



Mekong River Commission

Weekly Wet Season Situation Report in the Lower Mekong River Basin 15 – 21 September 2026

Prepared by
The Regional Flood and Drought Management Centre
22 September 2026

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Key Messages

Key messages for this weekly report are presented below.

Rainfall monitoring and forecast

- From 15 - 21 September, moderate to heavy rain is expected to occur in some areas in the LMB, including the central and southern part of Lao PDR, the northeastern part of Thailand, the 3S Basin, and the northern and southwestern part of Cambodia. The remaining areas are expected to occur with no rain to light rain.
- Next week, from 22 - 28 September, moderate to heavy rain is expected to occur in some areas in the LMB including the northeastern part of Thailand, Cambodia, 3S basin, and the Mekong Delta. The remaining areas are expected to have no rain to light rain.

Water level monitoring and forecast

- At 22 key monitoring stations along the Mekong mainstream from 15 – 21 September 2026, water levels at all stations along the Mekong mainstream are in normal conditions which are neither at alarm nor flood levels. The total accumulated reverse flow to TSL is 35.67 Km³. However, the 6 monitoring stations remain in normal condition with respect to the flow threshold (PMFM Thresholds). 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 22 – 26 September 2026, water levels from at most stations are expected to drop except for Chiang Saen and those from Phnom Penh (Bassac) downstream that are expected to either rise or remain stable. Water levels at Tan Chau and Chau Doc are expected to be fluctuated due to tidal fluctuations.

Drought condition and forecast

- From 15 - 21 September according to the Combined Drought Indicator (CDI), no significant drought conditions were observed across the majority of the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB). However, localized drought conditions persisted in some areas in the upper part of Lao PDR.
- The weekly forecast from 22 - 28 September 2026 indicates that no drought conditions are expected across the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB), except some areas in some areas in the upper part of Lao PDR.

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 **15 – 21 September 2026**. 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://ffp.mrcmekong.org:8000/bulletin/>

2 General Weather Patterns

Next week, moderate to heavy rain is expected to occur in some areas in the LMB, including the central and southern part of Lao PDR, the northeastern part of Thailand, the 3S Basin, and the northern and southwestern part of Cambodia. The remaining areas are expected to occur with no rain to light rain.

Figure 1 presents mean sea level pressure over the region

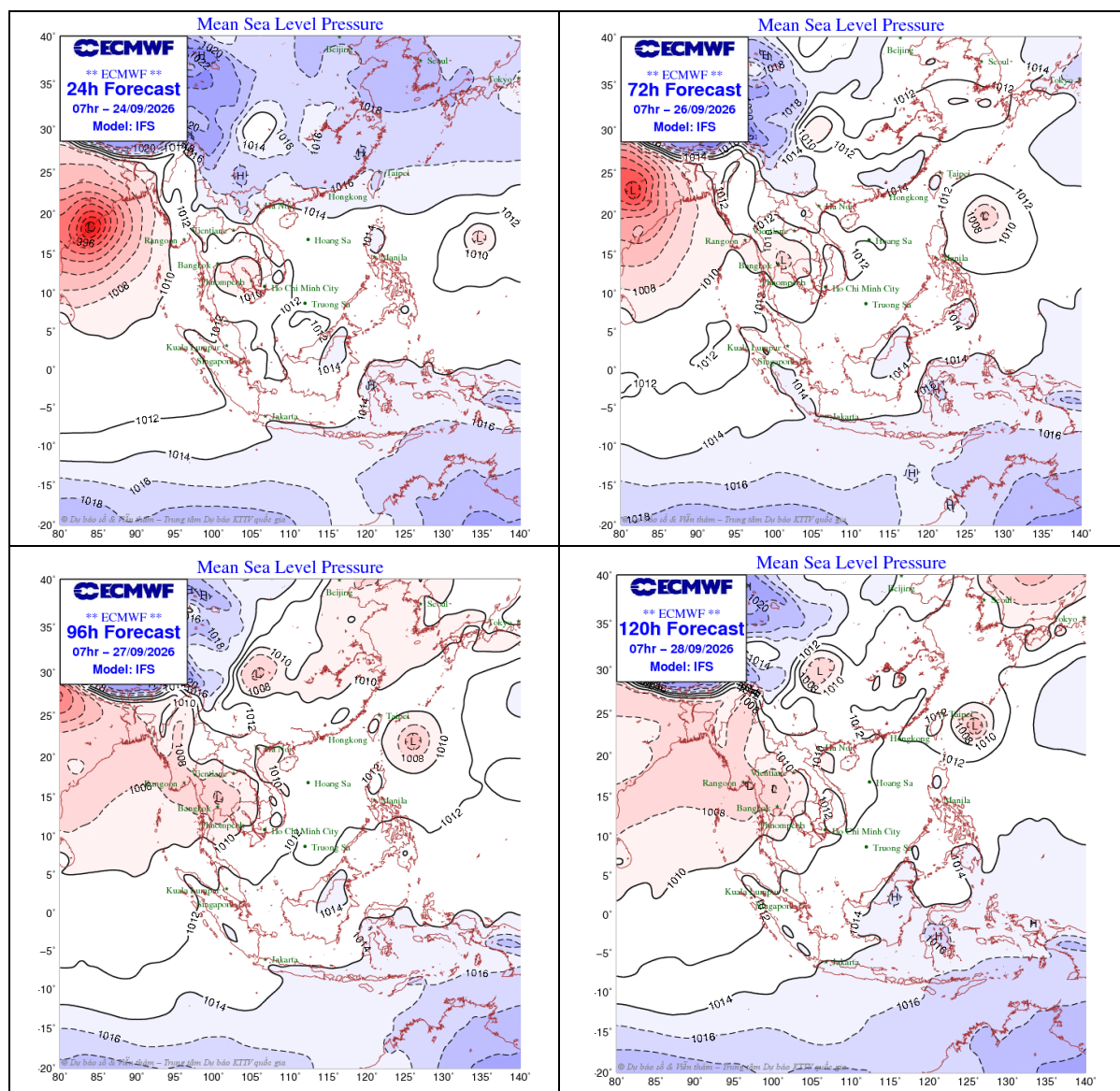


Figure 1: Weather conditions over the LMB

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC, <http://asmc.asean.org/home/>), the sub seasonal weather outlook (14 – 27 September 2026) indicates that wetter conditions are predicted at the lower part the LMB in Week 1 (14 – 20 September), while warmer than usual temperatures are predicted over much of the downstream LMB in the next fortnight (14 – 27 September). **Figure 2** shows the outlook of weather condition from 14 to 27 September 2026 in Southeast Asia based on results from the NCEP model (National Centres for Environmental Prediction).

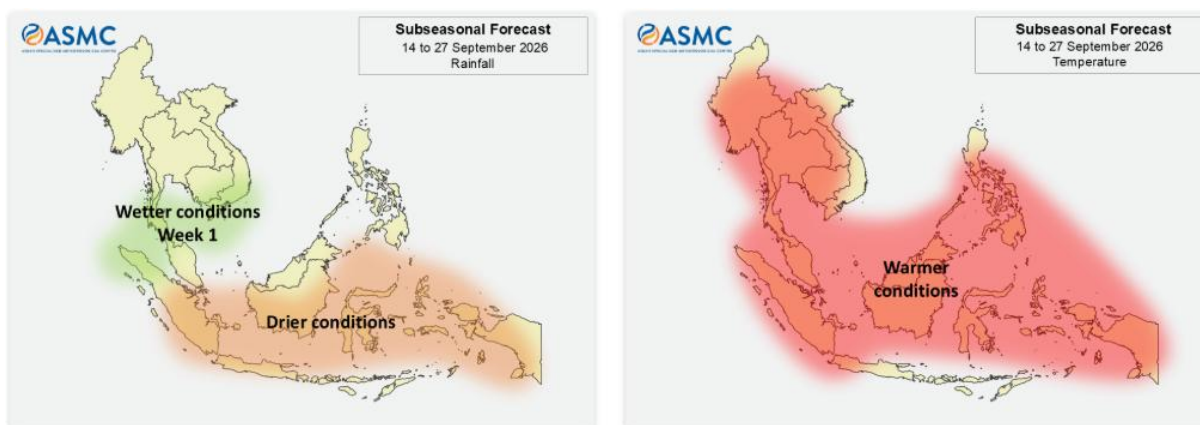


Figure 2: Outlook of wet and dry conditions over the Asian countries by ASMC.

Based on the tropical storm (https://www.jma.go.jp/bosai/weather_map/#lang=en), there is a tropical low-pressure area (TLA) over the East Sea has strengthened into a Tropical Depression (TD). However, the system is not expected to intensify significantly, with a low likelihood of developing into a tropical storm or typhoon in the pacific (**Figure 3**).

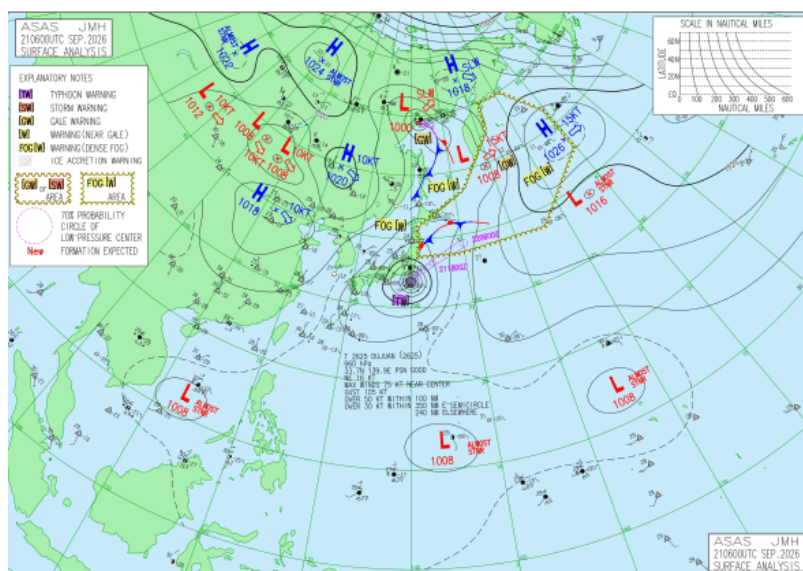


Figure 3: Tropical storm observed on 21 September 2026

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 15 - 21 September (**Figure 4**). Moderate to heavy rain and very heavy rain occurred in the northern and central part of Lao PDR, Cambodia, and the 3S basin.

