

Mekong River Commission

Weekly Wet Season Situation Report in the Lower Mekong River Basin 22 – 28 July 2025

Prepared by The Regional Flood and Drought Management Centre 29 July 2025

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Mekong River Commission

Documentation and Learning Centre

184 Fa Ngoum Road, Unit 18, Ban Sithane Neua, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR Telephone: +856-21 263 263 | E-mail: mrcs@mrcmekong.org | www.mrcmekong.org

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Key Messages

Key messages for this weekly report are presented below.

Rainfall monitoring and forecast

- In the period of 22 28 July 2025, Due to the impact from the Lower Pressuse Area which is weakened from the tropical strorm WIPHA, from 22 -23 July, thunderstorms and heavy to very heavy rains are expected in some areas in the northern and the central part of Lao PDR, the northern and the northeastern of Thailand near the border with Lao PDR, the 3S basin, and the southwestern part of Cambodia. The remaining areas are expected light to moderate rainfall.
- From 29 July 02 August, thunderstorms and heavy are expected over the upper and central part of the LMB including the upper and central part of Lao PDR, the northern and northeastern part of Thailand near Lao PDR's border, and the 3S basin of Sesan, Sekong, Srepok. The remaining areas are likely to occur light to moderate rainfall.

Water level monitoring and forecast

- At 22 key monitoring stations along the Mekong mainstream from 22 28 July 2025, water levels have neither reached alarm nor flood levels, and the flow threshold (PMFM 6C) are under normal conditions. It is also the same condition for Tan Chau and Chau Doc monitoring stations, which are significantly influenced by sea tidal fluctuation.
- In the period of 23 July 02 August 2025, the water level at Vientiane, Nongkhai, Nakhon Phanom, Khong Chiam and Pakse stations are expected to reach alarm level. At Tan Chau and Chau Doc stations, the water levels are predicted to be also fluctuated, resulting from the influence of sea tidal patterns.

Drought condition and forecast

- During 22 23 July 2025, the LMB was facing normal to wet conditions, except some areas in the lower part of Cambodia and Mekong delta. The monitored drought is caused primarily by meteorological indicator.
- The next three-month from August to October 2025, the total amount of rainfall in most areas of the LMB will be higher than the LTA by around 5 25 mm, except for some areas in the lowland areas of Cambodia, and the Mekong Delta. Overall, in the next 3 months, rainfall will be mainly concentrated in the central part of the LMB and higher than the LTA from 10 25 mm.
- The forecast indicates that no drought conditions are expected in over the LMB from August to October 2025 using the Combined Drought Indicator (CDI).

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 **22** – **28 July 2025**. 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: <u>http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/ffg.php</u>

2 General Weather Patterns

Curenlty, due to the influence of the low pressure trough with an axis at about 23-26 degrees North latitude connecting to the low pressure area to the west while the lower part is still affected by the southwest monsoon with moderate to strong intensity. In the next 24 hours, heavy rain and thunderstorms are expected, with very heavy rainfall in some areas including: Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang, Xieng Khouang, Bolikhamxay in Laos, Chiang Rai in Thailand; common total amount of rainfall ranging from 50 - 100mm/24hr, some places over 120mm/24hr.

From 30th July to 2nd August, moderate to heavy rain and thunderstorms, with locally very heavy rain, are forecast in: Phong Saly, Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Oudomxay, Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Xieng Khouang, Bolikhamsai, Khammouane, Sekong, Champasak, Attapeu in Laos; Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Bueng Kan, Nakhon Phanom in Thailand; Ratana Kiri, Stung Treng in Cambodia and Dak Lak, Gia Lai and Kon Tum in Viet Nam



Figure 1 presents mean sea level pressure over the region

Figure 1: Weather conditions over the LMB

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC, <u>http://asmc.asean.org</u> /home/), the sub seasonal weather outlook (21 July – 03 August 2025) indicates that the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) is likely in wetter condition in from central to upper part, while drier condition at the lower part. However, it is also expected to experience warmer condition at the lower part. **Figure 2** shows the outlook of weather condition from 21 July to 03 August 2025 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) (<u>https://www.jma.go.jp/bosai/weather_map/#lang=en</u>), there is active Tropical Storm (TS) at NW pacific system as of 28 July 2025 shown in **Figure 3**.



Figure 3: Tropical storm risk observed on 28 July 2025

3. Rainfall and Water Level Monitoring

3.1. Rainfall monitoring

The weekly accumulated rainfall based on the observed data provided by the MRC Member Countries – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam – from 22 - 28 July 2025 (**Figure 4**). The heavy to very heavy rainfall has been observed over the LMB in the upper and central parts of Lao PDR, the northern and northeastern part of Thailand, and the 3S basin.



Figure 4: Weekly rainfall distribution over the LMB during 22 – 28 July 2025

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: <u>http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/overview.php</u>.

