

Cambodia: Floods

Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF) Situation Report No. 03

(as of 15 October 2013)

This report is produced by the Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), a network of United Nations (UN), non-government organizations (NGOs), and international organizations (IOs) engaged in emergency preparedness, humanitarian and early recovery response in Cambodia. It covers the period from 9th to 15th October 2013. The next report will be issued on or around 22nd October.

Highlights and key priorities

- Seventeen provinces affected by floods and flash floods since the third week of September;
- 134 confirmed deaths;
- More than 377,000 households affected and more than 26,000 households evacuated to safe areas;
- More than 160,000 houses, 1354 schools, 69 health centres and hospitals, and 498 pagodas flooded with roads, bridges and infrastructure damaged;
- Waters receding in Ratanakiri, Stung Treng, Kratie, Preah Vihear, Kampong Cham; Kampong Thom;

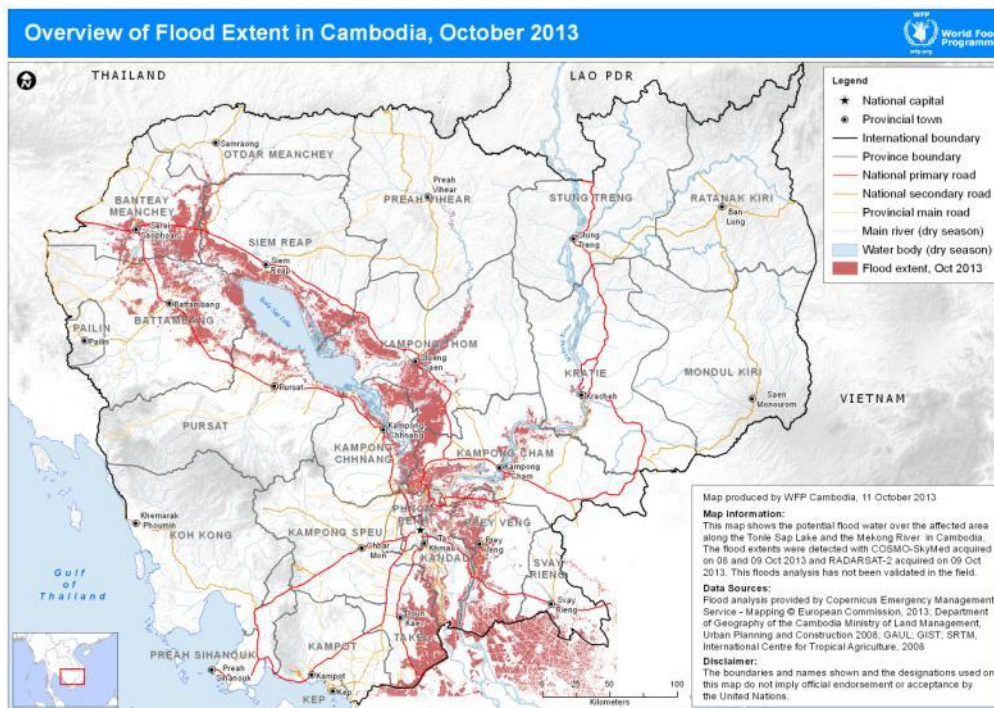


Figure 1: Provinces affected by flooding

- Flash floods in North Western provinces;
- National and local authorities, Cambodia Red Cross (CRC), UN agencies and NGOs providing immediate relief assistance to affected families evacuated to safe areas;
- Joint assessments ongoing in Battambang, Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey, rapid assessments completed or finalized in Ratanakiri, Kandal, Kampong Cham, and Prey Veng.
- Most immediate needs of affected populations are food, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter.

17 Affected provinces	377,675* Affected households	1,737,305* Affected people	26,619 Evacuated households	119,678 Evacuated people	134 Deaths
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Situation Overview

Heavy rains since the third week of September have resulted in floods in at least 17 provinces throughout the Northwest and along the Mekong River in central and Southern Cambodia. While waters have receded in Stung Treng, Ratanakiri, Preah Vihear, Kampong Cham and Kampong Thom, the provinces downstream along the Mekong River, such as Prey Veng and Kandal have seen an increase in flooding in the past week.