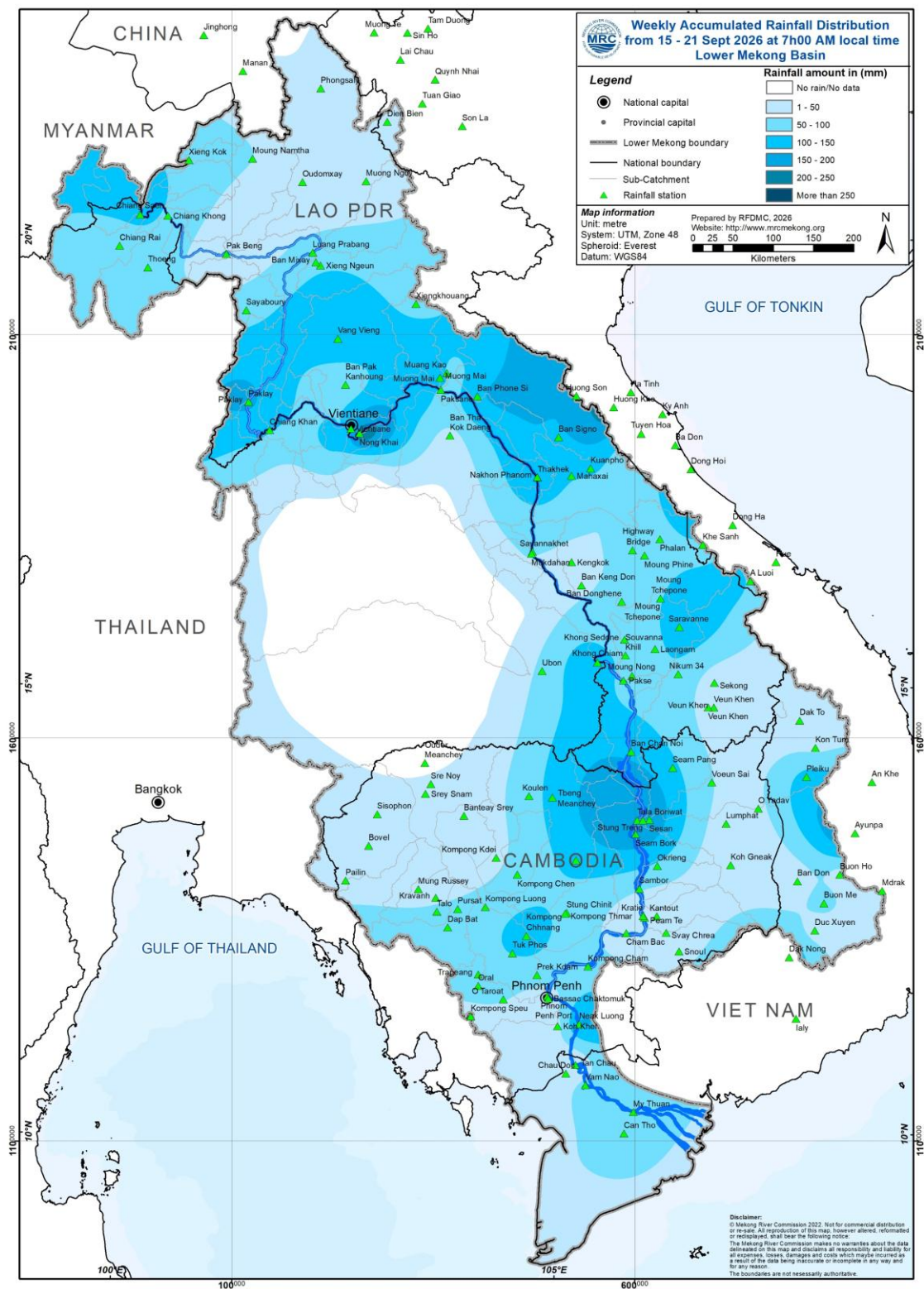


Figure 4: Weekly rainfall distribution over the LMB during 15 – 21 September 2026

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 15 – 21 September 2026, the observed water level (WL) at Jinghong hydrological station¹, was almost constant and ranges between 535.34 and 536.05 m, which are corresponding to the outflow between 898.00 m³/s to 1,400.00 m³/s (recorded on 7:00 am), respectively (**Figure 6**). The water level in Chiang Saen Station also indicated fluctuation ranging from 3.53 m and 3.05 m. At the same period, the water level in Luang Prabang Station also decreased with an approximate value of 0.89 m from 11.48 m to 10.59 m as compared to the previous week. In addition, at Chiang Khan, the water level also decreased from 9.62 m to 8.32 m.

The water levels have decreased at Vientiane from 6.76 m to 5.46 m, at Nongkhai from 7.36 m to 5.74 m, at Paksane from 8.88 m to 7.66 m, at Nakhon Phanom from 8.77 m to 7.90 m, at Thakhek from 10.19 m to 9.46 m. However, water levels have increased at Mukdahan from 8.91 m to 8.40 m, at Savannakhet from 7.33 m to 6.81 m, at Khong Chiam from 11.66 m to 11.49 m, and at Pakse from 9.78 m to 9.58 m.

Water levels have also decreased at Stung Treng from 9.35 m to 8.95 m, at Kratie from 20.78 m to 19.97 m, at Kompong Cham from 13.80 m to 13.20 m, at Phnom Penh (Bassac) from 8.84 m to 8.59 m, at Phnom Penh Port from 7.41 m to 7.32 m, at Koh Khel from 7.54 m to 7.35 m, at Neak Luong from 6.26 m to 6.13 m, and at Prek Kdam from 7.57 m to 7.54 m.

Similar to the previous week, the water levels from 15 to 21 September 2026 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 3.39 m and 3.27 m, while at the Chau Doc station, they ranged between 2.90 m and 2.86 m.

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>.

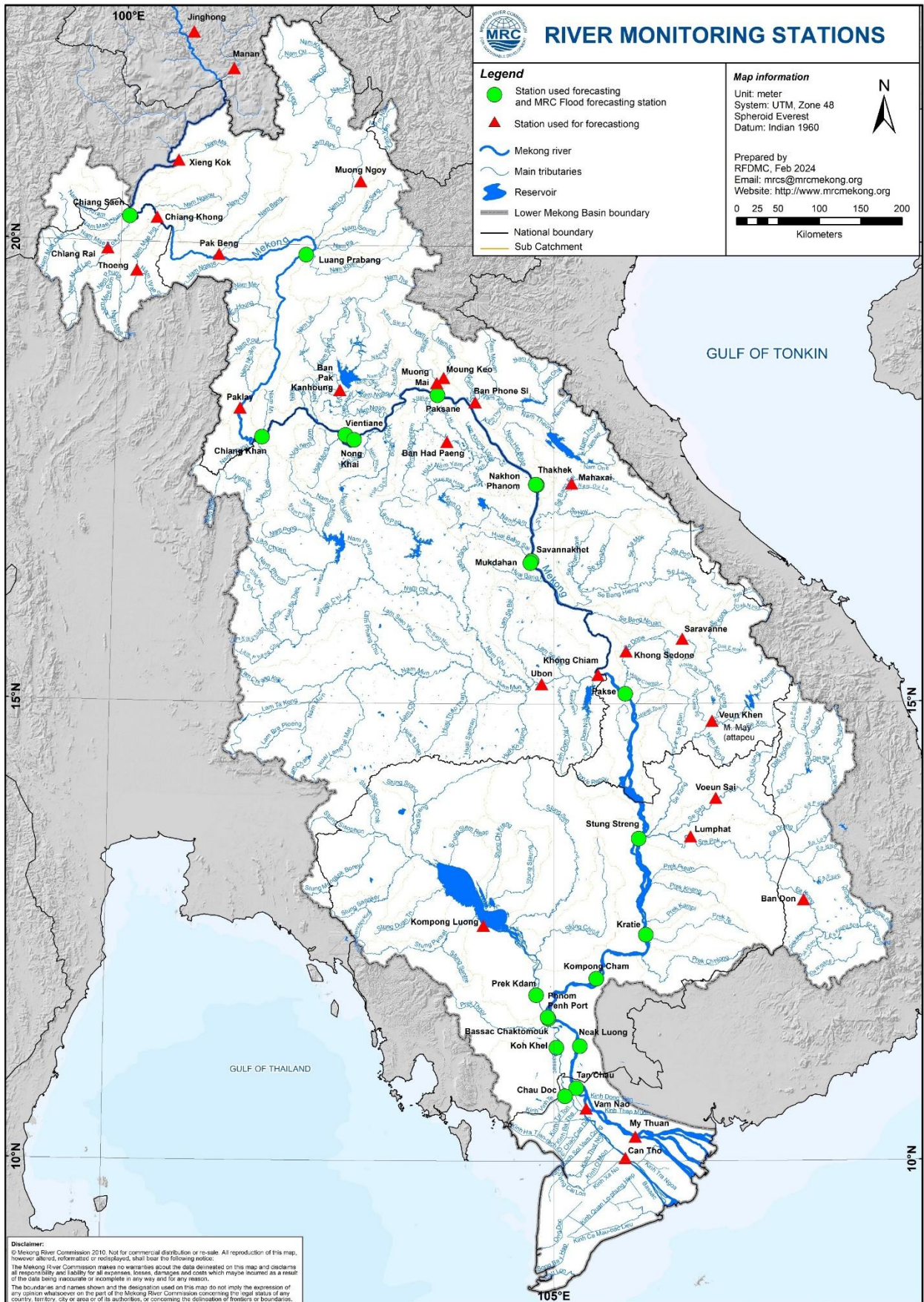


Figure 5: The key stations along LMB for river flood forecasting

The water levels in key monitoring stations on **21 September 2026** are in normal conditions which are neither expected to be at FLOOD nor ALARM LEVELS. 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**.

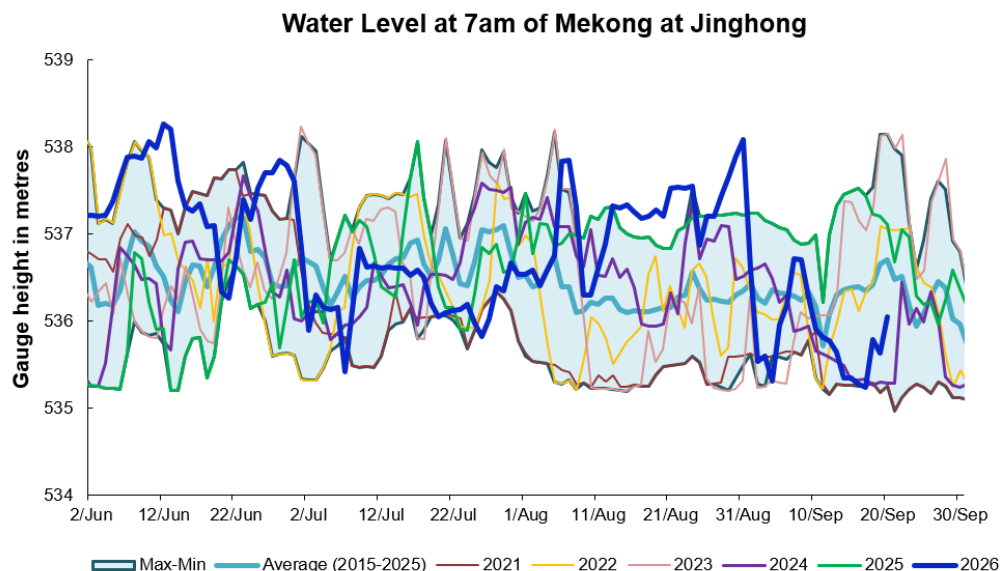


Figure 6. Water level at the Jinghong hydrological station up to 21 September 2026.

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 has yet taken place on **10 July 2026**.

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 slope 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 current total accumulated volume of reverse flow to the lake is **35.67 Km³** updated on **21 September 2026 (Figure 7)**. 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 (1996-2025) are illustrated in **Figure 8**.

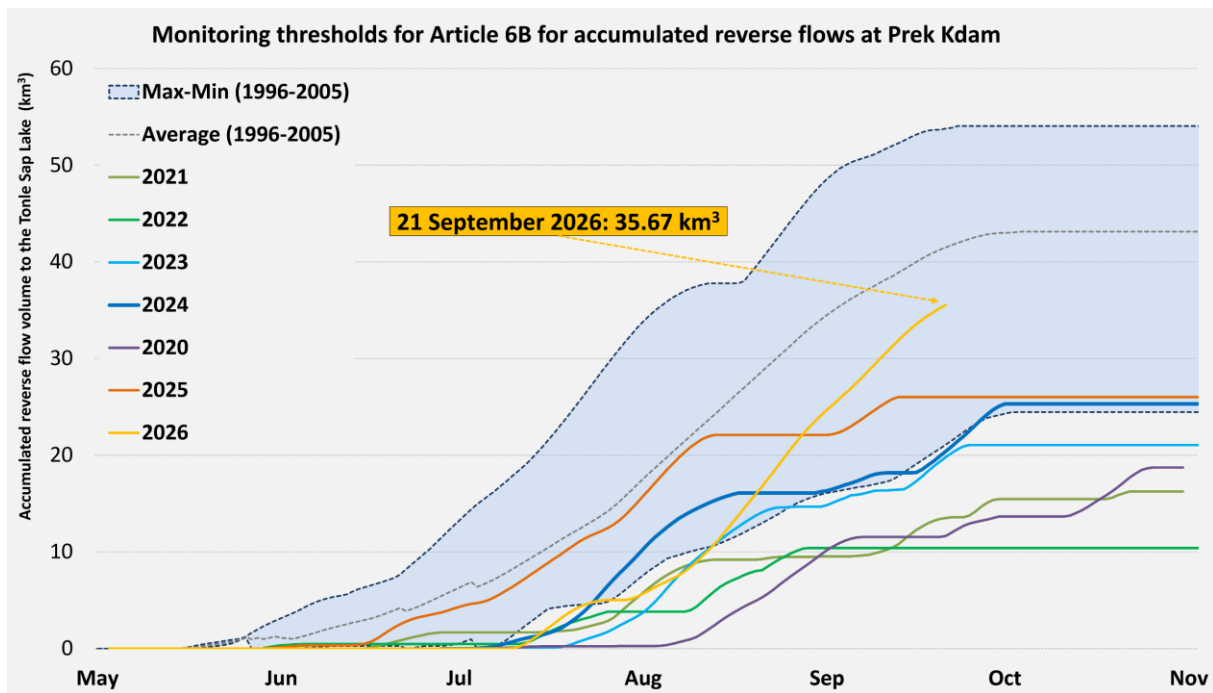


Figure 7: Total accumulated reverse flow to Tonle Sap Lake updated on 20 July 2026.

