

Weekly Wet Season Situation Report in the Lower Mekong River Basin 20-26 June 2023

Prepared by
The Regional Flood and Drought Management Centre
27 June 2023



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Key Messages

Key messages for this weekly report are presented below:

Rainfall and its forecast

- Rainfall focused in the areas from Chiang Saen in Thailand to Tan Chau and Chau Doc in Viet Nam, including the upper, middle and lower parts of the LMB covering Lao PDR and Cambodia, varying from 6.70 millimetres (mm) to 87.30 mm.
- There will be moderate rainfall for the next 5 days over the Mekong region from 30 June to 05 July 2023 although there is no any movement of tropical storm moving towards the Mekong region.

Water level and its forecast

- According to MRC's observed water level at Jinghong, it showed decreased water levels from **537.30 m** to **536.25 m** during 20-26 June 2023. The current level is staying about 0.05 m higher than its LTA value. The outflow at Jinghong station decreased between 2,420.00 m³/s and 1,630.00 m³/s during 20-26 June 2023.
- Regardless the decreased outflow from Jinghong upstream and rainfall at catchment inflow, water levels of monitoring stations at Chiang Saen in Thailand increased about 0.97 m from 20 to 26 June 2023, staying about 0.83 m lower than its LTA level. WLs at Xieng Kok upstream of Chiang Saen also increased about 3.33 m.
- Water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand from 20 to 29 June 2023 decreased about 0.33 m and stayed about 2.37 m lower than its LTA value, while water level at Vientiane decreased about 0.23 m staying about 1.92 m lower than its LTA level. Water levels at Nong Khai decreased 0.13 m and stayed about 2.33 m lower than its LTA, while at Paksane it decreased about 0.30 m, staying about 2.77 m lower than its LTA value. Water levels at these stations are still considered low.
- Water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to Savannakhet in Lao PDR decreased from 0.07 m to 0.23 m but at Pakse in Lao PDR it increased about 0.18 m due to the contribution of above-average rainfalls and inflows from upstream. The current WLs at these stations are staying lower than their LTA value, considering low levels.
- From the stretches of the river from Stung Treng, Kratie to Kompong Cham, water level increased and still stayed lower than their LTA value, which were also considered low.
- The water volume of the Tonle Sap Lake was lower than its LTA (about 64%) during the same period from 20 to 26 June 2023, which is still considered normal.

- Water levels from downstream at Chaktomuk, Koh Khel on the Bassac and Phnom Penh Port to Prek Kdam in Cambodia have decreased and still staying lower than their LTA level.
- The current water levels for most of the stations are lower than their LTA value, except at Luang Prabang. WLs at the 2 tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc were fluctuating and lower than their LTA value, due to tidal effect during this monitoring period, considered critical.
- Over the next five days, the water levels at the upper, middle and lower parts from Chiang Saen to Pakse and those in downstream from Stung Treng down to the Mekong floodplain area are expected to go up due to moderate rainfall and dam operation upstream.

Drought condition and its forecast

- During June 19-25, most parts of the LMB was at normal condition. Only some minor moderate drought took place in Chiang Rai, Khammuane, Battambang, Pailin, Mondul Kiri, and Dak Lak.
- In June the central and eastern parts covering mainly Thailand and the 3S areas are likely hit by severe and extreme droughts. They specifically cover Phongsaly, Vientiane, Xaysomboun, Borikhamxay, Chaiyaphum, Khon Kaen, Maha Sarakham, Roi Et, Surin Burirum, Nakhon Ratchasima, Sa Kaeo, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang Pursat, Otdar Meanchey, Saravane, Champasack, Stung Treng, Ratanakiri, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Attapeu, and Sekong. In July the upper and 3S areas are likely experiencing some extreme and severe droughts. They cover Phangsaly, Luangnamtha, Bokeo, Chiang Ria, Phayao, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang, Xayaburi, Vientiane, Xaysomboun, Borikhamxay, Nongkhai, Saravane, Sekong, Attapeu, Champasack, Ratanakiri, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Pursat, Battambagn, Kampong Speu, Kien Giang, Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, Soc Trang, and Dak Lak. While in August from moderate to extreme droughts are forecasted for Vientiane, Borikhamxay, Xaysomboun, Nong Khai, Saravane, Sekong, Attapeu, Champasack, Ratanakiri, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Mondul Kiri, Kratie, and Stung Treng.

1 Introduction

This Weekly Wet Season Situation Report presents a preliminary analysis of the weekly hydrological and drought situation in the Lower Mekong River Basin (LMB) for the period from **20-26 June 2023**. The trend and outlook for water levels are also presented.

This analysis is based on the daily hydro-meteorological data provided by the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Member Countries (MCs) – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam – and on satellite data. All the water levels indicated in this report refer to an above zero gauge of each station.

The report covers the following topics that are updated weekly:

- General weather patterns, including rainfall patterns over the LMB
- Water levels in the LMB, including in the Tonle Sap Lake
- Flash flood and drought situation in the LMB
- Weather, water level and flash flood forecast, and
- Possible implications.

Mekong River water levels are updated daily and can be accessed from: http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin_wet.php.

Drought monitoring and forecasting information is available at: http://droughtforecast.mrcmekong.org

Flash flood information is accessible at: http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/ffg.php

2 General Weather Patterns

The weather outlook bulletins for three months (June, July and August) and the weather maps issued by the Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) were used to verify weather conditions in the LMB.

Since the beginning of June 2023, moderate rainfall has dropped over the LMB with increasing trend of water levels in both mainstream and tributaries. The data from the TMD predict that between June and July 2023, moderate high-pressure system from China will extend to upper Thailand and the East-Sea of Viet Nam. Moderate rains, strong wind and decreasing temperature are likely to take place in the upper of LMB. Temperature will decrease in the Northeast first and move to other places of the region. The monsoon trough lies across the middle and the lower parts of the south throughout the period with rainfall and isolated heavy rains in the South.

<u>Figure 1</u> presents the weather map during 20-26 June 2023, indicating that a low-pressure cell was active in the East-Sea of Viet Nam, but did not impact the LMB. Generally, the Mekong region was influenced by the southwest monsoon wind with an active low-pressure cell located over Northern Viet Nam and southern China. Under this weather condition, moderate to heavy rainfall occurred over eastern part of the basin - which is more orographic rainfall – from central to southern Lao PDR, southern part in Cambodia, and southern Viet Nam.

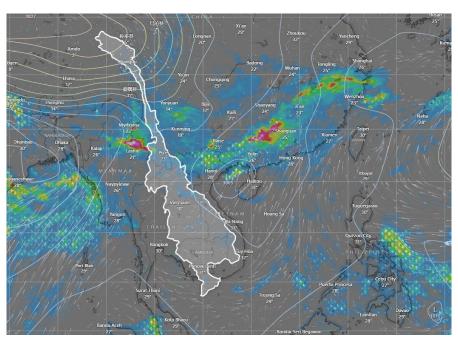


Figure 1. Summary of weather conditions over the LMB.

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), the highest probability of warm and wet conditions is predicted over the lower part of the Mekong region from 26 June to 09 July 2023. Therefore, the Mekong region is likely dominated by warm conditions, which may bring more rainfall and warm temperatures in general to the upper and lower parts of the LMB. **Figure 2** shows the outlook of weather condition from 26 June to 09 July 2023 in Southeast Asia based on results from the NCEP model (National Centres for Environmental Prediction).

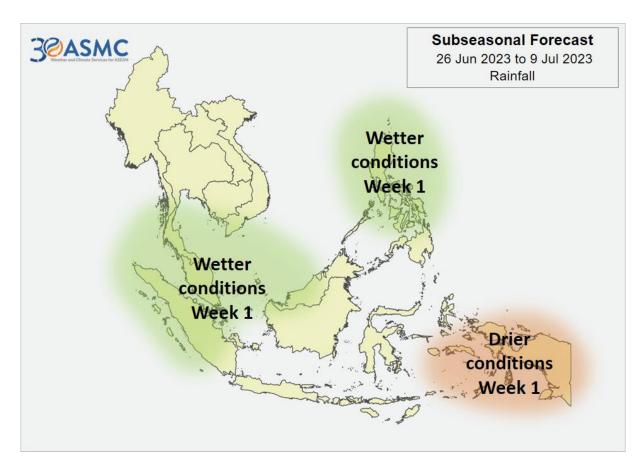


Figure 2. Outlook of wet and dry conditions over the Asian countries by ASMC.

