

**ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE HUMANITARIAN/RESIDENT COORDINATOR
ON THE USE OF CERF GRANTS**

Country	Lao, People’s Democratic Republic
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Reporting Period	01 January 2008 – 31 December 2008

I. Executive Summary

In early August 2008, Lao PDR experienced its worst floods in 20 years. The tropical storm Kammuri brought with it heavy rains that resulted in the waters of the Mekong river and its tributaries rising to recently unprecedented levels. An estimated 353,928 people across the country were affected, with the northern and central regions being worst hit. Government estimates issued by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) cited that 1,145 villages in 77 districts of 13 provinces had been affected¹. In addition, an estimated 77,000 hectares of agricultural land were inundated by the floods--destroying both the stored harvest and the rice crop in the fields. Livestock was not spared either with animal morbidity and mortality reducing the livestock asset base of the rural households. About 50,000 hectares of this flood-inundated land also saw severe damage to its agricultural infrastructure including irrigation systems and fish ponds; social amenities including schools, hospitals and water wells; transport infrastructure including bridges, roads and foot paths; and to commercial buildings and personal houses.

Following these floods the government of Lao PDR, through NDMO, requested the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to assist in fundraising and leading the disaster response of humanitarian agencies in close collaboration with government departments. At the same time, based on preliminary information from the government, the UN Country Team (UNCT) made a request to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for funds under its *rapid response window*. In response to this appeal, CERF disbursed US\$ 2,024,378 on 19 September 2008. The funds were to assist in the immediate response to the emergency needs of the flood affected population. Soon after, IASC undertook a rapid assessment that culminated in a proposal entitled, *Joint appeal for flood recovery and rehabilitation in Lao PDR*, which was launched on 24 September 2008. The funds disbursed by CERF were included in the appeal which totalled \$ 9,945,998.

About 200,000 people benefited from the CERF funding. The UN agencies and their partners strove to ensure gender equity in their interventions. For instance, WFP distributed all its food directly to women; WHO beneficiaries were 50 percent women; UNICEF beneficiaries were 24 percent adult women, 8 percent adult men, and 68 percent children; and UN-HABITAT beneficiaries were 49 percent women.

In the food security sector, WFP distributed 1,320 metric tons (mts) of rice to 43,000 people (7,167 households) in seven provinces. The food helped prevent people from turning to detrimental coping mechanisms that would weaken their resilience, increase vulnerability and lead to increased malnutrition.

¹ Provincial Disaster Management Committee and Line ministry updates of November 2008.

In the agricultural sector, FAO interventions benefited 22,392 people (2,278 households) who received improved rice seeds varieties, common fertilizer, organic fertilizers and fertilizer application training. With these agricultural inputs between 1,394-1,457 hectares were cultivated, and are expected to produce about 4,879 - 5,828mts in the next harvest of April/May 2009. The action is significant because the targeted districts are key rice producers in Lao PDR.

In the health sector, 75 health mobile teams delivered services to 1,183 villages in 14 provinces. The teams carried out integrated maternal and child health immunisation and nutrition services, including, for those under five: polio and measles vaccination, vitamin A supplements, de-worming, oral rehydration solutions, and multiple micronutrients supplements (sprinkles); and for pregnant women: tetanus toxoid vaccination, iron supplements, improved child care education, and hygiene and sanitation information. In addition, sick patients were screened and treated for common water-borne diseases and mothers were supplied with mosquito nets to prevent mosquito-borne infections.

UNICEF funded the operational costs of these mobile teams, while WHO provided the essential drugs, chemical and related equipment needed to spray mosquito breeding areas. WHO also supported the National Centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE) to undertake effective and accurate disease surveillance activities and risk assessments, disseminate Information Education and Communication (IEC) material, treat cases in the field, and carry out vector control activities. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided 6,160 maternity delivery kits. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) provided mosquito control chemicals and equipment, and communication materials on correct child feeding behaviour, dengue fever and malaria control.

The UNICEF supported component benefited a total of 25,900 children and 8,700 pregnant and lactating mothers. The WHO supported component benefited around 200,000 people, 50 percent of whom were women.

In the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector, the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNICEF and UN-HABITAT held several meetings to optimize the use of their resources. For instance, in order not to duplicate efforts, UN-HABITAT re-printed the communication material previously created by UNICEF and WHO instead of developing new IEC material.

The CERF grant funded UNICEF activities benefited 140,000 people in six provinces. UNICEF procured water purifying tablets and soap and distributed them through the MoH network. Over 2,400 hand-dug wells were also rehabilitated and disinfected, while 356 bio-sand filters for cleaning water for household consumption were constructed. About 50 percent of the CERF funds helped to purchase the water and sanitation supplies, while the remainder went toward rehabilitation efforts. The CERF funded UN-HABITAT component benefited 125,134 people in five provinces, of which 81,992 people in 120 villages of 15 districts received IEC material, and 43,142 people in 74 villages of nine districts benefited from the repair and rehabilitation activities.

In the education sector, UNICEF, through the Provincial Education Services, provided 44 schools with 3,262 roofing sheets, 132 tonnes of cement, 179 metric cubes of gravel, 204 metric cubes of sand, and 16,500 bricks. In addition, 56 teacher's desks and chairs, 169 student desks and benches, plus 32 blackboards were purchased. Village education committees at the district level carried out the repair works. The intervention benefited 7,875 primary school children, of whom 3,670 were girls, and 225 teachers in four provinces.

In the child protection sector, UNICEF, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW), and Friends International set up mobile protection teams and deployed them to 34 communities. The teams were first, to undertake an in-depth needs assessment; and second, to carry out counselling and trauma treatment. The in-depth assessment found no post disaster trauma cases among children as families had had enough time to move their personal belongings to higher ground. However, livelihood assets like farmlands, irrigation systems, houses, and livestock were

destroyed. In addition, school buildings and materials were badly damaged and water wells were contaminated.

