ASEAN Food Security Information System

Flooding Across Lao PDR

Flooding in Lao PDR during mid-August 2026

Tropical cyclone Maysak and the prevailing Southwest Monsoon have contributed to continuous heavy rainfall in Lao PDR since 3 July 2026. The persistent rainfall resulted in widespread flooding, with impacts reported across northern, central, and southern parts of the country. The flooding was associated with heavy rainfall and overflowing rivers. In some areas, controlled releases from dams were also required to reduce reservoir water levels and manage water storage. On 18 August 2026, flooding had affected 1,020 villages across 43 districts in eight provinces, with Khammouane and Champasak among the most severely affected areas.

Damage and losses

Impact on the affected area

Damage assessment and data collection are still ongoing, and several provinces have not yet been able to provide complete information. Based on the information currently reported by five provinces, the flooding has affected 38 districts and 911 villages, with approximately 52,077 families affected. Information from three additional provinces is still being collected and has not yet been fully assessed.

The flooding has caused damage to agricultural production and infrastructure, including rice storage facilities and crop areas, with potential impacts on household food security and agricultural income. Reported agricultural and livestock losses include more than 297 livestock, 6,096 poultry, and 1,397 fish ponds that were destroyed.

Approximately 58,966 hectares of agricultural land have been affected by flooding, of which more than 8,114 hectares have been assessed as damaged. In addition, more than 36 irrigation systems were damaged and are currently unable to supply water to agricultural fields.

Approximately 13,229 people have been affected. Flooding also damaged transportation infrastructure, with more than 31 roads and bridges reported as submerged or affected by erosion.

Agricultural devastation

Agricultural land: All three regions of Lao PDR were affected by flooding. The reported affected agricultural area was distributed as follows:

- Northern region: 31.90 hectares.
- Central region: 56,317.74 hectares.
- Southern region: 2,616.81 hectares.

Affected crops: The main crops that were reported as damaged were rice, maize, sugarcane, soybean, and cassava. The total estimated reduction in crop production was 95,541.68 tons, while an additional 63,950.39 tons of agricultural products were reported lost from stocks and warehouses. The details are as follows:

- Rice: 15,287.18 tons of production loss, with 8,254.28 tons lost from stocks and warehouses.
- Maize: 7,040.52 tons of production loss, with 785.81 tons lost from stocks and warehouses.
- Sugarcane: 48,284.28 tons of production loss, with 36,213.00 tons lost from stocks and warehouses.
- Soybean: 2,148.90 tons of production loss, with 1,611.70 tons lost from stocks and warehouses.
- Cassava: 22,780.80 tons of production loss, with 17,085.60 tons lost from stocks and warehouses.

Government responses and countermeasures

The National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) has provided emergency assistance to evacuees and affected communities, including essential materials and supplies, fuel and utilities, dry food packages, medicines, and clean drinking water.

Meanwhile, the Government has instructed the affected provinces to accelerate the collection and reporting of damage and loss information to the NDMC to facilitate the provision of additional assistance and access to disaster management funds.

In addition, under the 2026 Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan, the Government will implement recovery measures to restore affected areas, including improving land levels, restoring drainage channels, and repairing eroded roads to restore access and support the resumption of normal activities.

Ministry of Agriculture and Environment is preparing a plan to supply seeds, animal breeds, vaccines, and fertilizers to restore production immediately after the water level decreases.

Various projects and private sectors have provided emergency assistance to affected areas. The assistance includes emergency kits, food supplies, and medical items.

Sources:

1. ASEAN Disaster Monitoring & Response System (DMRS)
2. Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), Mistry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE), Lao PDR
3. National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC), Lao PDR
4. Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
5. Provincial Agriculture and Environment Offices (PAEO), Mistry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE), Lao PDR
6. AHA Center. (2026, August 19). Flooding in Northern, Central, and Southern Provinces, Lao PDR: Flash Update #1.