During 22 – 28 July 2025, the observed water level (WL) at Jinghong hydrological station¹, was almost constant and ranges between 536.16 and 536.88 m, which are corresponding to the outflow between 1,490.00 m³/s to 2,050.00 m³/s (recorded on 7:00 am), respectively (**Figure 6**). The water level in Chiang Saen Station also indicated a slight fluctuation ranging from 4.94 m to 5.51 m. At the same period, the water level in Luang Prabang Station also increased with an approximate value of 2.68 m from 13.44 m to 16.12 m as compared to the previous week.

The water levels at Chiang Khan, Vientiane, Nongkhai, Paksane, Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Mukdahan, Savannakhet, Khong Chiam and Pakse have increased from 10.78 m to 13.46 m, 9.30 m to 10.32 m, 8.58 m to 10.32 m, 9.64 m to 11.90 m, 8.82 m to 11.01 m, 10.02 m to 12.24 m, 8.61 m to 10.87 m, 7.05 m to 9.37 m, 9.65 m to 12.80 m, and 7.78 m to 10.62 m, respectively.

In addition, the water levels at Stung Treng, Kratie, Kompong Cham, Phnom Penh (Bassac), Phnom Penh Port, Koh Khel, Neak Luong and Prek Kdam also have increased from 7.43 m to 9.20 m, 17.17 m to 18.79 m, 10.50 m to 11.24 m, 6.34 m to 6.78 m, 5.14 m to 5.59 m, 5.64 m to 6.13 m, 4.36 m to 4.54 m, and 5.24 m to 5.56 m, respectively.

Similar to the previous week, the water levels from 22 to 28 July 2025 at Viet Nam's Tan Chau and Chau Doc fluctuated between their LTA values due to daily tidal effects from the sea. At the Tan Chau station, the water levels varied between 1.85 m and 1.66 m, while at the Chau Doc station, they ranged from 1.66 m and 1.32 m.

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



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

The water levels in key monitoring stations on 28 July 2025 are in normal conditions, in which they do not reach alarm and flood levels at all stations. Moreover, all stations with available PMFM thresholds are in normal conditions. 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 28 July 2025.

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 flow) of the Tonle Sap Lake took place since 29 May 2025.

The inflow 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:

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

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 (1997-2024) are illustrated in **Figure 7**. Up to 28 July 2025, it was observed that the inflow to Tonle Sap Lake is relatively higher than its LTA due to significant high inflows from upstream **(Figure 7)**.

The seasonal changes in monthly flow volumes up to 21 July 2025 for the TSL compared with that in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and their LTAs, and the fluctuation levels (1997–2024) are presented in **Table 8**. The mean monthly water volume of the Tonle Sap Lake in May 2025

is lower than its LTA (about 93.85 %), 2019, and 2023 but higher than that in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2024 during the same period (Figure 8 and Table 1).



Inflow and Outflow of the Tonle Sap Lake

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

Month	LTA (97-24) [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 2025 [MCM]	Volume in 2025 [%], compared with its LTA
Jan	15197.93	26357.53	5906.80	13080.39	10285.31	5906.80	9923.80	11214.32	14422.11	10341.91	68.05
Feb	8644.19	15596.22	4198.60	7302.32	6019.30	4264.19	5832.97	6558.79	8069.29	5690.52	65.83
Mar	5564.35	9438.24	3347.07	4852.74	4354.62	3553.99	4264.88	4736.52	5080.64	4256.33	76.49
Apr	4300.28	8009.14	2866.91	4282.78	3667.47	2992.61	3556.68	4288.31	3884.16	3697.92	85.99
Мау	4009.61	9176.93	2417.81	4356.44	3266.43	2594.92	3240.78	4556.83	3438.66	3322.45	82.86
Jun	5624.02	13635.01	2468.70	8465.20	3517.06	2641.88	3798.29	7489.04	3689.97	5278.20	93.85
Jul	11012.31	28599.56	2925.86	14964.58	4001.99	2925.86	5346.73	9703.79	5062.21	12199.27	110.78
Aug	23865.05	39015.12	4433.46	23407.37	7622.71	5941.07	10547.80	19554.70	13694.57		
Sep	38377.57	65632.35	12105.31	39654.01	24194.19	12105.31	16382.34	32860.34	23550.60		
Oct	46261.30	73757.23	19705.50	41847.54	30358.38	20799.13	27318.21	48199.12	37141.40		
Nov	37500.63	60367.33	18534.61	33663.58	19112.65	27546.80	28982.93	39452.53	33929.52		
Dec	24795.31	38888.95	10563.49	23079.82	10577.29	18251.65	20170.76	25346.65	21757.70		
	Critical situa	ation: lower t	than long-te	rm minimum	values (LTN	/IN)	-				
	Normal con	dition: withir	the range o	of long-term	average (LT	A) and max	(LTMAX) va	alues			
	Low volume	e situation: k	ower than lo	ng-term ave	rage (LTA)						
Unit: Millior	n Cubic Mete	er (1 MCM=	0.001 Km ³)								

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

Remarks: the volume of Tonle Sap Lake in 2025 is updated untill 28 July 2025.

4. Flash Flood in the Lower Mekong Basin

During the weekly monitoring period from 22 - 28 July, the LMB received light to heavy rain and thunderstorms in some areas.

