



# Responding to flood emergencies in Lao PDR

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# Emergencies in Lao PDR: The context



- UN-HABITAT is the United Nations agency for human settlements.
- UN-HABITAT is mandated, through the Habitat Agenda, to take the lead in disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness and post-disaster rehabilitation with regard to human settlements.



## CERF

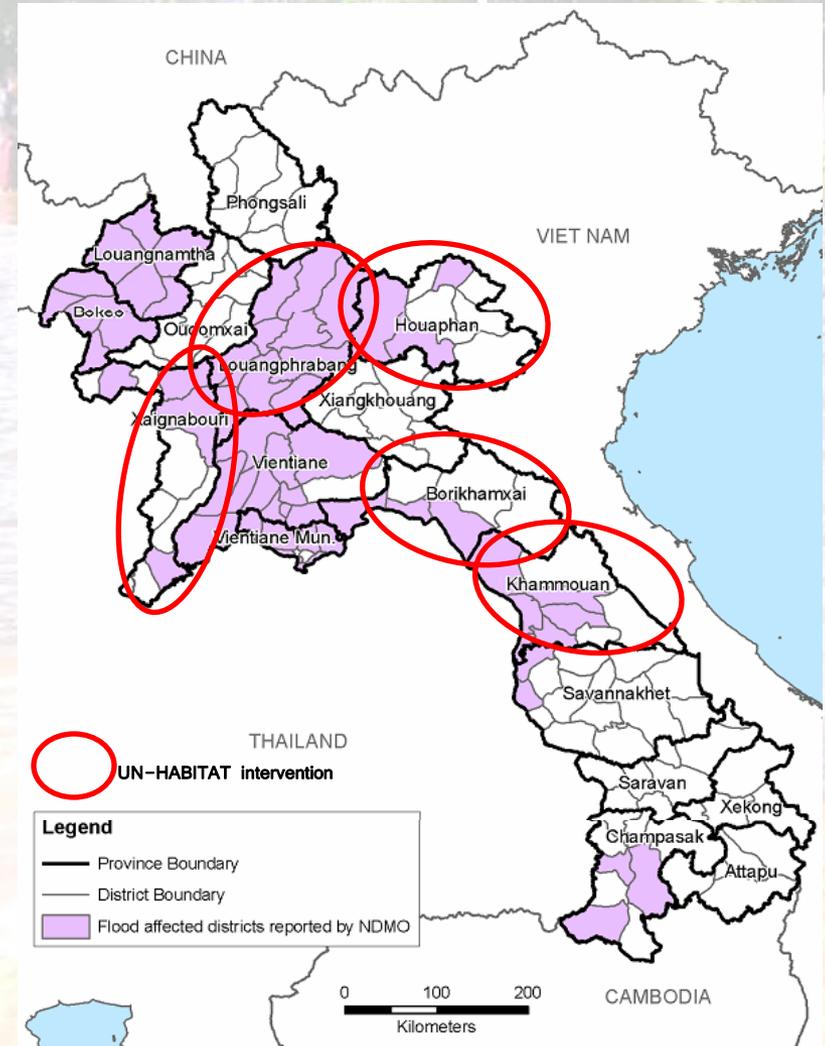
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is a humanitarian fund established by the United Nations to enable more timely and reliable humanitarian assistance to those affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts.

## UN's six emergency clusters

1. Food security
2. Logistics
3. Nutrition, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene, Health
4. Protection
5. Education
6. Early Recovery and Shelter

# Mekong Floods (2008)

- Heavy rainfall in early August 2008 – flooding of Mekong
- 200,000+ people in 10 out of 17 provinces affected
- More than USD 2 million from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)
- UN-HABITAT operated under the WASH cluster
- Priority districts and villages selected on basis of preliminary data in five provinces of Houaphan, Luang Prabang, Bolikhamxay, Sayabouly and Khammouane
- Total affected population these provinces in the 57 priority villages was more than 43,000 people.



