



# SOUTHEAST ASIA – FLOODS

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Since July, multiple tropical storms and heavy monsoon rains have caused widespread flooding across Southeast Asia, including Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Burma, and the Philippines, resulting in approximately 900 deaths, affecting an estimated 9 million others, and inundating thousands of houses and acres of cropland. To date, floods have most affected locations in Cambodia, southern Vietnam, and Thailand.
- In Thailand, floods have impacted communities in 60 of the country’s 77 provinces. Although floodwaters are receding in the country’s northern and central provinces, water has begun to spread southward into the Bangkok Metropolitan Area. To date, floods have inundated several city districts.
- In Cambodia, flooding has affected 18 of the country’s 24 provinces, exacerbating poor water and sanitation conditions and impacting one-tenth of the country’s rice crop, according to the U.N. Although the situation in flood-affected regions has begun to stabilize, floodwaters are receding slowly.
- In Vietnam, floods have primarily impacted nine of the country’s 58 provinces. According to the Government of Vietnam (GoVN), current flood levels in the Mekong Delta have reached—and in some cases surpassed—flood levels from 2000, but have resulted in a comparatively low death toll, due to GoVN evacuations and other preparedness measures.
- In response to the floods across Southeast Asia, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) is providing more than \$850,000 in humanitarian assistance in the region, including \$500,000 in assistance through the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and \$250,000 provided through local relief agencies in Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. A USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor (RA) remains in Cambodia and a nine-member USAID/OFDA team remains in Thailand to monitor the impact of the floods and assess requirements for additional assistance, in coordination with other U.S. Government (USG) agencies, host governments, and relief agencies.

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Country	Number Affected	Number Evacuated	Deaths	Source
Thailand	2.1+ million	113,000 people	377	GoT <sup>1</sup> – October 28, 2011
Cambodia	1.5 million	46,400 families	247	GoC <sup>2</sup> – October 28, 2011
Vietnam	700,000	6,500 families	59	GoVN – October 18, 2011
Laos	430,000	Not available	34	U.N. – October 13, 2011
Philippines	4.3 million	65,000 people	111	GPH <sup>3</sup> – October 19, 2011
Burma	35,000	Not available	78	GoB <sup>4</sup> – October 25, 2011

## TOTAL FY 2012 USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHEAST ASIA FLOODS

Total USAID/OFDA Assistance to Thailand	\$614,482
Total USAID/OFDA Assistance to Cambodia	\$50,000
Total USAID/OFDA Assistance to Vietnam	\$134,518
<b>Total USAID/OFDA Assistance to Southeast Asia</b>	<b>\$850,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Government of Thailand (GoT)

<sup>2</sup> Government of Cambodia (GoC)

<sup>3</sup> Government of the Philippines (GPH)

<sup>4</sup> Government of Burma (GoB)

## Context

- The cumulative effects of four tropical storms and heavy monsoon rains have caused widespread flooding across Southeast Asia, including Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Burma, and the Philippines, resulting in approximately 900 deaths and affecting an estimated 9 million others.
- USAID/OFDA maintains a regional office for East Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand, to monitor humanitarian conditions in coordination with other USG agencies, host governments, and relief agencies throughout the region. USAID/OFDA staff in Thailand and Cambodia continue to conduct assessments of affected areas to identify humanitarian needs and determine whether additional assistance is required.