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

	FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE IN LAO PDR									
In the next 1hrs			In the next 3hrs			In the next 6hrs				
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level		
Khammuane	Xaybouath	High	Khammuane	Xaybouath	High	Khammuane	Xaybouath	High		
Luangnamtha	Sing	Moderate								
Phongsaly	Bountay	Moderate								
Xayaboury	Ngeun	Moderate								
Xayaboury	Xienghon	Moderate								

Table 2. Detected flash flood in the LMB on 22 July

FLASH FLOOD RISK IN LAO PDR								
	In the next 12hrs			In the next 24hrs				
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level			
Attapeu	Sanxay	Moderate	Attapeu	Phouvong	Moderate			
Bokeo	Pha Oudo	Moderate	Attapeu	Sanamxay	Moderate			
Bolikhamxay	Bolikhanh	Moderate	Attapeu	Sanxay	Moderate			
Bolikhamxay	Khamkheut	High	Bokeo	Meung	Moderate			
Bolikhamxay	Pakkading	Moderate	Bokeo	Paktha	Moderate			
Bolikhamxay	Thaphabat	Moderate	Bokeo	Pha Oudo	Moderate			
Bolikhamxay	Viengthon	High	Bolikhamxay	Bolikhanh	High			
Champasak	Paksong	Moderate	Bolikhamxay	Khamkheut	High			
Khammuane	Nakai	High	Bolikhamxay	Pakkading	High			
Khammuane	Nhommalat	Moderate	Bolikhamxay	Pakxanh	Moderate			
Luangprabang	Luangprab	Moderate	Bolikhamxay	Thaphabat	Moderate			
Luangprabang	Nan	High	Bolikhamxay	Viengthon	High			
Luangprabang	Ngoi	Moderate	Champasak	Bachiangc	Moderate			
Luangprabang	Pak xeng	Moderate	Champasak	Paksong	Moderate			
Luangprabang	Park Ou	Moderate	Champasak	Pathoomph	Moderate			
Luangprabang	Phonxay	Moderate	Khammuane	Hinboon	Moderate			
Luangprabang	Phoukhoun	Moderate	Khammuane	Nakai	High			
Luangprabang	Viengkham	High	Khammuane	Nhommalat	High			
Luangprabang	Xieng nge	Moderate	Luangnamtha	Long	Moderate			
Oudomxay	Hoon	Moderate	Luangnamtha	Sing	Moderate			
Oudomxay	Pakbeng	Moderate	Luangnamtha	Viengphou	Moderate			
Saravane	Taoi	Moderate	Luangprabang	Chomphet	Moderate			
Vientiane	Kasy	Moderate	Luangprabang	Luangprab	Moderate			
Vientiane	Keo oudom	Moderate	Luangprabang	Nambak	Moderate			
Vientiane	Phonhong	Moderate	Luangprabang	Nan	High			
Vientiane	Thoulakho	Moderate	Luangprabang	Ngoi	Moderate			
Vientiane	Vangvieng	Moderate	Luangprabang	Pak xeng	Moderate			
Xayaboury	Hongsa	Moderate	Luangprabang	Park Ou	High			
Xayaboury	Khop	Moderate	Luangprabang	Phonxay	High			
Xayaboury	Ngeun	Moderate	Luangprabang	Phoukhoun	High			
Xayaboury	Phieng	Moderate	Luangprabang	Viengkham	High			
Xayaboury	Xayabury	Moderate	Luangprabang	Xieng nge	High			
Xayaboury	Xienghon	Moderate	Oudomxay	Beng	Moderate			
Xaysomboun	Hom	Moderate	Oudomxay	Hoon	Moderate			
Xaysomboun	Longxan	Moderate	Oudomxay	Nga	Moderate			
Xaysomboun	Phoun	Moderate	Oudomxay	Pakbeng	Moderate			
Xaysomboun	Thathom	Moderate	Oudomxay	Хау	Moderate			

	FLASH FLOOD RISK IN LAO PDR									
	In the next 12hrs			In the next 24hrs						
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level					
Xaysomboun	Xaysombou	Moderate	Phongsaly	Bountay	Moderate					
Xiengkhuang	Kham	Moderate	Saravane	Lakhoneph	Moderate					
Xiengkhuang	Khoune	Moderate	Saravane	Saravane	Moderate					