The mobile teams worked in synergy with the health, WASH and other sectors to provide holistic services that would minimize the longer-term effects of stress caused by water-borne diseases and children being out of school. The mobile teams visited the 34 communities twice a month and reached around 10,000 children. Specifically, through these teams 1,168 children received school supplies, 29 villages received sports equipment, and four people got vocational skills training. Furthermore, the mobile protection teams facilitated 2,817 families to receive personal hygiene materials, clothes, basic food items, bottled water, and rice seeds.

The early recovery sector was underfunded and did not receive any funds from CERF. Through its own resources, UNDP co-funded the initial inter-agency joint emergency assessment, and supported the UN Resident Coordinator's role of effectively coordinating the emergency response and recovery efforts. Early recovery projects were also initiated with UNDP funding. Regarding Coordination, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN launched an appeal using the *Joint appeal for flood recovery and rehabilitation in Lao PDR*. Other donors, beside CERF, used the document to contribute an additional \$ 3,929,577² accounting for 40 percent of the original \$ 9,945,998 appeal. This document also formed the basis on which the UN agencies did their initial response planning and organised sector specific in-depth assessments in the targeted districts.

UNDP and the UN Resident Coordinators office are also supporting NDMO directly through another project, and indirectly through IASC, to take the lead in developing a National Disaster Preparedness Plan. The plan will guide planning for and response to future disasters and enhance multi-sectoral coordination between humanitarian agencies and the government. In addition, UNDP also supported the UN Resident Coordinator's role by recruiting a consultant to assist IASC in emergency coordination preparedness and response.

Because of the multi-sectoral interventions undertaken by the government and its IASC partners, the affected population of Lao PDR received emergency food assistance, had their household water wells decontaminated, received emergency health and nutrition attention, and social psychological help. Moreover, no major flood-related disease outbreaks occurred. Furthermore, the schools in the affected areas reopened on time with new equipment and suppliers. Overall, the response helped the targeted communities to quickly return to normal.

The IASC undertook an *After Action Review* to assess their performance in responding to the flood. The review highlighted the need to:

- Strengthen the capacity of NDMO as the central coordinating body;
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various actors;
- Enhance the capacity of all the players in disaster planning and preparedness; and
- Develop a comprehensive multi-sectoral National Disaster Management Plan.

² Funds received as of 31 March 2009

Total amount of humanitarian funding required and received during the reporting year	REQUIRED:	\$ 9,945,998		
	RECEIVED:	\$ 5,921,234 ³		
Total amount requested from CERF Total amount of CERF funding received by funding window	FUNDS (IN TOTAL REQUESTED)			
	RAPID RESPONSE:	\$ 2,034,377		
	UNDERFUNDED	\$ 0		
	GRAND TOTAL⁴	\$ 2,024,378		
Total amount of CERF funding for direct UN agency implementation and total amount forwarded to implementing partners	UN AGENCIES:	\$ 1,769,361		
	NGOS:	\$ 99,702		
	GOVERNMENT:	\$ 165,314		
	TOTAL CERF Funding	\$ 2,024,378		
Approximate total number of beneficiaries reached with CERF funding (disaggregated by sex/age if possible)	TOTAL	Under 5 years of age	Female	Male
	200,000	35 percent (70,639)	34 percent (67,602)	31 percent (61,459)
Geographic areas of implementation targeted with CERF funding	Main areas of operation - Eleven Provinces in the northern and central areas of Lao PDR; Luangprabang, Luangnamtha, Bokeo, Bolikhamxay, Xayabury, Savannakhet, Champasack, Khammuane, Houaphan, Vientiane Province, and Vientiane Capital. Some outreach services within the WASH and health sectors covered more than the 11 provinces listed above.			

CERF funds (\$ 2,024,378) accounted for 20 percent of the total funding appeal. At the time of reporting, the appeal had been funded to a tune of \$ 5,921,234 accounting for 58 percent of the total request. The table below shows the level of funding by sectors.

Recipient Agency	Sector	Request in Joint Appeal	CERF allocation	Other Donors	percent funds received against original appeal
UNICEF	Health & Nutrition	1,000,497	200,497	112,272	31
UNICEF	Education	350,045	100,045	280,539	109
UNICEF	WASH	700,028	100,028	621,243	103
UNICEF	Child Protection	249,724	99,724	137,849	95
WFP	Food Security	3,000,000	1,000,001	1,669,752	89
FAO	Agricultural Recovery	2,199,873	199,873	734,480	42
WHO	Health	569,221	223,630	225,067	81
UN-HABITAT	WASH	635,000	100,580	-	16
UN-HABITAT	Shelter	131,610	-	-	0
UNDP	Early Recovery	1,110,000	-	110,000	10
UNRC	Coordination			38,375 ⁵	
TOTAL		9,945,998	2,034,377	3,929,577	58%

³ Funds received as of 31 March 2009

⁴ Pending confirmation from the Office of the Resident Coordinator.

⁵ UN Resident Coordinator Office contributed the marked funds although it was not part of the original appeal. The funds went towards filling in gaps in rice stocks, bottled water and coordination in Vientiane Capital

II. Background

In early August 2008, Lao PDR experienced severe flooding. The tropical storm Kammuri brought with it heavy rains that resulted in the waters of the Mekong river and its tributaries rising to recently unprecedented levels. An estimated 353,928 people across the country were affected, with the northern and central regions being worst hit. Government estimates issued by the NDMO cited 1,145 villages in 77 districts of 13 provinces had been affected⁶. In addition, an estimated 77,000 hectares of agricultural land was inundated by these floods destroying both the stored harvest and the rice crop in the field. Animal mortality from the floods reduced the livestock asset base of the rural households. About 50,000 hectares of the flood-inundated land had severe damage to its agricultural infrastructure - irrigation systems and fish ponds; social amenities - schools, hospitals and water wells; transport infrastructure - bridges, roads and foot paths; and to commercial buildings and personal houses.

Before the floods, the affected population already had fragile livelihoods. In Lao PDR immunization coverage of the main childhood preventable diseases is very low, and an estimated 45-55 percent of all children under five suffer from malnutrition. Water wells were contaminated during the floods, putting the population at increased risk of water-borne diseases, preventable diseases like cholera, tetanus, polio, and severe malnutrition. The floods also created ideal conditions for mosquitoes to breed, increasing the probability of malaria and dengue fever.