## Thailand

### *Current Situation*

- As of October 26, the GoT reported that floods over the last two months had resulted in a cumulative total of 377 deaths. According to relief agencies, most deaths in flood-affected areas are due to drowning or electrocution. Floods have also damaged approximately 4 million acres of crops across 60 of Thailand's 77 provinces. Flooding continues to affect more than 2.1 million people across 26 provinces, down from 28 provinces reported on October 25.
- The GoT has established more than 1,700 temporary evacuation centers—primarily schools and universities. To date, approximately 113,000 individuals have evacuated flood-affected areas for shelters in safer areas. Local media sources report that families continue to depart Bangkok for unaffected provinces, with significant outbound traffic reported on roads, bus terminals, and the Suvarnabhumi Airport. However, according to the U.N., an estimated 80 percent of flood-affected individuals countrywide have chosen to remain in their houses.
- To date, central Bangkok has not experienced significant flooding and most locations in the inner city remain dry. However, GoT officials have alerted individuals in the Bangkok Metropolitan Area of possible additional flooding in the coming days, as water run-off from upstream locations combines with high tides in the Gulf of Thailand between October 27 and 31. High tides are expected to increase water levels in the Chao Phraya River and may prevent floodwaters from draining into the gulf. According to GoT officials, locations near the Chao Phraya River and communities outside of the city's flood barriers, including northern, western, and eastern suburbs, remain at risk of flooding.
- In recent days, emergency personnel have experienced difficulty draining water from northern locations to the east of Bangkok, due to its elevated location. Roads in the area have also blocked floodwaters from reaching newly installed water pumps. To facilitate water drainage, GoT officials have proposed digging channels into five roads in eastern Bangkok. As of October 28, the Prime Minister of Thailand, Yingluck Shinawatra, had given her approval for one road channel to determine its impact on water drainage.
- A nine-member USAID/OFDA team continues to closely monitor the situation in Thailand, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Defense Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team (HAST) and other USG agencies in Thailand. To date, USAID/OFDA assessments have indicated that local responders are meeting the immediate needs of flood-affected individuals, with no life-threatening conditions observed. To support local responders, USAID/OFDA is working with partners to provide additional operational assistance, such as boats, as appropriate. The USG will continue to monitor the situation in Bangkok via aerial and ground assessments through the critical high tide period over the next several days.

### *USG Assessments*

- On October 26, USAID/OFDA staff visited Nong Chok and Lat Krabang districts in the eastern Bangkok Metropolitan Area, where local government officials began to report flooding early last week. Officials in Nong Chok District—located at the intersection of the Khlong 13 and Khlong Saen Saep canals—reported that the drainage system in the district has been working efficiently, and USAID/OFDA staff confirmed that water levels in both canals remained relatively low. However, because the area is located outside of the city's flood defenses, people in the district remain at risk.
- On October 27, USAID/OFDA staff visited flood-affected areas and three evacuation centers in Ayutthaya Province—one of the areas most affected by recent floods—and Suphanburi Province. USAID/OFDA staff noted that the majority of people in areas visited have chosen to remain in their houses, purchasing food, water, and other basic household goods at nearby markets or through government distribution systems; families also have access to food, water, emergency relief supplies, and health care at evacuation centers.
- While reporting no acute unmet humanitarian needs in the areas visited, USAID/OFDA staff noted a need to continue to closely monitor populations' access to safe drinking water and sanitation and hygiene facilities in flood-affected areas, particularly if displacement is prolonged. To date, drinking water continues to be provided

at evacuation centers and is available in stores; however, supplies are decreasing. The GoT is currently working with retailers to ensure that stores in affected areas continue to be re-stocked.

- According to USAID/OFDA staff, doctors and nurses are providing health care to flood-affected individuals at the evacuation centers visited, with no significant increases in diseases or major health concerns reported. USAID/OFDA staff found that Pra Nakorn Sri Ayutthaya hospital remains under approximately 2 meters of water, but noted that officials had already transferred patients to other facilities and had begun removing equipment from the facility.
- On October 28, USAID/OFDA staff reported that the Chao Phraya River had not overflowed in eastern locations of central Bangkok to Nonthaburi Province, with water levels remaining 1 to 3 feet below the flood walls. However, while the river has not inundated areas visited, the USAID/OFDA team observed water backing up in storm drains on side streets, resulting in some inundation along roadways. The team also noted that emergency personnel had begun to pump water away from main streets.

#### *Migrant Workers*

- On October 24, the GoT Ministry of Labor (MoL) established an evacuation center specifically for migrant populations at the Wat Rai King temple in Nakhon Pathom Province due to reports that migrants had been turned away from other centers. As of October 27, more than 370 people had sought shelter at the center, including 160 people from Burma, 90 individuals from Cambodia, and 121 others from Laos. According to USAID/OFDA staff who visited the site, the private sector, relief agencies, the MoL, and other organizations have provided ample relief supplies to migrants at the center, and hot food is available on-site. A local hospital and a health post are also providing health care to the migrants free of charge, with no increases in diseases reported to date.