* Assessments are still ongoing in Battambang province, one of the most affected areas, and the initial estimation of 150,000 affected households could be significantly revised.

In addition, the north-western provinces of Banteay Meanchey, Battambang and Siem Reap have been affected by flash floods caused by a combination of heavy rains and increase in water levels, as well as overflow from Thailand.

Typhoon Nari, expected to hit Viet Nam on Tuesday 15 October, will most likely affect the Mekong River, potentially causing an increase in water levels in the next few days. Heavy rains are expected in Northeast provinces in Cambodia, especially in Ratanakiri, as well as in the Northeast of Thailand, with possible overflow in North-western provinces in Cambodia. The authorities and humanitarian actors are closely monitoring the situation both in Cambodia and neighbouring countries.

According to latest National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) figures published on 12 October, there were 134 confirmed deaths, with approximately 377,695 households (or approximately 1,737,397 people) affected, and more than 26,619 households (approximately 122,447 people) evacuated. In Battambang province authorities are currently assessing the extent and impact of the floods, therefore the estimation of 150,000 affected households could be significantly revised. In the provinces where waters have receded many evacuated families have returned home, although specific figures on the number of returnees and those families currently remaining in safe areas and evacuation sites are not yet available, The situation varies daily in many provinces.

More than 160,095 houses, 1354 schools, 69 hospitals and health centres, and 498 pagodas have been affected.

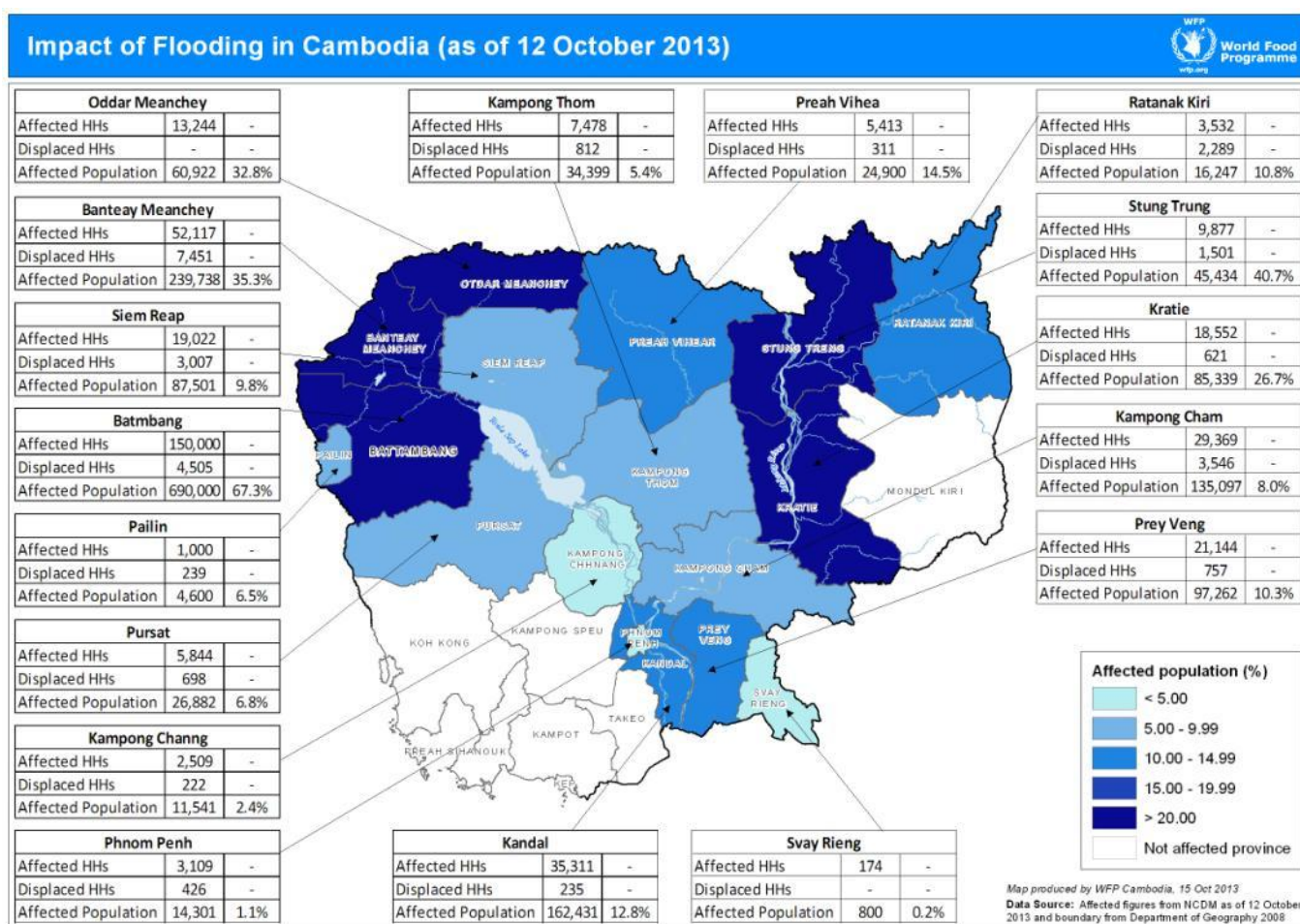
Latest information from NCDM shows the following:

Table 1: Impact of flooding in Cambodia

Province	Affected Districts	Affected Communes	Affected (family)	Affected (people)	Evacuated (family)	Evacuated (people)	Houses affected	Victims		Affected		
								Deaths	Injured	School	Pagoda	HC/Hospital
Preah Vihear	7	22	5,413	24,900	311	1,431	981	1				
Kampong Thom	8	50	7,478	34,399	210	966	14,431	21	3	106	40	4
Banteay Meanchey	9	59	52,117	239,738	7,451	34,275	15,027	4		249	112	21
Siem Reap	10	59	19,002	87,409	3,007	13,832	3,645	15	3	39	8	7
Otdar Meanchey	5	22	13,244	60,922			3,009	4		12		
Kampong Cham	13	72	29,369	135,097	3,546	16,312	28,818	29		268	144	17
Kratie	5	35	18,552	85,339	621	2,857	12,447	5		88	59	1
Steung Treng	5	29	9,877	45,434	1,501	6,905	7,558	3		30	20	3
Prey Veng	12	79	21,144	97,262	757	3,482	19,145	26		155	53	8
Kandal	9	65	35,311	162,431	235	1,081	22,327	3		126	23	8
Kampong Chhnang	6	15	2,509	11,541	222	1,021	975	5		1	38	
Phnom Penh	3	13	3,109	14,301	426	1,960	2,737	1				
Ratanakiri	5	21	3,532	16,247	2,289	10,529		4				
Battambang	14	75	150,000	690,000	4,504	20,718	27,460	10		260		
Pailin	2	8	1,000	4,600	239	1,099	431					
Pursat	6	34	5,844	26,882	698	3,211	1,004	2	8	19	1	
Svay Rieng	4	4	174	800			100	1				
Total	123	662	377,675	1,737,305	26,619	119,678	160,095	134	14	1,354	498	69

It is worth noting that the term “affected”, used by Government as well as most organisations to collect data and to allow for a targeted response, indicates the number of households or people who have in some way been impacted by flooding. The extent of the impact therefore varies and the total number of affected households and people is an indicative figure of the impact of floods.

