communities that remain difficult to reach, and time-sensitive repairs and livelihood support required before the 2027 dry and wet season production cycles.

Priority population groups. Households that lost their entire planted area and cannot replant this season, concentrated in Kongpathoumvanh, Yangkham, Naphok and Paksone; the 71 households needing shelter support and the two in Hua Nambak still in shelter; the 773 households without drinking water, of which 446 are in one village; women and girls in villages reporting protection services as inaccessible, and the 90 persons with disabilities recorded, 30 of them in one village; and pregnant and breastfeeding women where reproductive health outreach is unavailable.

Access constraints. Eleven villages remain difficult to reach and five are reachable only on foot or by boat. Nam ngern reports 611 people in areas that were still inaccessible. Access determines sequencing: assistance cannot be delivered, and agriculture seeds and fertilizer cannot deliver before planting, unless clearance and temporary repair come first.

Assistance coverage. Fifteen of 17 villages had received assistance, in every case from government, companies, religious or charitable contributors or the Lao Red Cross; Sibounheaung and Pranonetai had received none. Where assistance arrived, villages described it as insufficient in duration rather than absent. Survival bags lasting two to seven days against a stated need of 5 to 14 days, and 17 households in one village not reached at all.

Seasonal urgency. Two deadlines govern the response. Seed, fertilizer and irrigation repair need to be in place for the dry season cycle beginning January 2027, and the Champasak province reported that irrigation damage may affect that cycle directly. Road, bridge and drainage works need to progress before the 2027 wet season, and the Bolikhamxay report warns that emergency repairs already carried out are temporary and at risk of failing.

TABLE 5: Recommended actions

Actions	Priority
Clear and temporarily repair cut-off access routes to the 11 villages reporting poor or cut-off roads and to the unassessed villages in coordination with provincial and district authorities.	Immediate
Deliver food assistance to households that lost standing crops, starting in Yangkham, Kongpathoumvanh, Naphok and Paksone villages.	Immediate
Provide safe drinking water and treatment in Hua Nambak, Poung, Namphou and Nam ngern; disinfect contaminated water points.	Immediate
Distribute mosquito nets, bedding and kitchen sets against per-village household figures.	Immediate
Deploy reproductive health outreach teams to Hua Nambak, Nam ngern and Poung.	Immediate
Procure and pre-position rice and vegetable seed, fertilizer and tools for the January planting cycle.	Short term (up to 3 months)
Repair irrigation headworks, weirs and canals identified in the provincial project lists.	Short term
Repair unusable latrines and damaged water systems; clear drainage before the next rains.	Short term
Clear classrooms, replace textbooks and furniture and reopen closed schools.	Short term
Complete technical inspection and costing of proposed road, bridge and embankment work.	Short term

Flood-damaged earthen road requiring urgent repair to restore safe community access and support longer-term recovery. @UNICEF

9 EARLY RECOVERY AND RECOVERY PRIORITIES

The transition from emergency response to recovery can begin immediately, with early action focused on restoring essential services, access and livelihoods while reducing the risk of further losses and damages. Although this rapid assessment is not a detailed Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, it provides an evidence-based foundation for prioritizing early, medium- and long-term recovery actions. The priorities draw on provincial submissions, village-level findings, field observations and consultations with government authorities and affected communities. Priorities are organized by period and drawn from the provincial project lists, the village priority rankings and the assessment team notes.

Immediate response: 0 to 3 months

Objective: close remaining essential gaps and restore access before recovery works begin.

Interventions are food assistance for households that lost standing crops, safe drinking water and hygiene items, mosquito nets, bedding and kitchen sets, clearance and temporary repair of cut-off roads, reproductive health outreach and disinfection of contaminated water points.

Responsibility rests with district, provincial and central disaster management committees and provincial sectoral departments, prioritizing the 11 villages with poor or cut-off access. Before implementation, household figures for Nam ngern need correcting and caseloads for dignity kits and psychosocial support need verifying. No works in this period require environmental or social assessment; distribution can follow the safe and inclusive practices set out in the assessment orientation.

Based on the evidence from the 17 assessed villages, targeted support could be extended to other affected villages across the country, following further verification of their specific needs and priorities.

Early recovery: 3 to 6 months

Objective: restore productive capacity in time for the dry-season planting cycle and restore basic services.

Interventions are seed, fertilizer and tools, emergency irrigation repair, livestock vaccination and disease control, repair of water systems and latrines, classroom clearance and materials, repair of damaged health facilities and permanent repair of priority rural roads and bridges, delivered by provincial line departments under the provincial committees and coordinated by the Secretariat of the Central Disaster Management Committee.

