



**Mekong River Commission**

**Weekly Wet Season Situation Report  
in the Lower Mekong River Basin  
10 – 16 September 2024**

Prepared by  
The Regional Flood and Drought Management Centre  
17 September 2024

*The MRC is funded by contributions from its Member Countries and Development Partners, including Australia, Belgium, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and the World Bank.*

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First published (2020)

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**Title:** Weekly wet season situation report in the Lower Mekong River Basin for 10 – 16 September 2024.

ISSN: 1728-3248

Keywords: Monitoring/forecasting/weather/the Mekong/the Tonle Sap Lake

For bibliographic purposes, this volume may be cited as:

Mekong River Commission. (2024). *Weekly wet season situation report in the Lower Mekong River Basin for 10 – 16 September 2024*. Vientiane: MRC Secretariat.

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# Key Messages

Key messages for this weekly report are presented below.

## Rainfall monitoring and forecast

- In the period of 10 – 16 September 2024, light to very heavy rainfall has been observed over the LMB. Especially, heavy to very heavy rain occurred in some areas in Chiang Saen, Nong Khai, Muong Kao, Paksane, Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Pursat, Kratie, Svay Chrea, Sekong, Sesan.
- From 17 – 23 September 2024, moderate to heavy rain is expected in some areas in the central and lower part of the Lower Mekong Basin. Particularly, 20 – 21 September, heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur in some areas of the central part of Lao PDR.

## Water level monitoring and forecast

- At 22 key monitoring stations along the Mekong mainstream from 10 – 16 September 2024, water levels in all stations significantly increased, particularly at the upper stretch of the LMB. At Chiang Saen, Luang Prabang, Chiang Khan, Vientiane and Nongkhai, water level increased approximately 5 meters with few days. This caused those stations except for Chiang Saen to reach flood levels for few days. The total accumulated volume of the reverse flow to Tonle Sap Lake remains 18.28 Km<sup>3</sup>.
- In the period of 17 – 21 September 2024, water levels at upstream stations along Mekong mainstream from are likely expected to drop and return to normal conditions. From Nakhon Phanom downward, water levels are expected to significantly rise. However, it is expected that those station are likely still in normal conditions, which do not reach alarm and flood levels.

## Drought condition and forecast

- From 10 - 16 September 2024, the LMB is experiencing moderate and severe droughts in some areas of the central and lower part. Severe drought occurs in some areas of the eastern part of Borikhamxai and Khammouan (Lao PDR); Battamabang, Banteay Meanchey, and Mondulkiri (Cambodia). The observed drought was caused primarily by meteorological indicator.
- From 17 - 23 September: the Lower Mekong Basin is likely at normal conditions. No drought is forecasted for the whole region.

## 1 Introduction

This Weekly Wet Season Situation Report presents a preliminary analysis of the weekly hydrological situation in the Lower Mekong River Basin (LMB) for **10 – 16 September 2024**. 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 – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam – and on satellite data. The water level indicated in this report refers 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.php>.

Drought monitoring and forecasting information is available at:

<http://droughtforecast.mrcmekong.org>

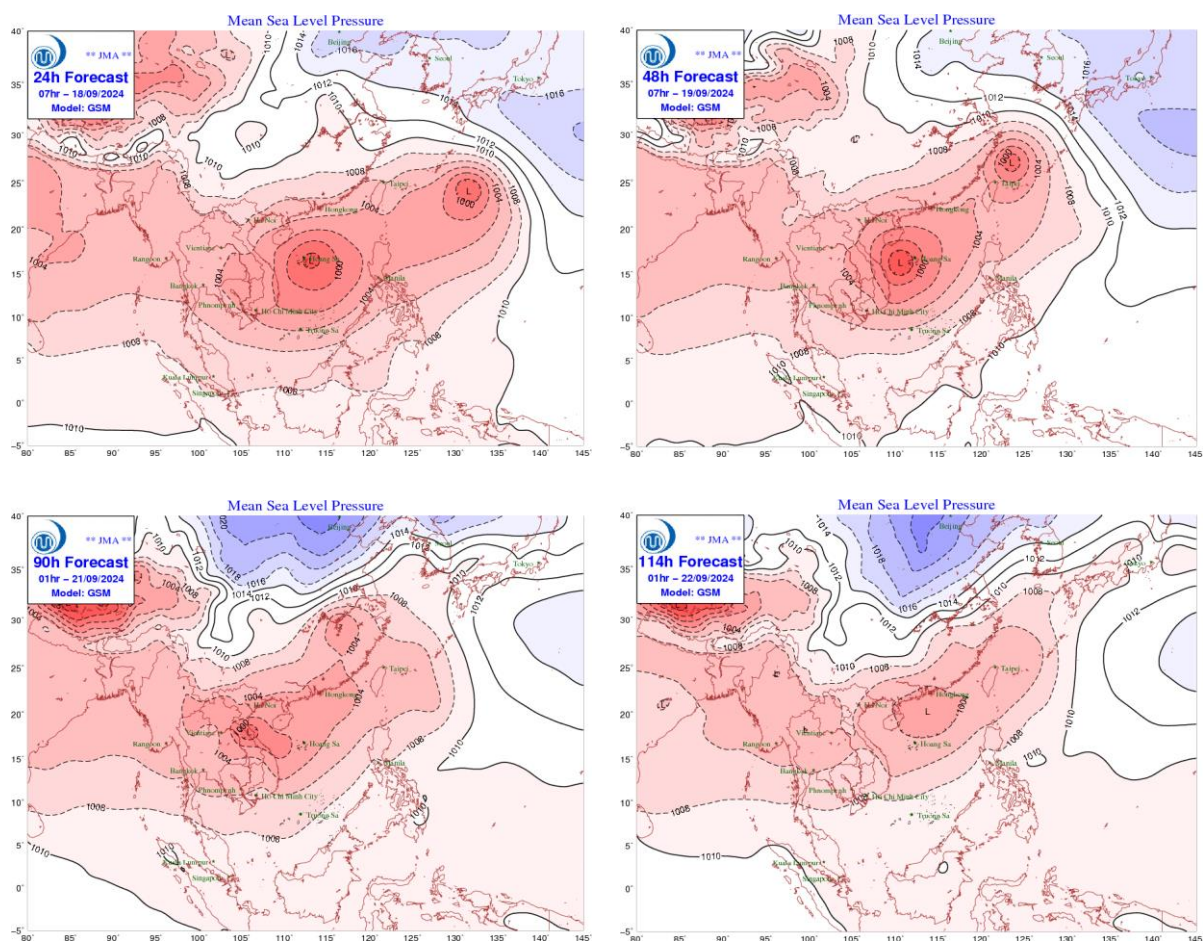
Flash flood information is accessible at: <http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/ffg.php>



## 2 General Weather Patterns

During 10 - 16 September 2024, light to very heavy rainfall has been observed over the LMB. Especially, heavy to very heavy rain occurred in some areas in Chiang Saen, Nong Khai, Muong Kao, Paksane, Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Pursat, Kratie, Svay Chrea, Sekong, Sesan.

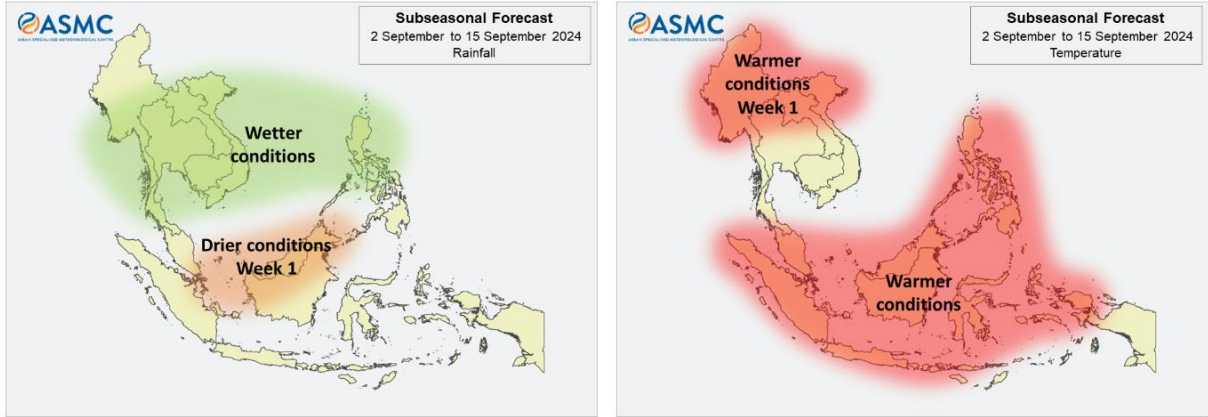
**Figure 1** presents the mean sea level pressure over the region. At 07:00 on 17 September, the centre of the tropical depression was at about 16.9 degrees North latitude; 120.9 degrees East longitude, on the mainland of Lu Dong Island (Philippines). The strongest wind near the centre of the tropical depression is from 50-60km/h, moving westward at a speed of 15-20km/h. In the next 24 to 48 hours, the tropical depression will move to the East Sea, at a speed of 25km/h, and strengthen into a storm. And in the next 48 to 72 hours, the storm is likely to change direction, moving West Northwest, at a speed 10km/h. Moderate to heavy rain is expected in some areas in the central and lower part of the Lower Mekong Basin. Particularly, 20 – 21 Sep, heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur in some areas of the central part of Lao PDR due to the impact from the storm.



**Figure 1: Weather conditions over the LMB**

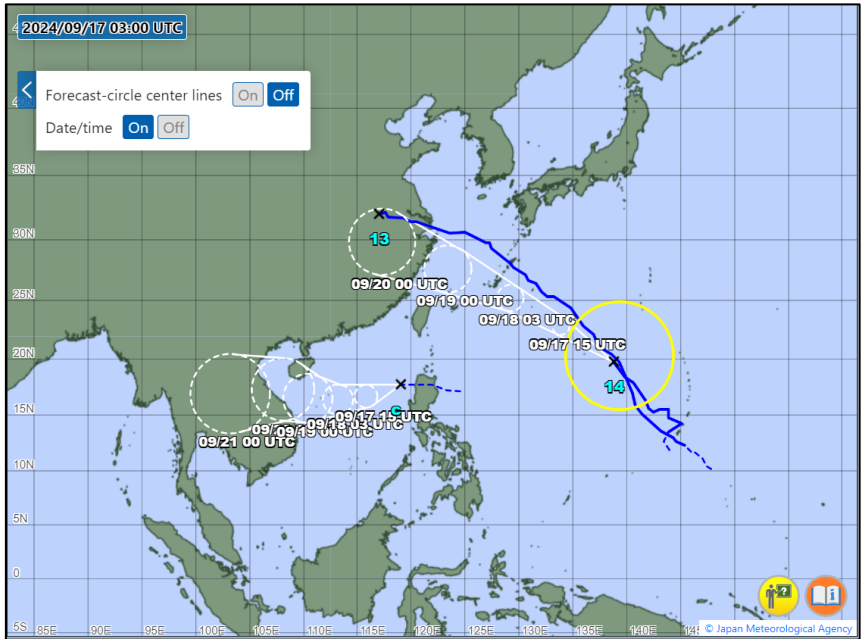
According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC, <http://asmc.asean.org/home/>), the subseasonal weather outlook (02 – 15 September 2024) indicates that wetter

conditions is expected to from lower to central part of the LMB, while warmer conditions are predicted at the upper part. **Figure 2** shows the outlook of weather condition from 02 – 15 September 2024 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.**

Based on the tropical storm risk (TS) ([https://www.jma.go.jp/jma/jma-eng/jma-center/rsmc-hp-pub-eg/RSMC\\_HP.htm](https://www.jma.go.jp/jma/jma-eng/jma-center/rsmc-hp-pub-eg/RSMC_HP.htm)), there is two active NW pacific system as of 17 September 2024 as displayed in **Figure 3**. This tropical depression may affect central LMB.



**Figure 3: One tropical storm risk observed on 16 September 2024**

### 3. Rainfall and Water Level Monitoring

#### 3.1. Rainfall monitoring

The weekly accumulated rainfall is based on the observed data provided by the MRC Member Countries – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam – from 10 - 16 September 2024 (**Figure 4**) light to very heavy rainfall has been observed over the LMB. Especially, heavy to

very heavy rain occurred in some areas in Chiang Saen, Nong Khai, Muong Kao, Paksane, Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Pursat, Kratie, Svay Chrea, Sekong, Sesan.