Figure 2: Impact of flooding in Cambodia



While the effect of the floods on crops will remain unclear until waters start to recede, the impact could be sizeable if crops remain in flood water for a long time. According to data published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) on 9 October, the impact of floods on rice fields recorded so far is the following:

Table 2: Impact of floods on rice fields (MAFF, 9 October 2013)

Phnom Penh/ Provinces	Area Ha	Affected (ha)		Destroyed (ha)	
		Flood (ha)		Flood (ha)	
		Seedling	Transplanted rice/Direct seedling	Seedling	Transplanted rice/Direct seedling
Banteay Meanchey	230,632	-	38,988	-	197
Battambang	295,314	-	73,667	-	1,048
Kampong Cham	165,927	140	10,798	87	1,661
Kampong Chhnang	120,651	-	1,847	-	-
Kampong Speu	113,732	-	-	-	-
Kampong Thom	215,191	-	5,180	-	-
Kampot	135,095	-	-	-	-
Kandal	39,490	-	4,790	-	-
Koh Kong	10,373	-	-	-	-
Kratie	32,860	-	1,926	-	191
Mondoliri	22,920	-	480	-	26
Phnom Penh	11,557	-	50	-	-
Preah Vihear	74,093	-	5,166	-	-
Prey Veng	279,894	-	55,840	-	13,647
Pursat	108,374	-	11,772	-	-

Ratanakiri	27,172	-	3,854	-	-
Siem Reap	183,845	-	13,995	-	1,240
Sihanoukville	16,483	-	-	-	-
Stung Treng	27,664	-	8,070	-	5,490
Svay Rieng	166,549	-	915	-	-
Takeo	201,566	-	32	-	5
Otdar Meanchey	64,705	-	7,086	-	-
Kep	3,530	-	-	-	-
Pailin	6,485	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,554,102	140	244,456	87	23,505

Humanitarian Needs and Response

Needs:

NCDM, PCDMs and local branches of CRC, as well as local and international NGOs and UN agencies have conducted initial joint assessments in several provinces including Otdar Meanchey, Kratie, Kampong Cham, Stung Treng, Kandal and Prey Veng.

Currently assessments are taking place in five provinces. NCDM leads a three-province joint assessment with HRF participants in Banteay Meanchey, Battambang and Siem Reap. International NGOs are conducting assessments in Pursat and Ratanakiri, in collaboration with the Provincial Committees for Disaster Management (PCDMs).

Preliminary findings from ongoing assessment in **Battambang** indicate that:

- In Battambang and Banteay Meanchey the extent of floods seems wider larger than in 2011, although more detailed information is still being compiled.
- All 14 districts of Battambang have been affected, seven of which more seriously and requiring evacuations. The town of Battambang, second city in the country, has been largely flooded as well.
- Despite water receding, there is still a significant risk of further flooding, in particular in case of heavy rains in Thailand.
- The Government through provincial authorities is providing assistance for evacuations and for immediate food needs. The Cambodian Red Cross, the ICRC, World Vision and Caritas are providing assistance to affected households.
- The initial needs identified include food, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter and medicines. In the medium term, once the extent of crop damage will be verified, food security interventions and infrastructure rehabilitation could be required.

Preliminary findings from ongoing assessment in **Banteay Meanchey** indicate that:

- BMC has been the worst affected of the 3 provinces visited by the joint assessment and one which saw two sizeable rounds of flooding (once in August and then a second round starting late September and through early October). Flooding in August was associated with drainage from Thailand, while in September/October it was associated with flash flooding, as well as drainage from Otdar Meanchey province;
- The extent of flooding has been wider than in previous years, to a point where even some safe areas and evacuation sites have been flooded. It appears that the level of flood water is also significantly higher than in the past;
- A full overview of the situation is still not available, however all 9 districts have been affected and 6 more severely. Water is starting to recede, particularly in areas of higher ground, but in some districts households may be unable to return to their homes for 2 or 3 weeks;
- The assessment is still ongoing due to the inaccessibility of large areas; boats are needed for access, some have been provided by NGOs;
- Immediate needs include food, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter. There are concerns about the impact on crop damage, particularly to districts largely dependent on farming, given the severity of the flooding and the length of time in which crops have been exposed to flood water;

- Priorities for short term assistance focus on WASH (clean water/water purification tablets), and in the longer term on agricultural assistance (seeds), infrastructure rehabilitation, education (school rehabilitation and materials provision), school meals and Take Home Rations for the most vulnerable households (particularly those that have seen parents migrate to Thailand), as well as WASH infrastructure.