2.1 Tropical depressions (TD), tropical storms (TS) and typhoons (TY)

There was no movement of any Storm from the Sea to the LMB between 20 and 26 June 2023. No low-pressure line was observed over the Mekong region as shown in <u>Figure 1</u>. The active system for the LMB on 26 June is displayed in <u>Figure 3</u>.

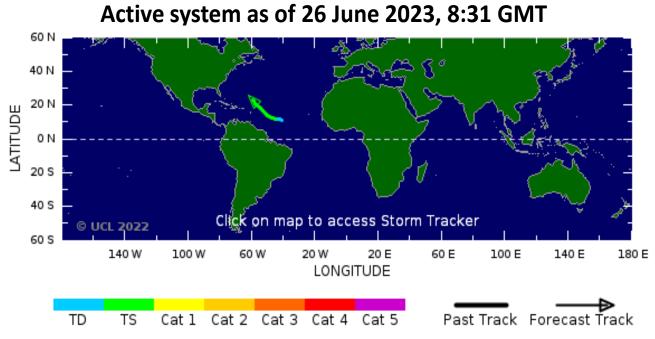


Figure 3. A tropical depression risk observed on 26 June 2023.

2.2 Rainfall patterns over the LMB

This week from 20 to 26 June 2023, rainfall was observed at the key stations along the mainstream from Chiang Saen in Thailand to the lower part at Stung Treng in Cambodia and Tan Chau and Chau Doc in Viet Nam of the Lower Mekong Basin, varied from 6.70 mm to 87.30 mm. The highest rainfall of this week report concentrated Paksane in in Lao PDR which reached 87.30 mm. The total rainfall of this week report in the Mekong region, compared with last week and its long-term-average (LTA) is showed in Figure 4. The total rainfall of this week was considered low, compared with its LTA and last week rainfall in most of the stations.

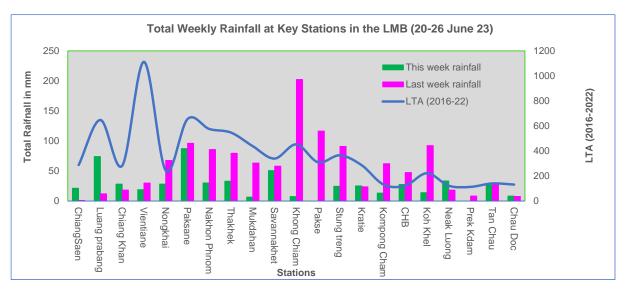


Figure 4. Weekly total rainfall at key stations in the LMB during 20-26 June 2023.

To verify area rainfall distribution, <u>Figure 5</u> shows a map of the weekly accumulated rainfall based on observed data provided by the MRC Member Countries – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam – from 20 to 26 June 2023.

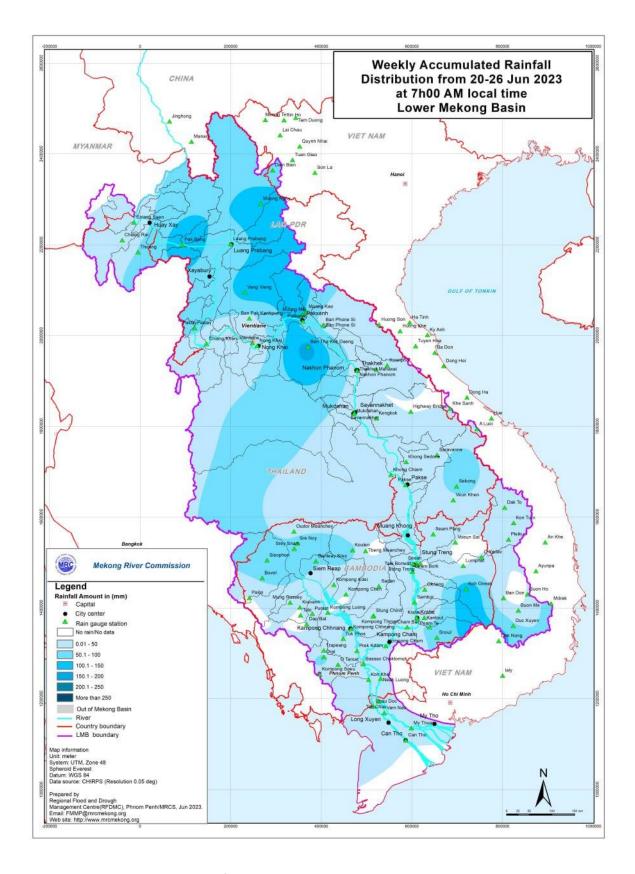


Figure 5. Weekly rainfall distribution over the LMB during 20-26 June 2023.

3 Water Levels in the Lower Mekong Basin

The hydrological regimes of the Mekong mainstream are illustrated by recorded water levels and flows at key mainstream stations: at Chiang Saen in Thailand to capture mainstream flows entering from the Upper Mekong Basin (UMB); at Vientiane in Lao PDR to present flows generated by climate conditions in the upper part of the LMB; at Pakse in Lao PDR to investigate flows influenced by inflows from the larger Mekong tributaries; at Kratie in Cambodia to capture overall flows of the Mekong Basin; and at Viet Nam's Tan Chau and Chau Doc to monitor flows to the Delta.

The key stations along the LMB and their respective model application for River Flood Forecasting during the wet season from June to October and River Monitoring during the dry season from November to May are presented in Figure 6. The hydrograph for each key station is available from the MRC's River Flood Forecasting: http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/overview.php. The weekly water levels and rainfall at each key station are summarised in Annex A.

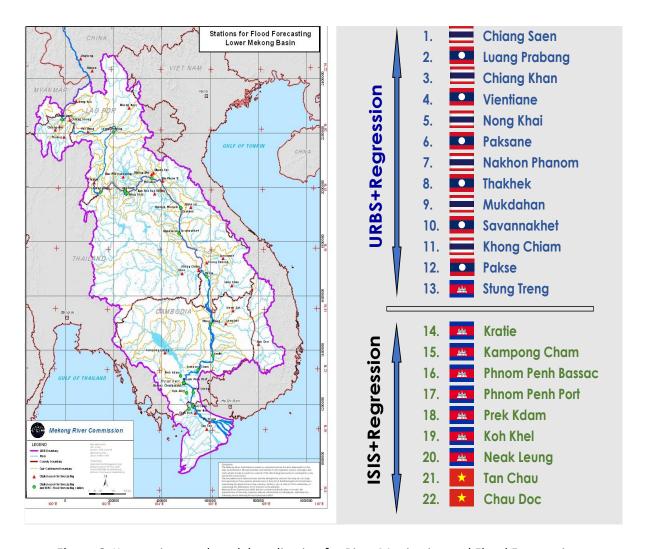


Figure 6. Key stations and model application for River Monitoring and Flood Forecasting.

According to MRC's observed water level at Jinghong, it showed a fluctuated levels between **536.35 m** and **537.30 m** during 20-26 June 2023 (recorded on 7:00 am). The current level is staying about 0.05 m higher than its Long-Term Average (LTA: 2015-2022) value. The outflow at Jinghong station varied from 1,630.00 m³/s to 2,420.00 m³/s between 20 and 26 June 2023. Figure 7 below presents water level that fluctuated at the Jinghong hydrological station¹, indicating the trend of fluctuating water level up to 26 June 2023.

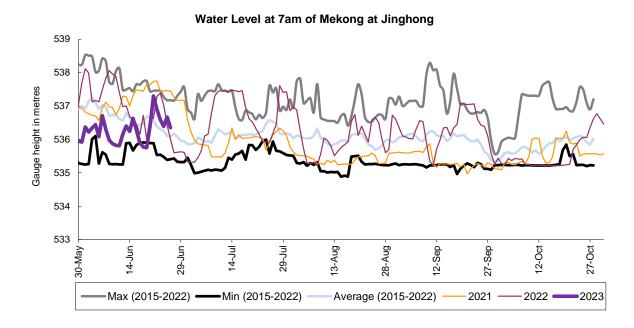


Figure 7. Water level at the Jinghong hydrological station up to 26 June 2023.