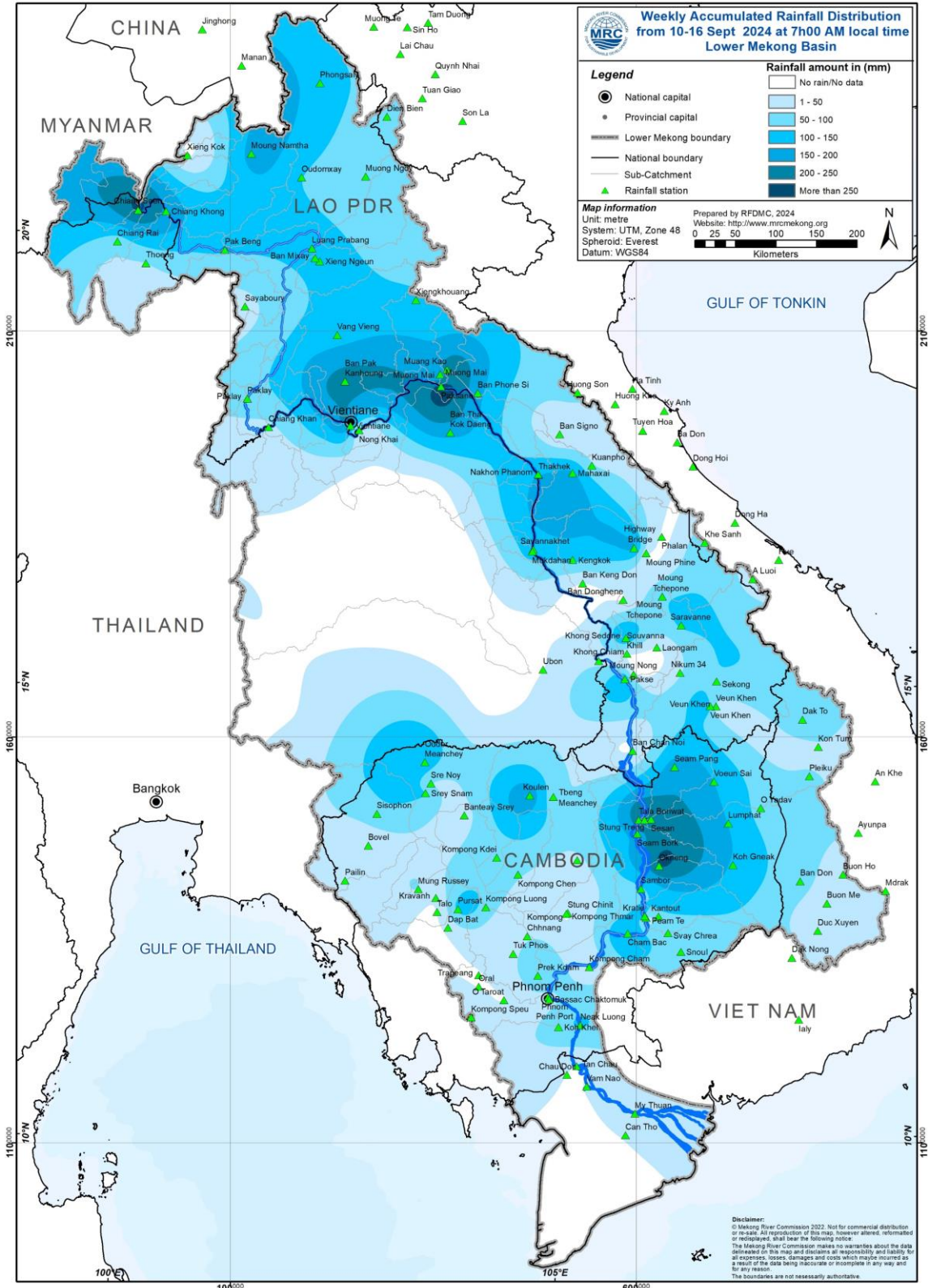


Figure 4: Weekly rainfall distribution over the LMB during 10 – 16 September 2024

### 3.2. Water level monitoring

The hydrological regimes of the Mekong mainstream are illustrated by recorded water levels and flows at key mainstream stations: at Chiang Saen to capture mainstream flows entering from the Upper Mekong Basin (UMB); at Vientiane to present flows generated by climate conditions in the upper part of the LMB; at Pakse 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 5**. The hydrograph for each key station is available from the MRC's River Flood Forecasting: <http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/overview.php>.

During 10 – 16 September 2024, the observed water level (WL) at Jinghong hydrological station<sup>1</sup>, was almost constant and ranges between 535.94 m and 535.32 m, which are corresponding to the outflow between 1,320.00 m<sup>3</sup>/s to 885.00 m<sup>3</sup>/s (recorded on 7:00 am), respectively (**Figure 6**). The water level in Chiang Saen station significantly increased approximately 5.37 m within just 3 days ranging from 4.36 m to 9.73 m. At the same period, the water level in Luang Prabang station also increased with an approximate value of 4.36 m from 14.66 m to 19.02 m as compared to the previous week. Water levels at Chiang Khan, Vientiane and Nongkhai have increased 5.04 m, 5.19 m, and 4.99 m, respectively. In this situation, water levels at Luang Prabang, Chiang Khan, Vientiane and Nongkhai had reached flood levels on 12 September, 13 September, 13 September, and 12 September, respectively. The increasing propagation also affects the downstream stations such as Paksane and Nakhon Phanom. Nakhon Phanom reached the alarm level on 16 September. However, they have not reached flood levels.

Water levels from Thakhek downward to stations in Cambodia such as Stung Treng, Kratie and other stations significantly increased as well. However, the flood risk for those stations has not yet been anticipated.

From to the previous week, the water levels from 10 to 16 September 2024 at Viet Nam's Tan Chau and Chau Doc, water levels have decrease from 2.06 m to 2.52 m and from 1.84 m to 2.41 m, respectively.

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

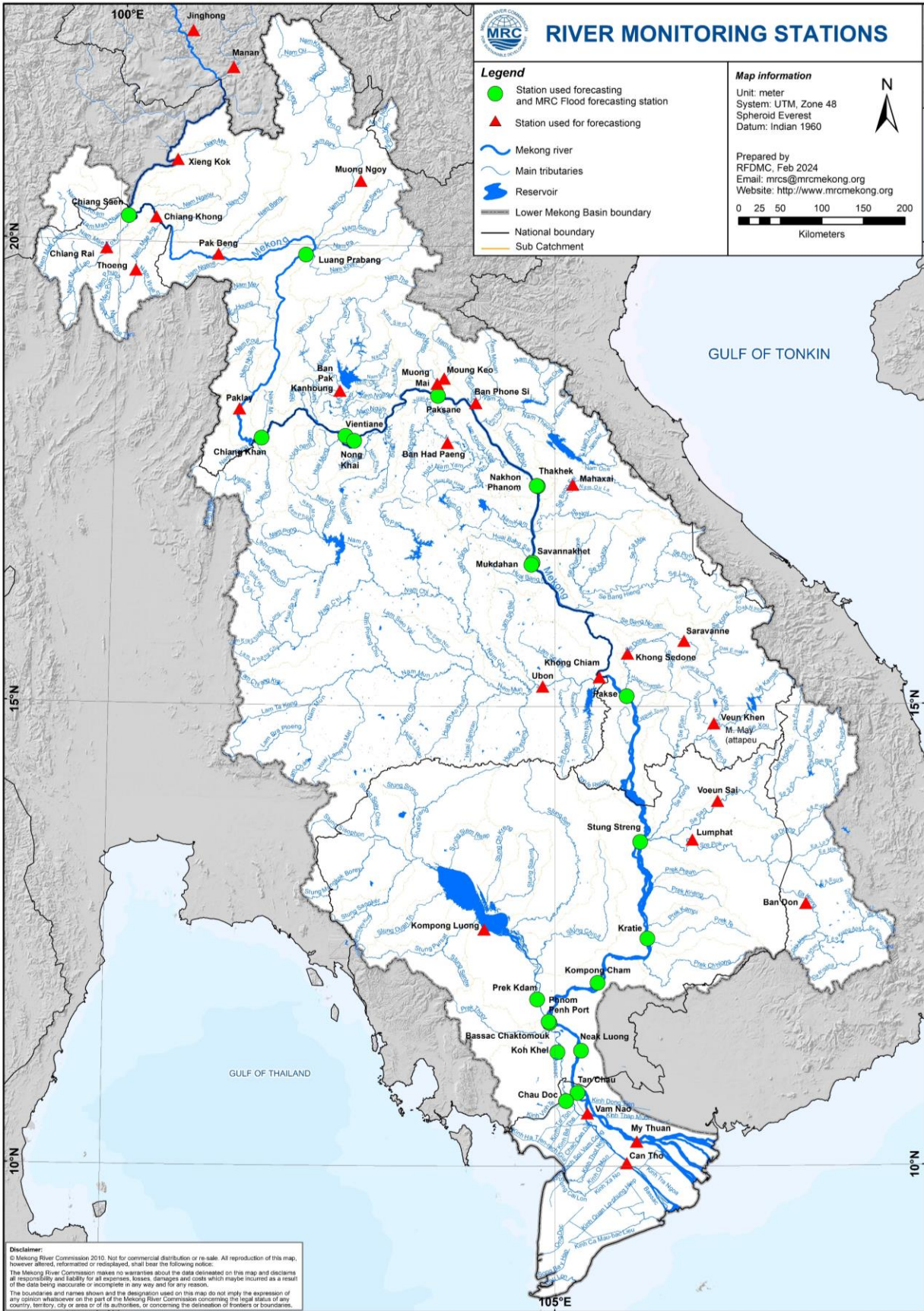
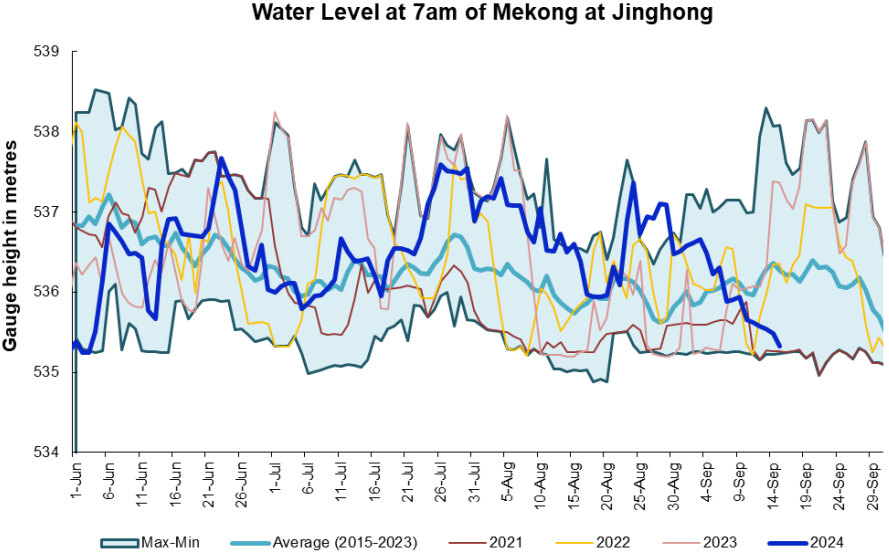


Figure 5: The key stations along LMB for river flood forecasting

The water levels in key monitoring stations on 16 September, water levels at upper stretch of LMB have reached alarm and flood levels. However, from Thakhek downward, it does not neither reach alarm nor flood levels. Moreover, all stations with available PMFM (Article 6C) thresholds are in normal conditions except for Chiang Saen and Vientiane. The graphics of water level monitoring in all key stations are presented in **Annex A** and the weekly water levels and rainfall at each key station are summarised in **Annex B**.



**Figure 6. Water level at the Jinghong hydrological station up to 16 September 2024.**

At the end of the wet season, when water levels along the Mekong River subside, the outflow of the Tonle Sap Lake (TSL) returns to the Mekong River and then to the Delta. This phenomenon normally takes place between September and October. Based on flow observation at Prek Kdam monitoring station, the inflow/reverse of the Tonle Sap Lake took place since 29 June 2024.