#### *GoT Response*

- GoT emergency personnel continue to work to increase the height of embankments along the Chao Phraya River and pump water away from inundated neighborhoods. According to USAID/OFDA staff in Bangkok, approximately 2,000 volunteers are assisting with flood prevention and mitigation efforts by making an average of 50,000 to 60,000 sandbags daily at a location managed by the GoT Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM). Potential flooding in the coming days will likely depend on several factors, including the level of water run-off from northern locations, the tide levels, and the capacity of levees and embankments to withstand water flows.
- The Flood Relief Operations Center (FROC) continues to urge Bangkok residents to prepare for a worst case flood scenario during the coming days, including potential evacuations. As of October 28, GoT officials had advised residents of Bang Plad, Don Muang, Sai Mai, and parts of Thawi Wattana districts to evacuate, placed other districts near the Chao Phraya River and major canals on alert for possible evacuations, and advised city residents to depart the capital, if possible.

#### *Airport Operations*

- On October 25, the Don Muang Airport, a domestic airport located in northern Bangkok, suspended flights due to flooding. The FROC, working out of Don Muang airport, remains fully functional after relocating to second and third stories within the airport complex as a precautionary measure. Evacuees previously residing at the airport have been moved to other evacuation centers. The Suvarnabhumi Airport—Bangkok's main airport, located to the south of the city—remains unaffected and continues to operate normally.

#### *USG Assistance*

- On October 7, U.S. Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, USAID/OFDA has provided \$600,000 in assistance to augment emergency response activities, including \$100,000 in immediate assistance to the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) and \$500,000 to IOM in support of the DDPM.
- USAID/OFDA has also supported the deployment of an Incident Command System (ICS) specialist to work with Thai emergency responders. ICS is a pre-defined chain of command that helps response personnel collaborate more effectively during responses to emergency situations. This most recent deployment builds on previous and ongoing USAID disaster risk reduction initiatives in Thailand. At the request of the GoT, the ICS specialist is now embedded with emergency personnel at the FROC to conduct a real-time evaluation of flood response operations.

## **Cambodia**

### *Current Situation*

- As of October 26, monsoon- and tropical storm-related flooding had impacted 18 of Cambodia's 24 provinces, resulting in 247 deaths and affecting approximately 1.5 million people. Floods have also resulted in the evacuation of more than 46,300 households. Although the situation has begun to stabilize, with water levels decreasing in several areas during the past week, floodwaters are receding slowly.

### *USG Assessments*

- On October 26 and 27, a USAID/OFDA RA visited flood-affected locations in Kampong Thom and Kampong Cham provinces with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) World Vision and Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US). Although many families in the areas visited are used to seasonal flooding, affected individuals noted that water levels this year are declining slowly.
- The USAID/OFDA RA reported that conditions in flood-affected areas remained consistent with earlier assessments, noting significant damage to rice fields and inadequate access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support in the areas visited. While floodwaters have inundated houses, the USAID/OFDA RA noted limited damage to structures and reported that many families have chosen to remain in their houses.

### *Agriculture and Food Security*

- According to the U.N., floodwaters have impacted more than 1 million acres of rice paddy, of which approximately 57 percent were damaged, particularly in Kampong Thom, Battambang, and Prey Veng provinces. Damaged paddies account for approximately 9 percent of the total 2.5 million acres of rice planted this season. According to relief agencies, loss of crops will likely significantly impact vulnerable households' livelihoods and food security, as most flood-affected families rely on agricultural production for both food and income.
- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has launched an Emergency Operation (EMOP) of \$500,000 to address the immediate food requirements of 12,000 flood-affected households in Cambodia.

### *WASH and Health*

- As of October 20, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) had provided funding and technical assistance to the GoC Ministry of Health (MoH) to perform rapid health assessments and start daily surveillance of communicable diseases in flood-affected districts. To date, the MoH has not identified a significant increase in diseases in flood-affected areas.
- According to a recent MoH–WHO assessment in eight affected provinces in Cambodia, while floodwaters had inundated approximately 108 health centers in areas assessed, health care officials continue to deliver health services to affected populations.
- Floods have submerged water sources in many flood-affected provinces, limiting affected families' access to safe drinking water. While officials have not reported any significant outbreaks of diseases at this time, consumption of contaminated water puts people at risk for the spread of waterborne diseases. Following recent field assessments, the USAID/OFDA RA noted the need for increased access to safe drinking water, in conjunction with hygiene and sanitation activities in flood-affected areas to prevent an increase in waterborne diseases.