The seasonal changes in monthly flow volumes up to **21 September 2026** for the TSL compared with that in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and their LTAs, and the fluctuation levels (1996–2025) are presented in **Table 8**. The mean monthly water volume of the Tonle Sap Lake in August 2026 is lower than its LTA (about **58.69 %** of its LTA), most of recent years except for 2020, 2021 & 2023 during the same period (**Figure 9 and Table 1**).

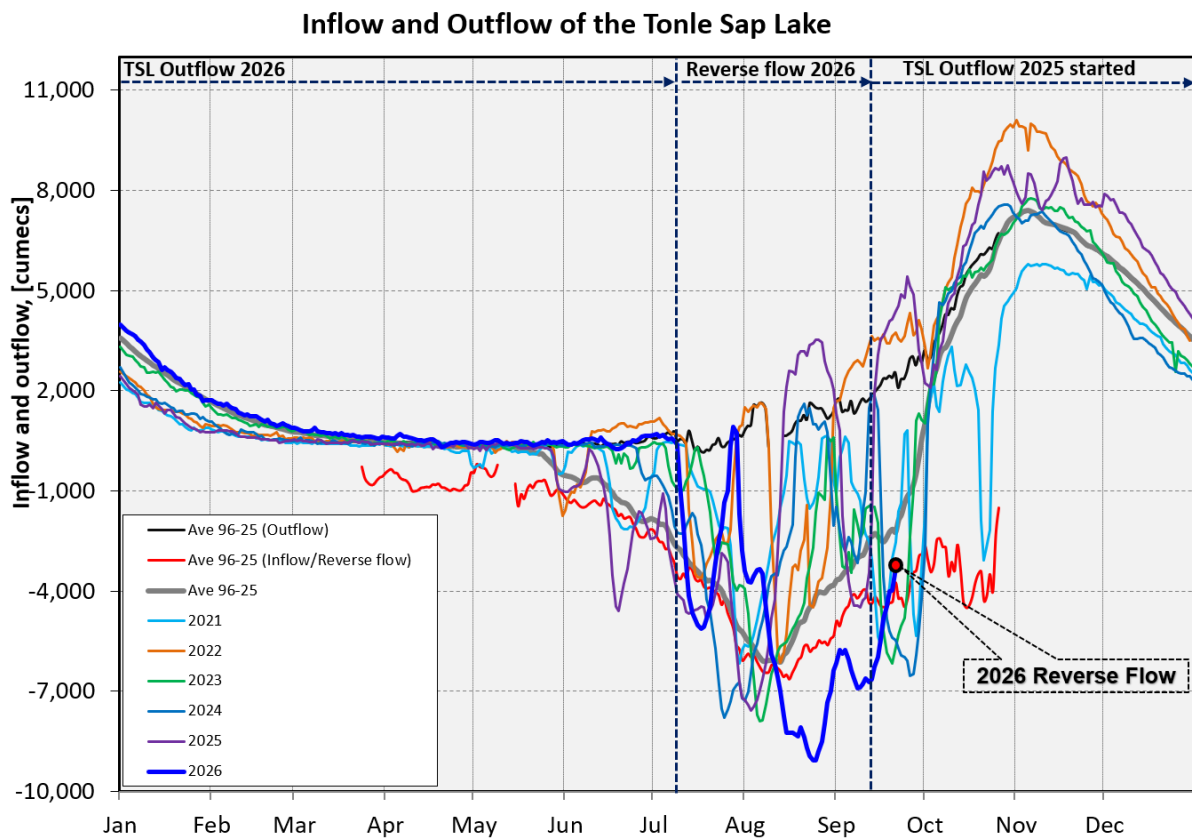


Figure 8: Seasonal change of inflows and outflows of Tonle Sap Lake.

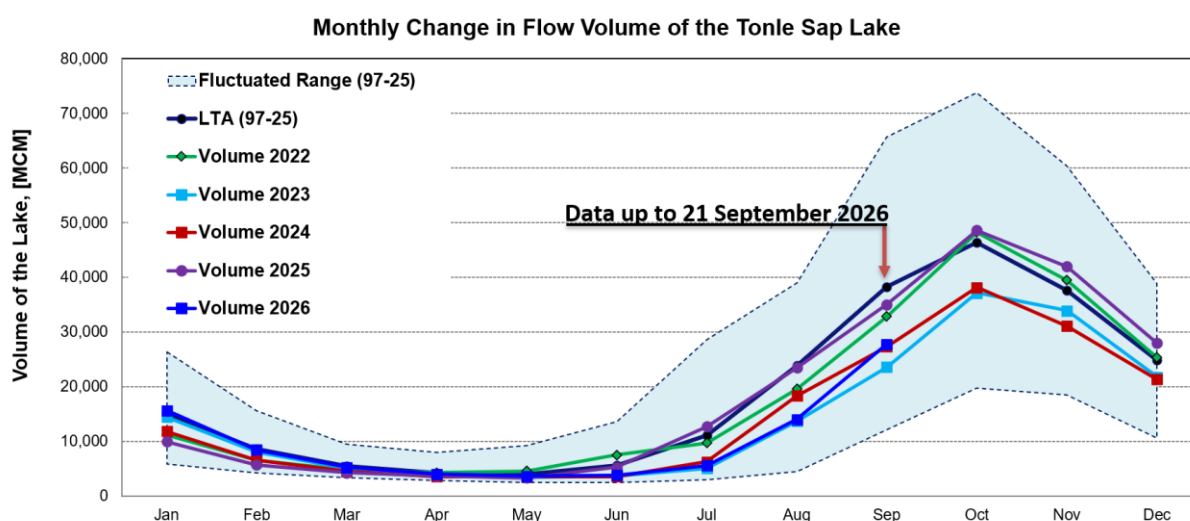


Figure 9. The seasonal change in monthly flow volume of Tonle Sap Lake.

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

Month	LTA (97-25) [MCM]	Max Volume [MCM]	Min Volume [MCM]	Volume 2020 [MCM]	Volume 2021 [MCM]	Volume 2022 [MCM]	Volume 2023 [MCM]	Volume 2024 [MCM]	Volume 2025 [MCM]	Volume 2026 [MCM]	Volume in 2026 [%], compared with its LTA	
Jan	15,016.17	26,357.53	5,906.80	5,906.80	9,923.80	11,214.32	14,422.11	11,824.86	9,927.00	15,639.19	104.15	
Feb	8,543.47	15,596.22	4,198.60	4,264.19	5,832.97	6,558.79	8,069.29	6,505.88	5,690.52	8,447.12	98.87	
Mar	5,522.42	9,438.24	3,347.07	3,553.99	4,264.88	4,736.52	5,080.64	4,488.23	4,256.33	5,252.98	95.12	
Apr	4,279.51	8,009.14	2,866.91	2,992.61	3,556.68	4,288.31	3,884.16	3,569.01	3,697.92	4,000.18	93.47	
May	3,985.91	9,176.93	2,417.81	2,594.92	3,240.78	4,556.83	3,438.66	3,517.79	3,322.45	3,607.70	90.51	
Jun	5,612.10	13,635.01	2,468.70	2,641.88	3,798.29	7,489.04	3,689.97	3,586.07	5,278.20	3,847.87	68.56	
Jul	11,070.72	28,599.56	2,925.86	2,925.86	5,346.73	9,703.79	5,062.21	6,247.29	12,706.40	5,548.21	50.12	
Aug	23,851.22	39,015.12	4,433.46	5,941.07	10,547.80	19,554.70	13,694.57	18,304.81	23,464.06	13,998.69	58.69	
Sep	38,261.48	65,632.35	12,105.31	12,105.31	16,382.34	32,860.34	23,550.60	27,310.26	35,010.86	27,801.30	72.66	
Oct	46,341.38	73,757.23	19,705.50	20,799.13	27,318.21	48,199.12	37,141.40	38,139.87	48,583.60			
Nov	37,653.83	60,367.33	18,534.61	27,546.80	28,982.93	39,452.53	33,929.52	31,056.48	41,943.59			
Dec	24,911.64	38,888.95	10,563.49	18,251.65	20,170.76	25,346.65	21,757.70	21,328.51	27,941.36			
	Critical situation: lower than long-term minimum values (LTMIN)											
	Normal condition: within the range of long-term average (LTA) and max (LTMAX) values											
	Low volume situation: lower than long-term average (LTA)											
Unit: Million Cubic Meter (1 MCM= 0.001 Km ³)												

Remarks: the volume of Tonle Sap Lake in 2026 is updated until 21 September 2026.

4. Flash Flood in the Lower Mekong Basin

During the weekly monitoring period from 15 - 21 September, the LMB received moderate to heavy rainfall and very heavy rainfall 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 in the LMB during the reporting period as shown in **Figure 10 & Table 2**.

Table 2. Detected flash flood in the LMB on 18 September 2026

FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE IN CAMBODIA								
In the next 1hrs			In the next 3hrs			In the next 6hrs		
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level
Banteay Meanchey	Malai	Moderate	Banteay Meanchey	Malai	Moderate	Banteay Meanchey	Malai	Moderate
Battambang	Moung Ruessei	Moderate	Battambang	Moung Ruessei	Moderate	Battambang	Phnum Proek	Moderate
Battambang	Phnum Proek	Moderate	Battambang	Phnum Proek	Moderate	Kampong Cham	Stueng Trang	Moderate
Battambang	Sampov Lun	Moderate	Kampong Cham	Stueng Trang	Moderate	Kampong Chhnang	Tuek Phos	Moderate
Kampong Cham	Stueng Trang	High	Kampong Chhnang	Tuek Phos	Moderate	Kampot	Chum Kiri	Moderate
Kampong Chhnang	Tuek Phos	Moderate	Kampot	Chum Kiri	Moderate	Mondul Kiri	Kaoh Nheaek	Moderate
Kampot	Chum Kiri	Moderate	Mondul Kiri	Kaoh Nheaek	Moderate	Mondul Kiri	Pechr Chenda	High
Kong Pailin	Sala Kroa	Moderate	Mondul Kiri	Pechr Chenda	High	Otdar Meanchey	Banteay Ampil	Moderate
Kratie	Preaek Prasab	Moderate	Otdar Meanchey	Anlong Veang	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Andoung Meas	Moderate
Mondul Kiri	Kaoh Nheaek	Moderate	Otdar Meanchey	Banteay Ampil	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Koun Mom	High
Mondul Kiri	Pechr Chenda	High	Pursat	Veal Veang	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Ta Veang	High
Otdar Meanchey	Anlong Veang	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Andoung Meas	Moderate	Stung Treng	Sesan	Moderate
Otdar Meanchey	Banteay Ampil	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Koun Mom	High	Stung Treng	Siem Pang	Moderate
Preah Vihear	Sangkom Thmei	Moderate	Ratana Kiri	Ta Veang	High			
Pursat	Veal Veang	Moderate	Stung Treng	Sesan	Moderate			
Ratana Kiri	Andoung Meas	Moderate	Stung Treng	Siem Pang	Moderate			
Ratana Kiri	Koun Mom	High						
Ratana Kiri	Ou Chum	Moderate						
Ratana Kiri	Ta Veang	High						
Ratana Kiri	Veun Sai	Moderate						
Stung Treng	Sesan	Moderate						
Stung Treng	Siem Pang	Moderate						