The outflow flow is calculated based on a formula of rating-curves using by difference of water levels at Kompong Luong and Phnom Penh Port stations for slop and Prek Kdam as cross-section of the Lake. The formula of flow is as follows:

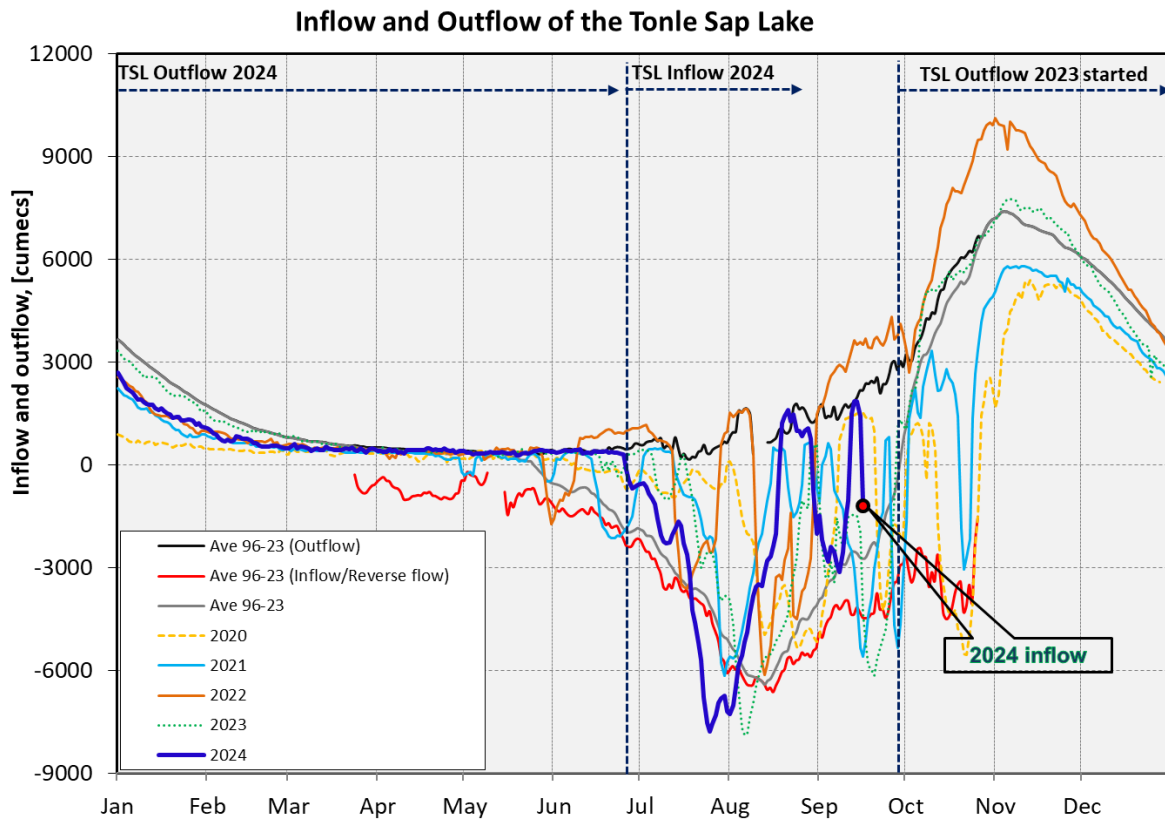
$$Flow = WL_{Prek\ Kdam}^{1.2} \times \sqrt{|WL_{Phnom\ Penh\ Port} - WL_{Kompong\ Luong}|}$$

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

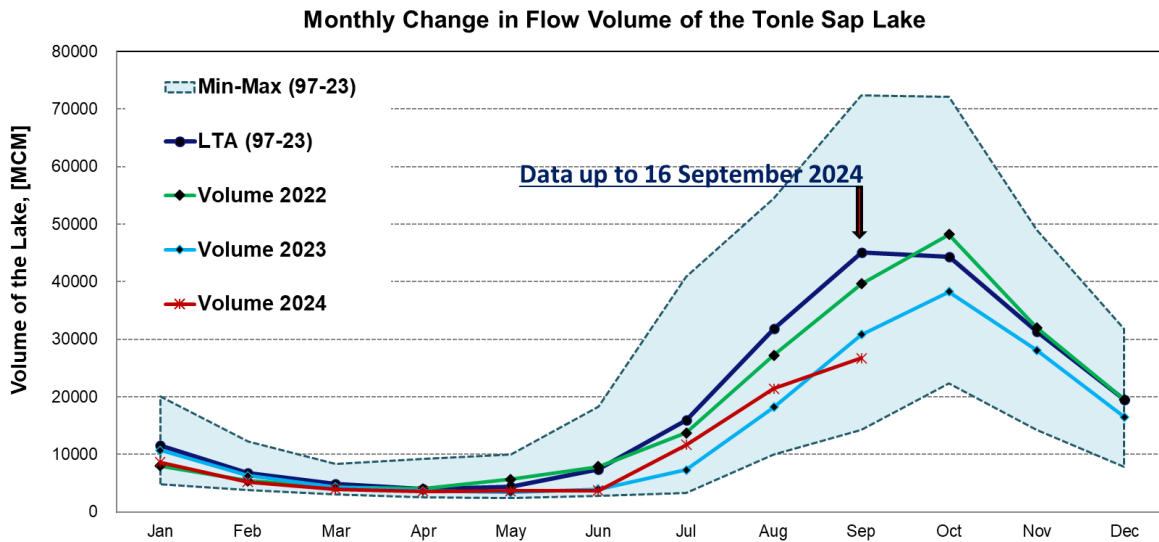
The seasonal changes of the inflow/reverse flow and the outflow of the TSL at Prek Kdam in comparison with the flows of 2020, 2021 and 2022, 2023 and their LTA level (1997-2023) are illustrated in **Figure 7**. The reversed flow to the lake has returned since 16 September 2024 with accumulated volume of 18.28 Km<sup>3</sup>. This may be resulted from high water contribution from upstream part of the LMB due to high rainfall in the past weeks.

The seasonal changes in monthly flow volumes up to 16 September 2024 for the TSL compared with that in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and their LTAs, and the fluctuation levels (1997–2023) are

presented in **Table 8**. The mean monthly water volume of the Tonle Sap Lake in August 2024 is lower than its LTA (about 67.32 %), 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023 but higher than only that in 2020 during the same period (**Figure 8 and Table 1**). However, updated until 16 September 2024, the volume of the lake is approximately 59.21% of its LTA in September.



**Figure 7: Seasonal change of inflows and outflows of Tonle Sap Lake.**



**Figure 8. The seasonal change in monthly volume of Tonle Sap Lake.**

**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 2024 [MCM]	Volume in 2024 [%], compared with its LTA
Jan	11487.13	20039.88	4796.69	7998.69	4796.69	7405.81	7998.69	10700.62	8610.88	74.96
Feb	6697.79	12266.87	3757.30	4954.90	3757.30	4671.15	5405.65	6309.00	5211.05	77.80
Mar	4822.51	8340.62	3030.40	3936.30	3259.79	4147.46	4330.50	4299.86	3936.30	81.62
Apr	4033.80	9203.09	2552.38	3317.61	2635.83	3259.79	4026.48	3609.52	3580.11	88.75
May	4376.15	9938.04	2441.69	3317.61	2469.30	3462.96	5668.52	3404.68	3609.52	82.48
Jun	7357.50	18344.65	2775.77	3580.11	2832.04	4765.22	7886.07	3936.30	3698.04	50.26
Jul	16001.18	40825.01	3230.96	4269.27	3230.96	7333.01	13751.91	7260.51	11671.87	72.94
Aug	31847.52	54529.13	10021.39	12266.87	10021.39	12453.19	27226.87	18168.63	21440.19	67.32
Sep	45088.00	72427.44	14251.59	35070.22	14251.59	22430.63	39624.67	30811.08	26696.26	59.21
Oct	44317.53	72124.19	22296.87	25074.27	28782.41	32331.33	48230.13	38255.90		
Nov	31391.74	49030.83	14302.12	14302.12	23867.31	25218.90	31989.11	28075.12		
Dec	19550.90	31734.10	7886.07	7886.07	13900.73	15599.94	19545.75	16466.19		
	Critical situation: lower than long-term minimum values (LTMIN)									
	Normal condition: within the range of long-term min (LTMIN) and max (LTMAX) values									
	Low volume situation: lower than long-term average (LTA)									
Unit: Million Cubic Meter (1 MCM= 0.001 Km <sup>3</sup> )										

**Remarks:** the monthly volume of Tonle Sap Lake in 2024 is updated until 16 Sept 2024.

## 4. Flash Flood in the Lower Mekong Basin

During the weekly monitoring period from 10 - 16 September 2024, the LMB received light to very heavy rain in some areas over the LMB.

According to the Southeast Asian Flash Flood Guidance System (SEAFFGS) and analysis, flash flood guidance was detected high level in the next 1, 3, and 6 hours in some areas of Lao PDR and Cambodia during this period, the reporting period as shown in [Figure 14](#) and [Table 2](#).

**Table 2.** Detected moderate to high-risk flash flood in Cambodia and Lao PDR on 11 September

FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE IN THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN								
In the next 1hrs			In the next 3hrs			In the next 6hrs		
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level
Kampong Cham	Stueng Trang	Moderate	Mondul Kiri	Kaoh Nheak	Moderate	Mondul Kiri	Kaoh Nheak	Moderate
Mondul Kiri	Kaoh Nheak	Moderate	Mondul Kiri	Pechr Chenda	Moderate	Mondul Kiri	Pechr Chenda	Moderate
Mondul Kiri	Ou Reang	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Andoung Meas	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Andoung Meas	Moderate
Mondul Kiri	Pechr Chenda	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Koun Mom	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Koun Mom	High
Mondul Kiri	Saen Monourom	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Ou Chum	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Ou Chum	High
Preah Vihear	Chhaeb	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Ta Veang	High	Ratana Kiri	Ta Veang	High



## FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE IN THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN

In the next 1hrs			In the next 3hrs			In the next 6hrs		
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level
Ratana Kiri	Andoung Meas	High	Ratana Kiri	Veun Sai	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Veun Sai	Moderate
Ratana Kiri	Koun Mom	High	Stung Treng	Sesan	Moderate	Stung Treng	Sesan	Moderate
Ratana Kiri	Ou Chum	High	Stung Treng	Siem Bouk	Moderate	Stung Treng	Siem Bouk	Moderate
Ratana Kiri	Ta Veang	High	Stung Treng	Siem Pang	High	Stung Treng	Siem Pang	High
Ratana Kiri	Veun Sai	Moderate	Stung Treng	Thala Barivat	High	Stung Treng	Thala Barivat	High
Stung Treng	Sesan	Moderate						
Stung Treng	Siem Bouk	Moderate						
Stung Treng	Siem Pang	High						
Stung Treng	Thala Barivat	High						

## FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE IN THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN

In the next 1hrs			In the next 3hrs			In the next 6hrs		
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level
Bokeo	Meung	Moderate	Bokeo	Meung	Moderate	Bokeo	Meung	Moderate
Khammuane	Xaybouath	High	Khammuane	Xaybouath	Moderate	Khammuane	Xaybouath	Moderate
Luangnamtha	Sing	Moderate	Luangnamtha	Sing	Moderate	Oudomxay	Xay	Moderate
Oudomxay	Hoon	Moderate	Oudomxay	Xay	Moderate	Phongsaly	Bounneua	Moderate
Oudomxay	Xay	High	Phongsaly	Bounneua	Moderate	Phongsaly	Bountay	Moderate
Phongsaly	Bounneua	Moderate	Phongsaly	Bountay	Moderate	Savannakhet	Vilabuly	Moderate
Phongsaly	Bountay	High	Savannakhet	Vilabuly	Moderate	Xiengkhuang	Morkmay	Moderate
Savannakhet	Atsaphone	Moderate	Xiengkhuang	Morkmay	Moderate			
Savannakhet	Vilabuly	Moderate						
Xayaboury	Khop	Moderate						
Xiengkhuang	Khoune	Moderate						
Xiengkhuang	Morkmay	Moderate						
Xiengkhuang	Pek	Moderate						

