

2011 Thailand Floods

Social Impact Assessment and Social Protection Recommendations

**for the
Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)**

November 30, 2011

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Methodology of Study

Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) methodology

Damages

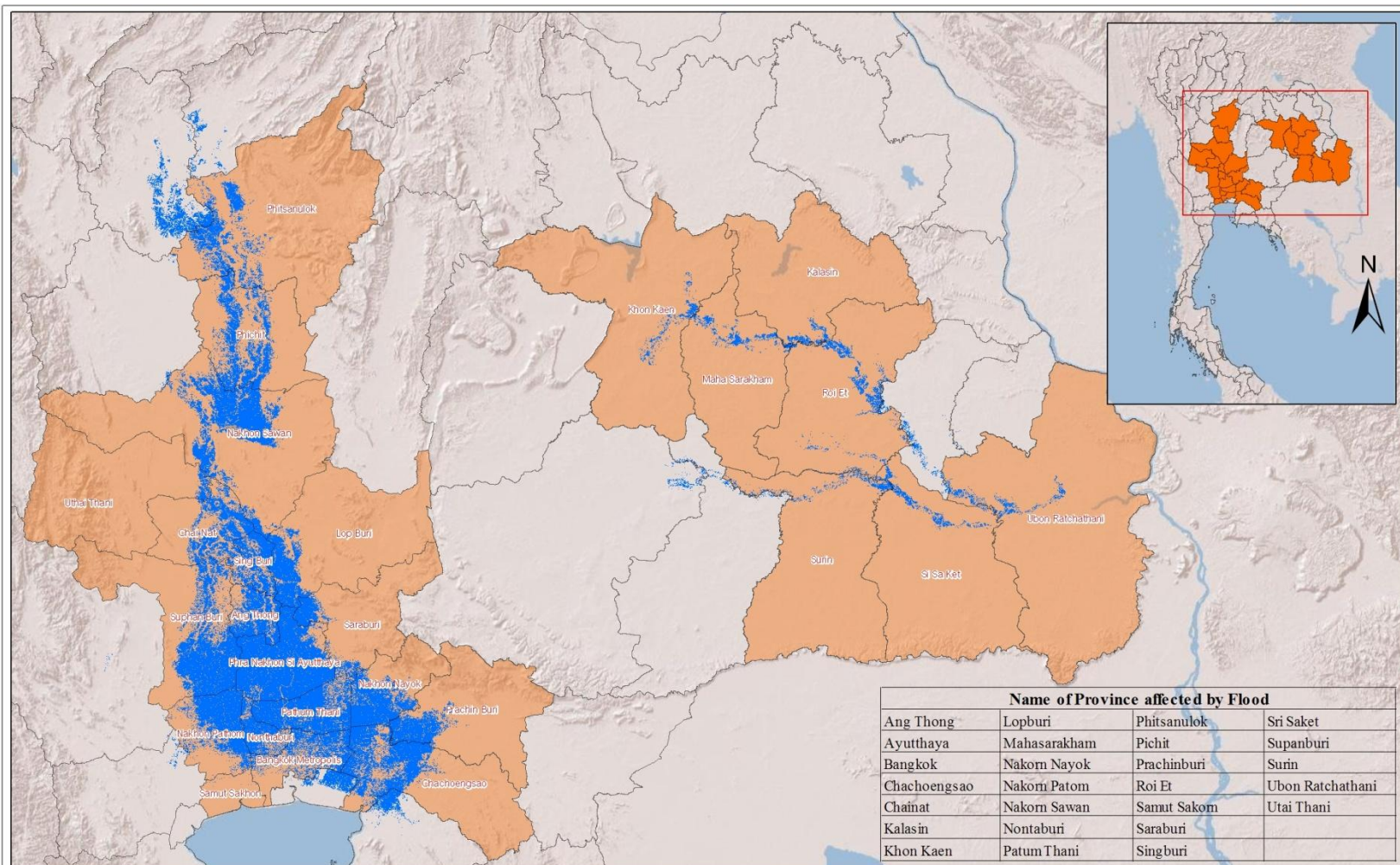
- Destruction of physical assets
- Occurs immediately and usually built back