	FL	ASH FLOOD RI	sk in lao pdr				
	In the next 1	2hrs	In the next 24hrs				
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level		
Xiengkhuang	Morkmay	High	Saravane	Ta oi	Moderate		
Xiengkhuang	Pek	Moderate	Saravane	Toomlarn	Moderate		
Xiengkhuang	Phookood	Moderate	Saravane	Vapy	Moderate		
Xiengkhuang	Souy	Moderate	Savannakhet	Phine	Moderate		
	-		Savannakhet	Thapangth	Moderate		
			Sekong	Dakcheung	Moderate		
			Sekong	Kaleum	Moderate		
			Sekong	Lamarm	Moderate		
			Vientiane	Feuang	Moderate		
			Vientiane	Kasy	High		
			Vientiane	Keo oudom	High		
			Vientiane	Met	Moderate		
			Vientiane	Phonhong	Moderate		
			Vientiane	Thoulakho	Moderate		
			Vientiane	Vangvieng	Moderate		
			Vientiane	Xanakham	Moderate		
			Vientiane Municipality	Naxaithong	Moderate		
			Vientiane Municipality	Pakngum	Moderate		
			Vientiane Municipality	Sangthong	Moderate		
			Vientiane Municipality	Xaythany	Moderate		
			Xayaboury	Hongsa	Moderate		
			Xayaboury	Khop	Moderate		
			Xayaboury	Ngeun	High		
			Xayaboury	Paklai	Moderate		
			Xayaboury	Phieng	Moderate		
			Xayaboury	Xayabury	High		
			Xayaboury	Xienghon	High		
			Xaysomboun	Hom	High		

FLASH FLOOD RISK IN LAO PDR									
	In the next 12	2hrs		In the next 24hrs					
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level				
			Xaysomboun	Longxan	High				
			Xaysomboun	Phoun	Moderate				
			Xaysomboun	Thathom	High				
			Xaysomboun	Xaysombou	High				
			Xiengkhuang	Kham	High				
			Xiengkhuang	Khoune	High				
			Xiengkhuang	Morkmay	High				
			Xiengkhuang	Pek	High				
			Xiengkhuang	Phookood	High				
			Xiengkhuang	Souy	High				

FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE IN THAILAND								
In the next 1hrs				In the ne	xt 3hrs		In the nex	kt 6hrs
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level
Chiang Rai	Phan	Moderate	Chiang Rai	Phan	Moderate	Chiang Rai	Phan	Moderate

FLASH FLOOD RISK IN THAILAND								
	In the next 12hrs			In the next 24hrs				
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level			
Chiang Rai	King Amphoe Khun Tan	Moderate	Bueng Kan	Bung Kan	Moderate			
Chiang Rai	Mae Chan	High	Bueng Kan	Pak Khat	Moderate			
Chiang Rai	Muang Chiang Rai	Moderate	Bueng Kan	Phon Charoen	Moderate			
Chiang Rai	Phaya Meng Rai	Moderate	Bueng Kan	Si Wilai	Moderate			
Chiang Rai	Thoeng	Moderate	Bueng Kan	So Phisai	Moderate			
		·	Chaiyaphum	Khon San	Moderate			
			Chiang Rai	King Amphoe Khun Tan	High			
			Chiang Rai	King Amphoe Wiang Kaen	Moderate			
			Chiang Rai	Mae Chan	High			
			Chiang Rai	Muang Chiang Rai	Moderate			
			Chiang Rai	Phan	Moderate			
			Chiang Rai	Phaya Meng Rai	Moderate			
			Chiang Rai	Thoeng	High			
			Nakhon Ratchasima	Khonburi	Moderate			
			Nong Khai	Phon Phisai	Moderate			
			Nong Khai	Rattana Wapi	Moderate			

	FLASH FLOOD RISK IN THAILAND							
	In the next 12hrs		In the next 24hrs					
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level			
			Ubon Ratchathani	Nam Yun	Moderate			



Figure 9. Flash Flood Guidance for the next 1-hr, 3-hr and 6-hr on 22 July

5. Drought Monitoring in the Lower Mekong Basin

5.2. Weekly drought monitoring from 22 – 28 July 2025

Drought monitoring data for 2025 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)

Meteorological indicator shows that from 22 - 28 July 2024, as shown in Figure 9, the LMB was facing normal to wet conditions, except some areas in the lower part of Cambodia and Mekong delta.





• Weekly Index of Soil Water Fraction (ISWF)

No drought over the LMB by the Index of Soil Water Fraction, as displayed in **Figure 10**, during the monitoring week from 22 – 28 July. The LMB was facing normal to wet conditions, except some areas in the center part of Cambodia, and Mekong delta.



Figure 11: Weekly Index of Soil Water Fraction from 22 – 28 July.

• Weekly Combined Drought Index (CDI)

The combined drought indicator, **Figure 11**, that some areas experienced moderate drought in Cambodia (Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, Siem Reap). The impacted areas are listed below:

Number	Country	Province	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	Exceptional					
1	Cambodia	Kampong Thom					Other pro	vinces of th	ne Mekong Delta of Vie	et Nam hav	e no data
2	Cambodia	Preah Vihear						Moderate		Severe	
3	Cambodia	Siem Reap						Extreme		Exceptiona	I

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



Figure 12: Weekly Combined Drought Index from 22 – 28 July .

More information on Drought Forecasting and Early Warning (DFEW) as well as the explanation is available here: <u>http://droughtforecast.mrcmekong.org/templates/view/our-product</u>. 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 <u>6.4</u> of this report.

6 Weather and Water Level Forecast and Flash Flood information

6.1 Rainfall forecast

During 29 July – 02 August 2025, the accumulated rainfall over the entire Lower Mekong Basin is distributed with light to heavy rain based on CHIRPS-GFS (**Figure 12**). Heavy rain is expected to occur in some areas in the LMB including the northern and central part of Lao PDR, the northern and northeastern part of Thailand, the 3S basin. The remaining areas are expected to occur light to moderate rain.