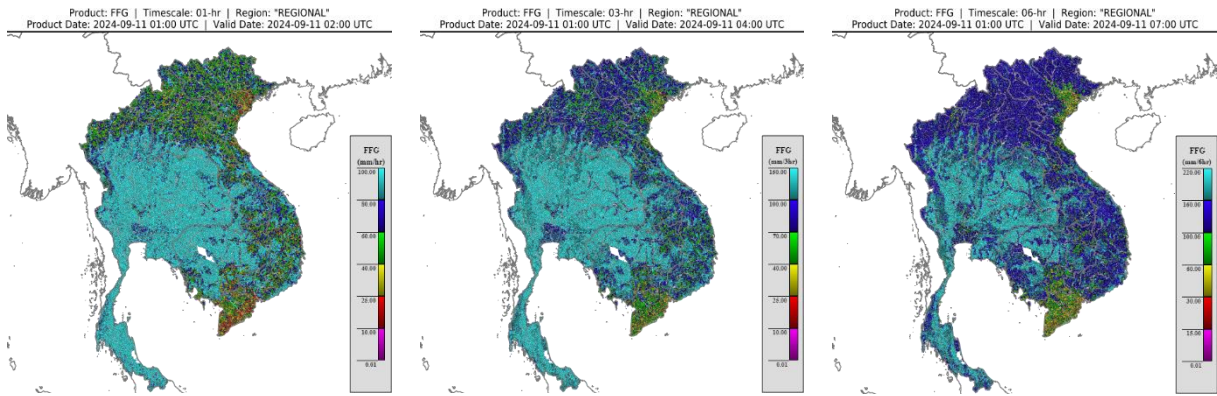


Figure 9. Flash Flood risk for the next 12-hr and 24-hr on 11 September

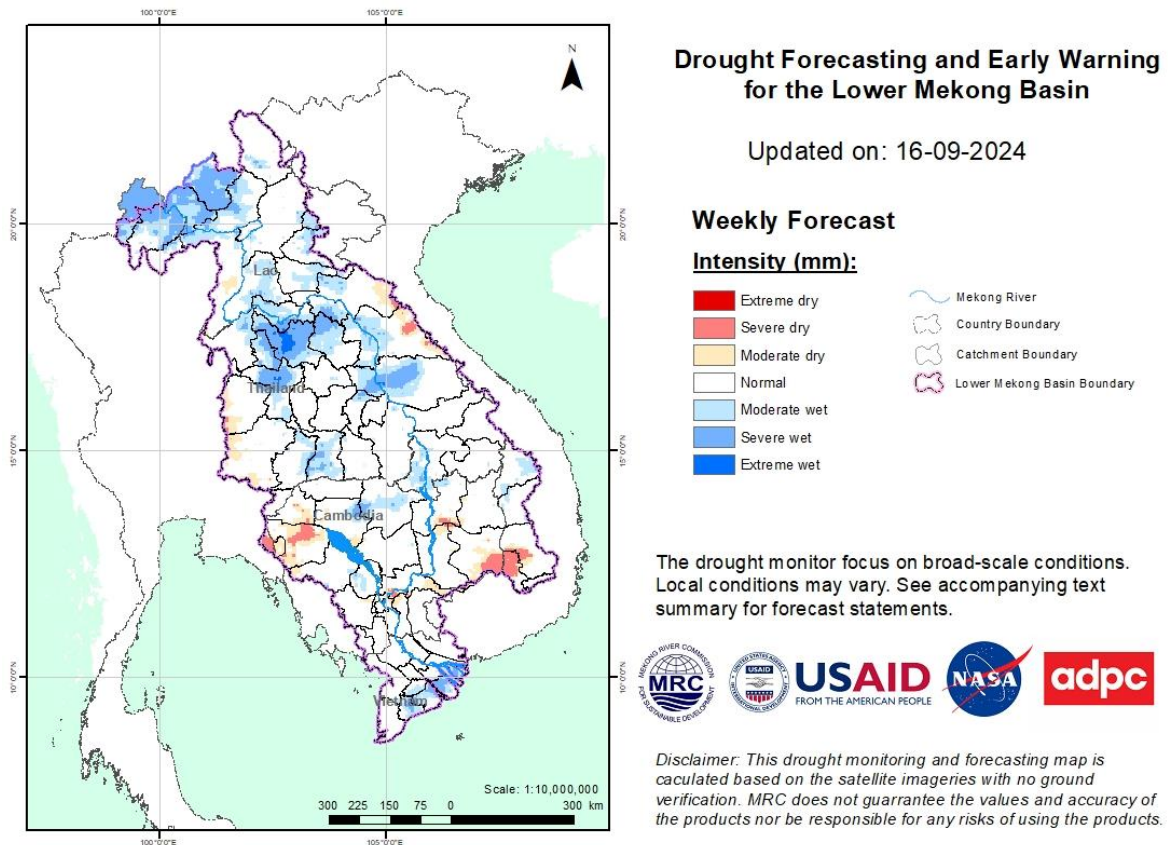
## 5. Drought Monitoring in the Lower Mekong Basin

### 5.2. Weekly drought monitoring from 10 - 16 September 2024

Drought monitoring data for 2024 are available from Monday to Sunday every week; thus, the reporting period is normally delayed by one day 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)**

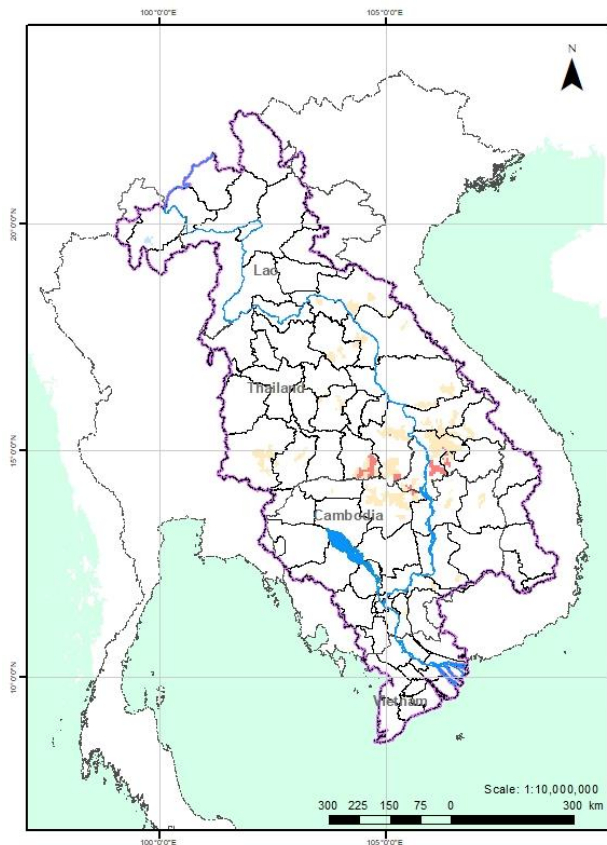
As indicated in **Figure 10** below, during 10 - 16 September, the LMB is experiencing moderate and severe droughts in some areas of the central and lower part. Severe drought occurs in some areas of the eastern part of Borikhamxai and Khammouan (Lao PDR); Battamabang, Banteay Meanchey, and Mondulkiri (Cambodia).



**Figure 10: Weekly standardized precipitation index from 10 – 16 September.**

- **Weekly Index of Soil Water Fraction (ISWF)**

There were some moderate agricultural droughts taking place during the monitoring week from 10 – 16 September 2024 and mainly in southern Lao PDR and Cambodia, see **Figure 10**.



## Drought Forecasting and Early Warning for the Lower Mekong Basin

Updated on: 16-09-2024

### Weekly Forecast

#### Intensity (mm):



The drought monitor focus on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



*Disclaimer: This drought monitoring and forecasting map is calculated based on the satellite imageries with no ground verification. MRC does not guarantee the values and accuracy of the products nor be responsible for any risks of using the products.*

**Figure 11: Weekly Index of Soil Water Fraction from 10 – 16 September.**

- Weekly Combined Drought Index (CDI)**

The combined drought indicator, **Figure 11**, shows that the LMB was experiencing moderate droughts in some areas of the eastern part of Borikhamxai and Khammouan (Lao PDR); Battamabang, Banteay Meanchey, and Mondulkiri (Cambodia).

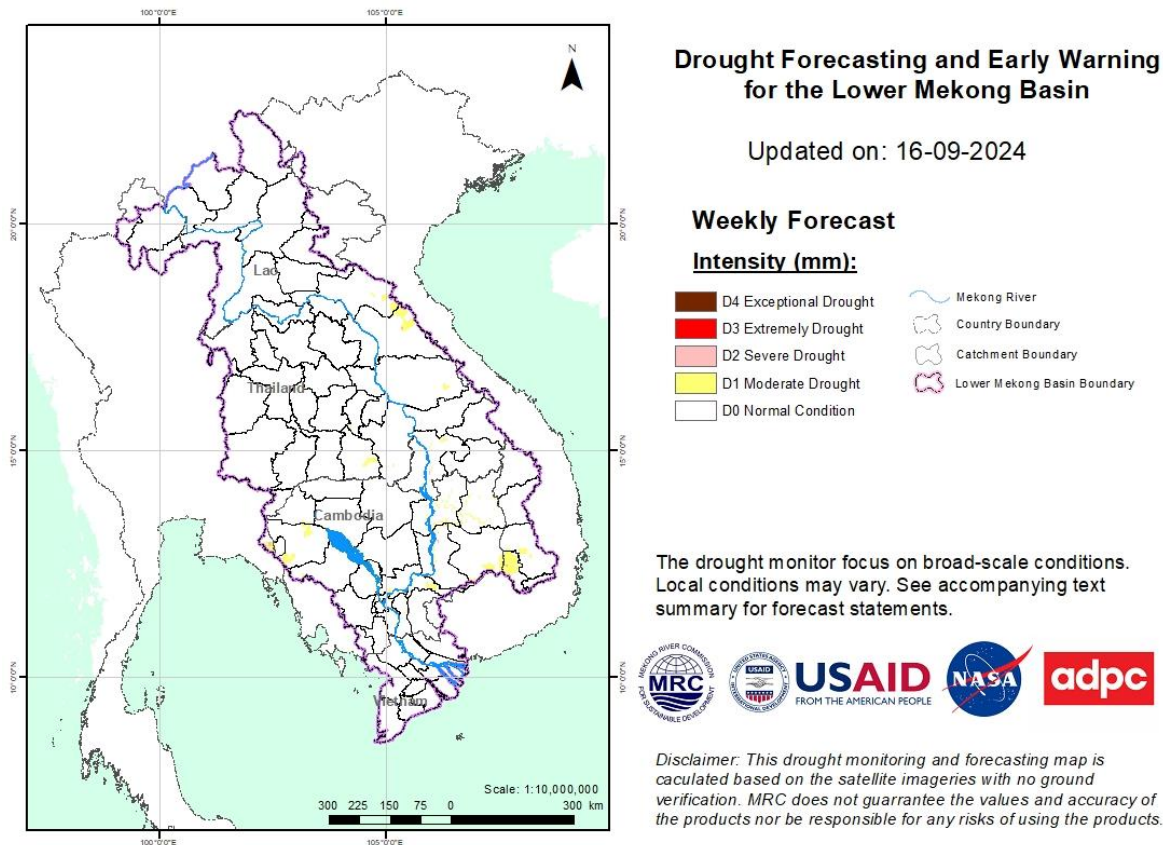
The impacted areas are listed below:

Number	Country	Province	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	Exceptional	Number	Country	Province	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	Exceptional	Number	Country	Province	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	Exceptional
1	Cambodia	Battamabang	■				24	Lao PDR	Oudomxai					47	Thailand	Udon Thani				
2	Cambodia	Banteay Meanchey	■				25	Lao PDR	Loungprabang					48	Thailand	Sakon Nakhon				
3	Cambodia	Kampong Cham	■				26	Lao PDR	Xayaburi					49	Thailand	Bueng Kan				
4	Cambodia	Pursat	■				27	Lao PDR	Xiengkhouang					50	Thailand	Nakhon Phanom				
5	Cambodia	Kampong Chhnang					28	Lao PDR	Vientiane					51	Thailand	Kalasin				
6	Cambodia	Otdar Meanchey					29	Lao PDR	Vientiane Capital					52	Thailand	Mukdahan				
7	Cambodia	Preah Vihear					30	Lao PDR	Xaisomboun					53	Thailand	Roi Et				
8	Cambodia	Kampong Thom					31	Lao PDR	Borikhamxai	■				54	Thailand	Yasothon				
9	Cambodia	Kratie					32	Lao PDR	Khammouan	■				55	Thailand	Amnat Charoen				
10	Cambodia	Mondulkiri	■				33	Lao PDR	Savanakhet	■				56	Thailand	Ubon Ratchathani				
11	Cambodia	Ratanakiri					34	Lao PDR	Salavan					57	Thailand	Si Sa Ket	■			
12	Cambodia	Tbong Khmum					35	Lao PDR	Xekong					58	Thailand	Surin				
13	Cambodia	Prey Veng					36	Lao PDR	Attapu					59	Thailand	Buri Ram				
14	Cambodia	Kampot					37	Lao PDR	Champasack					60	Thailand	Nakhon Ratchasima				
15	Cambodia	Takeo					38	Thailand	Chiang Mai					61	Viet Nam	Kon Tum				
16	Cambodia	Svai Rieng					39	Thailand	Chiang Rai					62	Viet Nam	Gia Lai				
17	Cambodia	Stung Treng	■				40	Thailand	Payao					63	Viet Nam	Dak Nong				
18	Cambodia	Kampong Speu					41	Thailand	Loei					64	Viet Nam	Dak Lak	■			
19	Cambodia	Kandal					42	Thailand	Nong Bua Lam Phu					65	Viet Nam	Dong Thap				
20	Cambodia	Siem Reap					43	Thailand	Khon Kaen					66	Viet Nam	Tien Giang				
21	Lao PDR	Bokeo					44	Thailand	Nong Khai					67	Viet Nam	An Giang				
22	Lao PDR	Luangnamtha					45	Thailand	Chaiyaphum											
23	Lao PDR	Phongsali					46	Thailand	Maha Sarakham											

Other provinces of the Mekong Delta of Viet Nam have no data

■	Moderate	■	Severe
■	Extreme	■	Exceptional

**Note:** S: short-term drought, less than 1 months; L: long-term drought, more than 1 month



**Figure 12: Weekly Combined Drought Index from 10 - 16 September.**

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 Rainfall forecast

From 17 – 23 September 2024, the accumulated rainfall over the entire Lower Mekong Basin is distributed with light to heavy rain based on CHIRPS-GFS (**Figure 12**). The accumulated rainfall over the entire Lower Mekong Basin is distributed with moderate to heavy rain is expected in some areas in the central and lower part of the Lower Mekong Basin. Particularly, 20 – 21 September, heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur in some areas of the central part of Lao PDR.