Following these floods, the Government of Lao PDR, through NDMO, requested the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to assist in fundraising and to lead the disaster response of humanitarian agencies in close collaboration with the government departments. At the same time, based on preliminary information from the government, the UNCT made a request of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for funds under its *rapid response window*. In response to this appeal, CERF disbursed \$ 2,024,378 on 19 September 2008. The funds were to assist in the immediate response to the emergency needs of the flood- affected population.

In order to refine the immediate and mid-term needs, IASC organised a rapid emergency assessment covering 29 districts in eight of the 11 affected provinces. The government provided secondary data from the districts not covered. The assessment revealed that safe drinking water, food assistance, and emergency health interventions were the most urgent needs. The immediate health concerns included water-borne diseases, malaria, and communicable diseases. The assessment also identified mid-term recovery and rehabilitation issues, which included repair of irrigation systems, roads, bridges, houses, damaged schools and water wells. IASC agreed that an in-depth post-floods recovery assessment to establish longer-term recovery needs was necessary.

The rapid assessment culminated in a proposal entitled, *Joint appeal for flood recovery and rehabilitation in Lao PDR*, which was launched on 24 September 2008. The funds disbursed by CERF were included in the appeal, which totalled \$ 9,945,998.

Through a consultative process within the IASC, the emergency needs were refined and prioritised by sector. The food security sector would provide food assistance and agricultural inputs, repair and restock fishponds, and train farmers in order to facilitate immediate resumption of agriculture production and prevent further deterioration of the malnutrition status. The health sector would provide basic health and nutrition services to children under five, and pregnant and lactating mothers. In addition, the health sector would also undertake preventive action against malaria, enhance disease surveillance for communicable diseases, vaccinate children, carry out training, and disseminate health messages. The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector would provide clean water and sanitation facilities and repair damaged water infrastructure. The education sector would focus on safer schools and resuming normal schooling. The protection sector would provide counselling to traumatised and stressed victims of the floods. In addition, the sector would also carry out outreach services to victims of abuse and human trafficking. The shelter sector would facilitate emergency repairs and reconstruction of damaged houses. The early recovery sector

⁶ Provincial Disaster Management Committee and Line ministry updates of November 2008.

activities would aim to close the gap between emergency relief and development, while reinforcing nationally owned processes for post-flood recovery that are resilient and sustainable.

III. Implementation and results

1. Coordination and implementation arrangements

Emergency and disaster coordination of humanitarian action in Lao PDR takes place in the context of the IASC. The membership of IASC is comprised of NDMO, United Nations agencies, Red Cross organisations (Lao Red Cross, IFRC, and French Red Cross), international NGOs, and donors. NDMO is under the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) and has a mandate to coordinate emergency activities between various government ministries and the humanitarian agencies. Emergency coordination is still in its infant stage in Lao PDR and the flood of 2008 brought to the fore the importance of strengthening this function.

In practice, coordination, planning and response of regular programs within the pre-existing sectors is loosely modelled around the cluster system. Humanitarian agencies work closely with their relevant line ministries at the national, provincial and district levels. For instance, WFP and UNDP work closely with NDMO and MLSW, UNICEF and WHO with the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNHABITAT with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), and FAO with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).

The UN agencies collaborated with the government and their sector partners to develop a joint implementation plan in order to avoid duplication and maximise resources. For example, the UNICEF and WHO implementation plan involved the former working in six out of the ten affected provinces, while WHO focused on four. WFP covered the provinces where it already had a pre-existing protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), while it supported Lao Red Cross (using CERF funds) to cover the areas outside its PRRO.

The funding from CERF came within two weeks of the request. All the agencies acknowledged the timeliness of these funds and the relatively easy disbursement procedures allowing them to initiate response immediately.

CERF procedures on report writing and financial accounting provided an opportunity for UN agencies to receive training from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) staff. This training enhanced the reporting capacity of the agencies and improved information-sharing within IASC. Moreover, this close collaboration led to an After Action Review in November 2008, to establish what worked well, what did not and the lessons learned.

2. Project activities and results, including actual beneficiaries

The joint appeal made recommendations for the immediate and mid-term activities to be undertaken. The CERF funds were earmarked for the immediate, life-saving actions, namely providing emergency food assistance, safe drinking water and sanitary services, primary health care and nutrition, education and protection activities. The life-saving activities were to take place in the first six months. The overall appeal process was to meet the additional funds required for immediate action and mid-term action focusing on recovery and rehabilitation. Overall, about 200,000 people benefited from the CERF funding.

Food Security

WFP and the Lao Red Cross in close collaboration with the MLSW aimed to provide immediate food assistance to people who had lost their food stocks and/or rice crops in the field to the floods rendering them unable to meet their immediate food needs and likely to face serious rice shortages.

WFP purchased 1,320mts of rice and distributed to 43,000 people (7,167 households) in seven provinces within the first three months, thanks to the initial quick disbursement of CERF funds. The rice was purchased from local suppliers, which boosted the local business community who had been particularly affected when the floods destroyed their premises. For the general distribution, WFP selected the vulnerable communities, using an initial short list of villages that was created in partnership with the Government at the district level. The criteria used for selection was based on secondary data (food security/rice shortages, flood damage to rural infrastructure and livelihoods, and other poverty indicators). Following this exercise, WFP conducted in-depth food security assessments to identify the most vulnerable households. The assessment findings were analysed by WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) unit and a final beneficiary list was shared with the Government. Based on this list, the beneficiaries then received the food assistance.

Women received the distributed food on behalf of each household. Using funds from other sources, following the relief phase, WFP initiated food-for-work activities to rehabilitate infrastructure destroyed or damaged by the floods. Some of the villages targeted for food assistance were selected to benefit from mid-term recovery activities under the food-for-work programme. WFP also provided the required non-food items under this programme. Overall, WFP used the concept of *build-back-better* in planning and implementing these activities.