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
Champasak	Champasac	High	Champasak	Champasac	Moderate	Champasak	Champasac	Moderate
Champasak	Phonthong	Moderate	Champasak	Phonthong	Moderate	Champasak	Phonthong	Moderate
Champasak	Sukuma	Moderate	Champasak	Sukuma	Moderate	Champasak	Sukuma	Moderate
Khammuane	Thakhek	High	Khammuane	Thakhek	High	Khammuane	Thakhek	High
Khammuane	Xaybouath	High	Khammuane	Xaybouath	High	Khammuane	Xaybouath	High
Saravane	Lakhoneph	Moderate	Saravane	Lakhoneph	Moderate	Saravane	Lakhoneph	Moderate

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
Savannakhet	Khanthabo	Moderate	Savannakhet	Xaybuly	Moderate	Savannakhet	Xaybuly	Moderate
Savannakhet	Vilabuly	Moderate	Vientiane	Phonhong	Moderate	Vientiane	Phonhong	Moderate
Savannakhet	Xaybuly	Moderate	Xaysomboun	Longxan	Moderate	Xaysomboun	Longxan	Moderate
Sekong	Dakcheung	Moderate	Xiengkhuang	Morkmay	Moderate	Xiengkhuang	Morkmay	High
Sekong	Thateng	Moderate						
Vientiane	Phonhong	Moderate						
Xaysomboun	Hom	Moderate						
Xaysomboun	Longxan	Moderate						
Xiengkhuang	Morkmay	High						
Xiengkhuang	Pek	Moderate						

FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE IN THAILAND								
In the next 1hrs			In the next 3hrs			In the next 6hrs		
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level
Amnat Charoen	Senangkhanikhom	Moderate	Bueng Kan	Bung Kan	Moderate	Bueng Kan	Bung Kan	Moderate
Bueng Kan	Bunag Khong Long	Moderate	Bueng Kan	Si Wilai	Moderate	Bueng Kan	Si Wilai	Moderate
Bueng Kan	Bung Kan	High	Burirum	Muang Buriram	Moderate	Burirum	Muang Buriram	Moderate
Bueng Kan	Pak Khat	Moderate	Burirum	Nongki	Moderate	Burirum	Nongki	Moderate
Bueng Kan	Si Wilai	Moderate	Chaiyaphum	Khon San	Moderate	Chaiyaphum	Khon San	Moderate
Burirum	Muang Buriram	Moderate	Chiang Rai	Phan	Moderate	Chiang Rai	Phan	Moderate
Burirum	Non Din Daeng	Moderate	Kalasin	Huai Phung	Moderate	Kalasin	Huai Phung	Moderate
Burirum	Nongki	Moderate	Khon Kaen	Ban Fang	Moderate	Khon Kaen	Ban Fang	Moderate
Burirum	Phapphachai	Moderate	Khon Kaen	Khao Suan Kwang	Moderate	Khon Kaen	Khao Suan Kwang	Moderate
Burirum	Phutthaisong	Moderate	Khon Kaen	Phu Phaman	Moderate	Khon Kaen	Phu Phaman	Moderate
Chaiyaphum	Ban Thaen	Moderate	Loei	Pakchom	High	Loei	Pakchom	High
Chaiyaphum	Kang Khro	Moderate	Loei	Phu Kadung	Moderate	Loei	Phu Kadung	Moderate
Chaiyaphum	Khon San	Moderate	Loei	Wang Saphung	Moderate	Loei	Wang Saphung	Moderate
Chiang Rai	Phan	Moderate	Maha Sarakham	Chiang Yun	Moderate	Maha Sarakham	Chiang Yun	Moderate
Kalasin	Huai Phung	Moderate	Maha Sarakham	Muang Mahasarakham	Moderate	Maha Sarakham	Mahasarakham	Moderate
Kalasin	Khammuang	Moderate	Mukdahan	Dong Luang	Moderate	Mukdahan	Dong Luang	Moderate
Kalasin	Somdet	Moderate	Mukdahan	Muang Mukdahan	Moderate	Mukdahan	Muang Mukdahan	Moderate
Khon Kaen	Ban Fang	Moderate	Nakhon Phanom	Muang Nakhon Phanom	Moderate	Nakhon Ratchasima	Khonburi	Moderate
Khon Kaen	Khao Suan Kwang	Moderate	Nakhon Phanom	Pla Pak	Moderate	Nong Bua Lamphu	Muang Nong Bua Lamphu	Moderate
Khon Kaen	Phu Phaman	Moderate	Nakhon Ratchasima	Khonburi	Moderate	Nong Khai	Muang Nongkhai	Moderate
Khon Kaen	Si Chomphu	Moderate	Nong Bua Lamphu	Muang Nong Bua Lamphu	Moderate	Roi Et	Kaset Wisai	Moderate
Loei	E-rawan	Moderate	Nong Khai	Muang Nongkhai	Moderate	Sakon Nakhon	Kutbak	High

FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE IN THAILAND								
In the next 1hrs			In the next 3hrs			In the next 6hrs		
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level
Loei	Naduang	Moderate	Roi Et	Kaset Wisai	Moderate	Sakon Nakhon	Nikhom Num Un	Moderate
Loei	Pakchom	High	Sakon Nakhon	Kutbak	High	Sakon Nakhon	Phu Phan	Moderate
Loei	Phu Kadung	Moderate	Sakon Nakhon	Nikhom Num Un	Moderate	Si Saket	Kantharalak	Moderate
Loei	Tha Li	Moderate	Sakon Nakhon	Phu Phan	Moderate	Surin	Sangkha	Moderate
Loei	Wang Saphung	High	Si Saket	Kantharalak	Moderate	Surin	Sikhoraphum	Moderate
Maha Sarakham	Chiang Yun	High	Surin	Sangkha	Moderate	Ubon Ratchathani	Si Muang Mai	Moderate
Maha Sarakham	Muang Mahasarakham	High	Surin	Sikhoraphum	Moderate	Ubon Ratchathani	Warin Chamrap	Moderate
Mukdahan	Dong Luang	High	Ubon Ratchathani	Si Muang Mai	Moderate			
Mukdahan	Kamchai	Moderate	Ubon Ratchathani	Warin Chamrap	Moderate			
Mukdahan	Muang Mukdahan	High						
Mukdahan	Nong Sung	Moderate						
Nakhon Phanom	Muang Nakhon Phanom	Moderate						
Nakhon Phanom	Phon Sawan	Moderate						
Nakhon Phanom	Pla Pak	Moderate						
Nakhon Ratchasima	Chakrat	Moderate						
Nakhon Ratchasima	Khonburi	High						
Nakhon Ratchasima	Nong Bunnak	Moderate						

FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE IN VIET NAM								
In the next 1hrs			In the next 3hrs			In the next 6hrs		
Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level	Provinces	Districts	Level
Dak Lak	Buon Don	Moderate	Gia Lai	Duc Co	High	Gia Lai	Duc Co	High
Dak Lak	Dak Mil	Moderate						
Dak Lak	Dak Nong	Moderate						
Dak Lak	Ea H'Leo	Moderate						
Gia Lai	Chu Se	Moderate						
Gia Lai	Duc Co	High						
Gia Lai	Ia Grai	Moderate						
Gia Lai	Mang Yang	Moderate						
Gia Lai	TX. PleiKu	Moderate						

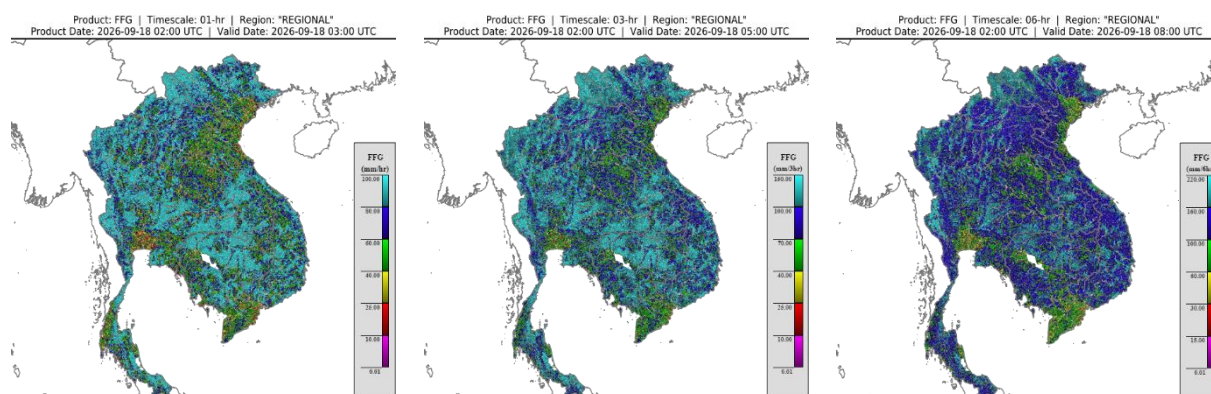


Figure 10. Flash Flood Guidance for the next 1-hr, 3-hr and 6-hr on 18 September

5. Drought Monitoring in the Lower Mekong Basin

5.2. Weekly drought monitoring from 15 - 21 September 2026

Drought monitoring data for 2026 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 15 - 21 September, as shown in Figure 9, the LMB was experiencing normal to moderate wet conditions over the region, except in some areas in the upper part of Lao PDR.