Indicative provincial costs for emergency recovery over three to six months, as recorded in the six certification letters of 2 October 2026, are Luang Namtha 191 projects at LAK 384.31 billion (USD 17.02 million), Savannakhet 180 projects at LAK 201.67 billion (USD 8.93 million), Bolikhamxay 26 projects at LAK 140.43 billion (USD 6.22 million), Oudomxay 26 projects at LAK 121.77 billion (USD 5.39 million), Khammouane 37 projects at LAK 58.98 billion (USD 2.61 million) and Champasak 25 projects at LAK 52.62 billion (USD 2.33 million), a combined 485 projects valued at LAK 959.78 billion (USD 42.50 million). Of this, LAK 160.68 billion (USD 7.11 million) covers road works already carried out in Bolikhamxay, Oudomxay and Savannakhet.

Irrigation and road works require survey and design before implementation, and repairs to irrigation and drainage could include a maintenance arrangement with water user groups, since several systems damaged in 2026 were damaged in earlier events.

Medium-term recovery: 6 to 24 months

Objective: rebuild damaged infrastructure to a standard that reduces the impact of the next flood.

Interventions are reconstruction of rural and provincial roads with raised levels and improved drainage, bridge and culvert replacement, embankment and riverbank protection at the erosion points recorded in Champasak and Luang Namtha, irrigation rehabilitation, school reconstruction and flood protection, and restoration of electricity networks, led by the Ministries of Public Works and Transport, Agriculture and Environment, and Education and Sports with provincial departments. Indicative provincial costs for long-term recovery are Luang Namtha 140 projects at LAK 4,367.53 billion (USD 193.39 million), Oudomxay 31 projects at LAK 1,007.12 billion (USD 44.59 million), Khammouane 98 projects at LAK 170.99 billion (USD 7.57 million), Bolikhamxay 49 projects at LAK 145.13 billion (USD 6.43 million) and Champasak 46 projects at LAK 98.07 billion (USD 4.34 million), a combined 364 projects valued at LAK 5,788.83 billion (USD 256.32 million).

Each site requires engineering survey and design, flood risk screening, environmental and social screening for riverbank and embankment works, and confirmation of land availability before any relocation or realignment.

Long-term recovery: beyond 24 months

Objective: reduce exposure and strengthen the systems that improve resilience.

Priorities are catchment and drainage planning where flooding recurs, including the urban drainage problems in Luang Prabang and Vientiane Capital and the village drainage request from Sibounheaung; livelihood diversification in single-crop villages; designated and equipped evacuation sites; strengthened early warning, evacuation planning and emergency communications; and integration of recovery works into provincial socio-economic development plans through the regular planning and budget cycle.

This period requires a completed damage and loss record for all affected provinces, including six provinces assessed, validated cost estimates, and a decision on which works are financed domestically and which required support from development partners.

10 STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL

- **Establish a coordinated recovery framework**. It is recommended that the Government consolidate immediate, early, medium- and long-term priorities within a government-led recovery framework, supported by clear responsibilities, timelines and financing requirements. Provincial priorities could also be integrated into national and provincial planning and budget processes.
- **Protect food security and restore livelihoods before the next production cycle**. Priority could be given to households that lost standing crops, livestock, fisheries, productive assets or their entire planted area. Timely provision of seed, fertilizer, tools, livestock vaccination, irrigation repairs and other agricultural support is recommended before the next planting season. Targeted food or cash assistance may remain necessary for households unable to meet their needs before the next harvest.
- **Restore access and essential services as an early recovery priority.** Accelerated clearance and temporary repair of roads, bridges, water systems, schools, health facilities and electricity networks are recommended, particularly in villages that remain difficult to reach. Restoring access early would also support the timely delivery of livelihood inputs and implementation of larger recovery works.
- **Apply risk-informed standards to reconstruction.** Reconstruction offers an opportunity to improve the safety and resilience of damaged roads, bridges, embankments, irrigation systems, schools, health facilities and houses. Designs could consider flood levels, drainage, riverbank erosion, landslide exposure and future climate risks. Technical surveys, appropriate engineering designs and environmental and social safeguards are recommended for major works.
- **Support safe housing recovery and planned relocation where necessary**. Appropriate shelter and housing assistance is recommended for households with destroyed or unsafe homes. Where relocation is being considered, decisions could be informed by hazard assessments, consultation with affected communities, confirmation of suitable land, access to services and livelihood opportunities, and protection of land and tenure rights.
- **Make response and recovery inclusive.** Priority assistance is recommended for households facing multiple vulnerabilities, including persons with disabilities, older persons, pregnant and breastfeeding women, female-headed households and families with limited livelihood options. Information, evacuation sites, assistance points and essential services could be made accessible, with protection and referral services available in affected communities.
- **Strengthen early warning, evacuation and community preparedness.** Further investment is recommended in last-mile warning communication, accessible and locally understood messages, clearly identified evacuation routes, safe and equipped evacuation sites, community response plans and reliable emergency communication systems.
- **Align recovery financing with verified priorities**. Government allocations, disaster-risk financing, development-partner support and private contributions could be coordinated against agreed recovery priorities. Available financing could initially focus on urgent gaps and time-sensitive recovery needs, while larger infrastructure proposals are prepared for medium- and long-term investment.

