



SOUTHEAST ASIA – FLOODS

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On November 1, the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, announced the contribution of nearly \$1.5 million in new USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) funding for flood-relief programs in agriculture, livelihoods, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) through Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) and World Vision. The new interventions supplement the \$50,000 provided by USAID/OFDA to SC/US in October to deliver emergency relief supplies to flood-affected families in Cambodia.
- On October 30, U.S. Ambassador to Thailand Kristie A. Kenney announced an additional \$500,000 in USAID/OFDA assistance to Thailand, bringing total U.S. Government (USG) assistance for the floods in Thailand to more than \$1.1 million. That total includes funding for boats, water purifiers, motors, generators, and other relief supplies procured through the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and delivered by USAID/OFDA on October 30 to support ongoing Government of Thailand (GoT) response efforts. Additional supplies are expected to arrive in the coming days.
- High tides that resulted in low-level flooding along the Chao Phraya River and other canals in Bangkok, Thailand, concluded on November 1. The GoT Flood Relief Operations Center (FROC) reported that the overall situation in the Bangkok Metropolitan Area had improved as of November 1, noting that water run-off from the north has steadily declined, and that the city’s flood defenses are operating effectively.
- GoT officials continue to provide differing scenarios for the risk of additional floods during the coming days, with run-off still impacting western and eastern districts of Bangkok. As a result, a 10-member USAID/OFDA team in Bangkok continues to closely monitor conditions in Thailand in coordination with the U.S. Department of Defense Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team (HAST) and other USG agencies.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Country	Number Affected	Number Evacuated	Deaths	Source
Thailand	2.1+ million	113,000 people	384	GoT – November 1, 2011
Cambodia	1.5 million	46,400 families	247	GoC ¹ – October 28, 2011
Vietnam	700,000	6,500 families	59	GoVN ² – October 18, 2011
Laos	430,000	Not available	34	U.N. – October 13, 2011
Philippines	4.3 million	65,000 people	111	GPH ³ – October 19, 2011
Burma	26,000	Not available	106	U.N. – October 27, 2011

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

Total USAID/OFDA Assistance to Thailand	\$1,115,482
Total USAID/OFDA Assistance to Cambodia	\$1,521,807
Total USAID/OFDA Assistance to Vietnam	\$100,000
Total USAID/OFDA Assistance to Southeast Asia	\$2,737,289

¹ Government of Cambodia (GoC)

² Government of Vietnam (GoVN)

³ Government of the Philippines (GPH)

Context

- The cumulative effects of four tropical storms and heavy monsoon rains have caused widespread flooding across Southeast Asia, including in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Burma, and the Philippines, resulting in approximately 940 deaths and affecting an estimated 9 million others across the region.
- USAID/OFDA maintains a regional office for East Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand, and staff are monitoring humanitarian conditions in coordination with other USG agencies, host governments, and relief agencies throughout the region. USAID/OFDA staff in Thailand continue to conduct assessments of affected areas to identify humanitarian needs and determine whether additional assistance is required.

Thailand

Current Situation

- On November 1, the GoT Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) reported that more than two months of flooding has resulted in 384 deaths and left two people missing—an increase of three reported deaths since October 30. DDPM reports that floodwaters currently are affecting approximately 2.1 million people across 26 provinces.
- While the number of evacuees continues to fluctuate, the U.N. reported that more than 9,500 people had sought shelter in 85 evacuation centers in the Bangkok Metropolitan Area as of October 31. A number of evacuation centers also remain open in unaffected provinces, including Phetchaburi, Chachoengsao, and Kanchanaburi, to provide shelter to flood-affected individuals who have departed Bangkok temporarily. Local media sources indicate that approximately 113,000 people have sought shelter in evacuation centers countrywide.
- To date, central Bangkok has not experienced significant flooding and most locations in the inner city remain dry. USAID/OFDA assessments have indicated that local emergency personnel are meeting the immediate needs of flood-affected individuals, with no life-threatening conditions observed. To support local responders, USAID/OFDA is working with IOM to provide operational assistance, such as boats, as appropriate.

Bangkok and Surrounding Provinces

- On November 1, the FROC reported that the Chao Phraya River had decreased by up to 2 inches from the peak levels recorded during the weekend. Lower tides are expected to facilitate water drainage into the Gulf of Thailand in coming days and weeks. According to the FROC, tides are expected to increase again in mid-November but at lower levels than observed at the end of October. GoT officials continue to pump water away from inundated areas and reinforce embankments along the Chao Phraya River in anticipation of the next high tides.
- To protect inner Bangkok, GoT officials continue to divert water to the east and west of the city, further inundating communities in outlying areas. The strategy is increasing frustration among residents of western and eastern districts, leading some communities to damage flood barriers and demand the opening of sluice gates—barriers used to control water levels and flow rates in rivers and canals.
- Following days of protests at the Sam Wa Canal, on October 31, Prime Minister of Thailand Yingluck Shinawatra agreed to raise the sluice gate to help water flow out of neighboring communities. However, the partial opening of the gate is likely to increase the flow of water into surrounding districts.
- According to local media, the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority warned some residents of Khlong Sam Wa District, eastern Bangkok, to evacuate on November 1 due to increased water levels in the area. To date, the Bangkok governor has issued evacuation warnings for six districts; additional districts in the eastern, northern, and western suburbs of the metropolitan area remain on flood watch.
- Flights from Don Muang Airport, a domestic airport located in northern Bangkok, have been suspended since October 25 due to flooding. However, a number of the scheduled domestic flights are operating from Suvarnabhumi Airport—Bangkok’s main airport, located to the south of the city—which remains unaffected and continues to operate normally.