Rapid assessments to date have not covered extensively the needs of specific vulnerable groups, partly due to current assessment tools and limited distinction of specific vulnerabilities amongst communities.

However, initial results suggest that the impact of flooding on vulnerable groups is more sizeable depending on how specific needs are being addressed. Of vulnerable groups, children are most often catered for; however, few safe areas include specific child friendly spaces and there seems to be limited oversight of children playing in flood waters with implications for personal safety and health. With many parents, particularly in Northern provinces, having migrated over the border to Thailand, children are generally left to the oversight of grandparents or extended family members; without specific emphasis seemingly placed on the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children.

More structured safe areas (e.g. in pagodas) will often offer facilities catering for specific groups, such as separate male/female latrines, although lighting is often an issue. Initial information suggests that the basic needs of the elderly are looked out for, although not specifically prioritised. Outreach of services for the vulnerable remains a concern; for example, while mobile health teams are available in most areas, they are limited in some provinces and only basic medical needs are being addressed.

Further in-depth assessments with appropriately modified tools will be more apt at identifying specific needs of vulnerable populations, how these are addressed and what gaps exist.

Response:



Education

Needs:

- More than 1,400 schools in 10 provinces (Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Pailin, Pursat, Kampong Chhnang, Kandal, Prey Veng, Stung Treng, Kratie and Kampong Cham) are closed, causing severe disruption to the learning of approximately 560,000 children and the loss of numerous teaching hours. This represents between 6 per cent and 50 per cent of all schools in the aforementioned provinces.

Response:

- UNICEF is supporting 10 Provincial Offices for Education to explore possible options to retrieve teaching hours lost in more than 1,400 schools. Possible options include teaching double shifts and increasing teaching hours on a daily basis.
- District training and monitoring teams supported by UNICEF, will focus on increased efforts to monitor flood affected schools.
- Save the Children has established 100 temporary learning spaces for 2,500 children in two provinces, namely 70 in Kampong Cham province and 30 in Prey Veng province.

Gaps & Constraints:

- To ensure minimal disruption, there is a need to establish informal or temporary learning spaces in those flood affected provinces.



Protection

Needs:

- Following the flooding of Banteay Meanchey prison, 866 prisoners have been transferred to prisons in Siem Reap and Battambang.
- 351 male prisoners from Banteay Meanchey were transferred to a prison in Battambang.
- 515 prisoners from a prison in Banteay Meanchey were transferred to a prison in Siem Reap.
- Of the prisoners transferred to Siem Reap, 83 were female. Five out of them are pregnant and there are 8 children in total.
- Flooding has also increased exposure of the affected population to anti-personnel mines sliding from secured areas. To date, 3 anti-personnel mines were reported by community members in Pailin province, and 1 unexploded ordnance (UXO) and 2 anti-tank mines were reported in Battambang province.

Response:

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as well the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Caritas have provided assistance to the two prisons in Siem Reap and Battambang to address the needs of transferred prisoners.
- UNICEF is advocating with the Provincial Health Department for the provision of emergency materials to the Prison.
- Using resources from an on-going UNICEF project, mine awareness messages were disseminated to affected populations in two districts in Pailin and Battambang. The Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) has responded with their technical team to destroy the landmines.
- World Vision has set up 2 child-friendly spaces in Kampong Thom province as well as distributed some NFI and one child-friendly space set in Battambang.
- Caritas has provided some protection-related NFI in all communes addressed by their distributions.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Further risk of landmines washed away in heavily mined areas.
- Shelter for around 15 women and their children that are residing in one of the affected prisons.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene****Needs:**

- Site assessments confirm that access to safe drinking water, followed by sanitation and hygiene are of particular concern. UNICEF continues to monitor the situation of water, sanitation and hygiene, noting current relief efforts are predominantly focused on food needs and do not always include lifesaving supplies such as water purification, soap and critical information.