# Mekong floods: Impact on WATSAN

## IMPACT ON WATER AND SANITATION

- Damage and contamination of water systems and wells
- Human waste discharged directly into floodwater
- Acute shortage of safe drinking water
- Contamination of wells posed a health risk: Untreated water was used for drinking and other purposes such as washing
- High potential of water- and vector-borne disease outbreaks



# Mekong floods: Response (I)

## **OBJECTIVES**

- a) Disseminate information about health and sanitation awareness and the prevention of outbreaks of waterborne disease
- b) Collect data on the extent and the severity of the flood impact;
- c) Restore essential water and sanitation facilities at school, household and community level.

## **PARTNERS**

- DHUP, National Centre for Environmental Hygiene and Water Supply
- Nam Saat and Ministry of Health (awareness raising campaigns)
- UNICEF (design and print posters and brochures)
- Nam Papa (repair water and sanitation systems)



# Mekong floods: Response (II)

## **METHOD**

1. ToT trainings at provincial level
2. Dissemination workshops at village level
3. Data collection
4. a. Water supply repair works
  - Cleaning up dug wells
  - Chlorination
  - Repair /replacement of concrete rings wells
  - Repair of gravity-fed water systemsb. Sanitation repair works : concrete coverings and toilet pans replaced



## **OUTCOME**

82,000 people benefited from dissemination of hygiene and sanitation and over 43,000 people benefited from repair and rehabilitation of damaged water and sanitation infrastructure.

# Typhoon Ketsana (2009)

- Typhoon Ketsana hit Lao PDR on 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2009, resulting in flash floods
- Affected provinces included Savannakhet, Attapeu, Champasak, Sekong and Saravan.
- An estimated 170,000 people were affected and about 9,600 households were displaced.
- Just under USD 3,9 million obtained from CERF
- UN along with development partners coordinated emergency response
- UN-HABITAT were active in a WASH cluster and in the SHELTER cluster, where they assumed the role of a cluster lead agency.



# Typhoon Ketsana: Impact and Response (WASH)

## IMPACT ON WATER AND SANITATION

- 50,000+ people left without access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation
- Damage to water infrastructure high – water treatment plants destroyed

## **RESPONSE OBJECTIVES:**

- Ensure urgent rehabilitation and restoration of water supply facility and network and sanitation infrastructure; improve solid waste management and drainage
- Promote hygiene and sanitation practices in affected communities in Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu

**UN-HABITAT'S PARTNERS:** Nam Papas (provincial water supply enterprises)

## **METHOD:**

1. IEC campaign on hygiene and sanitation conducted at village level, data collection
2. Repair/restoration of water treatment plants, water networks, sanitation facilities, solid waste management and sewage & drainage systems



## **OUTCOME**

The project reached out to almost 50,000 people through repair and restoration water treatment plants and repair of system such as water networks, sanitation facilities, solid waste management, sewerage drainage system and hygiene and sanitation awareness campaigns

# Typhoon Ketsana: Impact and Response (Shelter)

## **IMPACT ON HOUSING**

- Whole villages washed away
- Serious damage to public buildings
- 20,000+ people required emergency shelter

## **RESPONSE OBJECTIVE:**

- Provide basic emergency shelter materials for about 1390 vulnerable displaced families