Figure 13: Accumulated rainfall forecast from CHIRPS-GFS (29 July – 02 August 2025)

6.2 Water level forecast

During the wet season, from June 1st to October 31st each year, daily riverine flood forecasts are conducted for 22 stations along the Mekong mainstream, with a forecast lead time of five days. This report will describe the forecast water level for a period of 29 July – 02 August 2025. The water level at Vientiane, Nongkhai, Nakhon Phanom, Khong Chiam and Pakse stations are expected to reach alarm level within the next 5 days.

In Chiang Saen monitoring station, the water level is expected to be fluctuated over the forecasting period of 23 July – 02 August 2025. However, it will be expected to slightly decrease from 5.51 m to 5.08 m. The water level in Luang Prabang stations affected by backwater is likely slightly decreasing within a range from 16.12 m to 14.99 m.

The water levels at Chaing Khan, Vientiane, Nongkhai, Nakhon Phanom and Thakhek stations are expected to slightly decrease in the next 5 days with approximately value of -0.72 m, -0.02 m, -0.01 m, -0.08 m, and -0.09 m, respectively. However, at Mukdahan, Savannakhet, Khong Chiam, Pakse, the water levels are expected to increase with approximately value of 0.78 m, 0.77 m, 0.08 m, and 0.07 m, respectively.

At the floodplain in Cambodia from Stung Treng station downstream, the water levels are expected to increase. At Stung Treng, Kratie, Kompong Cham, Phnom Penh (Bassac), Phnom Penh Port, Koh Khel, Neak Luong, and Prek Kdam, the water levels are expected to increase approximately 1.21 m, 30.5 m, 2.77 m, 1.68 m, 1.68 m, 1.04 m, 1.0 m, and 1.44 m, respectively.

For the Tan Chau station on the Mekong River and Chau Doc station on the Bassac River, water levels will be fluctuating approximately ranging between 1.77 m and 2.46 m and 1.47 m and 2.16 m, respectively, following daily tidal effects from the sea.

The weekly River Monitoring Bulletin and forecasting issued on 28 July 2025 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 28 July 2025, 7:00 (UTC+7)

Highlights: The water levels at all stations along the Mekong mainstream are in normal conditions. The accumulated volume of reverse flow to Tonle Sap Lake (TSL) is 13.44 km³. THE FORECASTING HYDROLOGICAL STATION MAP **CURRENT WATER LEVEL STATUS** Flow Threshold OF THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN (LMB) **Monitoring Station** Water Level (PMFM*6C) 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. Jinghong Chiang Saen Normal Normal Luang Prabang** Normal Chiang Khan Normal Vientiane Normal Normal Nongkhai Normal Paksane Normal Nakhon Phanom Normal 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 ARK. Normal AN. Koh Khel Normal Neak Luong Normal 🎎 Prek Kdam Normal Tan Chau Normal Chau Doo Normal dures for Maintenance of Flows on the Mainstrean ** Luang Prabang station is influenced by hydropowers at its upstream and downstream **REVERSE FLOW VOLUME PREK KDAM (PMFM*6B)** Monitoring thresholds for Article 6B for accumulated reverse flows at Prek Kdan 5-day Accur No Rain 1 - 50 50 - 100 100 - 150 150 - 200 60 CEBMax-Min (1996-2005) Average (1996-2005) 50 2022 >200 -2023 40 Current Water Level Status -2024 Normal: Normal water level. 30 -2025 Alarm: Water level ranges between alarm and flood levels 28 July 2025: 13.44 km³ Flood: Water level exceed flood level. 20 200 10 0 100 400 Kilometers 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 1st June to 31st October. This bulletin provides information on the current water level status and a five-day forecast on a daily basis. Accumulated reverse flow volume at Prek Kdam WATER LEVEL STATUS DEFINITIONS Flow volumes on 28 July 2025: 13.44 Km³ Normal Normal water level. Minimum reverse flow volume (1996-2005): 23.848 Km³ Alarm when the water level ranges between alarm and Average reverse flow volume (1996-2005): 42.84 Km³ Alarm flood levels. Maximum reverse flow volume (1996-2005): 54.046 Km³ Flood is when the flood level exceeds. A flood level is Flood determined by member countries. *Procedures for Maintenance of Flows on the Mainstream

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

MRC Secretariat, Vientiane, Lao PDR | E: mrcs@mrcmekong.org | T: +856 21 263 263 MRC Regional Flood and Drought Management Centre, Phnom Penh, Cambodia | E: floodforezat@mrcmekonc.org | T: +855 23 425 353 DISCLAIMER

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MEKONG RIVER MONITORING AND FORECASTING BULLETIN

Forecasting from 29 July to 02 August 2025

Highlights: Thunderstorm and heavy rainfall are forecast in parts of the LMB. The water levels at Vientiane and Nongkhai are expected to reach ALARM LEVEL on 30th July, while at Khong Chiam and Pakse, they are expected to reach ALARM LEVELS on 30th and 29th July.