Along with the fluctuated outflow from Jinghong upstream, water levels of monitoring stations at Xieng Kok in Lao PDR, upper of Chiang Saen, drastically increased about 3.33 m; while at Chiang Saen in Thailand it showed a significantly increase of about 0.97 m from 20 to 26 June 2023, staying about 0.83 m lower than its LTA level, which considered low.

Water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand from 20 to 26 June 2023, however, decreased about 0.33 m and stayed about 2.37 m lower than its LTA value; while water level at Vientiane station decreased about 0.23 m and stayed about 1.92 m lower than its LTA level, which was still considered a low water level. Water levels at Nong Khai decreased 0.13 m and at Paksane it decreased about 0.30 m, staying about 2.33 m and 2.77 m lower than their LTA value respectively, which was considered a low water level.

Water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to Savannakhet in Lao PDR increased from 0.07 m to 0.25 m, while at Pakse increased about 0.13 m. The current WLs at these stations are staying lower than their LTA level, **considered low**. From the stretches of the river at Stung Treng, WL decreased 0.08 m and stayed about 1.12 m lower than its LTA, while at Kratie water level was up about 0.39 m, staying 2.13 m lower than its LTA level, **considered low**.

Water level at Kompong Cham was up about 0.16 m and stayed 2.78 m lower than its LTA value. Water levels at Chaktomuk, Koh Khel, Phnom Penh Port and Prek Kdam in Cambodia

¹ Near-real time data of hydro-meteorological monitoring at the Jinghong hydrological station is available at https://portal.mrcmekong.org/monitoring/river-monitoring-telemetry.

were up between 0.01 and 0.22 m, but WLs at these stations were still remaining lower than their LTA level, **considered low**.

Water levels at all stations along the Mekong River are staying lower than their LTA value, except at Luang Prabang during this week report. The tidal stations at Chau Doc have WL lower than their LTA value, due to tidal effect during this monitoring period.

Based on hydrological phenomenon, the contribution of inflow water from the upstream of Lancang-Mekong in China to the Mekong mainstream is from 16% to 18% in total during the wet season from June to October. The whole inflow of water into the LMB is influenced by rainfall at the Mekong mainstream and its tributaries during the wet season.

Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang

The water level from 20 to 26 June 2023 at Thailand's Chiang Saen station decreased from 2.20 m to 3.17 m, showing 0.83 m lower than its Long-Term-Average (LTA) value, which considered low level. The water level at Luang Prabang station in Lao PDR was up about 0.14 m from 9.26 m to 9.78 m during the reporting period. This level still shows 1.75 m higher than its LTA. The trend – sometimes higher or lower to its historical maximum and LTA values – has been observed since early of 2022. The phenomenon was potentially caused by upstream dam operations, downstream Xayaburi dam, and heavy rainfall in the surrounding areas. The water levels at Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang are shown in Figure 8 below.

Being situated between the upstream (Nam Beng, Nam Ou, Nam Suong, and Nam Khan) and downstream (Xayaburi) hydropower dams, the Luang Prabang station has a unique characteristic as it is influenced by the operations of all its surrounding dams. Thus, the water level at this station can possibly change very rapidly during the early of wet and dry season.

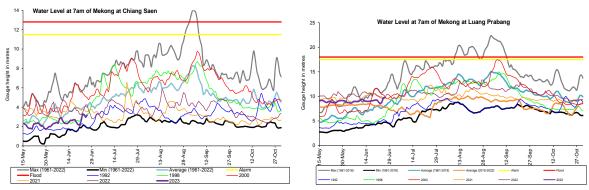


Figure 8. Water levels at Chiang Saen in Thailand and Luang Prabang in Lao PDR.

Chiang Khan, Vientiane-Nong Khai and Paksane

The water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand (downstream of the Xayaburi dam) decreased about 0.33 m staying about 2.37 m lower than its LTA value, while at Vientiane in Lao PDR it decreased about 0.23 m and showed about 1.92 m lower than its LTA during the reporting week of 20-26 June 2023. At Nong Khai station in Thailand, the water level was also down about 0.13 m from 2.28 m to 2.15 m, staying about 2.33 m during the reporting period. At Paksane in Lao PDR, water level decreased about 0.30 m from 3.69 m to 3.39 m. The water

level at this station was about 2.77 m lower than its LTA value and also close to its minimum values. The recently decreased water levels were obviously due to the less rainfall contributed from the sub-catchment area along with the less inflows and water stored at upstream parts. The water levels at Vientiane and Paksane are shown in Figure 9 below.

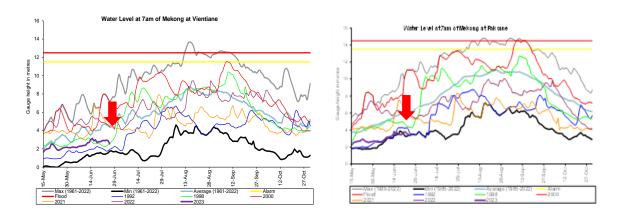


Figure 9. Water levels Veintiane and Paksane in Lao PDR.

Nakhon Phanom to Pakse

The water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to Savannakhet in Lao PDR decreased between 0.07 m and 0.22 m, while at Pakse increased about 0.13 m. Based on the observation, water levels at these stations are still staying lower than their LTA value, which **considered low levels**. Figure 10 shows the water levels at Nakhon Phanom and Pakse stations.

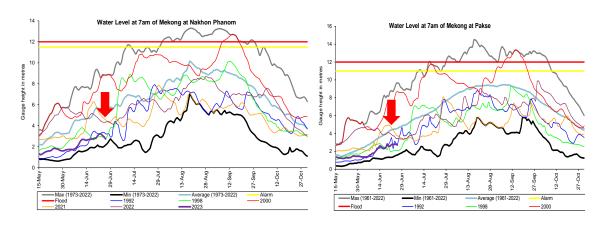


Figure 10. Weekly water levels at Nakhon Phanom in Thailand and Pakse in Lao PDR

Stung Treng to Kompong Cham/Phnom Penh to Koh Khel/Neak Luong/Prek Kdam

Following the same trend from the upstream part of the Mekong River and the 3S river (Sekong, Se San, and Sre Pok), the water levels from Stung Treng to Kratie in Cambodia were decreasing and increasing during 20-26 June 2023. The water levels at Stung Treng decreased about 0.08 m and stayed about 1.12 m lower than its LTA, while at Kratie it increased about 0.32 m, staying about 2.13 m lower than its LTA (as showed in Figure 11). The water level at Kompong Cham station increased about 0.16 m and was about 2.78 m lower than its LTA. The

water levels at these stations were influenced by rainfall in their catchment areas, including Sekong, Se San and Srepok river basins.

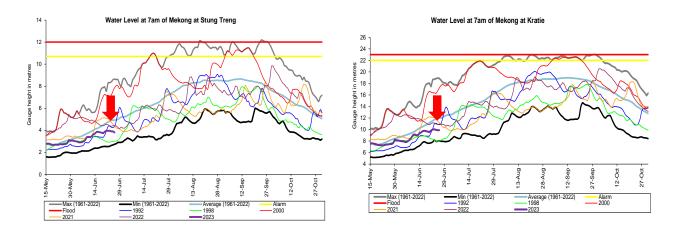


Figure 11. Water levels at Stung Treng and Kratie on the Mekong River.

At Chaktomuk on the Bassac River, due to accumulated rainfall and contributed flows from upstream catchment, the water level increased by about 0.01 m and stayed 1.97 m lower than its LTA value; while at Koh Khel, water level increased about 0.02 m, staying 1.08 m lower than its LTA value. The water level at Prek Kdam on the Tonle Sap Lake slightly increased about 0.01 m and was about 1.80 m lower than its LTA value. The water level at the Tonle Sap Lake (observed at Kampong Luong) was similar to Prek Kdam station's water level. The recently increased water level at Prek Kdam was due to rainfall and inflow contributed from upstream of the Tonle Sap Lake area during the reporting period. The water level at the Tonle Sap Lake (observed at Kampong Luong) followed the same trend of Prek Kdam station's water level. From next week, water levels at most of the stations will continue to rise and is considered normal.

Tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc

Like last week, the water levels from 20 to 26 June 2023 at Viet Nam's Tan Chau and Chau Doc were fluctuating due to daily tidal effects from the sea. The fluctuation levels were between -0.26 m and 0.18 m; they were below the range of their minimum levels and were **considered critical**.

The Tonle Sap Flow

At the end of the dry season, when water levels along the Mekong River rise then the inflows of the Mekong River return to the Tonle Sap Lake. This phenomenon normally takes place from end of May to July. Based on flow observation at Prek Kdam, the inflow of the Tonle Sap Lake taken place on to 23 June 2023.

The flows of the Tonle Sap Lake were calculated based on a formula of rating-curves by different water levels at Kompong Luong and Phnom Penh Port for slop and Prek Kdam as cross-section of the Lake. The formula of flows at the Tonle Sap Lake is as follows:

Flows = (WL at Prek Kdam)^1.2*SQRT (WL difference between PP port and Kampong Luong)

Where, WL is water level in m (msl).

Figure 12 shows the seasonal changes of the outflow and the inflow/reversed flow of the TSL at Prek Kdam in comparison with the flows of 2020, 2011, 2022 and their LTA level (1997-2022). Up to June 26 of this reporting period, it was observed that the main outflow from the Tonle Sap Lake increased due to rainfall and inflows from upstream. This increased outflow into the Tonle Sap Lake was most likely caused by inflows and rainfall from the catchment area. Up to present, the outflow from the Tonle Sap Lake condition in 2023 is higher than 2020, 2021 and 2022 but lower than its LTA (1997-2022) inflow conditions. For next week, moderate rainfall is forecasted for the Tonle Sap area; and the outflow into the Tonle Sap Lake is likely expected to go up from the current level.

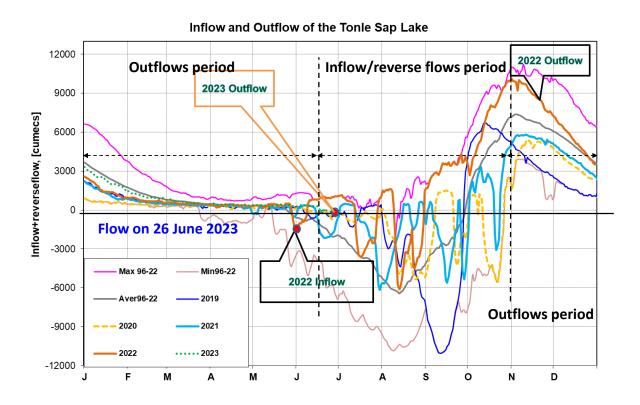


Figure 12. Seasonal change of inflows and outflows of Tonle Sap Lake

<u>Figure 13</u> shows seasonal changes in monthly flow volumes up to 26 June 2023 for the Lake compared with the volumes in 2020, 2021, 2022 and their LTA, and the fluctuation levels (1997–2022). It shows that up to June 26, the water volume of the Tonle Sap Lake was slightly higher than 2020, 2021, 2022 but lower than its LTA (about 64%), during the same period. The figure is displayed in <u>Table 1</u>, which indicates that the Tonle Sap Lake has been affected by water levels from the tributaries and rainfall in the surrounding sub-catchments and considered normal situation.

This demonstrates the influence of the relationships of the reverse and out flows, water levels of the Mekong River, inflows from tributaries, and the flow direction in the complex hydraulic environment of the Tonle Sap Lake during the wet and dry seasons. The data show that about half of the annual inflow volume into the Tonle Sap Lake has originated from the Mekong mainstream. Thus, flow alterations in the mainstream could have direct impact on the Tonle Sap Lake water levels and on its hydrology.

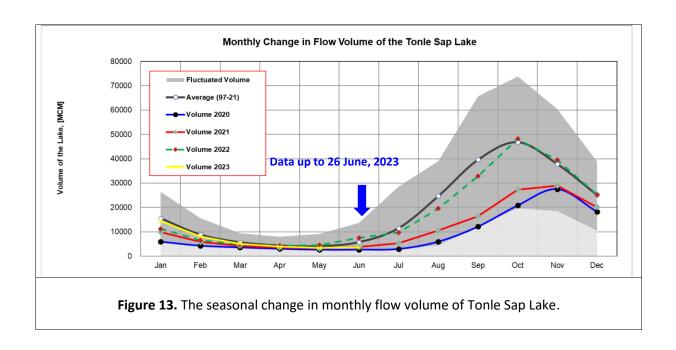


Table 1. The monthly change in the flow volume of Tonle Sap Lake.

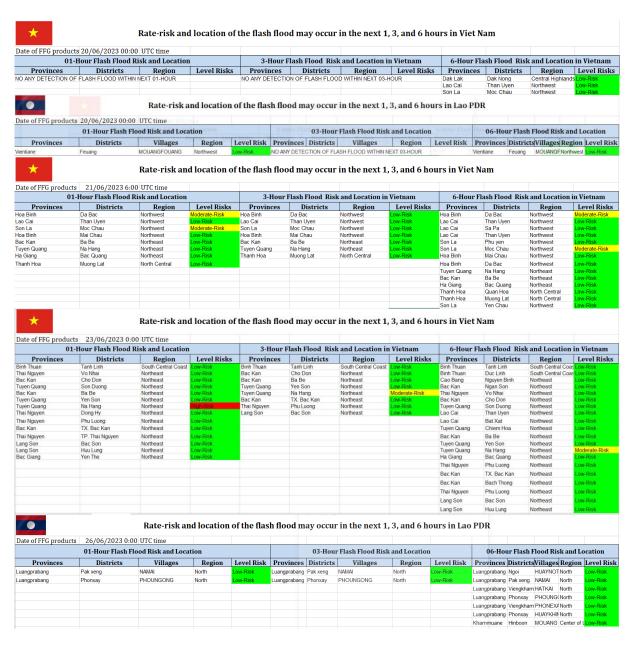
Month	LTA (97-22) [MCM]	Max Volume [MCM]	Min Volume [MCM]	Volume 2019 [MCM]	Volume 2020 [MCM]	Volume 2021 [MCM]	Volume 2022 [MCM]	Volume 2023 [MCM]	Volume in 2023 [%], compared with its LTA
Jan	15523.23	26357.53	5906.80	10285.31	5906.80	9923.80	11214.32	14422.11	92.91
Feb	8837.89	15596.22	4198.60	6019.30	4264.19	5832.97	6558.79	8069.29	91.30
Mar	5654.18	9438.24	3347.07	4354.62	3553.99	4264.88	4736.52	5080.64	89.86
Apr	4346.65	8009.14	2866.91	3667.47	2992.61	3556.68	4288.31	3884.16	89.36
Мау	4030.23	9176.93	2417.81	3266.43	2594.92	3240.78	4556.83	3438.66	85.32
Jun	5708.30	13635.01	2468.70	3517.06	2641.88	3798.29	7489.04	3652.07	63.98
Jul	11493.25	28599.56	2925.86	4001.99	2925.86	5346.73	9703.79		
Aug	24666.69	39015.12	4433.46	7622.71	5941.07	10547.80	19554.70		
Sep	39634.03	65632.35	12105.31	24194.19	12105.31	16382.34	32860.34		
Oct	46873.44	73757.23	19705.50	30358.38	20799.13	27318.21	48199.12		
Nov	37823.16	60367.33	18534.61	19112.65	27546.80	28982.93	39452.53		
Dec	25126.11	38888.95	10563.49	10577.29	18251.65	20170.76	25346.65		
	Critical situation, con	napred with hist	orical Min value	es					
	Normal condition, co	mpared with LT	A (Long term a	verage)					
	Low volume situation	n, comapred with	h LTA values						
Unit: Million C	ubic Meter (1 MCM=	0.001 Km ³)				LTA:	Long-Term-Ave	rage	

4 Flash Flood in the Lower Mekong Basin

During the weekly monitoring period from June 20 to 26, the LMB was affected by two main weather factors being (1) the Southeast monsoon and (2) and the low-pressure cell over the Northern Viet Nam and Southern China. These conditions caused small to heavy rain and isolated thundershowers in some areas of the LMB.