Agricultural Recovery

The FAO intervention aimed at restarting and improving food production activities for the most food insecure households affected by the floods. FAO implemented its activities in close collaboration with the MAF, French Red Cross and the Lao Red Cross. Following a more detailed assessment carried out in the planned areas of intervention, FAO readjusted its plan to be in line with what they found on the ground.

No livestock and aquaculture activities were undertaken using CERF funds. Following consultations with local partners and the in-depth assessment, it was decided not to purchase veterinary drugs nor carry out any other livestock interventions because animals had not died from disease but from lack of forage, aquaculture activities are expected to kick off in April 2009 using funds from other donors.

FAO also reduced the rice seeds tonnage distributed from 156mts to 32.2mts, because in Borikhamxay province, the targeted districts have already received rice seeds from the government and therefore it was decided to provide the quantities of seeds that were missing. The project distributed 32.2mts of rice improved varieties seeds to 824 families. In Vientiane province, the French Red Cross, the Lao Red Cross and the government had also distributed rice seeds where the CERF funds allocated for these activities went toward buying common fertilizer and organic fertilizer, which had not previously been planned for. The project thus distributed 200mts of fertilizer to 1,454 households in collaboration with the French Red Cross and coupled with training on fertilizer application procedures (1,454 HH).

A total of 2,278 families benefited from the CERF component of the intervention. The activities focused on improved rice varieties seeds and fertilizer distribution, fertilizer application training, and coordination.

As a result of the FAO intervention, between 1,394 - 1,457 hectares were rehabilitated and are expected to yield between 3,500 - 4,000kg per hectare, about 4,879 - 5,828mt of rice in the next harvest of April/May 2009. The action is significant because the targeted districts are key rice producers in Lao PDR. The quick disbursement of CERF funds allowed for the quick purchase of high quality rice seeds and fertilizer that in turn allowed for a quick distribution to the farmers before the onset of the dry season of rice plantation. This saved the affected households from incurring debts from buying seeds. Furthermore, the expected high yield will avail additional income to the households that will go toward repairing flood-damaged houses and restocking small livestock.

FAO collaborated closely with its partners (Red Cross and the government) in collecting data, analysing information, and selecting beneficiaries at the national, provincial and district levels. All this enhanced the coordination capacity of all the actors, which will lead to better coordinated projects in the future.

Health and Nutrition

The aim of the health and nutrition component was twofold: first, to provide emergency basic health care and nutrition to the flood affected population most at risk, namely children under five, and pregnant and lactating mothers. Second, to ensure timely, effective and accurate disease surveillance and response for the population most at risk from communicable diseases.

During the emergency, the MoH established a task force comprising of agencies working in the health sector. The MoH worked in close collaboration with its partners particularly UNICEF and WHO, who co-led the health sector. The MoH set up 75 health mobile teams to deliver services to 1,183 villages in 14 provinces. The teams carried out integrated maternal and child health immunisation and nutrition interventions, including, for those under five years of age - polio and measles vaccination, vitamin A supplements, de-worming, multiple micronutrient supplements (sprinkles); and for pregnant women - tetanus toxoid vaccination, iron supplements, improved child care education, and hygiene and sanitation information. In addition, sick patients were treated for common water-borne diseases and mothers were supplied with mosquito nets.

UNICEF funded the operational costs of these mobile teams, and provided 9,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITN), 75,000 oral rehydration solutions, 2,000,000 iron tablets, and 387,875 sachets of multiple micronutrients (sprinkles).

WHO provided essential drugs, chemicals, and related equipment to spray mosquito-breeding areas. WHO also supported the National Centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology to undertake active and accurate disease surveillance activities and to shorten the respond time for any cases arising. This involved seconding technical staff to the Ministry in order to carry out disease surveillance and risk assessments, disseminating IEC material, treating cases in the field through the mobile teams, and carrying out environmental vector control activities.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided 6,160 maternity delivery kits. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) provided mosquito control chemicals and equipment, and communication materials on correct child feeding behaviour, dengue fever, and malaria control.

The UNICEF supported component benefited a total of 25,900 children and 8,700 pregnant and lactating mothers. The WHO supported component benefited an additional 200,000 people, 50 percent of whom were women.

Of the \$ 187,384 CERF funds UNICEF received, \$ 120,515 went toward off-shore procurement of the ITNs, iron tablets and sprinkles sachets. The remainder went to the MoH to fund the mobile clinics and support monitoring activities. Of the \$ 223,630 CERF funds WHO received, \$ 201,630 went toward buying medicines and medical supplies, test kits for cholera, malaria, measles, leptospirosis and dengue fever, laboratory supplies and producing IEC material on hygiene. A total of \$ 22,000 went to the MoH to support the surveillance and response teams.

Because of the successful interventions in the health sector, there was no major disease outbreak, water-borne or communicable diseases, which arose from the floods.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The aim of the WASH sector was to provide safe drinking water and sanitary services to the flood-affected population and schools. UNICEF led this sector and worked in close collaboration with the MoH departments, Centre for Environmental Health and Water Supply and Centre for Information

Educational Health. UNHABITAT also undertook activities in this sector and worked with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), Department of Housing and Urban Planning (DHUP). UNHABITAT implemented the repair and rehabilitation of damaged water and sanitation facilities through the provincial water supply state owned enterprise (Nam Papa) under the guidance of the MPWT. The MoH carried out the dissemination of public hygiene and sanitation material.

Within the WASH sector, the MoH, UNICEF and UN-HABITAT held several meetings to optimize the use of their resources. For instance, in order not to duplicate efforts, UN-HABITAT re-printed the communication material previously created by UNICEF and WHO instead of developing new IEC material. UN-HABITAT also distributed chlorine powder to disinfect the hand-dug wells. The CERF funded UNICEF activities benefited 140,000 people in six provinces. UNICEF procured water purifying tablets and soap, and distributed them through the MoH network. Over 2,400 hand-dug wells were also rehabilitated and disinfected, while 356 bio-sand filters for cleaning water for household consumption were constructed. About 50 percent of the CERF funds helped to purchase the water and sanitation supplies, while the remainder went toward rehabilitation works. The CERF funded UN-HABITAT component benefited 125,134 people in five provinces, of which 81,992 people in 120 villages of 15 districts benefited from the dissemination of IEC material, and 43142 people in 74 villages of nine districts benefited from the repair and rehabilitation activities.