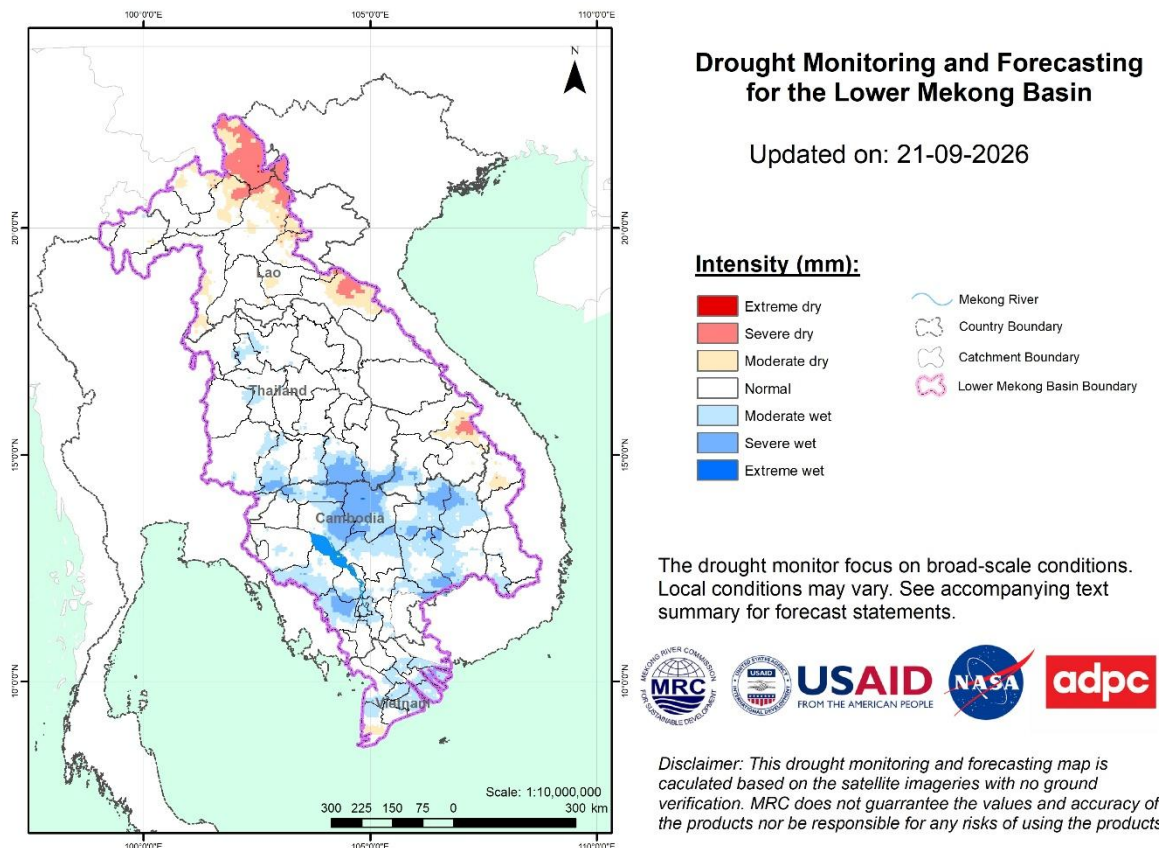
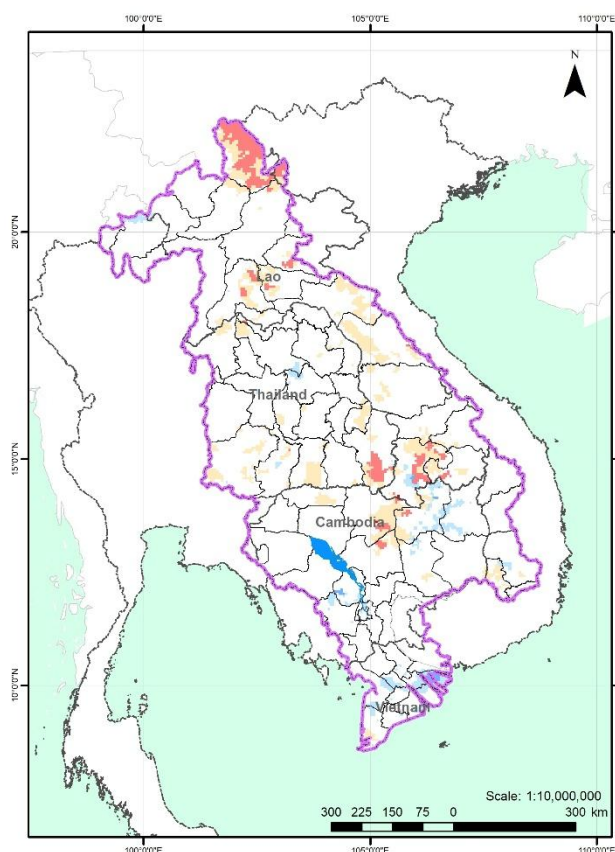


Figure 11: Weekly standardized precipitation index from 15 - 21 September

- **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 15 - 21 September, the LMB was experiencing normal to wet conditions over the region, except some areas in the northeastern part of Thailand, and the upper part of Lao PDR.



Drought Monitoring and Forecasting for the Lower Mekong Basin

Updated on: 21-09-2026

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 12: Weekly Index of Soil Water Fraction from 15 - 21 September.

Weekly Combined Drought Index (CDI)

The combined drought indicator, **Figure 13**, shows that no significant drought conditions were observed across the majority of the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB). However, localized drought conditions persisted in some areas in the upper part of Lao PDR.

Number	Country	Province	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	Exceptional	Number	Country	Province	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	Exceptional	Number	Country	Province	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	Exceptional
1	Cambodia	Banteay Meanchey					26	Lao PDR	Bolikhamsai					51	Thailand	Nakhon Phanom				
2	Cambodia	Battambang					27	Lao PDR	Phongsali					52	Thailand	Nakhon Ratchasima				
3	Cambodia	Kampong Cham					28	Lao PDR	Khammouan					53	Thailand	Nong Bus Lam Phu				
4	Cambodia	Kampong Chhnang					29	Lao PDR	Louangnamtha					54	Thailand	Nong Khai				
5	Cambodia	Kampong Speu					30	Lao PDR	Luang Prabang					55	Thailand	Phayao				
6	Cambodia	Kampong Thom					31	Lao PDR	Xiang Khoang					56	Thailand	Roi Et				
7	Cambodia	Kampot					32	Lao PDR	Savannakhet					57	Thailand	Sakon Nakhon				
8	Cambodia	Kandal					33	Lao PDR	Vientiane					58	Thailand	Si Sa Ket				
9	Cambodia	Koh Kong					34	Lao PDR	Vientiane Capital					59	Thailand	Sa Kaeo				
10	Cambodia	Kratie					35	Lao PDR	Xaignabouli					60	Thailand	Surin				
11	Cambodia	Monduliri					36	Lao PDR	Xaisomboun					61	Thailand	Ubon Ratchathani				
12	Cambodia	Otdar Meanchey					37	Lao PDR	Xekong					62	Thailand	Udon Thani				
13	Cambodia	Pailin					38	Thailand	Amnat Charoen					63	Thailand	Yasothorn				
14	Cambodia	Phnom Penh					39	Thailand	Buang Kan					64	Viet Nam	Dak Lak				
15	Cambodia	Preah Sihanouk					40	Thailand	Buri Ram					65	Viet Nam	Gia Lai				
16	Cambodia	Preah Vihear					41	Thailand	Chaiyaphum					66	Viet Nam	Kon Tum				
17	Cambodia	Prey Veng					42	Thailand	Chantaburi											
18	Cambodia	Pursat					43	Thailand	Chiang Mai											
19	Cambodia	Ratanakiri					44	Thailand	Chiang Rai											
20	Cambodia	Siem Reap					45	Thailand	Kalasin											
21	Cambodia	Stung Treng					46	Thailand	Khon Kaen											
22	Cambodia	Takeo					47	Thailand	Loei											
23	Cambodia	Tboung Khmum					48	Thailand	Maha Sarakham											
24	Lao PDR	Attapu					49	Thailand	Mukdahan											
25	Lao PDR	Bokeo					50	Thailand	Nakhon Nayok											

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

Moderate Severe
Extreme Exceptional

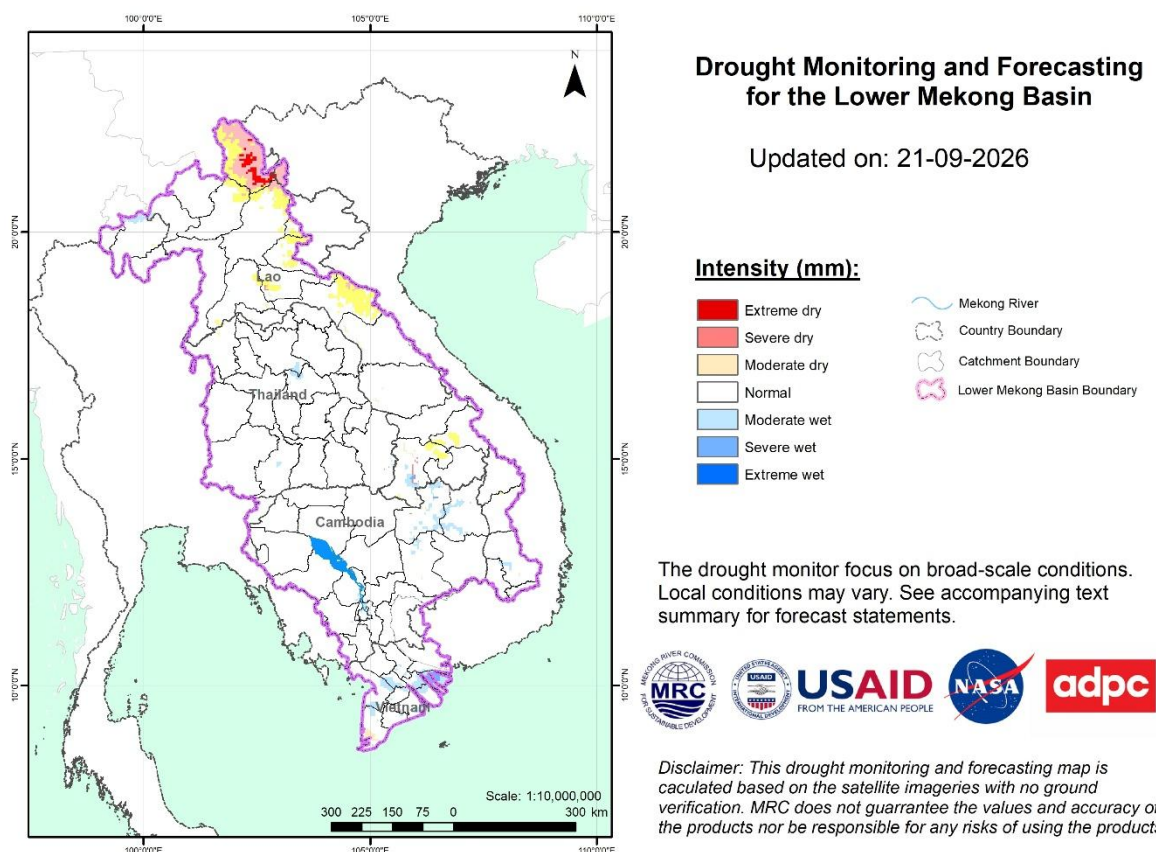


Figure 13: Weekly Combined Drought Index from 15 - 21 September

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

During 22 - 26 September, the accumulated rainfall over the entire Lower Mekong Basin is distributed with moderate to heavy rainfall in some areas in the LMB, especially in the northeastern part of Thailand, Cambodia, 3S basin, and the Mekong Delta. based on CHIRPS-GFS (**Figure 12**).