USG Assessments

- On November 1, USAID/OFDA staff traveled to Khlong Sam Wa in eastern Bangkok—the district with recent evacuation orders—and Bangkok Noi and Taling Chan districts in western Bangkok to monitor the impact of recent inundation. While water continues to slowly spread to new locations and increase flood levels in already affected areas, USAID/OFDA staff noted that the overall situation remains stable, with no life-threatening situations observed.

- In Khlong Sam Wa District, USAID/OFDA staff observed that major roads to the area remain passable and stores adjacent to flooded areas are open. The level of inundation varied significantly by location, with several areas visited in the district remaining dry or experiencing only low-level inundation.
- In western Bangkok, USAID/OFDA staff found that water levels recently had expanded to new areas of western Bangkok Noi and Taling Chan districts, with up to 2 feet of water observed in some low-lying areas. However, USAID/OFDA staff noted that floods in the areas visited appeared to be caused by water flowing up through drainage systems, rather than inflow from rivers or canals. People in flood-affected areas continue to use boats and vehicles to access stores, which remained open in all of the locations visited.
- As a result of efforts to divert water around central Bangkok, communities in western and eastern suburbs of Bangkok may experience further flooding in coming days. However, the slow spread of the water affords populations time to prepare for floods. USAID/OFDA staff will continue to monitor the situation closely.

USG Assistance

- In response to an October 7 disaster declaration, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.1 million in assistance to augment emergency response activities, including \$100,000 in immediate assistance to the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) and \$1 million 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 emergency responses. The recent deployment builds on previous and ongoing USAID disaster risk reduction initiatives in Thailand. At the request of the GoT, the ICS specialist is 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.

Agriculture, Food Security, and Livelihoods

- The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that floods destroyed more than 716,000 acres of rice paddy, representing approximately 28 percent of the 2.5 million acres of rice planted this season. Relief agencies anticipate that the loss of crops will significantly impact vulnerable households' livelihoods and food security, as most flood-affected families rely on agricultural production for both food and income.
- To meet identified needs, USAID/OFDA recently provided nearly \$274,000 to World Vision to support agriculture and food security activities in Kampong Thom and Kandal provinces, benefitting approximately 27,000 flood-affected individuals. USAID/OFDA also provided approximately \$544,000 to SC/US for economic recovery activities, including cash-for-work and infrastructure rehabilitation in Kampong Cham Province, benefitting up to 30,000 flood-affected individuals.

WASH

- Floods have affected water sources in many areas of Cambodia, limiting families' access to safe drinking water. While officials have not reported any significant disease outbreaks to date, consumption of contaminated water increases risk of waterborne diseases. USAID/OFDA recently provided nearly \$206,000 to SC/US and approximately \$448,000 to World Vision to address the WASH-related humanitarian needs of flood-affected populations in Kampong Thom, Kandal, and Kampong Cham provinces, benefitting up to 19,500 individuals. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided WASH items through SC/US immediately following the October 7 disaster declaration.

USG Assistance

- In response to an October 7 disaster declaration, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.5 million in assistance for flood-affected populations in Cambodia. USAID/OFDA continues to monitor humanitarian conditions in flood-affected regions, in coordination with USAID/Cambodia, the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, host government officials, and relief agencies.

Other Countries

Vietnam

- Monsoon rains, exacerbated by three tropical storms, resulted in flooding across Vietnam, particularly in southern and central provinces. As of October 18, 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.
- Flood tides in Ho Chi Minh City—the largest city in Vietnam—reached a 50-year high during the past week, according to the GoVN. High tides in late October caused water to breach dykes, canals, and sewage gates throughout the city, resulting in flooding in several city districts and inundating hundreds of homes.
- In response to an October 18 disaster declaration, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Vietnam to CARE to provide emergency relief supplies to flood-affected families in the Mekong Delta Region.

Laos

- Monsoon rains, exacerbated by several tropical storms, caused flooding in 10 of Laos' 17 provinces, particularly along the Mekong River basin, affecting approximately 500,000 individuals and resulting in 30 deaths as of mid-October. Floods also affected more than 158,000 acres of rice paddy, representing 7 percent of the total paddy in Laos, according to FAO. To date, the Government of Laos has not requested international assistance.

Philippines

- Two consecutive typhoons led to flooding and landslides in the northern Philippines, affecting more than 4 million people, resulting in approximately 100 deaths, and damaging or destroying an estimated 73,000 houses, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). 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. As of October 25, more than 12,000 people remained in 13 evacuation centers in northern regions. To date, the GPH has not requested international aid for flooding.

Burma

- 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 more than 100 people dead or missing, according to the U.N. As of October 27, OCHA reported that the floods had affected an estimated 26,000 people and displaced more than 7,200 people to relief camps in Magwe, the most-affected division. Floods also 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.

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND IN FY 2012			
Thai Red Cross Society	Emergency Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$100,000
IOM	Emergency Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
	Program and Administrative Support Costs	Affected Areas	\$15,482
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND			\$1,115,482
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND			\$1,115,482

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA IN FY 2012			
SC/US	WASH	Affected Areas	\$50,000
SC/US	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, WASH	Kampong Cham Province	\$750,000
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security	Kampong Thom and Kandal provinces	\$721,807
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ALLOCATED AND OBLIGATED ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA			\$1,521,807
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA			\$1,521,807

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

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA FLOODS IN FY 2012	
Total USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA FLOODS¹	\$2,737,289
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¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or obligated amounts as of November 1, 2011.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts in Southeast Asia 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 – 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.
 - A list of humanitarian organizations that accept cash donations for humanitarian relief efforts in Southeast Asia can be found at www.interaction.org.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/