Education

The aim of this sector was to repair schools damaged during the floods and enable primary school children to resume the normal school programme as soon as possible. The project targeted schools in Vientiane capital and province, Borikhamxai and Khammuane provinces. UNICEF took the lead in this sector, working closely with the provincial educational services and the village education committees.

UNICEF, through the Provincial Education Services, provided 44 schools with 3,262 roofing sheets, 132 tons of cement, 179 metric cubes of gravel, 204 metric cubes of sand, and 16,500 bricks. In addition, 56 teacher's desks and chairs, 169 student desks and benches, plus 32 blackboards were purchased. Volunteers identified by the village education committees at the district level carried out the repair works. The intervention benefited 7,875 primary school children, of whom 3,670 were girls, and 225 teachers in four provinces.

Protection

The aim of the sector was to identify people showing signs of trauma and stress and provide counselling support, especially for children. UNICEF took the lead in this sector, working closely with MLSW and the international NGO Friends International (FI).

This sector was underfunded. Only UNICEF's child protection activities received funds from CERF. The UNDP activities focusing on outreach and protection services to victims of abuse and human trafficking did not receive funding.

Through a pre-existing partnership agreement with FI, UNICEF disbursed \$ 93,202 of the \$ 99,724 to the organization. The money facilitated the delivery of psychosocial services to the affected community in Vientiane Province - Pakngenum, Saythany and Syod districts.

The timely release of CERF funds allowed UNICEF, MLSW and FI to set up mobile teams and deploy them to the 34 selected communities. The teams were, firstly, to undertake an in-depth needs assessment and, secondly, to carry out counselling and trauma treatment. The in-depth assessment found no post disaster trauma cases among children as families had had enough time to move to their personal belongings to higher ground. However, livelihood assets like farmlands, irrigation systems, houses, and livestock were destroyed. In addition, school buildings and materials were badly damaged and water wells contaminated.

The mobile teams worked in synergy with the health, WASH and other sectors to provide holistic services that would minimize the longer-term effects of stress caused by water-borne diseases and children being out of school. The mobile teams visited the 34 communities twice a month and reached about 10,000 children. Specifically, through these teams, 1,168 children received school supplies, 29 villages received sports equipment, and four people received vocational skills training. Furthermore, the mobile protection teams facilitated 2,817 families to receive personal hygiene materials, clothes, basic food items, portable water, and rice seeds. As a result of this intervention, schools were re-opened on time with new equipment and suppliers thus helping the targeted communities to resume normalcy quickly.

Early Recovery

The aim of this sector was to enable sustainable early recovery and disaster risk reduction and was led by UNDP. This sector was underfunded and did not receive any funds from CERF.

Through its own resources, UNDP provided \$ 110,000, with which it co-funded the initial inter-agency joint emergency assessment and supported the UN Resident Coordinator's role of effectively coordinating the emergency response and recovery efforts.

UNDP and the UN Resident Coordinators office are supporting NDMO directly through another project, and indirectly through IASC, to take the lead in developing a National Disaster Preparedness Plan. The plan will guide future disasters and enhance multi-sectoral coordination between humanitarian agencies and the government.

UNDP also used the joint appeal to mobilise 35 percent of the funds it had requested and launch another project that would undertake post-flood early recovery activities.

Coordination

The initial joint emergency assessment culminated in a *Joint appeal for flood recovery and rehabilitation in Lao PDR*. This document formed the basis on which the UN agencies did their initial response planning and organised sector specific in-depth assessments in the targeted districts. Other donors, besides CERF, also used the document to contribute an additional \$ 3,929,577⁷ accounting for 40 percent of the original \$ 9,945,998 appeal. Beyond this reporting period, donors were still contributing funds against the appeal.

The other activity undertaken was recruiting a consultant to assist IASC in emergency coordination preparedness and response. With the recruitment of the consultant, activities to improve coordination of disaster preparedness planning and response began.

3. Partnerships

The Government and its development partners in Lao PDR have seven main coordination bodies that deal with both emergency and programming issues. These are the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC), NDMO, IASC, the UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT), the UN Country Team (UNCT), the Avian and Human Influenza Coordination Unit, and the NGO consortium. All these bodies meet separately, but converge in the IASC.

Before the floods of 2008, the IASC was mainly an information-sharing group. Following the floods, the government called upon the IASC to assist in the disaster response. At that point, in time, IASC had not yet developed clear terms of reference (ToR) for preparedness planning and response. This was evident once the response activities were initiated. The partners were not clear on their

⁷ Funds received as of 31 March 2009

roles and responsibilities and how best to coordinate in the context of the IASC. As a result, IASC met at the beginning of the emergency and quickly developed a questionnaire, which was then used to carry out the joint inter-agency emergency assessment. This commendable effort was mainly thanks to WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. The assessment tool adopted global generic standards and were not pre-tested in the Lao PDR context due to lack of time

The weakness of the tool was evident when all the UN agencies carried out a second sectoral-based in-depth assessment in the targeted districts identified by the initial joint emergency assessment. The findings of these assessments differed in terms of the scope of the disaster, beneficiary numbers, and actual needs. Thankfully, the CERF funding was flexible in allowing recipient UN agencies to adjust their implementation plans to be in line with the changing reality on the ground.

Probably, because of the unclear terms of reference of the IASC as a response coordinating body, UN agencies opted to respond within the other pre-existing sectoral coordination mechanisms. As a result, information sharing and response coordination within IASC during the implementation phase was lacking. However, within each sector, coordination between the agencies, NGOs, national, provincial and district government bodies, and other local authorities were very good. Government ministries together with their sector leads formed taskforces, carried out in-depth assessments, prioritised districts, targeted populations, divided responsibilities, and completed most of the planned emergency interventions on time.