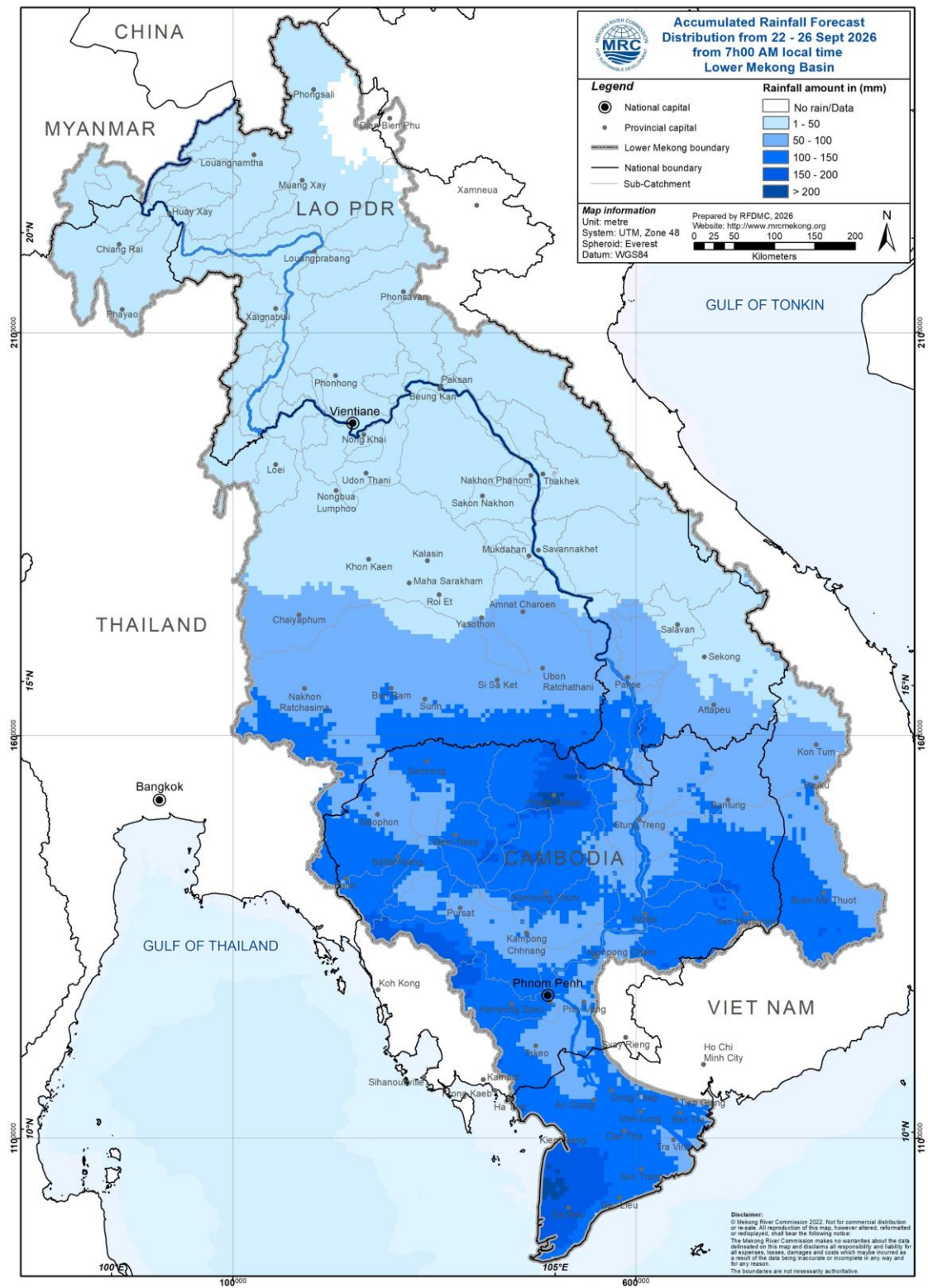


Figure 14: Accumulated rainfall forecast from CHIRPS-GFS (22 - 26 September 2026)

6.2 Water level forecast

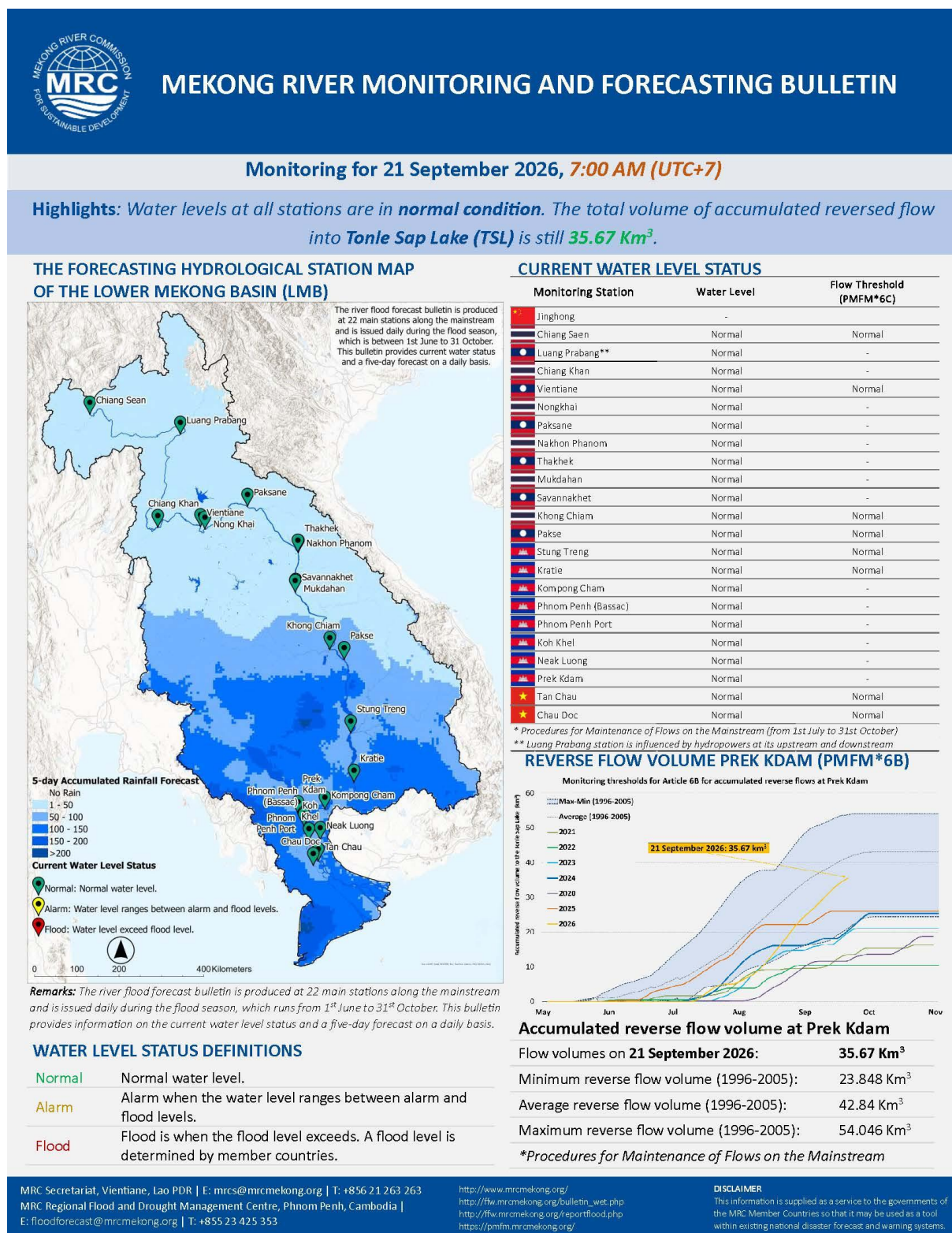
During the wet season, from June 1 to October 31 each year, five-day riverine flood forecasts are issued daily for 22 stations along the Mekong mainstream. This report presents forecast water levels for 22 – 26 September 2026. Conditions are expected to remain normal at all stations along the Mekong mainstream. Water levels at most stations are expected to drop except for Chiang Saen and those from Phnom Penh (Bassac) downstream that are expected to either rise or remain stable. At Tan Chau and Chau Doc, water levels are expected to fluctuate due to tidal effects.

Water levels are expected to drop by approximately 0.11 m at Luang Prabang, 0.42 m at Chiang Khan, 0.43 m at Vientiane, 0.32 m at Nongkhai, 0.51 m at Paksane, 0.40 m at Nakhon Phanom, 0.39 m at Thakhek, 0.24 m at Mukdahan, 0.22 m at Savannakhet, 0.80 m at Khong Chiam, 0.39 m at Pakse, 0.76 m at Stung Treng, 1.17 m at Kratie, and 0.69 m at Kompong Cham. However, water levels at Phnom Penh (Bassac), Phnom Penh Port, Koh Khel, Neak Luong and Prek Kdam, are expected to remain stable over the next week.

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 3.27 m & 3.27 m and 2.86 m & 2.86 m m, respectively, following daily tidal effects from the sea.

The weekly River Monitoring Bulletin and forecasting issued on **21 September 2026** 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

Forecasting from 22 to 26 September 2026 **7:00 AM (UTC+7)**

Highlights: Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected to occur in some areas in the LMB. Water levels at most stations are expected to drop except for Chiang Saen and those from Phnom Penh (Bassac) downstream.

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)	Low-lying 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)
	20-Sep		20-Sep	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep	26-Sep							
 Jinghong	0.0	-	535.63	↑ 536.05	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
 Chiang Saen	0.4	357.110	3.17	↓ 3.05	→ 2.95	→ 2.93	→ 2.99	↑ 3.14	→ 3.20	11.50	12.80	-	↑ 0.15	0.15	8.30	9.60
 Luang Prabang	0.0	267.195	10.75	↓ 10.59	→ 10.51	→ 10.41	→ 10.38	→ 10.41	→ 10.48	17.50	18.00	-	↓ -0.11	-0.21	6.99	7.49
 Chiang Khan	6.0	194.118	8.51	↓ 8.32	↓ 8.18	↓ 8.01	→ 7.96	→ 7.88	→ 7.90	14.50	16.00	-	↓ -0.42	-0.44	6.32	7.82
 Vientiane	1.4	158.040	5.57	↓ 5.46	→ 5.39	↓ 5.27	↓ 5.12	→ 5.07	→ 5.03	11.50	12.50	-	↓ -0.43	-0.43	6.11	7.11
 Nongkhai	0.2	153.648	5.76	↓ 5.74	→ 5.77	→ 5.72	↓ 5.55	→ 5.49	→ 5.42	11.40	12.20	7.35	↓ -0.32	-0.32	5.63	6.43
 Paksane	0.0	142.125	7.94	↓ 7.66	↓ 7.52	↓ 7.41	↓ 7.30	↓ 7.20	→ 7.15	13.50	14.50	-	↓ -0.51	-0.51	5.98	6.98
 Nakhon Phanom	0.0	130.961	8.44	↓ 7.90	↓ 7.45	→ 7.42	→ 7.49	→ 7.51	→ 7.50	11.50	12.00	9.04	↓ -0.40	-0.48	3.99	4.49
 Thakhek	0.0	129.629	9.90	↓ 9.46	↓ 9.10	↓ 8.96	→ 9.04	→ 9.07	→ 9.07	13.00	14.00	-	↓ -0.39	-0.50	3.90	4.90
 Mukdahan	1.5	124.219	8.80	↓ 8.40	↓ 7.99	→ 8.01	→ 8.11	→ 8.16	→ 8.16	12.00	12.50	-	↓ -0.24	-0.41	3.84	4.34
 Savannakhet	1.4	124.219	7.23	↓ 6.81	↓ 6.52	↓ 6.42	↑ 6.52	→ 6.58	→ 6.59	12.00	13.00	-	↓ -0.22	-0.39	5.41	6.41
 Khong Chiam	27.3	89.030	11.89	↓ 11.49	↓ 10.99	↓ 10.71	→ 10.63	→ 10.67	→ 10.69	13.50	14.50	-	↓ -0.80	-0.86	2.51	3.51
 Pakse	5.7	86.490	9.84	↓ 9.58	↓ 9.28	↓ 9.12	→ 9.10	↑ 9.16	→ 9.20	11.00	12.00	-	↓ -0.39	-0.48	1.72	2.72
 Stung Treng	92.5	36.790	9.14	↓ 8.95	↓ 8.71	↓ 8.49	↓ 8.27	↓ 8.18	→ 8.19	10.70	12.00	-	↓ -0.76	-0.77	1.99	3.29
 Kratie	2.1	-0.101	19.98	↓ 19.97	↓ 19.75	↓ 19.41	↓ 19.15	↓ 18.89	↓ 18.80	22.00	23.00	-	↓ -1.17	-1.17	2.25	3.25
 Kompong Cham	9.0	-0.930	13.22	↓ 13.20	↓ 13.11	↓ 12.97	↓ 12.80	↓ 12.63	↓ 12.51	15.20	16.20	-	↓ -0.69	-0.69	2.09	3.09
 Phnom Penh (Bassac)	9.0	-1.020	8.60	↓ 8.59	→ 8.61	→ 8.61	→ 8.60	→ 8.59	→ 8.57	10.50	12.00	-	→ -0.02	-0.02	1.89	3.39
 Phnom Penh Port	nr	0.070	7.33	↓ 7.32	→ 7.34	→ 7.34	→ 7.33	→ 7.32	→ 7.30	9.50	11.00	-	→ -0.02	-0.02	2.16	3.66
 Koh Khel	0.0	-1.000	7.37	↓ 7.35	→ 7.35	→ 7.35	→ 7.35	→ 7.35	→ 7.34	7.90	8.40	-	→ -0.01	-0.01	0.55	1.05
 Neak Luong	2.6	-0.330	6.16	↓ 6.13	→ 6.13	→ 6.13	→ 6.13	→ 6.13	→ 6.12	7.50	8.00	-	→ -0.01	-0.01	1.37	1.87
 Prek Kdam	0.0	0.080	7.54	→ 7.54	→ 7.56	→ 7.58	→ 7.59	→ 7.57	→ 7.56	9.50	10.00	-	→ 0.02	0.05	1.91	2.41
 Tan Chau	0.4	0.000	3.27	→ 3.27	→ 3.27	→ 3.27	→ 3.27	→ 3.27	→ 3.27	3.50	4.50	-	→ 0.00	0.00	0.23	1.23
 Chau Doc	nr	0.000	2.85	→ 2.86	→ 2.86	→ 2.86	→ 2.86	→ 2.86	→ 2.86	3.00	4.00	-	→ 0.00	0.00	0.14	1.14

*: Low-lying flood levels have been requested by Thailand to be included for specific stations including Nongkhai (7.35 m), Nakhon Phanom (9.04 m) and Beung Kan (7.58 m) stations

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 21 September, water levels at all stations are in normal condition. The total accumulated volume of reverse flow to TSL is **35.67 Km³**.
- In the next 5 days, moderate to heavy rainfall is expected to occur in some areas in the LMB including the northeastern part of Thailand, Cambodia and the Mekong delta.
- For 22 – 26 September, water levels at most stations are expected to drop except for Chiang Saen and those from Phnom Penh (Bassac) downstream.

