

## Alert note

### *Conflict-induced displacement and mass returns – Preah Vihea and Oddar Meanchey provinces of Cambodia, 27 August 2025*

**Completed by:** Lutheran Hope Cambodia Organization (LHCO)

**Date completed:** 27 August 2025

**Forum:** ACT Alliance Cambodia Forum

**Type of emergency:** Conflict-induced displacement and mass returns

**Date of emergency (if rapid onset):** 24 July 2025

#### 1. The nature of the emergency

Border hostilities between Cambodia and Thailand escalated on 24 July 2025, with exchanges of artillery and airstrikes across multiple locations. A Malaysia-brokered ceasefire took effect on 28 July 2025. ASEAN observers were agreed in early August 2025 to help monitor the truce. However, incidents (including landmine injuries and sporadic tensions) have continued to disrupt returns and services.

#### 2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information)

- i) **Scale:** Small-scale emergency; significant needs in Preah Vihea and Oddar Meanchey provinces.
- ii) **Areas:** Affected provinces include Siem Reap, Preah Vihear, Oddar Meanchey and Banteay Meanchey. As of 21 August 2025, most displacement sites were in Siem Reap (29), Preah Vihear (19), Oddar Meanchey (2), Banteay Meanchey (1) ([UNICEFReliefWeb](#)).
- iii) **People affected (examples of latest consolidated figures):**
  - 34,552 people internally displaced; 28,442 people are in the evaluation centers ([HRF Situation Report](#)).
  - 870,521 Cambodian returnees from Thailand recorded as of 21 August 2025 ([HRF Situation Report](#)).
  - Education/health disruption: 94 schools and 21 public health facilities remain non-operational, as of 18 August 2025 ([HRF Situation Report](#)).
  - Oddar Meanchey specifics: at least two formal Internally Displaced Population (IDPs) sites (incl. Wat Phnom Thmar Kambor / Wat Bat Thkav noted in local reporting); school infrastructure damage confirmed (e.g., O Pok Primary, Samraong, slightly damaged). (Figures continue to fluctuate as families move between homes and sites) ([CambodiaEmbassy inBGCambodianessFresh News Asia](#)).
- iv) **How people have been affected:** Destruction to homes and public facilities; prolonged displacement in schools/pagodas; service interruptions (WASH, health, education); income loss for households with returning migrants ([UNICEF](#)).
- v) **Short- and long-term consequences:** Immediate risks of disease outbreaks (overcrowding, inadequate WASH), protection risks for women/children, and learning loss; medium-term pressures on livelihoods and social services due to mass returns; persistent mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS needs) ([UNICEFWorld Health Organization](#)).

#### 3. Local and national capacity

- i) **Coping:** IDPs are sheltering in safe sites or with host families; some pendular returns as security fluctuates. Communities rely on ad-hoc assistance and limited self-help, with growing negative coping risks ([UNICEF](#)).
- ii) **Local structures/resources:** National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDP)/Provincial Committee for Disaster Committees (PCDM) manage “safe centres”; line departments (Health, Education, Rural Development) coordinate services; NGO presence (e.g., World Vision, others) providing WASH/Education/Child Protection support ([World Vision](#)).
- iii) **Government plans:** Government-led coordination with Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)/Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF); social protection flexibility (Family Package cash

transfers; one-off emergency cash under consideration); Ministry of Education Youth and Sports (MoEYS) funding allocated to repair damaged schools ([UNICEFFresh News Asia](#)).

- iv) **National/international organizations:** UN inter-agency field visits and scale-up (UNICEF, WHO, WFP, IOM, UNFPA, etc.); NGO responses ongoing; HRF issuing regular situation reports guiding priorities ([EAC NewsReliefWeb](#)).
- v) **Cluster system:** Formal UN clusters are not officially “activated”; sector working groups (WASH, Health, Education, Protection) operate under HCT)/HRF coordination, with agencies aligning to sectoral plans ([UNICEF](#)).

LHCO with the available funds of around 8000 \$ has already initiated a response in the affected areas and they current RRF request will help in expanding the response to more affected areas.

#### 4. Key needs and gaps

##### i) Major gaps (by sector / geography):

According to UNICEF situation report issued on 8th August ([UNICEF](#)), Key gaps include limited access to clean water, inadequate sanitation, insufficient temporary learning spaces, overstretched health services, poor nutrition, and heightened protection risks for vulnerable groups. Overcrowded safe areas in Preah Vihear and Siem Reap are hosting displaced women, infants, and adolescents with limited access to care. Affected health facilities remain closed, and displaced populations have not returned home. Coordination challenges, lack of supplies, and supply chain disruptions hinder service delivery. UNICEF has urged provincial authorities to improve coordination with safe centre management. Disaggregated data are still being compiled. Immediate action is needed to restore essential health services.

**Shelter/Early recovery:** Emergency shelter/Non-Food Items (NFIs); small-scale repairs; cash-for-work for community asset rehab; livelihood inputs for returnees. (Gaps particularly acute in Preah Vihea and Oddar Meanchey) ( [HYPERLINK "https://reliefweb.int/report/cambodia/humanitarian-response-forum-hrf-situation-report-4-cambodia-thailand-border-situation-22-august-2025?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com"ReliefWeb](#))..

- ii) **Information gaps:** Up-to-date, disaggregated caseloads at commune level in Preah Vihea and Oddar Meanchey; verified damage mapping of schools/health posts; harmonized coverage 5Ws at site/village level (HRF updates expected to refine figures) ([ReliefWeb](#)).

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund ( <i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i> )	X
Appeal ( <i>intended for large scale emergencies</i> )	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
LHCO	Preah Vihea (Choam Ksan)  Oddar Meanchey (Banteay Ampil)	WASH; Health/Nutrition; Protection & Child Protection; Shelter/NFIs; and Livelihoods	RRF funding; coordination with sector Working Groups; MEAL support	USD 150,000 (6 months)

#### 5. Potential responses

- i) **Forum members in affected areas:** LHCO does not have the ongoing operation in Preah Vihea and Oddar Meanchey provinces; however, LHCO has recent and previous experience of emergency response in both provinces. Additionally, other ACT Forum members such as Dann Church Aid (DCA), HEKS and Church World Service (CWS) have their partners operating in the affected areas. They have experience and specialization in humanitarian work related to WASH, protection/child protection, shelter/NFIs, cash transfer and livelihoods; coordination with provincial authorities and HRF partners.
- ii) **Initial plan/options to respond:**
- **Livelihood support:** Provide unconditional cash assistance and rice (staple food) to affected population, who have lost the income generation opportunity so that they could settle their living expenses including loan repayment and household basic needs during this challenging time.
  - **Protection:** To provide face masks to the affected population including children, who have been affected by toxic smoke sprayed by the warplanes.
  - **Geography:** Preah Vihea province (Choam Ksan district) and Oddar Meanchey province (Banteay Ampil district).
  - **Budget/scale:** Approx. USD 150,000 to reach ~5,000 people (~1,000 households) over 6 months.
- iii) **Support needed:** Flexible RRF funding; timely procurement access for WASH/health kits; technical backstopping on cash programming; information-management support to align with HRF 5Ws and assessments. All activities will be coordinated with HCT/HRF sector leads and provincial authorities ([UNICEF](#))