Because major disasters are infrequent in Lao PDR, the government also recognised the importance of IASC as its partner, and has been supportive of the idea of a stronger IASC to partner with the government in future disasters. Before this, the government interaction with the humanitarian agencies, in as far as coordination goes, was in development projects and chronic emergencies, using the sector approach. The CERF funds helped highlight the importance of strengthening the cluster approach to emergency planning and response. Before the floods, IASC was chaired by WFP. With the floods, the UN Resident Coordinator took over the chair of IASC in order to reinforce overall coordination and recruited an officer to focus on IASC coordination activities within the UN agencies. The lessons learned through the flood experience are helping define the terms of reference of the IASC.

4. Gender-mainstreaming

The UN agencies and their partners strove to ensure gender equity in their interventions. For instance, WFP distributed all its food directly to women; WHO beneficiaries were 50 percent women; UNICEF beneficiaries were 24 percent adult women, 8 percent adult men, and 68 percent children; and UN-HABITAT beneficiaries were 49 percent women.

Specific projects carried out by UNICEF, WHO and UNDP under the health and nutrition, protection and early recovery clusters had a deliberate focus on women and children. The CERF funds helped the agencies think through their programmes from a gender perspective and encourage their partners, especially the government, to do the same.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

Activities under the joint response to the floods are still ongoing. Most of the agencies have completed the immediate actions, and have now embarked on the mid-term activities recommended by the assessments. For the immediate actions, agencies within their respective sectors carried out monitoring activities mainly focusing on implementation using various methodologies. The information generated from these activities will feed into in an in-depth evaluation.

In order to assess the performance of the IASC during the emergency phase of the flood response and to seek ways to improve disaster response in the Lao PDR, the IASC team organised an *After*

Action Review (AAR) workshop on 6 November 2008. It focused on three issues: coordination, information management and assessment planning, and impact monitoring.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) facilitated the AAR with support from the UNICEF regional emergency team. The workshop participants included members of the IASC and representatives of Government institutions who were involved in the flood response.

Overall, the AAR found that for information sharing the IASC got off to a good start in terms of meeting quickly, having broad participation, coordinating the rapid assessment, and the appeal preparation. Thereafter, there was little coordination of response activities among IASC in-country team members. Following the launch of the appeal, the UN Agencies operated outside of the IASC mechanism, either as the UN Disaster Management Team, or as individual agencies with their respective counterparts. Although the assessment tool used in the joint assessment was developed very quickly, and was instrumental as an initial reference for response, gaps in the data limited the scope for analysis.

The AAR process came up with several recommendations for IASC to take forward:

- Strengthen the capacity of the NDMO to act as the central coordinating body;
- Create an Emergency Operation Centre;
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities (especially for linking with the humanitarian community);
- Develop a comprehensive multi-sectoral National Disaster Management Plan;
- Develop an Early Warning Plan;
- Strengthen information management particularly within the government structures Provincial/District
- Disaster Management Committees (PDMC and DDMC), and also within IASC itself.
- Develop an emergency assessment tool that was more appropriate contextually within Lao PDR, and strengthen the analysis capacity within NDMO;
- Carry out capacity building for government institutions mandated with disaster management roles, especially NDMO; and
- Allocate financial resources to implement preparedness plans.

IV. RESULTS

Sector/ Cluster	CERF projects per sector	Amount disbursed (US\$)	Number of Beneficiaries (by sex/age)	Implementing Partners and funds disbursed	Expected Results/Outcomes	Actual results and improvements for the target beneficiaries
Food Security	08-WFP-090 PRRO assistance to food insecure households affected by floods	1,000,001	7,167 women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MSLW ▪ (USD 24,000) ▪ Lao Red Cross (\$ 6,500) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide immediate food assistance to people who lost their food stocks in the floods and are unable to meet their immediate and/or near future food needs ▪ Affected population did not resort to detrimental coping mechanisms ▪ Malnutrition was checked among the most vulnerable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 43,000 people received food assistance in the provinces of Luangprabang, Luangnamtha, Bokeo, Khammuane, Borikhamxai, Vientiane province, and Vientiane capital
Agricultural Recovery	08-FAO-046 Emergency agricultural response to flood affected farmers	199,873	2,278 HH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MAF ▪ French Red Cross ▪ Lao Red Cross 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Re-build the livelihoods of the most vulnerable and food insecure households affected by the floods, with a focus on rice production, livestock recovery, and aquaculture re-establishment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeds and fertiliser were distributed to 2,278 households in 35 villages and one school in Bolikhamxai and Vientiane provinces ▪ Between 1,394-1,457 hectares(ha) of rice planted with an expected crop yield of 3,500 - 4,000 kgs/ha (total app. 4,879 - 5,828 of rice to be harvested in the two provinces) ▪ 1,454 households trained on compost making, proper uses of fertilizer, avoiding burning methods after harvest, and the cost/benefit ratio of applying fertilizers