**UN-HABITAT'S PARTNERS:** Lao Red Cross and DPWT

## **METHOD:**

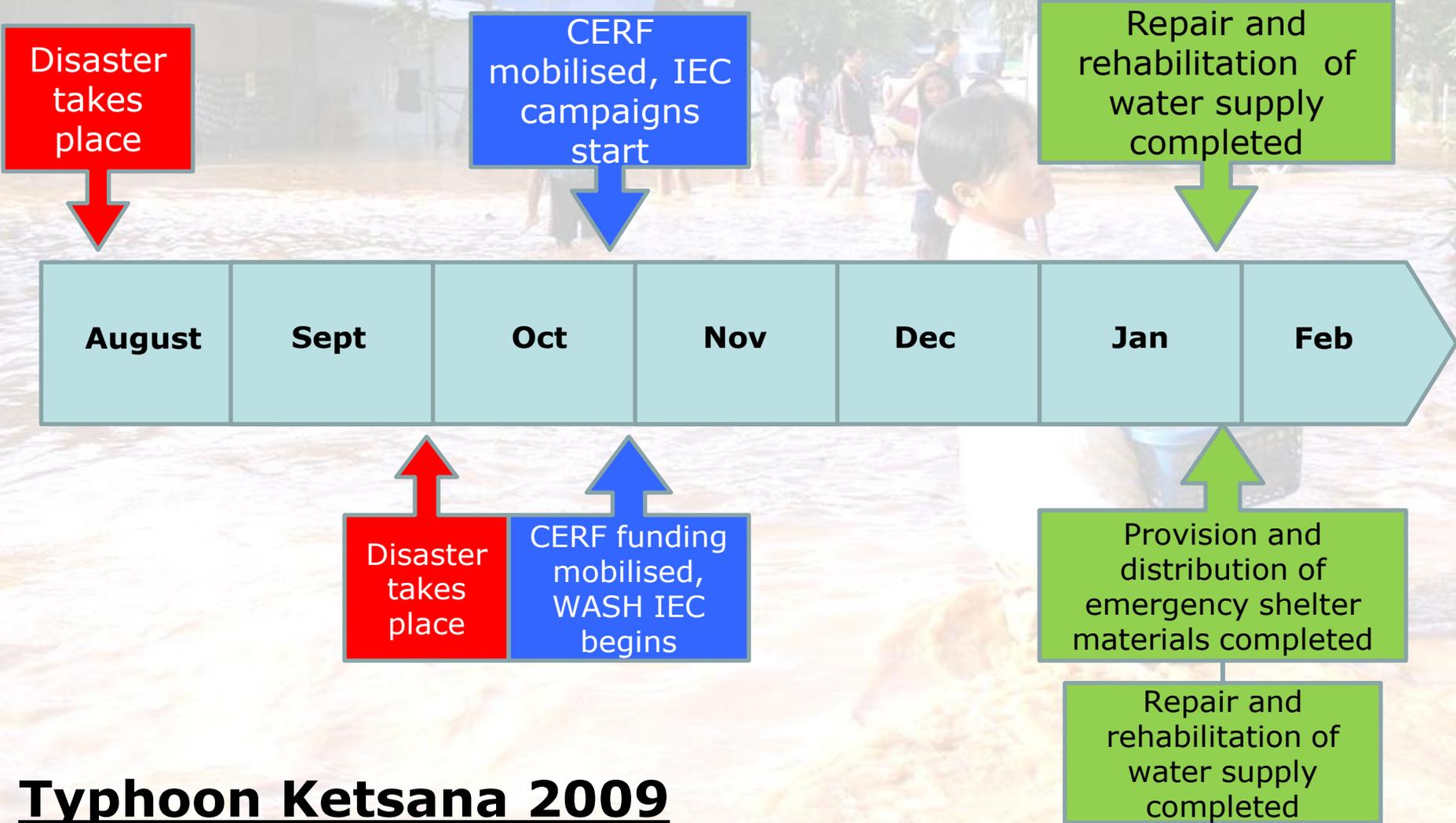
1. Communities consulted on emergency shelter and material needs
2. DPWT prepared a list of required materials
3. DPWT and Lao Red Cross distributed the materials to affected areas, while UN-HABITAT provided technical assistance

**OUTCOME:** 1390 vulnerable displaced families were provided with emergency housing materials



# Response time

## Mekong floods 2008



## Typhoon Ketsana 2009

# Lessons learnt

## HURDLES

- Logistical challenges
- Social factors
- Lack of funds - prioritisation
- Technical issues



## Don't under-estimate the importance of...

- Quick response time
- Good quality data
- Close coordination between agencies
- Working together with the affected communities
- Assessment of the emergency response





# Thank you!

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