Fo	recasting Station	24 h Observed Rainfall (mm)	Zero gauge above M.S.L (m)	Obsern Level a gau	ved Water gaint zero Ige (m)	Fo	orecaste	d Wate	r Level (m)	Alarm Level (m)	Flood Level (m)	Forecasted Water Levels Change in 5 days (m)	Max. Water levels change within next 5	Min. distance to alarm level within next 5	Min. distance to flood level within next 5	
		27-Jul		27-Jul	28-Jul	29-Jul	30-Jul	31-Jul	01-Aug	02-Aug				days (m)	days (m)	days (m)	
*2	Jinghong	25.5	-	536.78	↑ 536.88	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	9	
	Chiang Saen	59.0	357.110	4.87	↑ 5.51	↑ 6.30	↑ 6.50	♦ 6.00	↓ 5.46	↓ 5.08	11.50	12.80	↓ -0.43	0.99	5.00	6.30	
	Luang Prabang	52.2	267.195	15.56	↑ 16.12	↑ 16.30	↑ 16.51	↓ 16.21	↓ 15.69	↓ 14.99	17.50	18.00	↓ -1.13	0.39	0.99	1.49	
	Chiang Khan	39.5	194.118	11.92	↑ 13.46	↑ 14.00	↑ 14.45	↓ 14.15	↓ 13.45	↓ 12.74	14.50	16.00	↓ -0.72	0.99	0.05	1.55	
•	Vientiane	24.1	158.040	10.25	→ 10.32	↑ 10.89	↑ 11.63	↓ 11.15	↓ 10.70	↓ 10.30	11.50	12.50	→ -0.02	1.31	-0.13	0.87	
	Nongkhai	40.0	153.648	10.43	↓ 10.32	↑ 10.85	↑ 11.75	↓ 11.25	↓ 10.76	↓ 10.31	11.40	12.20	→ -0.01	1.43	-0.35	0.45	
•	Paksane	23.5	142.125	11.96	↓ 11.90	↓ 11.30	↑ 12.15	↑ 12.62	↑ 12.91	↓ 12.45	13.50	14.50	↑ 0.55	1.01	0.59	1.59	
	Nakhon Phanom	21.6	130.961	10.75	↑ 11.01	↑ 11.19	↑ 11.58	↓ 11.38	↓ 11.15	↓ 10.93	11.50	12.00	→ -0.08	0.57	-0.08	0.42	
•	Thakhek	19.3	129.629	12.00	↑ 12.24	↑ 12.44	↑ 12.81	↓ 12.53	↓ 12.35	↓ 12.15	13.00	14.00	→ -0.09	0.57	0.19	1.19	
	Mukdahan	33.1	124.219	10.75	↑ 10.87	↑ 11.04	↑ 11.40	↑ 11.76	→ 11.86	↓ 11.65	12.00	12.50	↑ 0.78	0.99	0.14	0.64	
•	Savannakhet	27.0	124.219	8.97	↑ 9.37	↑ 9.51	↑ 9.91	↑ 10.24	↑ 10.37	↓ 10.14	12.00	13.00	↑ 0.77	1.00	1.63	2.63	
	Khong Chiam	13.5	89.030	11.93	↑ 12.80	↑ 13.40	↑ 13.68	↓ 13.53	↓ 13.13	↓ 12.88	13.50	14.50	→ 0.08	0.88	-0.18	0.82	
•	Pakse	14.0	86.490	9.82	↑ 10.62	↑ 11.07	↑ 11.34	↓ 11.22	↓ 11.00	↓ 10.69	11.00	12.00	↑ 0.07	0.72	-0.34	0.66	
Alt	Stung Treng	7.0	36.790	8.39	↑ 9.20	↑ 9.76	↑ 10.28	↑ 10.51	↑ 10.57	↓ 10.41	10.70	12.00	↑ 1.21	1.37	0.13	1.43	
Add.	Kratie	0.0	-1.080	17.96	↑ 18.79	↑ 19.88	↑ 20.60	↑ 21.33	↑ 21.71	↑ 21.84	22.00	23.00	↑ 3.05	3.05	0.16	1.16	
ARE	Kompong Cham	0.0	-0.930	10.80	↑ 11.24	↑ 12.05	↑ 12.74	↑ 13.30	↑ 13.76	↑ 14.01	15.20	16.20	↑ 2.77	2.77	1.19	2.19	
Add	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	0.0	-1.020	6.48	↑ 6.78	↑ 7.23	↑ 7.54	↑ 7.90	↑ 8.24	↑ 8.46	10.50	12.00	↑ 1.68	1.68	2.04	3.54	
264	Phnom Penh Port	nr	0.070	5.29	↑ 5.59	↑ 6.04	↑ 6.35	↑ 6.71	↑ 7.05	↑ 7.27	9.50	11.00	↑ 1.68	1.68	2.23	3.73	
144	Koh Khel	0.0	-1.000	5.82	↑ 6.13	↑ 6.30	↑ 6.57	↑ 6.81	↑ 7.03	↑ 7.17	7.90	8.40	↑ 1.04	1.04	0.73	1.23	
.Add.	Neak Luong	0.0	-0.330	4.38	↑ 4.54	↑ 4.69	↑ 4.94	↑ 5.17	↑ 5.38	↑ 5.54	7.50	8.00	↑ 1.00	1.00	1.96	2.46	
Alt	Prek Kdam	0.0	0.080	5.32	↑ 5.56	↑ 5.84	↑ 6.21	↑ 6.52	↑ 6.82	↑ 7.00	9.50	10.00	↑ 1.44	1.44	2.50	3.00	
*	Tan Chau	4.0	0.000	1.57	↑ 1.66	↑ 1.77	↑ 1.91	↑ 2.10	↑ 2.30	↑ 2.46	3.50	4.50	↑ 0.80	0.80	1.04	2.04	
*	Chau Doc	26.0	0.000	1.20	↑ 1.32	↑ 1.47	↑ 1.61	↑ 1.80	↑ 2.00	↑ 2.16	3.00	4.00	↑ 0.84	0.84	0.84	1.84	