<p>Health and Nutrition</p>	<p>08-CEF-065-A Delivery of emergency health and nutrition services</p>	<p>200,497</p>	<p>25,900 children 8,700 women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MoH (\$ 66,814) ▪ WHO ▪ UNFPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide appropriate preventative and curative and nutrition services for children under fives, and pregnant and lactating mothers ▪ Immunize children under five against polio and malaria, and pregnant women against tetanus toxoid ▪ Disseminate IEC material on health and child feeding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organized integrated maternal and child health/immunization and nutrition outreach visit organized, reaching 25,900 children under five and 8,700 pregnant and lactating women ▪ Distributed 75,000 sachets of Oral Re-Hydration Solution (ORS) to children under five with diarrhoea in 14 flood-affected provinces ▪ Distributed 9,000 long-lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets to pregnant women and children from the poor families in 12 provinces with dengue fever and malaria problem ▪ Distributed 2,000,000 iron tablets to more than 8,700 pregnant and lactating women in 14 flood-affected provinces to prevent iron deficiency anaemia and improve pregnancy outcomes ▪ 387,870 sachets of multiple micronutrients (Sprinkles) were procured for the distribution to more than 10,000 children aged 6-23 months aiming to reduce the prevalence of anaemia of young infants and improve nutritional outcomes
	<p>08-WHO-056 Emergency surveillance, medical supply and vector control for flood affected areas</p>	<p>223,630</p>	<p>200,000 (50 percent women)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MoH ▪ UNICEF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance a timely, effective and accurate communicable disease surveillance and response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The National Centre for Laboratory and epidemiology (NCLE) carried out actively surveillance on 291 villages for dengue fever, typhoid fever, leptospirosis, meningitis, encephalitis, hepatitis, food poisoning, skin infections, respiratory conditions, diarrhoea, eye and ear infections ▪ IEC material disseminated ▪ Cholera testing kits also distributed
<p>Water and Sanitation</p>	<p>08-CEF-065-B Emergency assistance to children and women affected by the Mekong river floods</p>	<p>100,028</p>	<p>140,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MoH ▪ Centre for Environmental Health and Water Supply; Centre for Information Educational health; provincial health departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure the provision of potable water to 140,000 persons ▪ Provide 25,000 families the assets to rehabilitate their drinking water well and disinfect their toilet ▪ Ensure prompt restoration of water and sanitation service in at least 30 schools and health centres damaged by the floods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purchase of essential supplies for the Ministry of Health for distribution to 140,000 affected people in six target provinces. This included 1,500,000 purification tablets and 100,000 soaps ▪ Rehabilitation of more of than 2,400 dug wells with priority given to communities relying on dug wells. Thirty dewatering pumps purchased for the provincial health teams. Supported staff from MOH to carry out the rehabilitation works in the communities ▪ Construction of 356 bio-sand filters for household water treatment and safe water supply

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce potential for diarrhoeal diseases among 140,000 affected people ▪ Contribute to the restoration of services in schools and health centres 	
	08-HAB-003 Emergency water and sanitation assistance to communities affected by the floods	100,580	<p>81,992 people (39,409 females) benefited from hygiene and sanitation programme</p> <p>43,142 people (21,690 females) benefited from rehabilitation of WATSAN infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nam Saat (National Centre for Environmental Health and Water Supply) of MOH ▪ Nam Papa (Water Supply State-owned Enterprise) through Department of Housing and Urban Planning (DHUP) of MPWT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Damaged WATSAN infrastructure rehabilitated and water supply to the affected communities resumed ▪ Hygiene and sanitation awareness campaigns carried out to prevent the outbreak of water borne diseases amongst the affected people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Repair of gravity fed system: 2 ▪ Clean up and chlorination of dug wells: 418 ▪ Repair of dug wells: 34 ▪ Chlorination of dug wells: 893 ▪ Repairing toilets: 329
Education	08-CEF-065-C Emergency Repairs for Primary Schools	100,028	7,875 primary school children (3,670 girls) and 225 teachers in 4 provinces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Education (MOE); Provincial Education Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Repair 45 severely damaged, flood-affected primary schools in Vientiane Capital, Vientiane, Borikhamxai, and Khammouane provinces to enable primary school children and teachers to begin the 2008-2009 school year in a safe, healthy and protective learning environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procurement and transportation of 3,262 roofing sheets, 132 tons of cement, 179 m3 of gravel, 204 m3 of sand and 16,500 bricks to 44 schools (rather than 45 as in the project objective due to increased cost of above mentioned supplies) in five districts in Khammouane, three districts in Vientiane province and four districts in Vientiane capital for school repairs ▪ Village Education Committees in each of the affected villages organized community members to contribute their skills and time to repair the schools. Completion of repairs expected in March 2009 ▪ Procurement of 56 teachers desks and chairs, 169 students desks and benches and 32 blackboards
Child Protection	08-CEF-065-D	99,724	10,000 affected	Ministry of Labour and social Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide psychosocial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 Mobile teams conducted regular monitoring visits to areas

	Protecting Children in Natural Disasters and Flooding Situations		children of 34 villages in 4 districts of Vientiane Capital	(MoLSW); Friends International (FI)	<p>counselling and support through recreational child friendly activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor situation and needs of vulnerable families within the communities ▪ Monitor evacuation centres in the four most affected districts in the Vientiane Capital 	<p>affected by floods and distribute support packages in the presence of the District authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 32 schools received school materials and sports equipment; 1,168 children received school supplies which they lost during the floods; 29 villages received sports materials to organize sports competitions, facilitated by peer educators for Friends International ▪ Sports, drawing and painting activities set up for recreational activities of vulnerable children ▪ 2,817 families received personal hygiene materials, clothes, basic food items, potable water, milk and rice seedlings to help them immediately re-establish their lives and rebuild their livelihood ▪ 4 young people joined the ongoing vocational skills trainings instituted by Friends International (others have also expressed interest in participation) ▪ Counselling and life skills education was provided for parents and young people. Family problems and planning were among the dominant topics raised by young people.
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V. CERF IN ACTION

Food Security

Despite years of isolation, the village of Namtha district, in the northern province of Luang Namtha, did not experience food scarcity problems. “We never had rice deficits,” explains the deputy Naiban (village head) Mr. Nyi. “The families which did not produce enough rice could buy or borrow from other villagers and thus cope with their needs,” he continues. Located in a valley and irrigated by the Thalan River through an irrigation canal, Namthalan has paddy fields owned by some of the families. The rest of the villagers cultivate upland rice in the surrounding mountains.



When the Thalan River burst its banks, at 3 a.m. during a July night, everyone in the village was trying to sleep despite the pounding of heavy rain. It had been raining for an entire week, and the river swelled. Suddenly, the lower part of the village, built on the riverbed, was inundated. After the water receded, the villagers found themselves facing serious damage: five houses were destroyed or severely damaged, two buffalos, and many chickens, ducks, and pigs had been killed. The mud level was so high; it took six days after the flash flood for Mr. Tho, the village head, to walk the long road to Luang Namtha city to seek help from the Labour and Social Welfare department and the Lao Red Cross.