6.3 Flash Flood Information

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

6.4 Drought forecast

The weekly forecast from 22 - 28 September 2026 indicates no drought conditions are expected across the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB), except some areas in the upper part of Lao PDR based on the Combined Drought Index (the detailed areas in the table below). Figure 13 below shows the weekly forecasts for SPI and CDI.

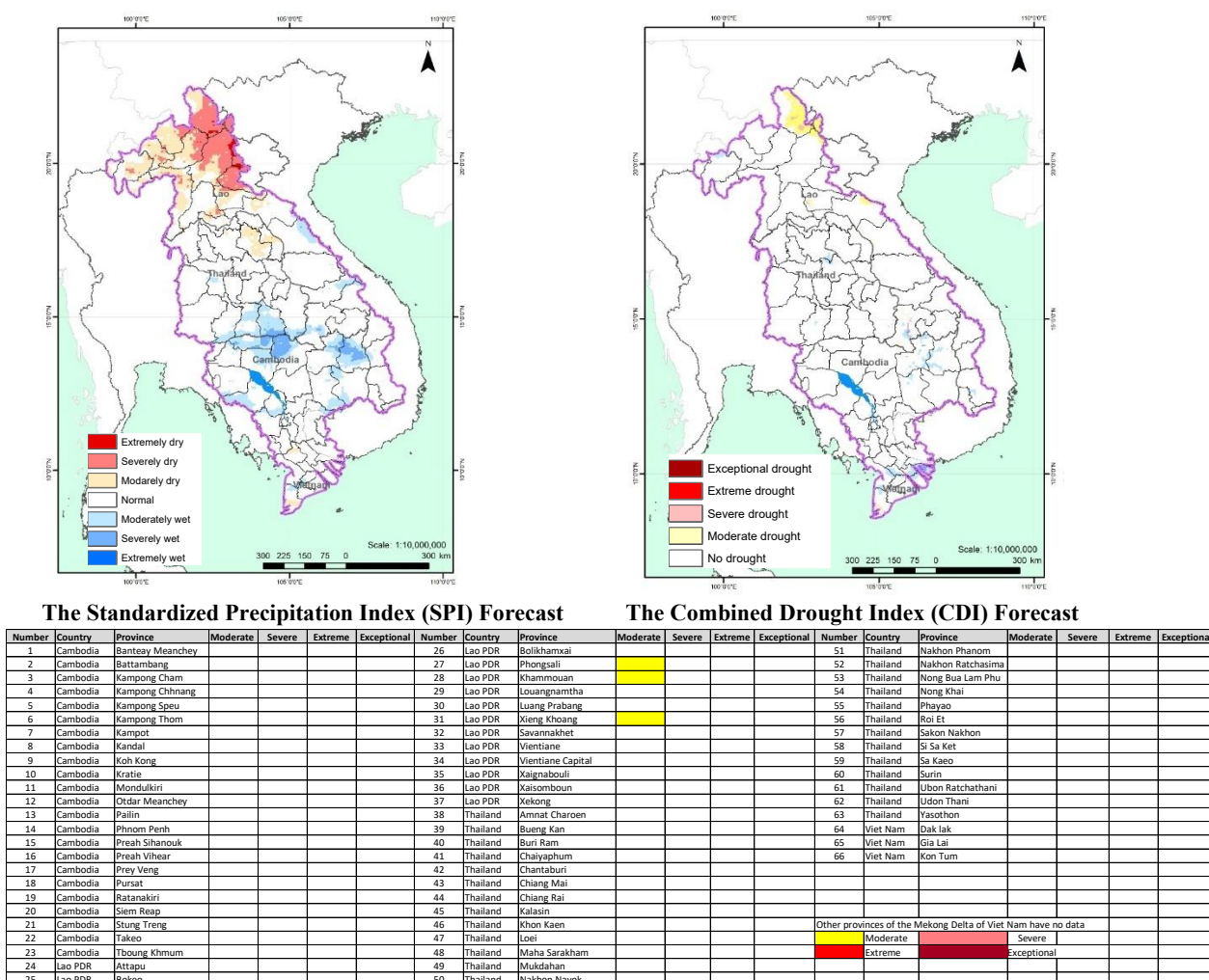


Figure 13 The weekly drought forecast is based on the Combined Drought Indicator (CDI).

7 Summary and Possible Implications

7.1. Rainfall and its forecast

From 15 – 21 September, moderate to heavy rain, and isolated very heavy rain are expected to occur in some areas in the central and southern part of Lao PDR, the northeastern part of Thailand, and the 3S basin. The remaining areas are expected to occur with no rain to light rain.

Next week, from 22 - 28 September, moderate to heavy rain is expected to occur in some areas in the LMB, including the central and southern part of Lao PDR, the northeastern part of Thailand, the 3S Basin, and the northern and southwestern part of Cambodia. The remaining areas are expected to occur with no rain to light rain.

7.2. Water level and its forecast

At 22 key monitoring stations along the Mekong mainstream from 15 – 21 September 2026, water levels at all stations along the Mekong mainstream are in normal conditions which are neither at alarm nor flood levels. The total accumulated reverse flow to TSL is 35.67 Km³. However, the 6 monitoring stations remain in normal condition with respect to the flow threshold (PMFM Thresholds). 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 22 – 26 September 2026, water levels from at most stations are expected to drop except for Chiang Saen and those from Phnom Penh (Bassac) downstream that are expected to either rise or remain stable. Water levels at Tan Chau and Chau Doc are expected to be fluctuated due to tidal fluctuations.

7.3. Flash flood and its trends

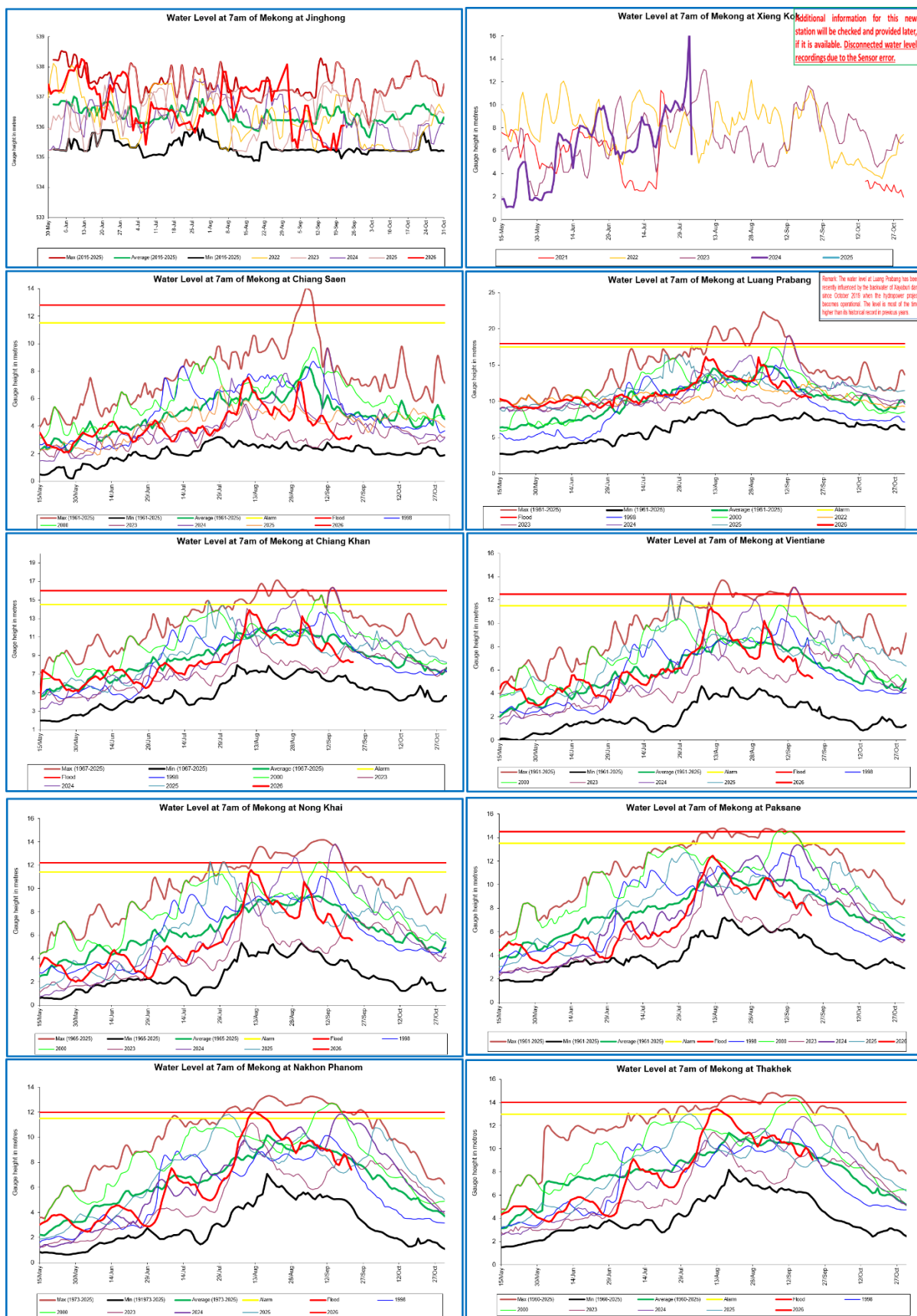
With the predicted of rainfall for the coming week as mentioned earlier in part 2, the flash flood guidance from low to high level will likely be detected in some areas of the LMB.