Response:

- The USD 25,000 Emergency Cash Grant from UNOCHA allows to scale-up of the initial WASH response. UNICEF is procuring water purification supplies for immediate distribution to 5,000 families, as well as supplies for hygiene, information leaflets and jerry cans. Distributions are planned through NGO partners. UNICEF will support the disinfection of wells as water recedes and families return to their homes.
- Since the beginning of floods, several organizations have responded to needs of affected population by distributing drinking water, water tanks, WASH kits and WASH materials: among others, Plan in Ratanakiri, Kampong Cham and Siem Reap; DPA in Stung Treng; DCA/CA in Ratanakiri and Kratie; Save the Children in Kampong Cham and Prey Veng complementing the supplies for temporary learning spaces; UNICEF in Kratie; World Vision in Prey Vihear, Kampong Thom, Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Chhnang, Battambang, Siem Reap; Caritas in Kampong Cham, Kratie, Ratanakiri, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, Kandal and Prey Veng.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The immediate needs are to reinforce hygiene messages to households using pre-developed materials both through radio and print and to provide water purification chemicals, soap and closed containers, estimated at USD 150,000.

**Shelter****Needs:**

- Initial findings from rapid assessments identify shelter needs as of particular concern in unstructured safe areas (i.e. elevated ground where no or very little infrastructure exist);

Response:

- Several organizations have provided tarpaulins and plastic sheeting as part of their relief kits to families displaced to safe areas and evacuation sites; DCA/CA has distributed tarpaulins to displaced households in Ratanakiri; the CRC in Pursat; WVI-C in Kampong Chhnang, Battambang and Siem Reap; Caritas in Kampong Cham, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey.

- People in Need (PIN) plans rehabilitation of flood affected households, as well as technical training and capacity building for reconstruction teams in Pursat.
- The Emergency Cash Grant (ECG) from UNOCHA will allow IOM to provide shelter materials (tarpaulin, plastic sheet and rope), non-food items (hammer, axe, and hand-saw), transportation of shelter and NFIs, provide transport for affected families and provide labourers to assist affected families during distribution. 650 households in three districts of Kampong Cham province (with average 2,990 individuals) will receive direct shelter assistance.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Shelter is identified as one of the immediate concerns for evacuated families in unstructured safe areas, however the assistance provided so far has been largely focused on food needs; deteriorating weather conditions could worsen the already difficult living conditions of displaced families.



Health

Needs:

- With very limited access to safe water, there is a concern for an increase in cases of water-borne and excreta related diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea (AWD). Young children and other vulnerable persons with compromised immunity or malnutrition are at risk to suffer the greatest from contaminated water sources and increased pathogens within the environment.
- Sixty-nine health centres and hospitals have been affected by the floods to varying degrees.

Response:

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) has provided health education and treatment of patients through mobile clinics in some affected areas; so far no outbreaks have been recorded.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Mobile clinics and provision of health care in safe areas and evacuation sites and where health centres have been rendered less functional due to floods.



Food Security and nutrition

Needs:

- Food needs are more urgent in areas of displacement and evacuation, and where access is limited due to the extension of floods.
- As the extent of crop damage is not entirely assessed yet, it is not known if the floods will have a longer term impact on food security. It is likely that in certain areas, where crops and animals have been washed away or killed by floods, and where crops have been damaged by extended submersion in flood water, there will be a medium/long term need for assistance to ensure food security of the most affected families.