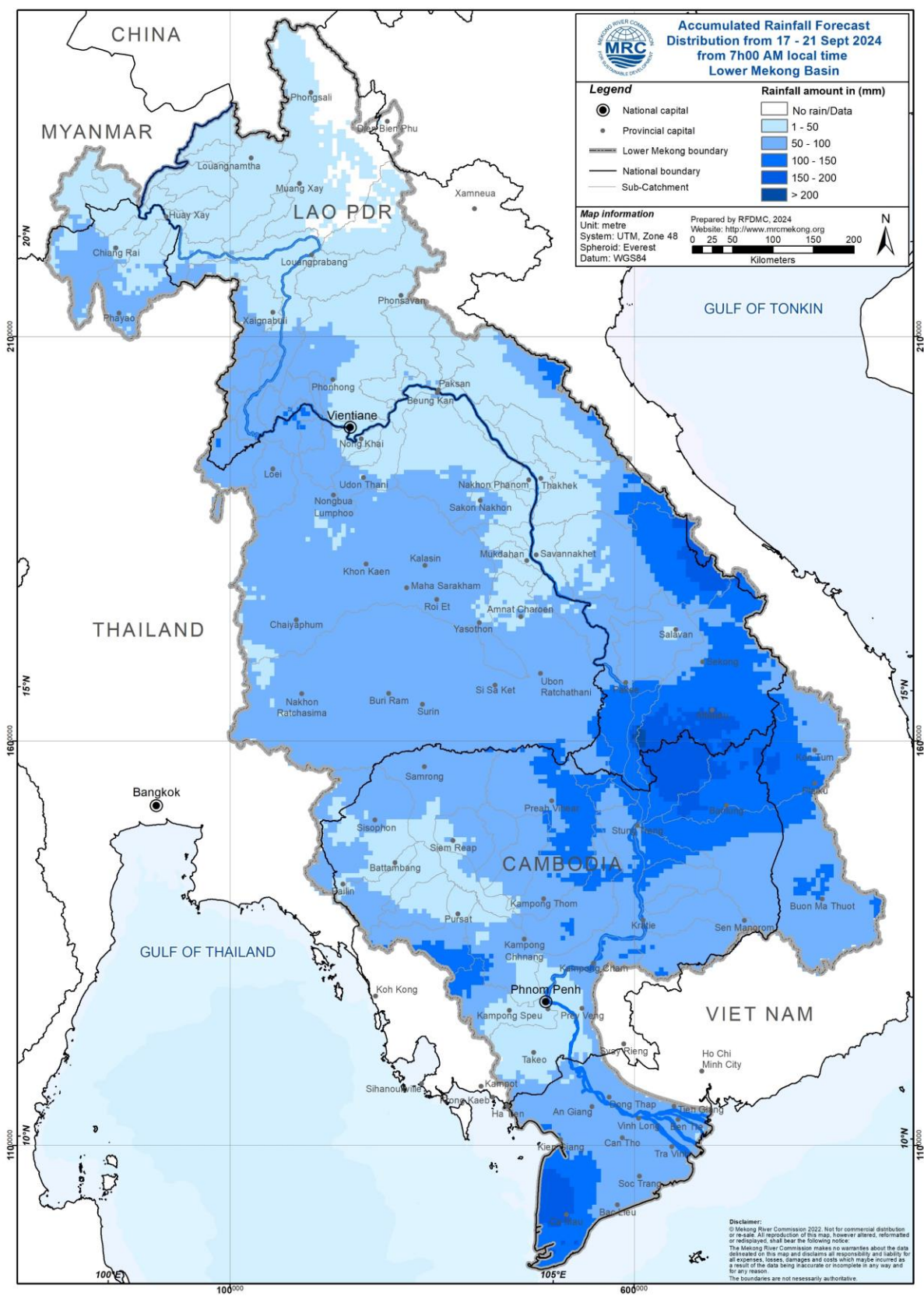


Figure 13: Accumulated rainfall forecast from CHIRPS-GEFS (17 – 21 September 2024)

## 6.2 Water level forecast

The five-day forecast is carried out from 17 to 21 September 2024 for 22 forecasting station along the Mekong mainstream. Overall, water levels at upper stretch of the LMB from Chiang to Thakhek stations are expected to decrease, while from Mudahan downward, water levels are expected to increase significantly.

At Chiang Saen, Luang Prabang, Chiang Khan, Vientiane, Nongkhai, Paksane and Nakhon Phanom stations, water levels are expected to drop with approximated value of -1.33 m, -4.06 m, -2.13 m, -2.76 m, -2.97 m, -1.67 m, -0.04 m, and -0.08 m, respectively. Moreover, at Mukdahan, Savannakhet, Khong Chiam, Pakse, Stung Treng, Kratie, Kompong Cham, Phnom Penh (Bassac), Phnom Penh Port, Koh Khel, Neak Luong, and Prek Kdam, water levels are expected to rise approximately 0.29 m, 0.31 m, 0.89 m, 0.78 m, 0.90 m, 1.92 m, 1.50 m, 0.50 m, 0.54 m, 0.30 m, 0.42 m, 0.49 m, respectively.

For the Tan Chau station on the Mekong River and Chau Doc station on the Bassac River, water levels are also expected to be rise as well. At Tan Chau, water level will rise approximately 0.13 m, while at Chau Doc 0.19 m.

The weekly River Monitoring Bulletin and forecasting issued on 16 September 2024 can be found in **Table 2**. Results of the weekly river monitoring and forecasting bulletin are also available at <http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin.php>

**Table 3. River Monitoring and Forecasting Bulletin**

## MEKONG RIVER MONITORING AND FORECASTING BULLETIN

**Monitoring on 16 September 2024, 7:00 AM (UTC+7)**

**Highlights:** Water levels at stations in the upper part of LMB have decreased. However, **Vientiane and Nongkhai** stations are still above **FLOOD LEVELS**. **Chiang Khan and Nakhon Phanom** stations are still at **ALARM LEVELS**.

### THE FORECASTING HYDROLOGICAL STATION MAP OF THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN (LMB)

The river flood forecast bulletin is produced at 22 main stations along the mainstream and is issued daily during the flood season, which is between 1st June to 31 October. This bulletin provides current water status and a five-day forecast on a daily basis.

**5-day Accumulated Rainfall Forecast**

- No Rain
- 1.0 - 50
- 50 - 100
- 100 - 150
- 150 - 200
- >200

**Current Water Level Status**

- Normal: Normal water level.
- Alarm: Water level ranges between alarm and flood levels.
- Flood: Water level exceed flood level.

**Remarks:** The river flood forecast bulletin is produced at 22 main stations along the mainstream and is issued daily during the flood season, which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> October. This bulletin provides information on the current water level status and a five-day forecast on a daily basis.

### CURRENT WATER LEVEL STATUS

Monitoring Station	Water Level	Flow Threshold (PMFM*6C)
Jinghong	-	-
Chiang Saen	Normal	Normal
Luang Prabang**	Normal	-
<b>Chiang Khan</b>	<b>Alarm</b>	-
<b>Vientiane</b>	<b>Flood</b>	Stable
<b>Nongkhai</b>	<b>Flood</b>	-
Paksane	Normal	-
<b>Nakhon Phanom</b>	<b>Alarm</b>	-
Thakhek	Normal	-
Mukdahan	Normal	-
Savannakhet	Normal	-
Khong Chiam	Normal	Normal
Pakse	Normal	Normal
Stung Treng	Normal	Normal
Kratie	Normal	Normal
Kompong Cham	Normal	-
Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Normal	-
Phnom Penh Port	Normal	-
Koh Khel	Normal	-
Neak Luong	Normal	-
Prek Kdam	Normal	-
Tan Chau	Normal	-
Chau Doc	Normal	-

\* Procedures for Maintenance of Flows on the Mainstream  
\*\* Luang Prabang station is influenced by hydropowers at its upstream and downstream

### REVERSE FLOW VOLUME PREK K DAM (PMFM\*6B)

Monitoring thresholds for Article 6B for accumulated reverse flows at Prek Kdam

**Accumulated reverse flow volume at Prek Kdam**

Flow volumes on 16 September 2024:	18.28 Km <sup>3</sup>
Minimum reverse flow volume (1996-2005):	23.848 Km <sup>3</sup>
Average reverse flow volume (1996-2005):	42.84 Km <sup>3</sup>
Maximum reverse flow volume (1996-2005):	54.046 Km <sup>3</sup>

\*Procedures for Maintenance of Flows on the Mainstream

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<http://www.mrcmekong.org/>  
[http://flw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin\\_wet.php](http://flw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin_wet.php)  
<http://flw.mrcmekong.org/reportflood.php>  
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# MEKONG RIVER MONITORING AND FORECASTING BULLETIN

Forecasting from 17 to 21 September 2024 (updated on 16 September, 7:00 AM UTC+7)

Highlights: Water levels at **Chiang Khan** is expected to be in normal condition on **19 September**. Water levels at **Vientiane** and **Nongkhai** stations are expected to be below **FLOOD LEVELS** until **17** and **19 September**, respectively. **Nakhon Phanom** is expected to reach **FLOOD LEVEL** on **18 September**.

Forecasting Station	24 h Observed Rainfall (mm)	Zero gauge above M.S.L (m)	Observed Water Level against zero gauge (m)		Forecasted Water Level (m)					Alarm Level (m)	Flood Level (m)	Forecasted Water Levels Change in 5 days (m)	Max. Water levels change within next 5 days (m)	Min. distance to alarm level within next 5 days (m)	Min. distance to flood level within next 5 days (m)	
			15-Sep	16-Sep	17-Sep	18-Sep	19-Sep	20-Sep	21-Sep							
Jinghong	0.0	-	535.47	↓ 535.32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chiang Saen	0.0	357.110	7.48	↓ 6.51	↓ 5.65	↓ 5.24	↓ 4.97	→ 5.02	↑ 5.18	11.50	12.80	↓ -1.33	-1.55	5.85	7.15	
Luang Prabang	0.0	267.195	17.71	↓ 16.57	↓ 15.60	↓ 14.45	↓ 13.36	↓ 12.82	↓ 12.51	17.50	18.00	↓ -4.06	-4.06	1.90	2.40	
Chiang Khan	0.8	194.118	16.02	↓ 15.30	↓ 15.12	↓ 14.62	↓ 14.07	↓ 13.48	↓ 13.17	14.50	16.00	↓ -2.13	-2.13	-0.62	0.88	
Vientiane	27.0	158.040	13.24	↓ 12.72	↓ 12.24	↓ 11.69	↓ 11.18	↓ 10.57	↓ 9.97	11.50	12.50	↓ -2.76	-2.76	-0.74	0.26	
Nongkhai	31.1	153.648	13.82	↓ 13.58	↓ 12.93	↓ 12.40	↓ 11.94	↓ 11.15	↓ 10.61	11.40	12.20	↓ -2.97	-2.97	-1.53	-0.73	
Paksane	20.1	142.125	13.24	↑ 13.38	↑ 13.69	↑ 13.58	↑ 13.09	↑ 12.44	↑ 11.71	13.50	14.50	↓ -1.67	-1.67	-0.19	0.81	
Nakhon Phanom	0.0	130.961	11.38	↑ 11.65	↑ 11.83	↑ 12.18	→ 12.20	↑ 11.96	↑ 11.61	11.50	12.00	→ -0.04	0.55	-0.70	-0.20	
Thakhek	0.1	129.629	12.32	↑ 12.57	↑ 12.73	↑ 13.06	→ 13.07	↑ 12.83	↑ 12.49	13.00	14.00	→ -0.08	0.50	-0.07	0.93	
Mukdahan	32.5	124.219	10.66	↑ 11.01	↑ 11.20	↑ 11.51	↑ 11.66	↑ 11.56	↑ 11.30	12.00	12.50	↑ 0.29	0.65	0.34	0.84	
Savannakhet	10.8	124.219	9.07	↑ 9.42	↑ 9.63	↑ 9.97	↑ 10.13	↑ 10.02	↓ 9.73	12.00	13.00	↑ 0.31	0.71	1.87	2.87	
Khong Chiam	2.0	89.030	11.85	↑ 12.30	↑ 12.59	↑ 12.75	↑ 13.10	↑ 13.25	→ 13.19	13.50	14.50	↑ 0.89	0.95	0.25	1.25	
Pakse	1.6	86.490	9.78	↑ 10.80	↑ 11.42	↑ 11.76	↑ 11.92	→ 11.87	↓ 11.58	11.00	12.00	↑ 0.78	1.12	-0.92	0.08	
Stung Treng	4.0	36.790	8.59	↑ 9.06	↑ 9.26	↑ 9.48	↑ 9.60	↑ 9.79	↑ 9.96	10.70	12.00	↑ 0.90	0.90	0.74	2.04	
Kratie	52.4	-0.101	18.27	↑ 19.34	↑ 20.00	↑ 20.47	↑ 20.69	↑ 20.97	↑ 21.26	22.00	23.00	↑ 1.92	1.92	0.74	1.74	
Kompong Cham	7.5	-0.930	11.36	↑ 11.86	↑ 12.35	↑ 12.70	↑ 13.01	↑ 13.19	↑ 13.36	15.20	16.20	↑ 1.50	1.50	1.84	2.84	
Phnom Penh (Bassac)	0.3	-1.020	7.16	↑ 7.40	→ 7.43	↑ 7.60	↑ 7.73	↑ 7.82	↑ 7.90	10.50	12.00	↑ 0.50	0.50	2.60	4.10	
Phnom Penh Port	nr	0.070	5.93	↑ 6.15	↑ 6.22	↑ 6.40	↑ 6.52	↑ 6.61	↑ 6.69	9.50	11.00	↑ 0.54	0.54	2.81	4.31	
Koh Khel	0.0	-1.000	6.42	↑ 6.55	↑ 6.64	↑ 6.71	↑ 6.76	↑ 6.81	↑ 6.85	7.90	8.40	↑ 0.30	0.30	1.05	1.55	
Neak Luong	0.0	-0.330	5.01	↑ 5.14	↑ 5.27	↑ 5.38	↑ 5.45	↑ 5.51	↑ 5.56	7.50	8.00	↑ 0.42	0.42	1.94	2.44	
Prek Kdam	8.3	0.080	6.22	↑ 6.38	↑ 6.53	↑ 6.61	↑ 6.71	↑ 6.80	↑ 6.87	9.50	10.00	↑ 0.49	0.49	2.63	3.13	
Tan Chau	nr	0.000	2.39	↑ 2.52	↑ 2.61	→ 2.62	↑ 2.70	↑ 2.77	↑ 2.83	3.50	4.50	↑ 0.31	0.31	0.67	1.67	
Chau Doc	0.0	0.000	2.30	↑ 2.41	→ 2.42	↑ 2.45	→ 2.48	↑ 2.55	↑ 2.60	3.00	4.00	↑ 0.19	0.19	0.40	1.40	