### *USG Assistance*

- On October 7, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Jeff Daigle declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Cambodia to SC/US for WASH items and other emergency relief commodities to benefit displaced populations in Kampong Cham Province. USAID/OFDA continues to monitor humanitarian conditions in flood-affected regions of Cambodia, in coordination with USAID/Cambodia, the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, host government officials, and relief agencies.

## **Vietnam**

### *Current Situation*

- Monsoon rains, exacerbated by three recent tropical storms, have resulted in flooding across Vietnam, particularly in southern and central provinces. As of October 24, floods had affected more than 700,000 people, resulted in approximately 60 deaths, and inundated an estimated 88,000 houses, as well as thousands of acres of rice and other crops, according to the GoVN.
- According to the U.N., water levels in the Mekong Delta Region remain above flood Alert Level III, with only slight decreases observed in recent days. The GoVN National Center for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting predicts floodwaters to continue to slowly decline, but remain above Alert Level III until early November.

- The U.N. and GoVN authorities expect floodwaters in Ho Chi Minh City, the most populous city in Vietnam, to continue rising through the end of the month, due to unusually high tide levels and expected releases of floodwater from two reservoirs in neighboring provinces.
- According to local media reports, local authorities in southern Vietnam are reinforcing broken dykes, pumping water out of rice paddies, and monitoring the stability of important dyke in affected areas.

*USG Assistance*

- On October 18, U.S. Ambassador David B. Shear declared a disaster in response to flooding in Vietnam. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Vietnam for the provision of emergency relief supplies to flood-affected families in the Mekong Delta Region.

**Laos**

*Current Situation*

- Monsoon rains, exacerbated by several tropical storms, have resulted in flooding in 10 of Laos' 17 provinces, particularly along the Mekong River basin, affecting approximately 500,000 individuals, resulting in 30 deaths, and destroying more than 158,000 acres of farmland. To date, the Government of Laos has not requested international assistance.

**Philippines**

*Current Situation*

- Two consecutive typhoons led to flooding and landslides in the northern Philippines, affecting more than 4 million people, resulting in approximately 110 deaths, and damaging or destroying an estimated 73,000 houses, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). As of October 25, more than 12,000 individuals remained in 13 evacuation centers in northern regions. On October 12, an additional storm, Tropical Storm Banyan moved over the Philippines, resulting in 10 additional deaths and affecting nearly 63,000 individuals across 11 provinces. To date, the GPH has not requested international aid for flooding.

**Burma**

*Current Situation*

- Heavy monsoon rains, a tropical storm, and the release of water from dams resulted in flash floods and landslides in the Dry Zone of central Burma, leaving nearly 80 people dead or missing, according to the GoB. As of October 25, the U.N. reported that the floods had affected more than 35,000 people and damaged or destroyed an estimated 15,000 houses in Magwe, Sagaing, and Mandalay divisions. The GoB has not requested assistance in response to the flash floods.

**International Response**

- The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) plans to provide approximately \$13.9 million to meet flood-related humanitarian needs in Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand.
- On October 26, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) pledged nearly \$1 million to the TRCS for the flood response in Thailand. The assistance is expected to benefit 27,000 families through the distribution of relief kits containing food, hygiene supplies, basic medicines, and safe drinking water.

**TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR FLOODS**

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND IN FY 2012</b>			
TRCS	Emergency Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$100,000
IOM	Emergency Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$500,000
	Program and Administrative Support Costs	Affected Areas	\$15,482
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND</b>			<b>\$615,482</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND</b>			<b>\$615,482</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA IN FY 2012</b>			
SC/US	WASH	Affected Areas	\$50,000
TBD <sup>1</sup>	Additional allocated funding		\$84,518
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ALLOCATED AND OBLIGATED ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA</b>			<b>\$134,518</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ALLOCATED AND OBLIGATED ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA</b>			<b>\$134,518</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM IN FY 2012</b>			
CARE	Emergency Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>

<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA FLOODS IN FY 2012</b>	
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA FLOODS<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$850,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA FLOODS</b>	<b>\$850,000</b>

<sup>1</sup>To be determined (TBD); figure represents the balance of allocated funding for Cambodia, as of October 28, 2011. Figures will be updated as funding is obligated over the coming days.

<sup>2</sup>USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or obligated amounts as of October 28, 2011.

#### **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts in Central America is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).
  - A list of humanitarian organizations that accept cash donations for humanitarian relief efforts in Central America can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).