According to the MRC-Flash Flood Guidance System (MRC-FFGS) and analysis, low-risk to hight-risk of flash flood events were detected during the reporting period in several areas of Lao PDR and Viet Nam as shown in <u>Figure 14</u> and <u>Table 2</u>.

Table 2. Detected low-risk flash flood in Lao PDR and Viet Nam during June 20-26.



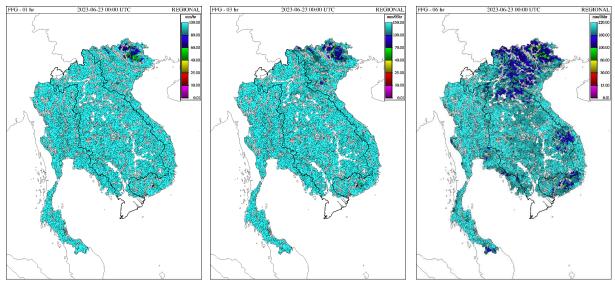


Figure 14. Flash Flood Guidance for the next 1-hr, 3-hr and 6-hr on June 23

5 Drought Monitoring in the Lower Mekong Basin

Weekly drought monitoring from 19 to 25 18 June 2023

Drought monitoring data in 2023 are available from Monday to Sunday every week; thus, the reporting period is normally delayed by two days compared to Flood and Flash Flood reports. We adopt the Index of Soil Water Fraction (ISWF) data obtained from FFGS to represent soil moisture of agricultural indicator for both dry and wet seasons.

Weekly Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI1)

The meteorological drought indicator of SPI from June 19 to 25, as displayed in <u>Figure 15</u>, shows that the LMB was at normal condition in most parts of the region except Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Phayao, Kammuane, Ratana Kiri, Pursat, Pailin, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, and Dak Lak which were moderately and severely dry. No other threat was fund during the monitoring week. Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, and Phayao were the driest areas during the monitoring week.

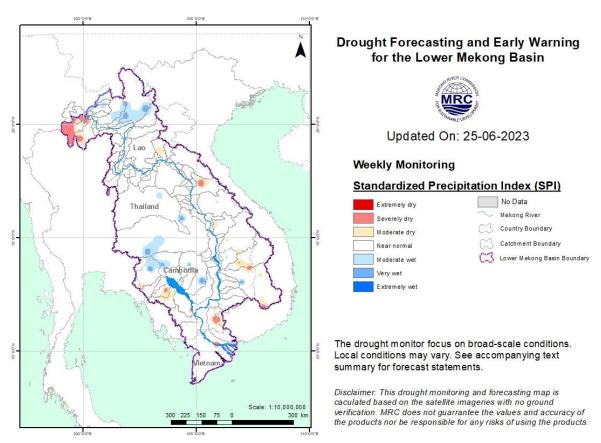


Figure 15. Weekly standardized precipitation index from 19 to 25 June 2023.

Weekly Index of Soil Water Fraction (ISWF)

For the agricultural indicator, the nowcast this week from June 19 to 25 indicates that the region did not face any significant agricultural drought risk during the monitoring week. <u>Figure 16</u> of weekly ISWF shows that most parts of the LMB were normal, except some areas of Loei, Nong Bua Lamphu, Udon Thani, Battabang, Pursat, Mondul Kiri, and Dak Lak where some moderate and severe agricultural drought took place but over small extent only.

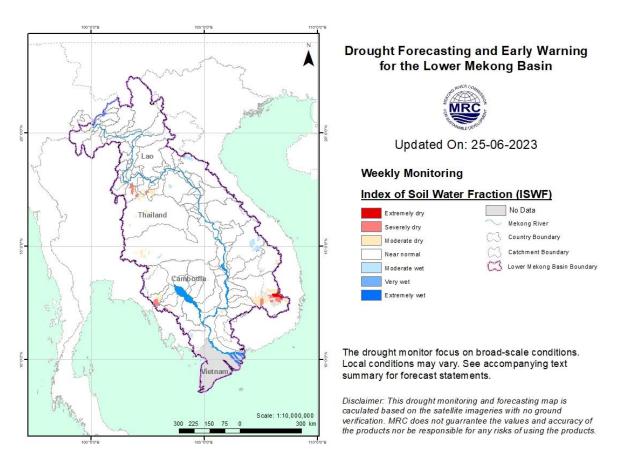


Figure 16. Index of Soil Water Fraction from 19 to 25 June 2023.

Weekly Combined Drought Index (CDI)

The combined drought indicator from the meteorological and agricultural indices from June 19 to 25, as displayed in <u>Figure 17</u>, shows that no significant drought threat took place in the LMB during the monitoring week. Only some minor moderate drought took place in Chiang Rai, Khammuane, Battambang, Pailin, Mondul Kiri, and Dak Lak.

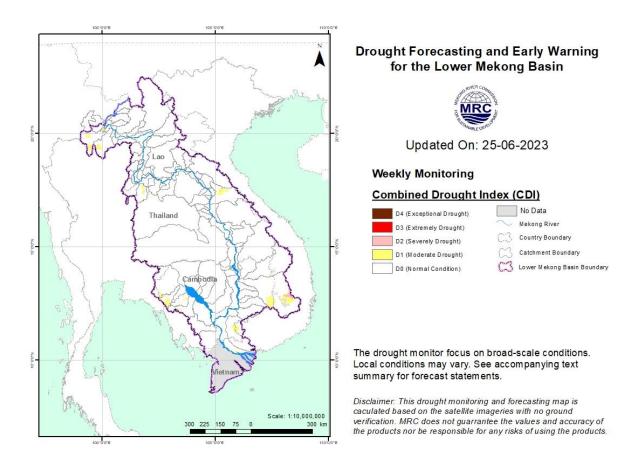


Figure 17. Weekly Combined Drought Index from 19 to 25 June 2023.

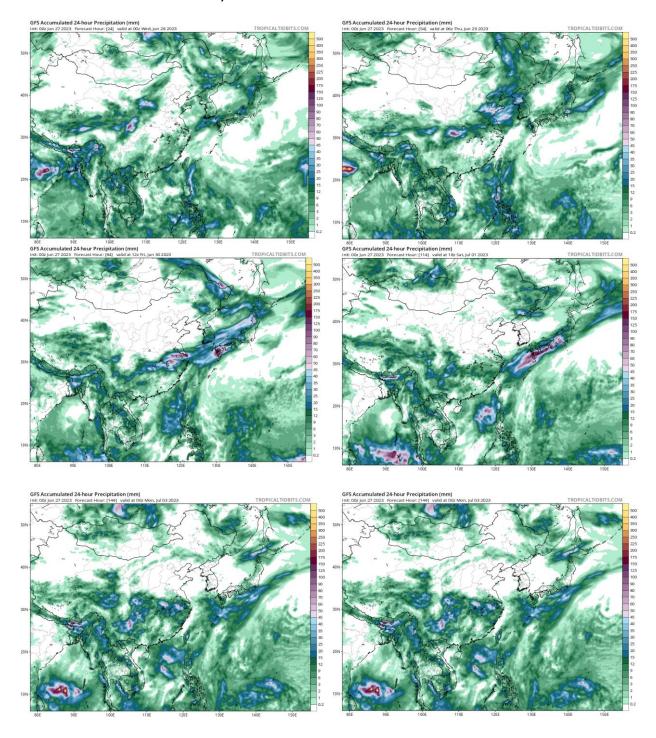
More information on Drought Forecasting and Early Warning (DFEW) as well as the explanation is available here: http://droughtforecast.mrcmekong.org/templates/view/our-product. DFEW provides not only weekly monitoring and forecasting information but also a three-month forecast of drought indicators with seasonal outlook which are updated every month based on international weather forecast models. Details on drought forecast are described in section 6.4 of this report.