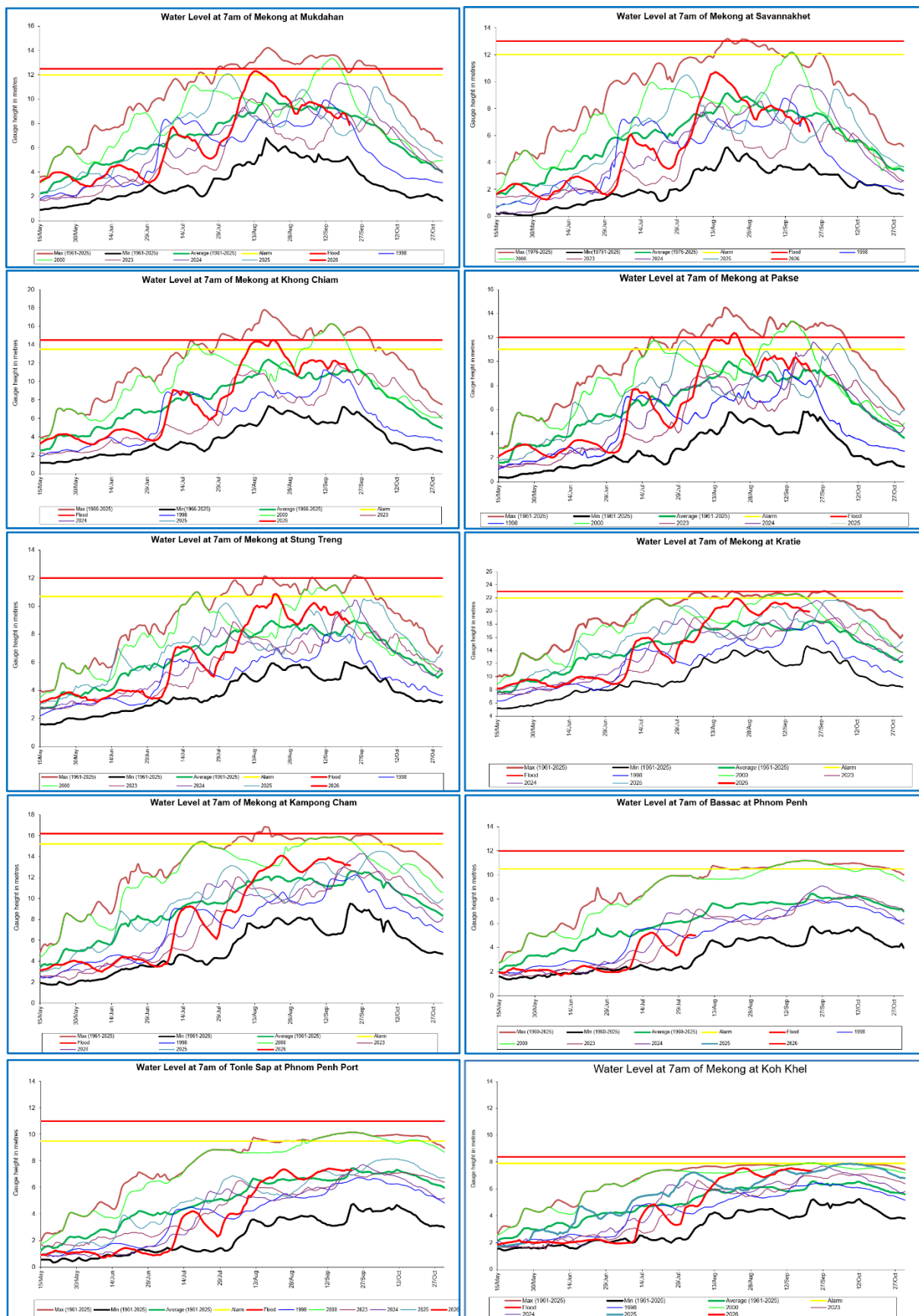
7.4. Drought condition and its forecast

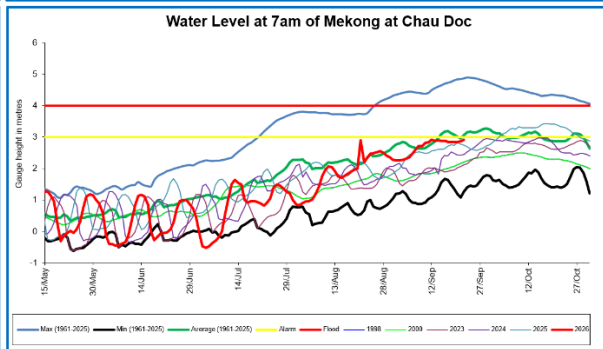
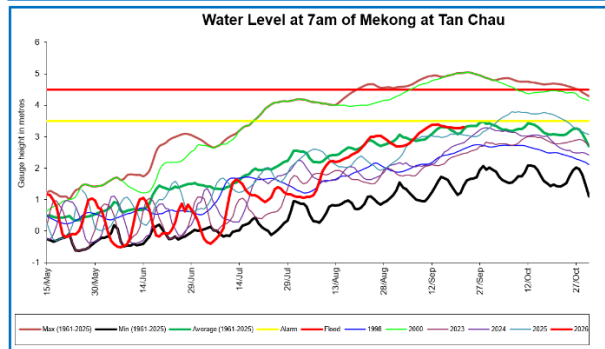
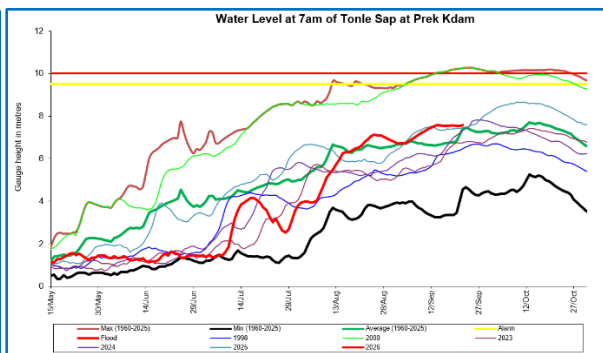
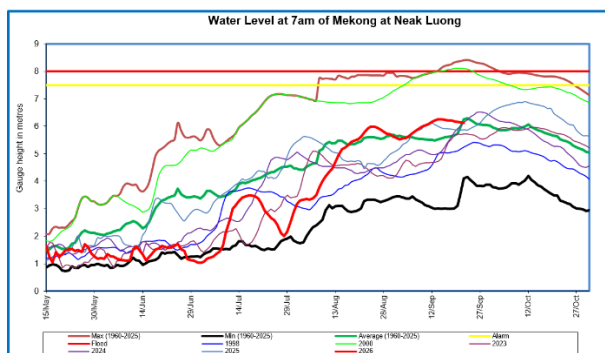
From 15 - 21 September, according to the Combined Drought Indicator (CDI), no significant drought conditions were observed across the majority of the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB). However, localized drought conditions persisted in some areas in the upper part of Lao PDR.

The weekly forecast from 22 - 28 September 2026 indicates that no drought conditions are expected across the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB), except some areas in some areas in the upper part of Lao PDR based on the Combined Drought Index.

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

2026	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
15/09/2026	535.35	3.34	11.24	9.09	6.35	6.95	8.42	8.15	9.62	8.62	7.06	12.24	10.30	9.39	20.56	13.66	8.79	7.37	7.50	6.25	7.55	3.35	2.88
16/09/2026	535.28	3.09	10.82	8.76	6.01	6.44	7.98	7.87	9.42	8.48	6.93	12.28	10.33	9.56	20.51	13.54	8.75	7.33	7.47	6.23	7.54	3.32	2.87
17/09/2026	535.24	3.04	10.70	8.45	5.75	6.05	8.36	7.79	9.36	8.41	6.86	12.10	10.06	9.57	20.55	13.50	8.72	7.30	7.46	6.22	7.52	3.30	2.85
18/09/2026	535.79	3.12	10.57	8.33	5.60	5.78	8.46	8.27	9.75	8.52	6.95	11.91	9.84	9.29	20.46	13.48	8.70	7.28	7.41	6.22	7.56	3.29	2.85
19/09/2026	535.23	3.12	10.74	8.46	5.45	5.71	8.41	8.67	10.13	8.84	7.26	11.88	9.76	9.02	20.12	13.38	8.68	7.26	7.40	6.18	7.55	3.27	2.84
20/09/2026	535.63	3.17	10.75	8.51	5.57	5.76	7.94	8.44	9.90	8.80	7.23	11.89	9.84	9.14	19.98	13.22	8.60	7.33	7.37	6.16	7.54	3.27	2.85
21/09/2026	536.05	3.05	10.59	8.32	5.46	5.74	7.66	7.90	9.46	8.40	6.81	11.49	9.58	8.95	19.97	13.20	8.59	7.32	7.35	6.13	7.54	3.27	2.86
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

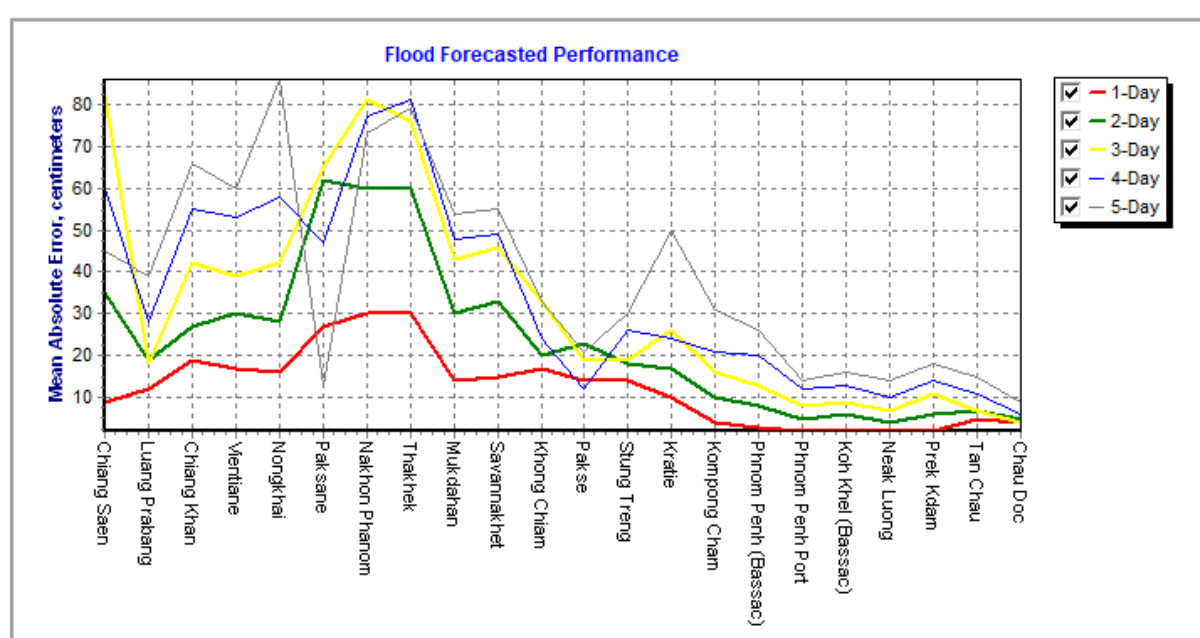
2026	Jinghong	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Thakhek	Mukdahan	Savannakhet	Khong Chiam	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Phnom Penh Port	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc
15/09/2026	0	0	0	25.5	17	49.6	19.6	32	29.2	25	19.6	40.8	28.2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	25.3	0	0
16/09/2026	0	2	5.8	32.5	55.3	96.6	17	83.4	86.7	14	14	17.5	25.1	4.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	22.3	0	5
17/09/2026	0	0	53.4	0.5	2.6	55.7	17.7	0.6	0	3.5	7.4	19.5	4.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	47.5	27.3	2.8	0
18/09/2026	0.5	66.6	5.6	4.4	15.1	44.7	33.6	22.7	18.8	6.2	4.6	9	5.6	0	0	10	0	0	32.6	0	0	9.8	12
19/09/2026	12.5	45	4.4	34	1.8	1.9	2.5	0	2.5	4.4	6	2	1.4	64.5	3.3	0	0	0	0	9.6	0	2.9	3
20/09/2026	0	0	5.5	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.5	0	0	11.8	16.7	28	5.5	46	18.7	0	8.5	91.3	0	1	9
21/09/2026	0	0.4	0	6	1.4	0.2	0	0	0	1.5	1.4	27.3	5.7	92.5	2.1	9	9	0	0	2.6	0	0.4	0
Sum	13.0	80.8	20.6	20.0	93.2	248.7	90.4	138.9	137.7	54.6	53.0	127.9	87.4	196.5	10.9	65.0	27.7	0.0	41.1	151.0	74.9	16.9	29.0

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 15 to 21 September 2026.

The forecasting values from 15 to 21 September 2026 show that the overall accuracy is fair for a four-day to five-day forecast in lead time (less than 250 cm) for most 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.



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.



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