Losses

- Foregone production/income
- Higher expenditures
- Occurs over a period of time and cannot recall them

Total Effect = Damage + Losses

Geographical Extent: 26 Provinces



Flood Inundation Map (8-9 Nov 2011)

Province Boundary
 Flood Inundation Area
 Province affected by Flood

0 50 100 200
Kilometers

Flood Inundation area : GISTDA
Map Production by : ADPC

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A Social Impact Assessment

- conducted in Lopburi, Uthaitaini and Nakonsawan provinces during November 9-19.
- conducted during the time when a large number of areas remain flooded.

Objectives:

- to provide an overview of the impact of the floods
- to put forward a set of recommendations for the recovery and reconstruction process

Impact on Livelihoods

- Livelihoods have been severely disrupted in all research locations with significant variations noted between rural and urban or peri-urban areas.
- Drastic reduction of income, increase in household expenditures and debts.
- During the immediate relief, vulnerable groups seem to receive sufficient support such as food and medical care. All appreciate receiving the monthly income support from the government.

Impact on Livelihoods

Rural Areas

- Loss of crops (tree crops, rice)
- No reports of land being made unproductive
- Heavy losses for fish farmers (produce and equipment) with no compensation expected for illegal operations
- Reduction of informal work opportunities for agricultural laborers

Impact on Livelihoods

Urban areas

- **Loss of stock and equipment for small businesses and home based enterprises**
- **Reduction of informal work opportunities**
- **Low income civil servant lost complementary sources of income but salaries continued to be paid on time**

Difficulties in accessing credit

- Rural households in particular seem to be more negatively impacted as they regularly borrow for farming inputs.
- For the urban poor, there is limited access to formal sources of credit such as private banks or the “One Million Baht Community Fund.

Coping Strategies

- Urban poor seek shelters to provide food for families
- Issues reported with elite capture of existing financing schemes at community level.
- Increasing borrowing from loan sharks
- no significant reports of reduction in food consumption in the areas visited.
- additional financial support from family in the form of remittances was not observed in any of the sites visited.
- alternative sources of livelihoods seemed equally difficult to find in rural and urban areas.
- People express concerns over potential negative impact such as drugs and crime after floods.

Social Protection Recommendations

Short term interventions

- Provide additional cash transfer to vulnerable groups for 3 months (double pensions, disability and poverty transfers)

- Creating short term employment opportunities

Implement labor intensive public works programs using community participation and giving priority to vulnerable and marginalized groups including migrant workers

Provide ease of access for early return of migrants for quick start-up of industry

Provide working capital to small-businesses, farmers and fish farmers through soft loans and grants

Provide relevant employment and alternative livelihoods training

Social Protection Recommendations

Medium to longer term interventions

- Re-structure credit for those using informal money lenders using existing community funds with SFIs rates – target 16,310 communities (6 billion THB)
- Provide gender-sensitive training and technical assistance through extension workers for alternative livelihoods
- Devise mechanisms to involve communities in disaster preparedness, prevention and response activities.
- Develop a single register for benefits which can be quickly triggered in future disasters, as well as be used for non-disaster time cash transfers to poor households.

Social Protection Recommendation

Long-term interventions

- Add a social assistance pillar to supplement the universal pensions and social insurance to complete the country's social protection system
- Develop and implement a comprehensive social accountability framework to accompany the recovery program

Overarching Social Recommendations

- Ensure that good governance measures (transparency, participation, monitoring) are in place from the start for recovery programs
 - Provide accurate/timely/simple information about available assistance and program implementation
 - Consult with communities to improve targeting of relief programs
- Deliver targeted assistance to the most vulnerable affected by the floods (rural and urban)
- Ensure that recovery programs are gender sensitive (eg. Appropriate vocational training; flexible working hours for public works)
- Ensure coordination among key sectors for the delivery of assistance (integrated social assistance)
- Where possible procure local contractors in flooded areas

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Thank You

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