WATER LEVEL FORECASTING DEFINITIONS

Rising water level.

downstream.

Falling water level.

No data available.

alarm and flood levels.

Stable water level: stable water level is defined as a

daily change of less than 10cm from Chaing Saen to

Alarm stage is when the water level ranges between

Flood stage is when the flood level exceeds. A flood

Savannakhet; less than 5cm at Pakse and Stung

Treng; and no more than 3cm from Kratie

level is determined by member countries.

1

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Alarm stage

Flood stage

NOTES

- On 28 July, the water levels at all stations are in normal conditions. As of now, the total accumulated reverse flow volume into the TSL is 13.44 km³.
 - In the next 5 days, during 29–30 July, thunderstorm and heavy rainfall are expected over the upper and central part of the LMB including the upper and central part of Lao PDR, the northern and northeastern part of Thailand near Lao PDR's border, and the 3S basin of Sesan, Sekong, Srepok.
 - For 29 July 02 August, the water levels at Vientiane and Nongkhai stations are expected to reach ALARM LEVEL on 30th July. However, At Khong Chiam and Pakse, the water levels are expected to reach ALARM LEVELS on 30th and 29th July, respectively.

MRC Secretariat, Vientiane, Lao PDR E: mrcs@mrcmekong.org T: +856 21 263 263 MRC Regional Flood and Drought Management Centre, Phnom Penh, Cambodia E: floodforecast@mrcmekong.org T: +855 23 425 353	http://www.mrcmekong.org/ http://flw.mrcmekong.org/builetin_wet.php http://flw.mrcmekong.org/reportflood.php https://pmfm.mrcmekong.org/	DISCLAIMER This information is supplied as a service to the governments of the NRC Member Countries so that it may be used as a tool within existing national disaster forecast and warning systems.
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6.3 Flash Flood Information

With heavy to very heavy rainfall for next week in 29 July – 04 August, flash floods might be detected in some areas in the LMB including in the northern and central part of Lao PDR, the northern part of Thailand. And 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 on its explanation, is available for download <u>here</u>.

6.4 Drought forecast

From August to October 2025 (**Figure 13**), the total amount of rainfall in most areas of the LMB will be higher than the LTA by around 5 - 25 mm, except for some areas in the lowland areas of Cambodia, and the Mekong Delta. Overall, in the next 3 months, rainfall will be mainly concentrated in the central part of the LMB and higher than the LTA from 10 - 25mm.



Figure 13 Seasonal forecast of rainfall anomalies for August to October 2025 based on CFSv2



Figure 14. Monthly forecasts of combined drought indicators for August, September and October 2025

Figure 14 indicates that the monthly drought forecast for the upcoming three months (August, September, and October 2025) use the Combined Drought Indicator (CDI). The forecast shows that no drought conditions are expected in over the LMB from August to October 2025.

7 Summary and Possible Implications

7.1. Rainfall and its forecast

In the period of 22 - 23 July 2025, Due to the impact from the Lower Pressure Area which is weakened from the tropical storm – WIPHA, from 22 -23 July, thunderstorms and heavy to very heavy rains are expected in some areas in the northern and the central part of Lao PDR, the northern and the northeastern of Thailand near the border with Lao PDR, the 3S basin, and the southwestern part of Cambodia. The remaining areas are expected light to moderate rainfall.

From 29 July – 04 August, thunderstorms and heavy are expected over the upper and central part of the LMB including the upper and central part of Lao PDR, the northern and northeastern part of Thailand near Lao PDR's border, and the 3S basin of Sesan, Sekong, Srepok. The remaining areas are likely to occur light to moderate rainfall.

7.2. Water level and its forecast

At 22 key monitoring stations along the Mekong mainstream from 22 – 28 July 2025, water levels have neither reached alarm nor flood levels, and the flow threshold (PMFM 6C) are under normal conditions. It is also the same condition for Tan Chau and Chau Doc monitoring stations, which are significantly influenced by sea tidal fluctuation.