6 Weather and Water Level Forecast and Flash Flood Information

6.1 Weather and rainfall forecast

Based on the analysis of the synoptic meteorological information and result from the Global Forecast System (GFS) model, in the coming week, the moderate southwest monsoon and the low-pressure cell will continue prevailing over the LMB.

In general, during June 28 – July 04, small to moderate rain (5-50 mm/24h) and isolated heavy rains will likely occur in the LMB. Figure 18 shows accumulated rainfall forecast (24 h) of the GFS model from June 28 to July 04.



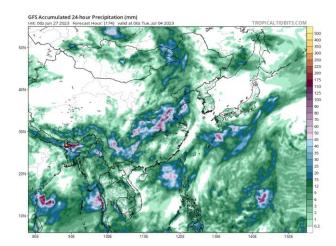


Figure 18. Accumulated rainfall forecast (24 h) based on a GFS model.

6.2 Water level forecast

Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang

Based on June 26's daily flood forecasting bulletin, the daily forecasted water level at Chiang Saen in Thailand shows an increase of water level between 2.17 m and 2.20 m over the next five days. The trend will keep the water level at this station lower than its LTA.

For Luang Prabang in Lao PDR, the water level will increase about 0.45 m during the next five days. The current water level is higher than its LTA. Precipitation is forecasted for the area between Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang next week.

Chiang Khan, Vientiane-Nong Khai and Paksane

The water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand is forecasted to go up approximately 0.82 m, while water level at Vientiane in Lao PDR will increase about 1.25 m. Furthermore, in Nong Khai of Thailand the water level will increase about 1.16 m over the next five days; at Paksane in Lao PDR water level will increase about 0.72 m due to forecasted rainfalls and dam operation in the upper catchments. Rainfall is forecasted for the area of Paksane next week.

The water levels at these stations will stay lower than their LTA value.

Nakhon Phanom to Pakse

The water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to Pakse in Lao PDR are forecasted to go up from 0.01 m to 0.43 m, because of above-average rainfall predicted in these areas. Water level at Khong Chaim and Pakse will stay lower than their LTA level. Rainfall is forecasted for the area next week.

Stung Treng to Kompong Cham/Phnom Penh to Koh Khel/Neak Luong

WL at Stung Treng and Kratie in Cambodia will go down about 0.35 m, while at Kompong Cham along the Mekong River the water level will also go down about 0.40 m over the next five days.

Precipitation is forecasted for the area between Stung Treng and Kompong Cham during next week.

The water levels of the Tonle Sap Lake at Prek Kdam and Phnom Penh Port as well as at Phnom Penh's Chaktomuk on the Bassac River will go down in between 0.02 m and 0.20 m over the next five days.

Water levels at most of the stations will go up during next week. However, those WLs will be still staying lower than their LTA value, particularly in the upper part of the region from Chiang Saen to Paksane. From Khong Chiam down to Pakse, Stung Treng, Kratie, and Kompong Cham, water levels will be still staying lower than their LTA value. Precipitation is forecasted for the low-lying area of Cambodia next week.

Tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc

For Viet Nam's Tan Chau on the Mekong River and Chau Doc on the Bassac River, the water levels will be staying higher than their LTA level, following daily tidal effects from the sea. Rainfall is forecasted for the Delta area next week.

The performance of the weekly flood forecast, with an accuracy and data input evaluation from 20-26 June 2023, is presented in **Annex 1**.

<u>Table 2</u> shows the daily flood forecasting Bulletin issued on 26 June 2023. Results of the weekly river monitoring bulletin are also available at http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin wet.php.

6.3 Flash Flood Information

With small to moderate rain and isolated heavy rains forecasted for next week, flash floods might be detected in some areas in the LMB. And local heavy rain in a short period of time is possible with unpredictable short flash floods.

Detailed information on Flash Flood Warning Information as well as its explanation is available for download <u>here</u>.

6.4 Drought forecast

There are several climate-prediction models with different scenarios in the upcoming months until August 2023. The MRC's DFEWS adopts an ensemble model called the North America Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME), which averages all scenarios, and downscales the forecasts to the regional level. The Variable Infiltration Capability (VIC) is then used to generate soil moisture and runoff for the whole basin.

<u>Figure 19</u> below shows the Combine Drought Indicator (CDI) forecast for June, July, and August 2023. CDI is a combination of meteorological and agricultural indicators.

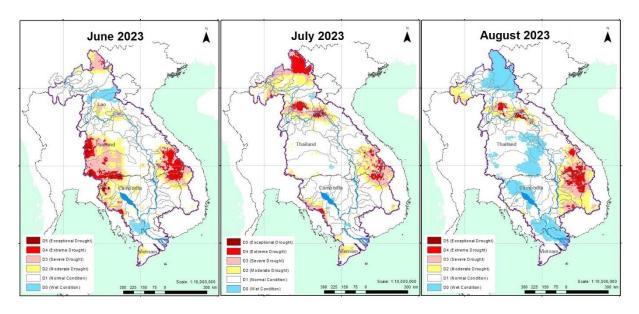


Figure 19. Monthly forecast of CDI for July, August, and September 2023.

Figure 19 above shows that in **June** the central and eastern parts covering mainly Thailand and the 3S areas are likely hit by severe and extreme droughts. They specifically cover Phongsaly, Vientiane, Xaysomboun, Borikhamxay, Chaiyaphum, Khon Kaen, Maha Sarakham, Roi Et, Surin Burirum, Nakhon Ratchasima, Sa Kaeo, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang Pursat, Otdar Meanchey, Saravane, Champasack, Stung Treng, Ratanakiri, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Attapeu, and Sekong. In **July** the upper and 3S areas are likely experiencing some extreme and severe droughts. They cover Phangsaly, Luangnamtha, Bokeo, Chiang Ria, Phayao, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang, Xayaburi, Vientiane, Xaysomboun, Borikhamxay, Nongkhai, Saravane, Sekong, Attapeu, Champasack, Ratanakiri, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Pursat, Battambagn, Kampong Speu, Kien Giang, Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, Soc Trang, and Dak Lak. While in **August** from moderate to extreme droughts are forecasted for Vientiane, Borikhamxay, Xaysomboun, Nong Khai, Saravane, Sekong, Attapeu, Champasack, Ratanakiri, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Mondul Kiri, Kratie, and Stung Treng.

Table 2. Weekly River Monitoring Bulletin.



Mekong Bulletin

Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS)

Regional Flood and Drought Management Centre (RFDMC)

P.O. Box 623 #576, National Road #2, Chak Angre Krom, Meanchey, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel: (855-23) 425353, Fax: (855-23) 425363, Email: floodforecast@mrcmekong.org