## WATER LEVEL FORECASTING DEFINITIONS

↑	Rising water level.
→	Stable water level: stable water level is defined as a daily change of less than 10cm from Chaing Saen to Savannakhet; less than 5cm at Pakse and Stung Treng; and no more than 3cm from Kratie downstream.
↓	Falling water level.
X	No data available.
Alarm stage	Alarm stage is when the water level ranges between alarm and flood levels.
Flood stage	Flood stage is when the flood level exceeds. A flood level is determined by member countries.

## NOTES

- On **16 September**, Water levels at the upper stretch of the LMB have decreased. **Chiang Khan** and **Nakhon Phanom** are at **ALARM LEVELS**. **Vientiane** and **Nongkhai** stations are still above **FLOOD LEVELS**. At **Paksane**, and **Pakse**, minimum distance to alarm level is **0.12 m**, and **0.20 m**, respectively.
- For **17-21 September**, moderate to heavy rain is expected in some areas in the central part of the Lower Mekong Basin. Particularly, heavy rain is likely to occur in certain areas in Cambodia during this period.
- For **17-21 September**, **Chiang Khan** and **Vientiane** stations are expected to be in **normal condition** on **19 September**, while **Nongkhai** is likely staying below **Flood Level** on **19 September**. **Nakhon Phanom** is expected to reach **FLOOD LEVEL** on **18 September**, while **Paksane** and **Pakse** stations are expected to reach **ALARM LEVELS** on **17 September** (tomorrow).
- For **17-21 September**, the minimum distance to **flood level** at **Paksane**, and **Pakse** stations are expected to be **0.81 m**, and **0.08 m** on **17**, and **19 September**, respectively.

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### 6.3 Flash Flood Information

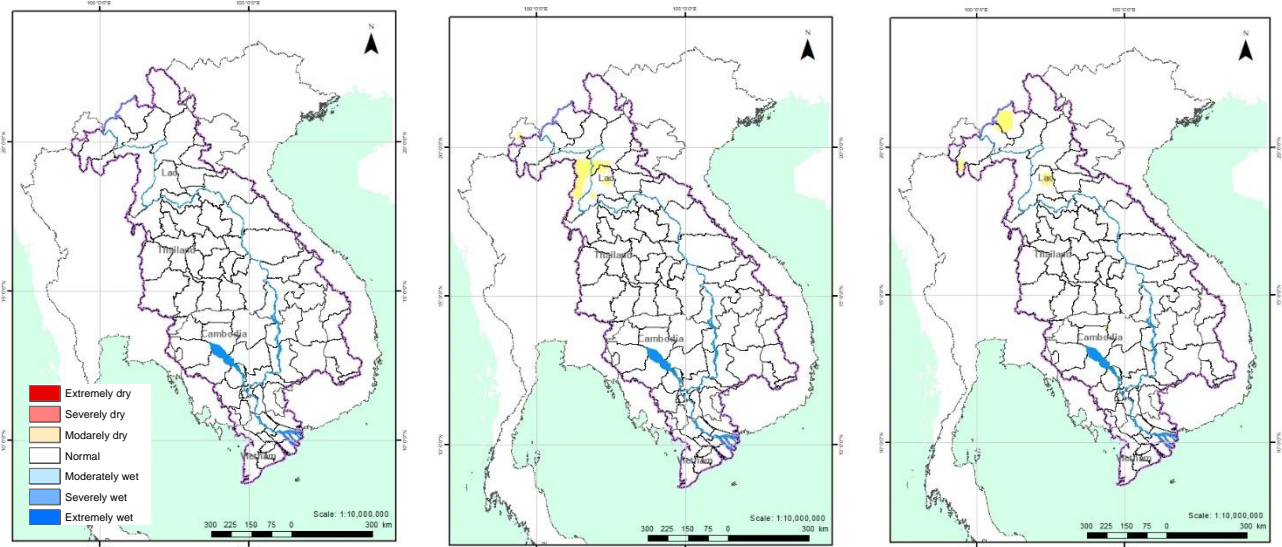
With the predicted rainfall for the coming week, flash floods might be detected in some areas in the LMB. Local heavy rain in a short period of time is possible with unpredictable short flash floods.

Further detailed information on Flash Flood Guidance Information, as well as its explanation, is available for download [here](#).

### 6.4 Drought forecast

There are several climate-prediction models with different scenarios in the upcoming months. The MRC’s DFEWS adopts the global scale of North America Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) for the seasonal outlook of rainfall.

**Figure 13** below shows the monthly forecasts of combined drought indicator from October to December 2024 over the LMB area.



**Figure 14. Monthly forecasts of combined drought indicator for a) October, b) November and c) December 2024.**

Figure 14 illustrates the monthly drought forecast for the upcoming three months using the Combined Drought Indicator (CDI). The forecast indicates that no significant drought conditions are expected across the entire LMB during this period. However, in November 2024, the upper part of the LMB, including Xayabouly province, is anticipated to experience moderate drought conditions; and in December, Luang Namtha province, is anticipated to experience moderate drought conditions.

## 7 Summary and Possible Implications

### 7.1. Rainfall and its forecast

In the period of 10 – 16 September 2024, light to very heavy rainfall has been observed over the LMB. Especially, heavy to very heavy rain occurred in some areas in Chiang Saen, Nong Khai, Muong Kao, Paksane, Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Pursat, Kratie, Svay Chrea, Sekong, Sesan.

From 17 – 23 September 2024, moderate to heavy rain is expected in some areas in the central and lower part of the Lower Mekong Basin. Particularly, 20 – 21 September, heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur in some areas of the central part of Lao PDR.

### 7.2. Water level and its forecast

At 22 key monitoring stations along the Mekong mainstream from 10 – 16 September 2024, water levels in all stations significantly increased, particularly at the upper stretch of the LMB. At Chiang Saen, Luang Prabang, Chiang Khan, Vientiane and Nongkhai, water level increased approximately 5 meters with few days. This caused those stations except for Chiang Saen to reach flood levels for few days. The total accumulated volume of the reverse flow to Tonle Sap Lake remains 18.28 Km<sup>3</sup>.

In the period of 17 – 21 September 2024, water levels at upstream stations along Mekong mainstream from are likely expected to drop and return to normal conditions. From Nakhon Phanom downward, water levels are expected to significantly rise. However, it is expected that those station are likely still in normal conditions, which do not reach alarm and flood levels.

### 7.3. Flash flood and its trends

With the predicted of rainfall for the coming week as mentioned earlier in part 2, the flash flood guidance at a low to high level will likely be detected in some areas of the LMB.

### 7.4. Drought condition and its forecast

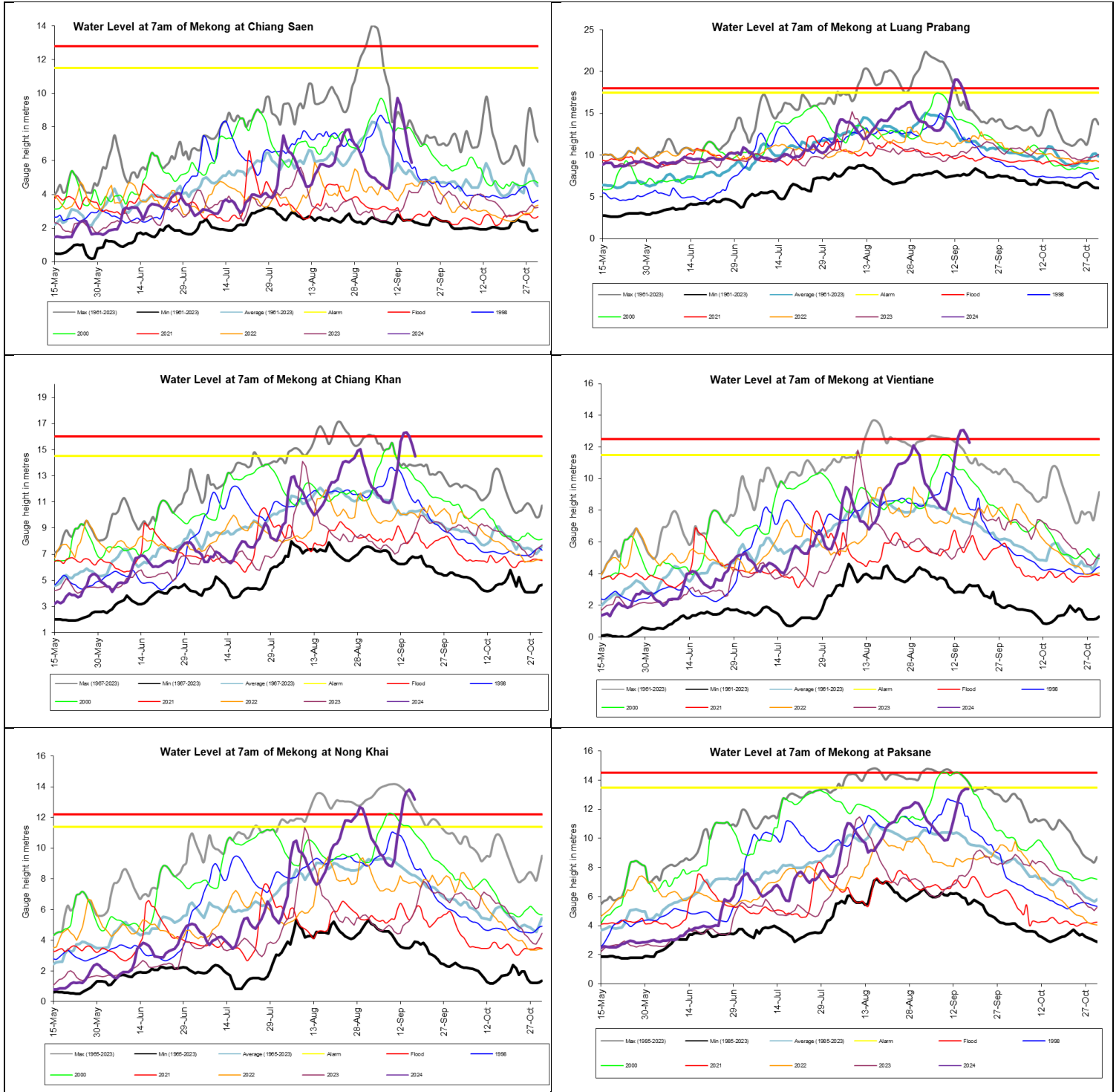
From 10 - 16 September 2024, the LMB is experiencing moderate and severe droughts in some areas of the central and lower part. Severe drought occurs in some areas of the eastern part of Borikhamxai and Khammouan (Lao PDR); Battamabang, Banteay Meanchey, and Mondulkiri (Cambodia).