10.2 IMPLEMENTATION

- **During the next three months**, priority actions could include targeted food assistance, safe drinking water, hygiene supplies, mosquito nets, essential household items, shelter support and reproductive health outreach where gaps remain. Clearance and temporary repair of cut-off access routes, together with disinfection of contaminated water points, are also recommended.
- **Within three to six months**, efforts could focus on restoring productive capacity through agricultural inputs, livestock and fisheries support, irrigation repairs, replacement of essential tools and assistance to affected small businesses. Assistance modalities could reflect local market conditions, using cash where markets are functioning and accessible and in-kind assistance where they are not.
- **Prioritize communities facing the greatest barriers** to recovery. Geographic targeting could consider the severity of damage, livelihood losses, access constraints, limited assistance received and the presence of vulnerable population groups.
- **Develop integrated recovery packages** for heavily affected locations. In communities experiencing combined damage to housing, livelihoods, water systems, roads and public services, coordinated area-based packages could provide a more effective response than separate sector interventions.
- **Complete technical assessments before major investment**. Engineering, flood-risk, environmental and social assessments are recommended for roads, bridges, embankments, irrigation systems, drainage works and relocation proposals before financing and construction decisions.
- **Maintain communication and accountability to affected communities**. Clear information could be provided on eligibility, the type and duration of assistance, implementation schedules, and available feedback and complaint mechanisms. Participation of women, persons with disabilities, older persons and other groups at risk is recommended throughout recovery planning and monitoring.

11 VOICES FROM AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

CASE STORY 1

Living through a third major flood

Mr. Sonelam Saysonla, aged 43, is a rice farmer in Xiengkhai Village, Xaybuly District, Savannakhet Province. He lives with his wife, two children and two uncles. The village had previously experienced major floods in 2011 and 2019. When an early warning was announced through the village loudspeaker in August 2026, his family moved their belongings, 26 poultry and two cows to higher ground.

On 9 August, the water continued to rise, forcing the family to evacuate to the local primary school with more than 30 other households. They remained there for nearly a month with limited food and safe drinking water. Disrupted roads made access to markets, health services and other areas difficult, and many residents relied on shared boats. The district government provided noodles, canned fish and drinking water.

The flood destroyed the family's two-hectare rice field, their main source of food and income. When they returned home in early September, the house and surrounding area were covered with mud and debris, which took the family a week to clear.

Their immediate priorities are food assistance and rice seed. Over the longer term, Mr. Sonelam identified better roads, access to boats, safe drinking water and a safer place to shelter during future floods.

"What we need most now is food for our family and rice seeds so that we can plant again," Mr. Sonelam said.

Story by: Souksavanh Sayavet, WHO

CASE STORY 2

When the flood takes away a family's livelihood

Mr Phamod, aged 52, lives in Dongmarphao village, Nongbok district, Khammouane, in a household of nine. He is the main income earner and father of five children, three of them in school, and the household depends on about four hectares of rice field. The family received an early warning from the Government and village authorities but did not evacuate.

The flood severely damaged the four hectares of the rice fields, putting the household's main source of food and income at risk. A completely damaged bridge has divided the village, and residents cannot reach the other side, making access to services and supplies more difficult. The household reported the impact to the Government but, at the time of the assessment, had received no assistance from any source.

Mr. Phamod said, "We depend entirely on our rice fields. My biggest concern now is not only how to provide food for my family, but also how to restore our livelihood".

Story by: Priyanka Chakma, GBV Analyst, UNFPA

Mr. Phamod interacts with member of the assessment team during the site visit.

CASE STORY 3

Women's voices from Yangkham Village

During a community discussion at the village temple in Yangkham village, Khammouane province, around 23 women described how the flood had affected their homes, livelihoods and children's education. Almost all reported that their houses had been flooded or otherwise affected. Eleven women had left their homes and stayed with relatives in neighboring villages, for periods ranging from several days to almost one month. Families lost chickens, rice stocks, cooking utensils, household appliances and other belongings, affecting both household food supplies and agricultural livelihoods.

Recovery remained difficult after the water receded. Muddy roads limit safe travel, particularly for children attending preschool and primary school. One kindergarten classroom was buried by flood-borne mud, and the school remained closed for 16 days. Women raised concerns about children and girls travelling on poorly lit roads, although no protection incidents linked to the flood were reported.

The community received rice, clothing, drinking water, eggs and noodles from the Government and also additional support from Thailand. However, the women identified continuing needs for rice, crop seedlings, vegetable seeds and flexible cash assistance. They also reported that no assistance specifically addressing the needs of women and girls, such as dignity kits, had been received.

Yangkham has no designated evacuation centre. During the flood, displaced families depended on relatives or travelled to neighboring villages. They could identify a safe and accessible evacuation space within the village as an important priority for these women in future emergencies.

Story by: Priyanka Chakma, GBV Analyst, UNFPA

The assessment team consulted women in the community to understand the impacts of the floods and their needs and priorities.

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