Although the Namthalan regularly experiences small flooding, no one had ever seen floods of this dimension in living memory. Because of the disaster, almost no family in Ban Namthalan has produced enough rice for the entire year. The relief aid provided by the World Food Programme – 4.6 metric tons of food distributed to over 150 people within a few days – represents a precious lifeline allowing the families to cope with reduced food availability. With their crops reduced, few animals to sell for cash or barter, difficult access to the market – it takes six hours to reach the district centre on foot during the dry season – the relief ration of 30kg of rice per person, sufficient for two months, gave the villagers more time to recover from this shock and to rebuild their lifelines.

“The river has changed its course due to the violence of water,” remembers Ms Nahe, mother of three, who lives in the Lanten part of this multi-ethnic (Khmu and Lanten) village. “My field used to be right by the water, so now not only have I lost one third of my rice crop, but I will never get my land back!” she explains. In many of the villages hit by the flooding, the extent of the destruction is not limited to the loss of the year’s crop. In many cases, agricultural infrastructure was severely damaged and it will take a long time and considerable resources to rebuild it. Layers of earth and gravel have covered what used to be agricultural fields, irrigation canals and the water cancelled earth dams, entire plantations were uprooted. “We used to have seven gabion weirs in various points of the river, to feed our paddy fields with water through irrigation canals. Every year we would have to repair them a little after the rainy season, but this time all of them were completely destroyed,” laments Mr Nyi.

For this reasons, after the initial relief distributions, a second phase is planned for 2009, with food-for-work activities to help villagers return to their normal agricultural patterns.

Water and Sanitation



Ms. Thanh, a member of Sinxay village, Paksan District, Bolikhamxay Province, was one of the people whose source of water was disrupted during and after the flood. Ms. Thanh has two children and runs a small household business of brick production. Normally, her village is flooded almost every year but the last year's flood was the most severe and many people suffered from diarrhoea, trachoma and skin diseases. One of her children, a small

baby, suffered from a skin disease for up to one month after the flood and had to receive medicine from District Health officers to relieve the condition.



The project assisted Ms. Thanh by cleaning up and chlorinating her water well. Ms. Thanh said: "I'm very happy and thankful for the help. Now I don't have to go and ask to use my neighbour's water well as my well is clean now."

Education

In LaoNgua village, Khammouane province, Mr. Yord, a village committee member and head of the students and parents association in the village (pictured below) recalled the frightening events when the rain struck the village and destroyed many homes and the school. He explained that when the rain was finally over and the village committee inspected the damage, they found that the bamboo fence around the schoolyard had disappeared and that pieces of roofing sheet had been strewn around the yard. In addition, the classrooms were full of water and desks and chairs had broken. Parts of the roof frame had also fallen down. All of the textbooks,



teaching and learning materials had been destroyed. The village committee members were horrified at what had happened, and realized they would need to find makeshift space at the temple and in the village so their children could continue studying while the village school was being repaired.

Mr. Yord said it would never have been possible for the village committee and students and parents association to repair LaoNgaou primary school had it not been for the materials, such as roofing sheet, cement, sand provided by UNICEF using CERF funding. The community members worked together in repairing the destroyed school enabling the 190 village children to realize their right to education in a safe learning environment.



The pictures below show community members working to rebuild LaoNgoua Primary School. The children will return to their school by the end of March, after studying in the village temple and other makeshift sites in the village.

The CERF funds also purchased black boards, table and chairs for teachers, benches and desks for students as pictured below in one repaired classroom in Napakhan Primary School (Hinboun district, Khammouane Province).

Child Protection

Our family lives in Paknguem district. I have five children, two are in high school, one is in secondary school and two are in primary school. The high school and secondary school are in another village and we only have one primary school in our village. During the floods, the school was on holiday. All the students and teachers were at their homes. We moved older people, children and some of our livestock to other villages that were on higher grounds. One night, the water came up very quickly and people were busy removing their belongings and other things in their houses, nobody remembered the school. The next day a teacher went to the school and found that many things were destroyed especially tables, chairs, and the books in the library.

One day Peuan Mit (Friends International) staff came to interview me and other families. I told them that my rice field was destroyed and that we will not have rice seeds to plant next year. The water we used to take from the well in our neighbourhood was very dirty and my children were beginning to have spots all over their bodies.



It was so difficult for me to buy books, pencils or bags for my children to go back to school, because I had to keep money to buy rice. Sometimes, my children couldn't go to school but I couldn't be angry at them. What could I do? Sometimes when the teacher took pity on them he would give my children some paper and pencils.

A week later, I saw the Peuan Mit people who interviewed me again. They came with a vehicle full of many things. First they went to the school, they talked to the teachers and had several activities with the school

children. My children told me that they learned how to wash their hands, how to keep clean so that they wouldn't get sick. Peuan Mit also gave sports materials and story books to the school, so the children could play during class breaks. They also gave notebooks and pencils to all the children in the school.

After they finished undertaking activities in the school, they came to our village and talked to women and young people about coping with what happened as we exchange our thoughts and feelings. They also taught us on how to take care of our health and eat nutritious foods. At the

end, they gave us food and hygiene materials. Our children had fun as they had many games, including painting and drawing activities.

The mobile teams came to our village five times, each time the chief of village would inform us before they arrived and every time they came, we always had something to do, to teach and materials to give us. My children now can go to school regularly because they also received books, pen, pencils and bags because they were children who lost their school supplies in the floods. The last time they came, they gave young people in the community a sports bag and now every afternoon people in the village gather and play badminton, football, *petanque* and other sports in front of the village office. I also received rice seeds like other families. I will not mill it to eat but I will keep to plant during the rainy season so the life of my family can go back to normal.

Annex: Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Fund
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
FAO	UN Food and Agricultural Organisation
FI	Friends International
UN-	
HABITAT	UN Human Settlements Programme
IASC	Inter Agency Standing Committee
IEC	Information Education and Communication material,
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross
ITN	insecticide treated mosquito nets
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MLSW	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
MPWT	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
NCLE	National Centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology
PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	UN Children's Funds
UNOCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)
UNRC	Office of the Resident Coordinator
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	UN World Food Programme