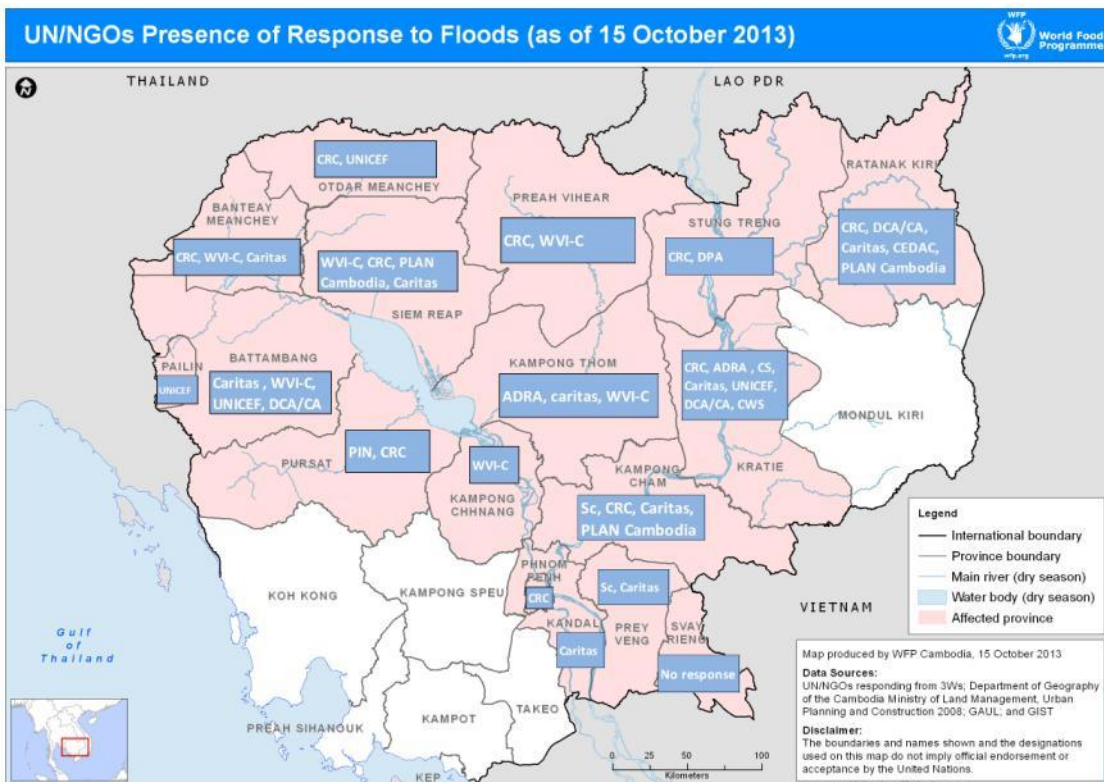
Response:

- Food distributions have taken place in most provinces, in particular by the Cambodian Red Cross and Caritas. Food kits content vary; they usually include approximately 2 weeks of rice for a 5 persons family, canned fish, oil, sugar, and fish sauce. Other items might also be included.
- The CRC has distributed food items in Ratanakiri, Stung Treng, Kratie, Banteay Meanchey, Otdar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, Pursat and Phnom Penh for a total of 8,059 households
- Caritas Cambodia has distributed food items to a total of 3,550 households in, Kampong Cham, Kratie, Ratanakiri, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, while further distribution are planned in Kandal and Prey Veng.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited access to isolated areas or where the extent of floods and lack of transport does not allow delivery of assistance.

Table 3: Presence of UN and NGOs responding to floods



Funding

Following preliminary results of the assessments conducted in the previous week, HRF participants have agreed to request an initial Emergency Cash Grant (ECG) for USD 50,000 to prioritize life saving and life supporting activities on WASH and shelter, where needs are deemed to be more immediate and less covered by ongoing response.

Organizations are currently responding by utilizing internal funds, which are limited. HRF participants will discuss further if a need of scaling up the response in support to national and local authorities is foreseen and thus if further funding should be requested to donors.

General Coordination

The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) is the entity in charge of coordinating the assistance and response to disasters. NCDM members have visited several provinces, including most recently Battambang, Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey; they have led the joint assessment in Otdar Meanchey and are conducting a joint assessment in Battambang, Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey. In addition, NCDM is closely monitoring the situation with PCDMs and providing technical support where required.

The WATSAN Working Group, led by the Ministry of Rural Development, has planned a meeting on October 25 to discuss the main needs on water, hygiene and sanitation in affected areas and the current response, and to coordinate further response by WASH actors.

The HRF next meeting is planned for the 16th of October where potential scale up of response will be discussed based on results of ongoing assessments.

DISCLAIMER: This document is a compilation of information gathered from various sources, including relevant UN agencies, NCDM, CRC, INGOs and the media.

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