River Flood Forecast: 27 June - 01 July 2023

Location	Country	24-hr Observed Rainfall (mm)	Zero gauge above M.S.L (m)	Flood level (m)	Alarm level (m)	against z	d W. level ero gauge n)	Forecasted Water Levels (m)						od w mon	/arni itori	urrer ing i ing s ekon	n pla	ace
		25-Jun				25-Jun	26-Jun	27-Jun	28-Jun	29-Jun	30-Jun	01-Jul	26	27	28	29	30	01
Jinghong	*3	0.0				536.67	536.35						+	×	×	×	×	×
Chiang Saen		2.6	357.110	12.80	11.50	2.96	3.17	3.35	3.22	3.14	3.10	3.20	•	•	+			
Luang Prabang	•	0.0	267.195	18.00	17.50	9.68	9.78	9.93	10.20	10.40	10.30	10.23		•	•	^		
Chiang Khan		21.0	194.118	16.00	14.50	4.92	5.13	5.47	5.61	5.85	6.00	5.95	•	•	•	^	^	
Vientiane	•	11.5	158.040	12.50	11.50	2.88	2.55	2.81	3.18	3.36	3.62	3.80	+	^	^	^	^	^
Nongkhai		12.6	153.648	12.20	11.40	2.42	2.15	2.40	2.73	2.90	3.14	3.31	+	•		^	^	^
Paksane	•	17.6	142.125	14.50	13.50	3.40	3.39	3.43	3.63	3.86	3.98	4.11			•	^	^	^
Nakhon Phanom		9.1	130.961	12.00	11.50	2.95	2.73	2.65	2.66	2.83	3.00	3.09	+			^	^	
Thakhek	•	15.0	129.629	14.00	13.00	4.15	3.97	3.90	3.92	4.11	4.30	4.40	+			^	^	^
Mukdahan		0.7	124.219	12.50	12.00	3.17	3.04	2.89	2.84	2.87	3.07	3.27	+	+			^	^
Savannakhet	•	0.6	125.410	13.00	12.00	1.90	1.73	1.70	1.69	1.71	1.84	2.00	+				^	^
Khong Chiam		0.0	89.030	14.50	13.50	3.79	3.68	3.54	3.38	3.35	3.42	3.66	+	+	+			^
Pakse	•	0.0	86.490	12.00	11.00	2.78	2.71	2.60	2.53	2.52	2.57	2.72	+	+	+			^
Stung Treng	ala.	nr	36.790	12.00	10.70	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.53	3.53	3.58	+	+	+	*		^
Kratie	AMA	nr	-0.101	23.00	22.00	9.89	9.88	9.75	9.63	9.50	9.40	9.43		+	+	*	*	^
Kompong Cham	AMA	nr	-0.930	16.20	15.20	4.42	4.36	4.35	4.23	4.13	4.03	3.95	+		+	+	+	+
Phnom Penh (Bassac)	AM	nr	-1.020	12.00	10.50	2.53	2.44	2.41	2.35	2.30	2.26	2.22	+	+	+	+	+	+
Phnom Penh Port	AMA	-	0.070	11.00	9.50	1.50	1.39	1.35	1.31	1.25	1.22	1.18	+	+	+	*	*	*
Koh Khel (Bassac)	ala	nr	-1.000	8.40	7.90	2.52	2.48	2.44	2.39	2.34	2.38	2.42	+	+	+	*	^	^
Neak Luong	AMA	6.8	-0.330	8.00	7.50	1.68	1.64	1.60	1.57	1.51	1.55	1.57	+	+	+	+	^	
Prek Kdam	AM.	nr	0.080	10.00	9.50	1.64	1.56	1.54	1.50	1.46	1.43	1.40	+		+	+	+	+
Tan Chau	*	3.2	0.000	4.50	3.50	-0.19	-0.17	-0.10	0.04	0.25	0.47	0.67		1	1	^	^	^
Chau Doc	*	nr	0.000	4.00	3.00	-0.20	-0.19	-0.13	0.02	0.25	0.47	0.66		1	1	^	^	^

REMARKS:

-: not available.

nr: no rain.

							•	•	•					
LEGEND														
rising water level	^	Note: Sta	ble water le	evel is defi	ned as a	daily d	hange	e of le	ss th	an 10	0cm			
stable water level			Note: Stable water level is defined as a daily change of less than 10cm from Chiang Saen to Savannakhet; less than 5cm at Pakse and Stung Treng; and no more than 3cm cm from Kratie downstream. Flood stage is when the flood level exceeds. A flood level is determined											
falling water level														
alarm stage		by each Member Country.												
alarm situation		Alarm sta	age is wher	n the water	r level ran	ges b	etwee	n alar	m an	d floo	bd			
flood stage		levels.												
no data available	×	Alarm site stage with	uation is w in the next			is fore	caste	d to re	each	the fi	bool			

River Flood Forecaster



NOTE: Discharge at Luang Prabang may be influenced by hydropower operations (at both upstream and downstream). For more info, please refer to this link:

http://www.mrcmekong.org/; http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin_wet.php; http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/reportflood.php

7 Summary and Possible Implications

7.1 Rainfall and its forecast

Rain was observed from Chiang Saen in Thailand to Tan Chau and Chau Doc in Viet Nam during June 20-26, including the lower part in Lao PDR and Cambodia, varying from 6.70 mm to 87.30 mm due to above-average rainfall over the LMB during the report period. However, this week rainfall was considered low in the LMB compared with last week rainfall.

Based on the forecasted satellite data, rainfall is forecasted for some areas of the LMB with the value range from 45.00 mm to 180.00 mm for the next seven days. The forecasting model using CHIRPS-GEFS data, moreover, shows significant rainfall (>100 mm) is likely to take place in the Mekong region from 30 June to 05 July 2023.

7.2 Water level and its forecast

According to MRC's observed water level at Jinghong, it showed decreased water levels from 536.35 m and 537.30 m during 20-26 June 2023. The current level is staying about 0.05 m higher than its LTA value. The outflow at Jinghong station decreased between 2,420.00m³/s and 1,630.00 m³/s between 20 and 26 June 2023.

Regardless of the decreased outflow from Jinghong upstream, water levels of monitoring stations at Chiang Saen increased 0.97 m from 20 to 26 June 2023. Furthermore, at Chiang Khan and at Vientiane stations water levels decreased from 0.33 m to 0.13 m from 20 to 26 June 2023 due to the influence of dam operation upstream and rainfall. Water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to Savannakhet in Lao PDR decreased from 0.07 m to 0.23 m but increased about 0.13 m at Pakse in Lao PDR. However, the current WLs at these stations are staying lower than their LTA level, **considered low water levels**. From the stretches of the river at Stung Treng, WL decreased 0.08 m and stayed about 1.12 m lower than its LTA, while at Kratie water level was up about 0.32 m, staying 2.13 m lower than its LTA level, due to the contributed rainfall from upstream parts including Pakse and 3S area in Viet Nam.

The flow volume of the Tonle Sap Lake is lower than its LTA (about 64%) up to June 26. From next week, the flow is expected to increase due to average rainfall forecasted in the inflow catchments of the Tonle Sap Lake.

From Stung Treng to Kratie and Kompong Cham on the Mekong River, the water levels are expected to decrease about 0.35 m and will stay lower than their LTA value. The water levels – at Prek Kdam to Phnom Penh Port on the Tonle Sap, and Chaktomuk to Koh Khel on the Bassac – are forecasted to increase but still stay lower than their LTA value.

The situation in Tan Chau on the Mekong River and Chau Doc on the Bassac River is expected to remain unchanged.

Since the third week of September 2022, water levels across most monitoring stations in the LMB have increased due to the above-average rainfall but still staying lower than their LTA value (from middle to lower stretches within the LMB). The preliminary analysis of the

hydrological conditions in the LMB over July–December 2020 and November 2020 to May 2021 was done as <u>Situation Report</u>, which can be used as reference for the trend of water level and flows of the Mekong River Basin.

The contribution to the Mekong River's flow from the UMB in China (Yunnan component) is about 16% by the time the river discharges through the Mekong Delta into the Sea. By far the major contribution comes from the two major 'left-bank' (Eastern) tributaries between Vientiane – Nakhon Phanom and Pakse – Stung Treng, which together contribute more than 40% of the flows.

7.3 Flash flood and its trends

With the predicted amount of rainfall for the coming week as mentioned earlier in <u>section 6.1</u>, flash floods are likely to be detected in some areas of the LMB during next week.

7.4 Drought condition and its forecast

During June 19-25, no significant drought threat took place in the LMB. Only some minor moderate drought took place in Chiang Rai, Khammuane, Battambang, Pailin, Mondul Kiri, and Dak Lak.

The three-month forecast shows that in **June** the central and eastern parts covering mainly Thailand and the 3S areas are likely hit by severe and extreme droughts. Those affected areas specifically are Phongsaly, Vientiane, Xaysomboun, Borikhamxay, Chaiyaphum, Khon Kaen, Maha Sarakham, Roi Et, Surin Burirum, Nakhon Ratchasima, Sa Kaeo, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang Pursat, Otdar Meanchey, Saravane, Champasack, Stung Treng, Ratanakiri, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Attapeu, and Sekong. In **July** the upper and 3S areas are likely experiencing some extreme and severe droughts. They cover Phangsaly, Luangnamtha, Bokeo, Chiang Ria, Phayao, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang, Xayaburi, Vientiane, Xaysomboun, Borikhamxay, Nongkhai, Saravane, Sekong, Attapeu, Champasack, Ratanakiri, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Pursat, Battambagn, Kampong Speu, Kien Giang, Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, Soc Trang, and Dak Lak. While in **August** from moderate to extreme droughts are forecasted for Vientiane, Borikhamxay, Xaysomboun, Nong Khai, Saravane, Sekong, Attapeu, Champasack, Ratanakiri, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Mondul Kiri, Kratie, and Stung Treng.