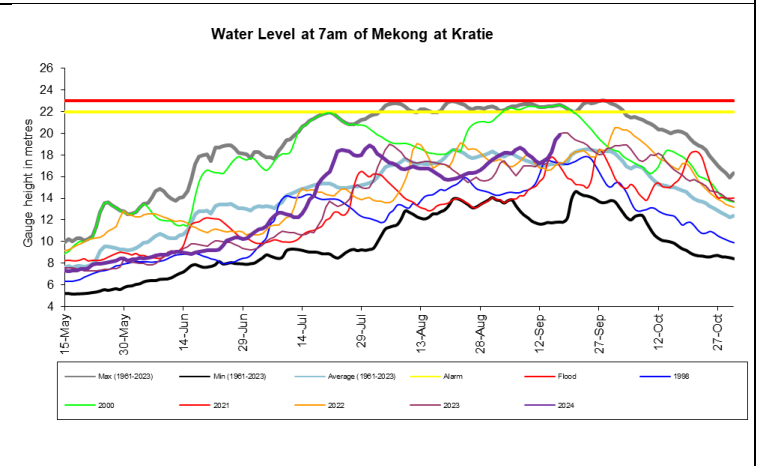
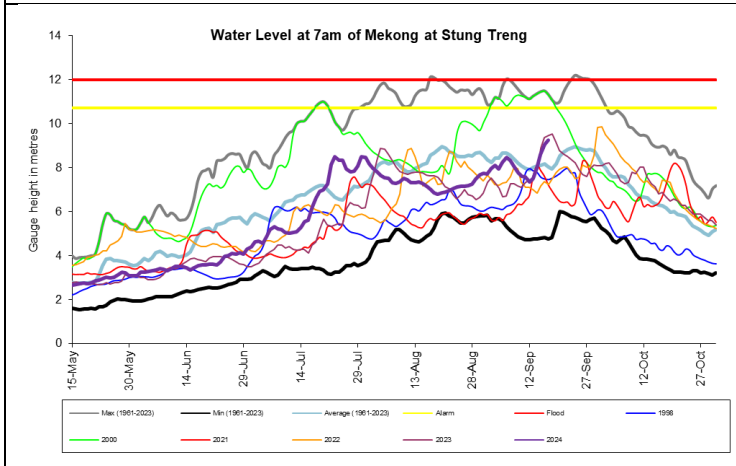
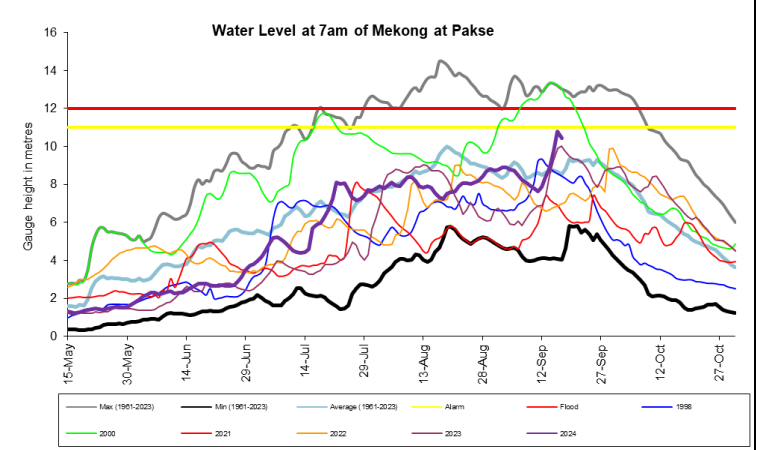
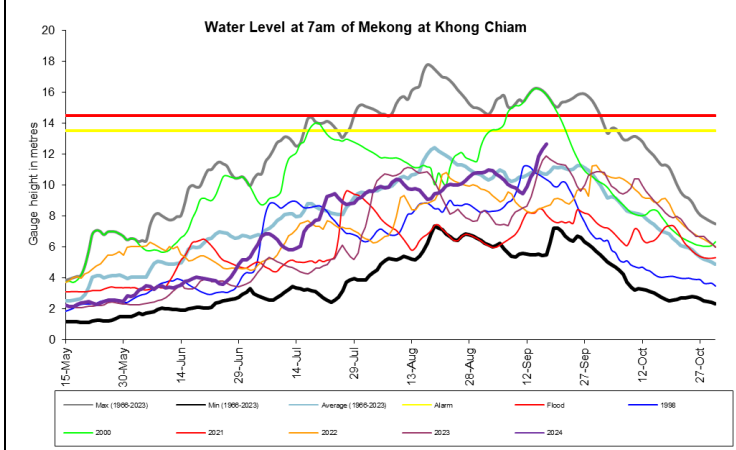
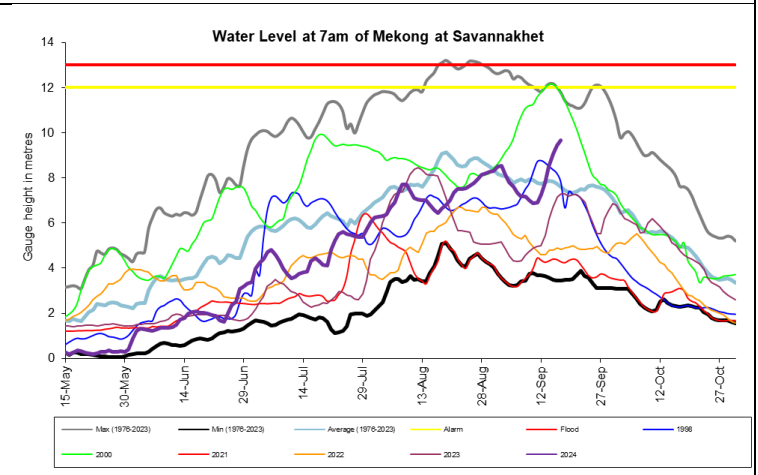
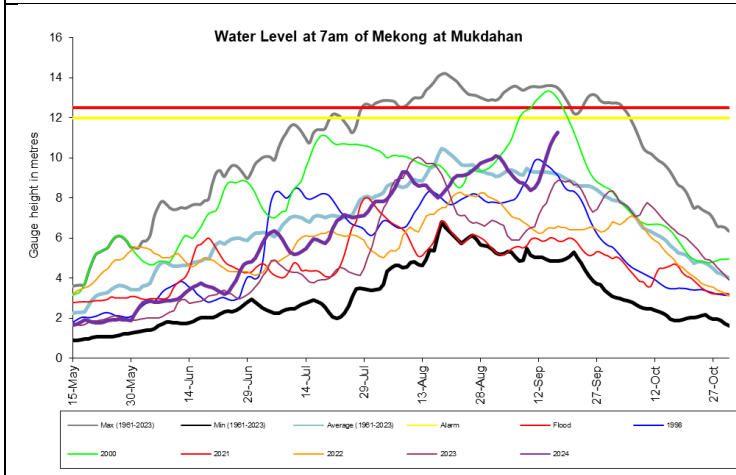
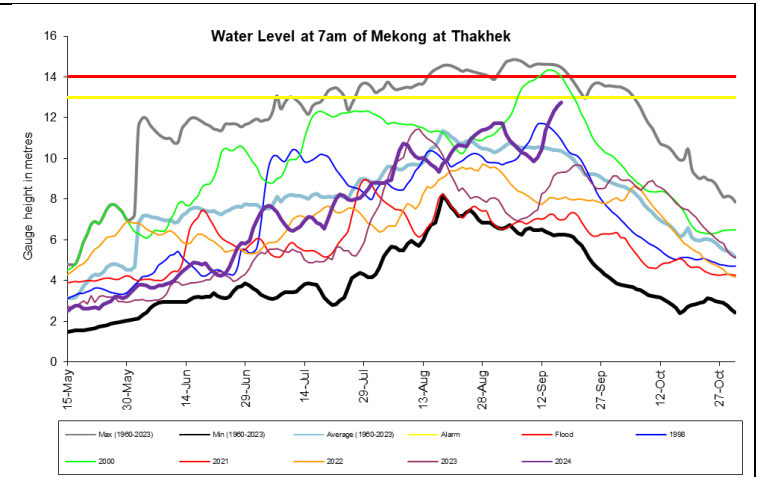
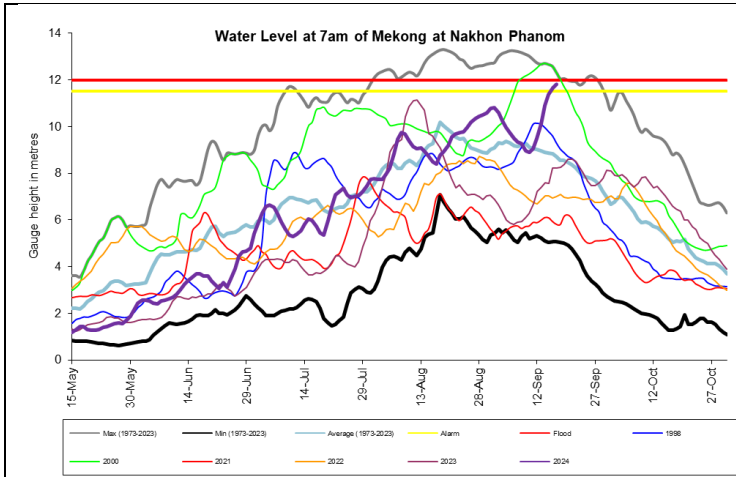
From 17 - 23 September 2024, the LMB is likely at normal conditions. No drought is forecasted for the whole region.