In the period of 23 July – 02 August 2025, the water level at Vientiane, Nongkhai, Nakhon Phanom, Khong Chiam and Pakse stations are expected to reach alarm level. At Tan Chau and Chau Doc stations, the water levels are predicted to be also fluctuated, resulting from the influence of sea tidal patterns.

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 from low to high level will likely be detected in some areas of the LMB, including the northern and central part of Lao PDR, the northern part of Thailand, and the 3S Basin.

7.4. Drought condition and its forecast

During 28 – 22 July 2025, the LMB is experiencing normal to wet conditions, except some areas in the lower part of Cambodia and Mekong delta. The monitored drought is caused primarily by meteorological indicator.

The next three-month from August - October 2025, the total amount of rainfall in most areas of the LMB will be higher than the LTA by around 5 - 25 mm, except for some areas in the lowland areas of Cambodia, and the Mekong Delta. Overall, in the next 3 months, rainfall will be mainly concentrated in the central part of the LMB and higher than the LTA from 10 - 25mm.

The forecast indicates that no drought conditions are expected in over the LMB from August - October 2025 using the Combined Drought Indicator (CDI)



Annex A: Weekly water level monitoring at 22 key stations







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

Table A1: Weekly observed water levels

2025	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
22-07-2025	536.15	4.36	13.12	11	9.28	8.52	9.85	8.89	10.07	8.77	7.19	9.85	7.93	7.2	16.8	10.28	6.21	5.05	5.74	4.34	5.26	1.99	1.89
23-07-2025	535.91	4.39	16.44	11.1	9.48	8.72	10.03	8.99	10.18	8.82	7.29	10.2	8.22	7.25	16.47	10	6.16	4.95	5.67	4.12	5.16	2.03	1.98
24-07-2025	535.89	4.78	16.3	14.9	10.9	10	10.47	9.34	10.53	9.09	7.51	10.21	8.28	7.42	16.56	9.92	6	4.81	5.55	4.15	4.98	1.89	1.82
25-07-2025	536.31	5.11	14.2	14.3	12.5	12.3	11.8	9.8	10.95	9.41	7.83	10.36	8.36	7.67	16.87	10.06	6.09	4.88	5.44	4.1	5.06	1.7	1.54
26-07-2025	536.85	4.9	13.92	12.5	11.4	11.6	12.25	10.4	11.63	9.98	8.45	10.84	8.88	8.12	17.35	10.35	6.21	4.98	5.71	4.18	5.18	1.59	1.27
27-07-2025	536.78	4.87	15.56	11.9	10.3	10.4	11.96	10.75	12	10.8	8.97	11.93	9.82	8.39	17.96	10.8	6.48	5.29	5.82	4.38	5.32	1.57	1.2
28-07-2025	536.88	5.51	16.12	13.5	10.3	10.3	11.9	11.01	12.24	10.9	9.37	12.8	10.6	9.2	18.79	11.24	6.78	5.59	6.13	4.54	5.56	1.66	1.32
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

2025	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
22-07-2025	13	49.4	25.8	0	1.4	0.8	26	66.9	68.8	3.3	2	0	0.6	0	0.8	5	12.6	0	0	5.8	21.4	10.9	11
23-07-2025	11	30	83.4	28.7	41.4	49.7	72.1	10.7	10.5	4.5	4.3	0	0	3	3.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24-07-2025	17	29.4	8.4	3.1	5	5.6	12.5	3.3	3.4	3.5	2.2	1.5	9	19	1.6	0	3.2	0	0	5.2	0	0	0.3
25-07-2025	6	16.3	1.8	3.2	1.7	12.5	18.9	31.3	31.6	9.2	7.2	16	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26-07-2025	4	0.6	12.6	3.2	5.5	7.4	37.5	32.9	35.2	5	5.8	53.2	61	43	16	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
27-07-2025	28	18.4	18.4	3	23.1	28.2	23	24.5	25.9	8.3	7.4	12	89	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5
28-07-2025	25.5	59	52.2	39.5	24.1	40	23.5	21.6	19.3	33.1	27	13.5	14	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	26
Sum	104.5	80.8	20.6	20.0	102.2	144.2	213.5	191.2	194.7	66.9	55.9	96.2	183.6	87.0	21.7	16.0	15.8	0.0	0.0	11.0	21.4	14.9	41.8

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 22 to 28 July 2025.

The forecasting values from 22 to 28 July 2025 show that the overall accuracy is fair for a fourday to five-day forecast in lead time (less than 250 cm) for all of the stations from the upper to the lower parts of the Mekong River with combine information of rainfall and reservoirs' operation in this area during the report period. However, at Luang Prabang station, the accuracy is unacceptable due to the significant increase in water level, which was caused by tropical storm namely Wipha. Moreover, the sudden release from hydropower also contribute to the low accuracies.



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

- 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.



Mekong River Commission Secretariat

P. O. Box 6101, 184 Fa Ngoum Road, Unit 18 Ban Sithane Neua, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR Tel: +856 21 263 263. Fax: +856 21 263 264 ww.mrcmekong.org © Mekong River Commission 2024