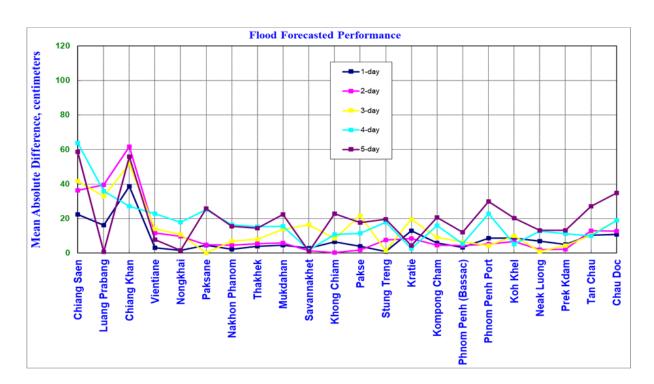
Annex 1: Performance of the weekly flood forecasting

Accuracy

"Accuracy" here refers to the state where data recorded in the MRC's Mekong River Flood Forecasting System are cleaned and verified.

The adjustment of flood forecasting outcomes from the flood forecasting system requires flood forecasters to have extensive knowledge in hydrology and statistical modelling for estimating the relationships between stations upstream and downstream in the Mekong River Basin. Flood forecasting performance presented in the graph below shows the average flood forecasting accuracy at each key station along the Mekong mainstream from 20 to 26 June 2023.

The forecasting values from 20 to 26 June 2023 show that the overall accuracy is fair for a four-day to five-day forecast in lead time (less than 85 cm) at stations in the upper part of the Mekong River at Paksane station because of rainfall and dams' operation in this area during the report period.



Note: The higher percentage of flood forecasting accuracy is due to several key factors as follows:

- Missing rainfall in Cambodia (DOM) data and data input are not sufficient to be used for inputting into the flood forecasting model system.
- Luang Prabang to Chiang Khan and Paksane to Stung Treng to Kratie have been influenced by hydropower operations upstream, tributaries inflows.
- The influence of heavy rainfall caused by storms and hydropower operations from upstream, tributaries inflows and the lower part of the Mekong floodplain, including the 3S (Stung Treng and Kratie).

- Fluctuations of the water levels at Tan Chau and Chau Doc stations were due to daily tidal effects of the sea in the Mekong Delta.
- Satellite rainfall data were not representative of the actual rainfall at ground stations in some areas of the Mekong region.

Performance based on data from the Member Countries

Flood forecasting performance is based on the hydro-met data received from the Member Countries. The flood forecasting achievement indicated in (%) and (cm) from 1 day to 5 days at each key station, against with Old Benchmark are presented in Table B1 and Table B2.

The evaluation of performance indicators, missing data and completion time for flood forecasting are presented in Table B3 and Figures B4, B5 and B6, respectively from 20 to 26 June 2023.

Table B1: The Mean Absolute Difference (Error) of Flood Forecasting base on old defined Benchmark from 20 to 26 June 2023 in cm

Lead-time Forecasted	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Thakhek	Mukdahan	Savannakhet	Khong Chiam	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Phnom Penh Port	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc
1-day	22	16	39	3	2	5	2	4	5	3	7	4	1	13	6	3	9	9	7	5	10	11
2-day	36	40	62	12	10	5	5	6	6	1	0	2	7	9	5	4	5	7	2	2	13	13
3-day	42	33	52	14	11	0	7	8	14	16	8	22	1	20	9	6	4	10	1	4	10	19
4-day	64	<u>36</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>23</u>	18	<u>25</u>	16	15	16	2	11	11	18	3	16	6	23	5	13	11	10	19
5-day	59	1	56	8	2	26	15	14	22	1	<u>23</u>	18	20	4	21	12	30	<u>20</u>	13	13	<u>27</u>	<u>35</u>

Table B2: The Mean Absolute Difference (Error) of Flood Forecasting base on old defined Benchmark from 20 to 26 June 2023 in %

Lead-time Forecasted	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Thakhek	Mukdahan	Savannakhet	Khong Chiam	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Phnom Penh Port	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc	Average
1-day	71.4	<u>42.9</u>	71.4	<u>42.9</u>	0.0	<u>28.6</u>	14.3	<u>42.9</u>	<u>42.9</u>	<u>42.9</u>	57.1	<u>28.6</u>	0.0	85.7	71.4	71.4	85.7	85.7	71.4	<u>42.9</u>	85.7	85.7	53.2
2-day	66.7	66.7	<u>50.0</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	0.0	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>33.3</u>	0.0	0.0	0.0	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	66.7	<u>50.0</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>33.3</u>	38.6
3-day	60.0	20.0	40.0	20.0	<u>40.0</u>	0.0	0.0	0.0	<u>40.0</u>	80.0	0.0	80.0	<u>20.0</u>	60.0	60.0	40.0	20.0	<u>40.0</u>	20.0	0.0	<u>40.0</u>	20.0	31.8
4-day	75.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	50.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	<u>25.0</u>	50.0	<u>25.0</u>	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0	25.0	50.0	<u>25.0</u>	<u>25.0</u>	25.0	27.3
5-day	66.7	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	33.3	33.3	0.0	33.3	66.7	19.7

Table B3: Overview of performance indicators for the past 7 days from 20 to 26 June 2023

		FF t	ime sent				Arr	ival time	of input	data		Missing data (number-mainstream and trib.st.)									
2023	FF completed and sent (time)	Stations without forecast	FF2 completed and sent (time)	Weather data available (time)	NOAA data	China	Cambodia - DHRW	Cambodia - DOM	Lao PDR - DMH	Thailand - DWR	Viet Nam - SRHMC	Viet Nam - HMS	NOAA data/2dataset	China/2	Cambodia - DHRW/15	Cambodia - DOM/34	Lao PDR - DMH/25	Thailand - DWR/13	Viet Nam - SRHMC/6	Viet Nam - HMS/39	
week	10:30	#DIV/0!	-	-	08:15	07:10	07:47	09:23	08:46	08:37	07:05	08:24	0	0	0	68	9	0	0	22	
month	10:40	#DIV/0!	-	-	08:15	07:10	07:37	10:11	08:44	08:34	07:05	08:28	0	0	0	136	0	0	0	22	

Fig. B4: Data delivery times for the past 7 days from 20 to 26 June 2023



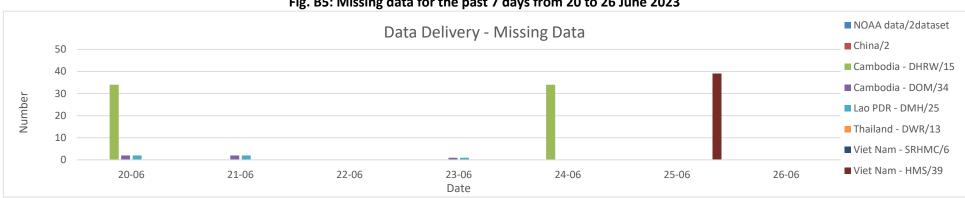
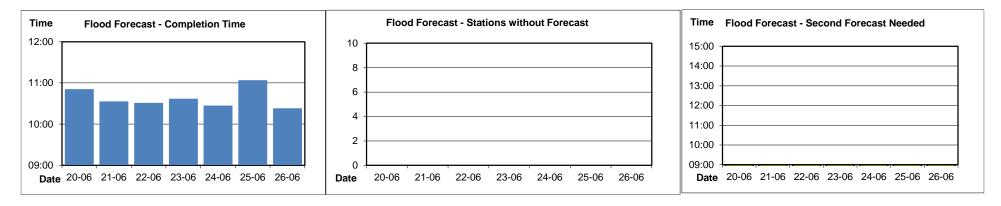


Fig. B5: Missing data for the past 7 days from 20 to 26 June 2023

Fig. B6: Flood forecast completion time, stations without forecasts, and second forecasts need from 20 to 26 June 2023





Mekong River Commission Secretariat