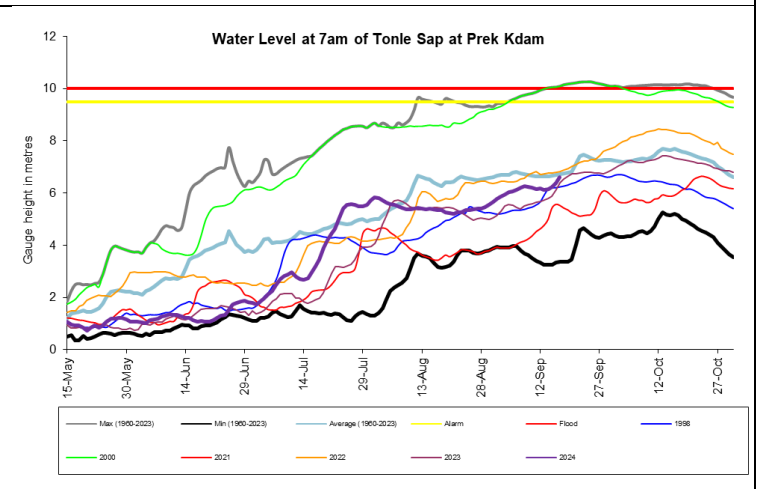
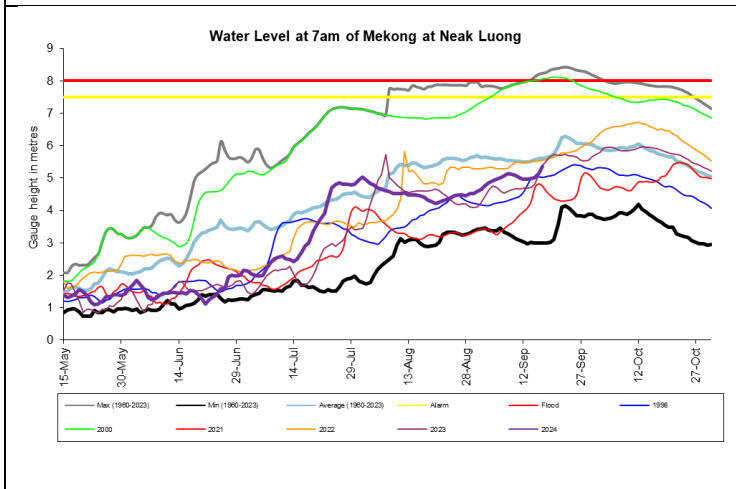
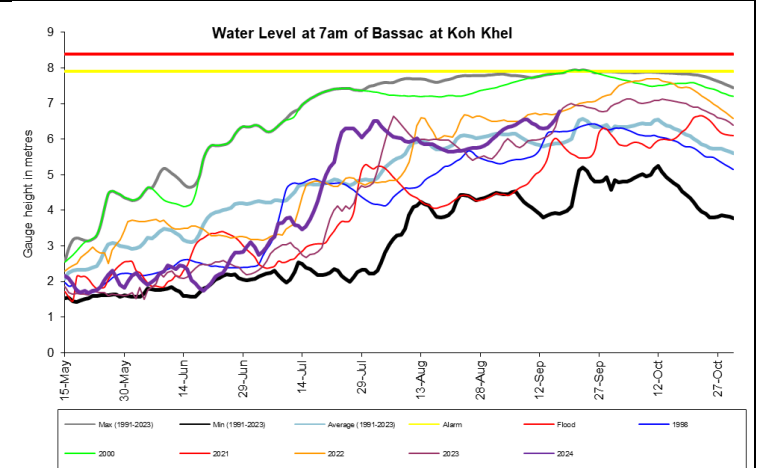
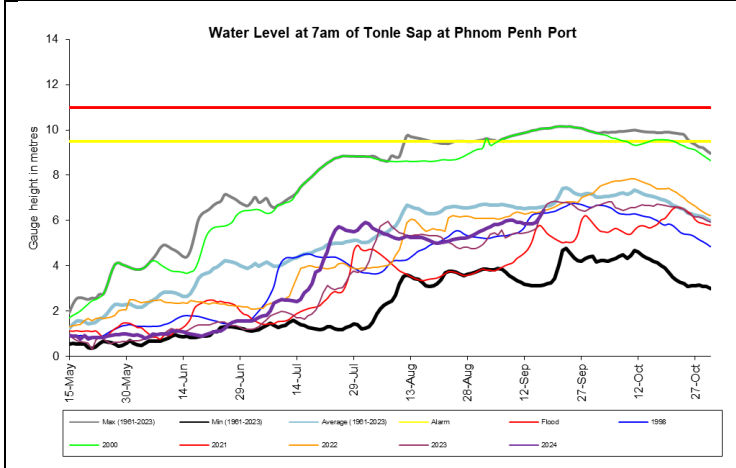
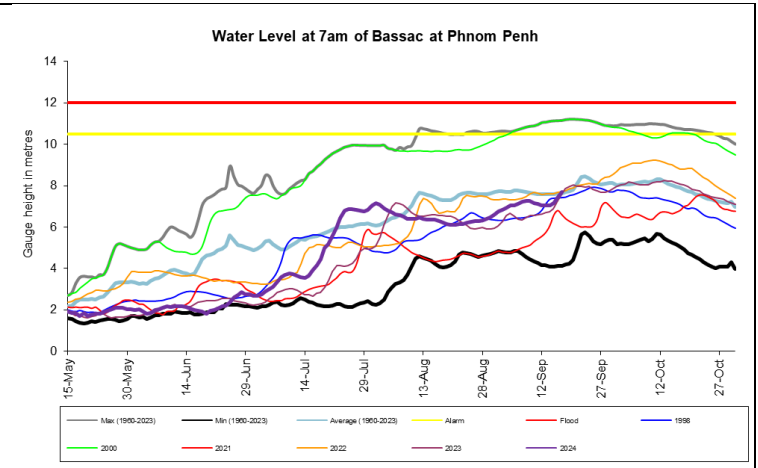
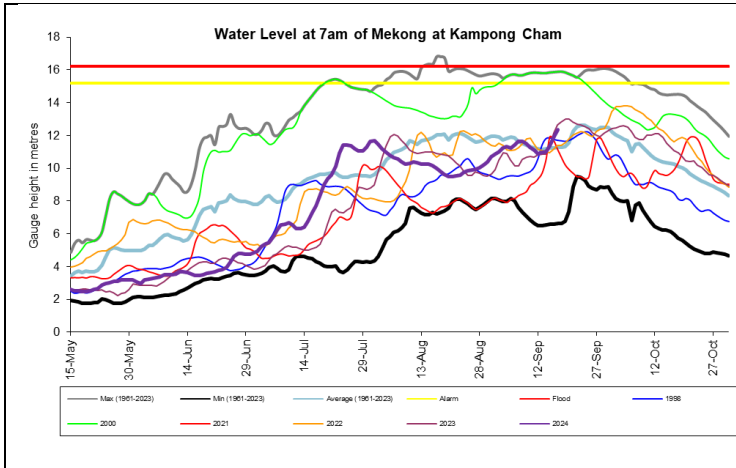
From October to December 2024, The forecast indicates that no significant drought conditions are expected across the entire LMB during this period. However, in November

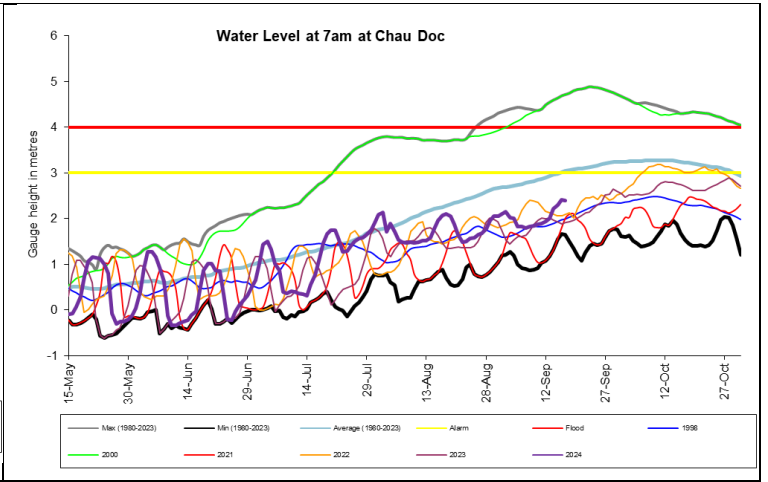
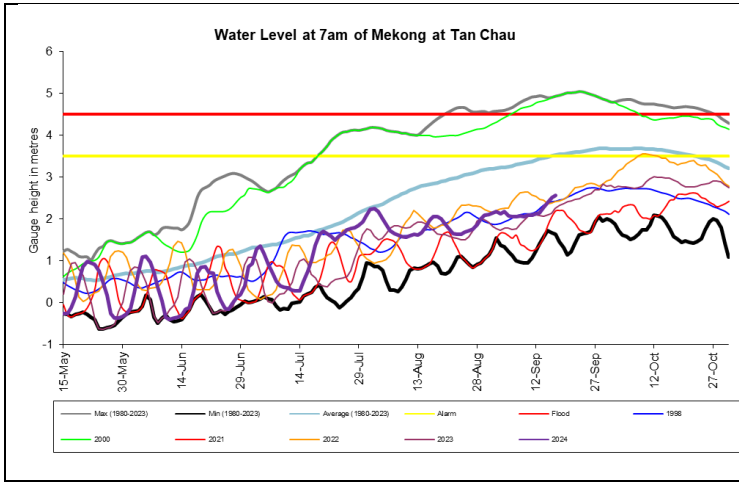
2024, the upper part of the LMB, including Xayabouly province, is anticipated to experience moderate drought conditions; and in December, Luang Namtha province, is anticipated to experience moderate drought conditions.

## Annex A: Weekly water level monitoring at the 22 key stations









## Annex B: Tables for weekly updated water levels and rainfall at the Key Stations

Table A1: Weekly observed water levels

2024	Jinghong	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
10-09-2024	535.65	5.52	15.72	12.62	8.68	9.28	9.90	8.91	9.85	8.36	6.86	9.61	7.78	7.59	17.81	11.30	7.16	5.93	6.45	5.08	6.21	2.09	1.87
11-09-2024	535.62	8.73	17.50	13.76	10.07	10.72	10.43	9.05	10.03	8.52	6.92	9.45	7.62	7.57	17.44	11.10	7.10	5.92	6.40	5.02	6.16	2.09	1.89
12-09-2024	535.58	9.71	19.00	15.61	11.34	11.85	11.15	9.49	10.46	8.82	7.26	9.91	7.86	7.34	17.24	10.90	7.04	5.85	6.32	4.97	6.17	2.12	1.94
13-09-2024	535.54	9.33	19.02	16.29	12.57	13.10	12.10	10.11	11.40	9.37	7.77	10.50	8.40	7.51	17.44	10.96	7.05	5.84	6.31	4.96	6.12	2.15	2.01
14-09-2024	535.49	8.39	18.58	16.32	13.04	13.65	12.91	10.90	11.84	10.08	8.51	10.95	8.95	7.98	17.72	11.00	7.05	5.84	6.33	4.99	6.14	2.29	2.21
15-09-2024	535.47	7.48	17.71	16.02	13.07	13.82	13.24	11.38	12.32	10.66	9.07	11.85	9.78	8.59	18.27	11.36	7.16	5.93	6.42	5.01	6.22	2.39	2.30
16-09-2024	535.32	6.51	16.57	15.30	12.72	13.58	13.38	11.65	12.57	11.01	9.42	12.30	10.80	9.06	19.34	11.86	7.40	6.15	6.55	5.14	6.38	2.52	2.41
Flood level		12.80	18.00	16.00	12.50	12.00	14.50	12.50	14.00	12.50	13.00	14.50	12.00	12.00	23.00	16.20	12.00	11.00	7.90	8.00	10.00	4.50	4.00

Table A2: Weekly observed rainfall

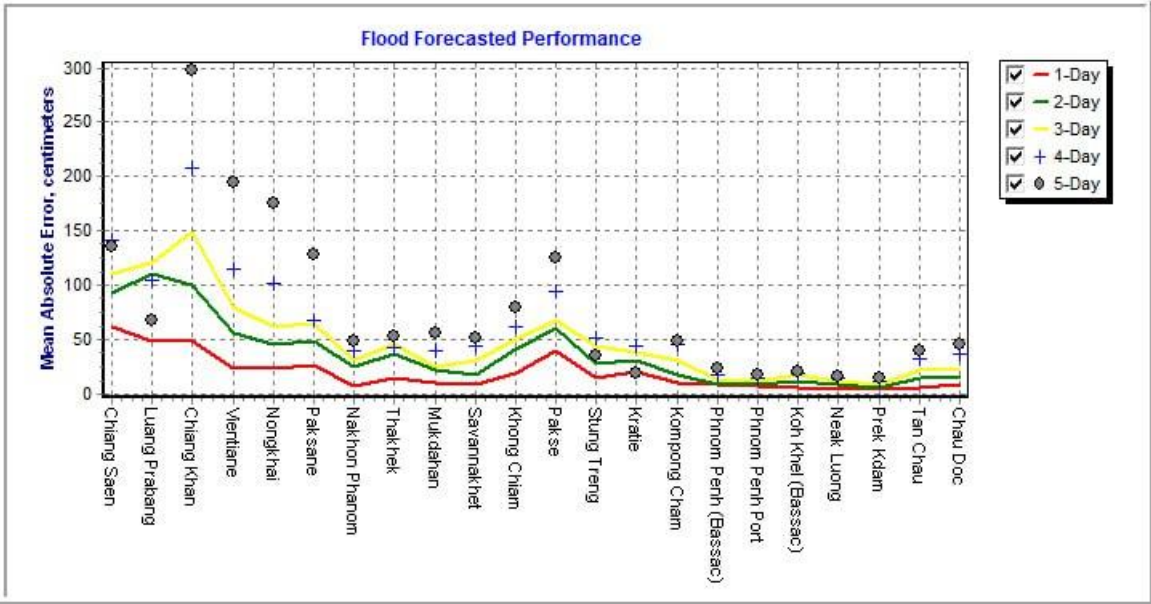
2024	Jinghong	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Thakhek	Mukdahan	Savannakhet	Khong Chiam	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Phnom Penh Port	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc
10-09-2024	45	111	9.4	0.5	3.4	13.6	55.5	5.5	4.2	2.4	1.8	0.5	7.6	2	6.9	0	0		5.8	40.7	8.3	0	0
11-09-2024	57	34	61.8	0	36.4	22.8	54.5	44.9	34.4	21.2	21.4	21.5	12.2	52.5	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
12-09-2024	15.5	13.1	0	21	30.6	50.7	3	14.4	0	18.4	31.4	6	0	0	16.2	0	36		26	29.7	19.4	0.6	0.4
13-09-2024	1	2	30.8	0	7.4	10	135	38.8	27	2.2	0	0	0	11	0	0	0		0	0.2	47.3	0	1.1
14-09-2024	0.5	0.8	10	16	70.3	157	4.2	14.2	10.5	22	6.8	0.9	65	160	26	14.5	3		50	33.8	6.2	0	0
15-09-2024	0	94.5	0	0	32	1.8	0	35.5	37.5	18.7	35.8	12.5	55	42	38.5	4	0		0	0	0	0	0
16-09-2024	0	0	0	0.8	27	31.1	20.1	0	0.1	32.5	10.8	2	1.6	4	52.4	7.5	0.3		0	0	8.3	0	0
<b>Sum</b>	<b>119.0</b>	<b>255.5</b>	<b>112.0</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>207.1</b>	<b>286.5</b>	<b>272.3</b>	<b>153.3</b>	<b>113.7</b>	<b>117.4</b>	<b>108.0</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>141.4</b>	<b>271.5</b>	<b>140.0</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>104.4</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>



## Annex C: Performance of the weekly flood forecasting

“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 10 to 16 September 2024.



The forecasting values from 10 to 16 September 2024 show that the overall accuracy is fair for a four-day to five-day forecast in lead time (less than 250 cm) for all forecasting stations except for Chaing Khan station.

**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.
- Chiang Saen station is influencing by hydropower upstream operation from China.
- 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.



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