

Weekly Wet Season Situation Report in the Lower Mekong River Basin 15-20 June 2022

Prepared by
The Regional Flood and Drought Management Centre
21 June 2022



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First published (2021)

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Title: Weekly wet season situation report in the Lower Mekong River Basin for 15-20 June 2022

ISSN: 1728-3248

Keywords: flood/drought/weather/Mekong/Tonle Sap

For bibliographic purposes, this volume may be cited as:

Mekong River Commission. (2021). Weekly wet season situation report in the Lower Mekong River Basin for 15-20 June 2022. Vientiane: MRC Secretariat.

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Key Messages

Key messages for this weekly report are presented below.

Rainfall and its forecast

- Rainfall focused in the areas from Chiang Saen in Thailand to Tan Chau and Chau Doc in Viet Nam, including the middle and lower parts in Lao PDR and Cambodia, varying from 1.00 millimetres (mm) to 151.40 mm.
- There will be average rainfalls for the next 5 days over the Mekong region from 21 to 27 June 2022 because there will be a low pressure dominating the Mekong region.

Water level and its forecast

- According to MRC's observed water level at Jinghong, there was a number of fluctuating water levels between 536.59 m and 536.63 m from 15 to 20 June 2022. The current level is staying about 0.22 m higher than its Long-Term-Average (2015-2021) value. The outflow at Jinghong station fluctuated between 1,750.00 m³/s and 1,790.00 m³/s from 15 to 20 June 2022.
- Water levels of monitoring station at Chiang Saen in Thailand increased about 0.09 m from 15 to 20 June 2022, but still stayed about 0.25 m higher than its LTA level, which is considered normal.
- Water level (WL) from Chiang Khan in Thailand from 15 to 20 June 2022 decreased by about 0.55 m (about 1.01 m higher than its LTA value), while water level at Vientiane decreased about 0.58 m and still stayed about 1.34 m higher than its LTA level, which considered normal. Water levels at Nong Khai decreased 0.49 m and at Paksane decreased about 0.09 m, staying about 0.55 m and 0.07 m higher than their LTA value, respectively.
- Water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand and Pakse in Lao PDR increased between 0.15 m and 0.30 m. The current WLs at these stations were staying lower than their LTA value, considered **abnormal**. From the stretches of the river from Stung Treng to Kratie significantly decreased about 0.20 m and 0.90 m, staying 0.10 m and 0.34 m lower than their LTA level, respectively, considered an abnormal condition.
- Water levels from Kompong Cham down to Chaktomuk, Koh Khel and Phnom Penh Port to Prek Kdam in Cambodia decreased about 0.02 m and 0.25 m, staying between 0.10m and 0.50 m lower than their LTA level.
- The current water levels from Chiang Khan in Thailand to Paksane in Lao PDR are higher than their LTA value. Most of the stations have WL lower than their LTA value. WL at the 2 tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc are below their LTA value due to tidal effect during this monitoring period.

- Over the next five days, the water levels across most monitoring stations are expected to go down and stay lower than their long-term average value in most stations.

Drought condition and its forecast

- During June 12-18, the LMB was facing some moderate and severe meteorological droughts scattering over small areas across the region from the north to the south. Specifically, they took placed in Chiang Rai, Bokeo, Xayaburi, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang, Vientiane, Nong Khai, Si Saket, Surin, Ubon Ratchathani, Saravane, Chanthaburi, Pailin, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Preah Vihea, Kampong Thom, Ratanak Kiri, Mondul Kiri, Kon Tum, and Gia Lai. However, it was just a short-term meteorological drought which would not be a big threat to agriculture.
- For the upcoming three months' forecasts, the LMB is likely to receive below-average rainfall in July and August with equivalent from moderate to severe meteorological droughts. Below-average rainfall is also forecasted for the lower part of the region covering Cambodia and Viet Nam during this coming September with moderate drought. While in October and November the LMB is likely to receive more than average rainfall, meaning no drought threat is predicted for the LMB.

1 Introduction

This Weekly Wet Season Situation Report presents a preliminary analysis of the weekly hydrological and drought situation in the Lower Mekong River Basin (LMB) for the period from **15-20 June 2022**. The trend and outlook for water levels are also presented.

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

The report covers the following topics that are updated weekly:

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

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

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

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

2 General Weather Patterns

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

From middle of June 2022, accumulated rainfall has significantly dropped over the LMB with gradually decreasing water levels in both mainstream and tributaries. The data from the TMD predict that abundant rainfall will happen again in the 3rd week of June because of the coming back low-pressure trough moving downward in the LMB. From June to July, the low-pressure trough is going to prevail over the Mekong region bringing rainfalls for the start of rainy season period in 2022.

<u>Figure 1</u> presents the weather map of 20 June 2022, showing low-pressure dominating the upper part of the Mekong region, which might bring some rains for the next few days. The average rainfall is also predicted over the middle and lower parts of LMB, including northern Thailand, Lao PDR and Viet Nam and the 3S area (Sesan, Sre Pok, and Sekong) of Cambodia and Viet Nam.

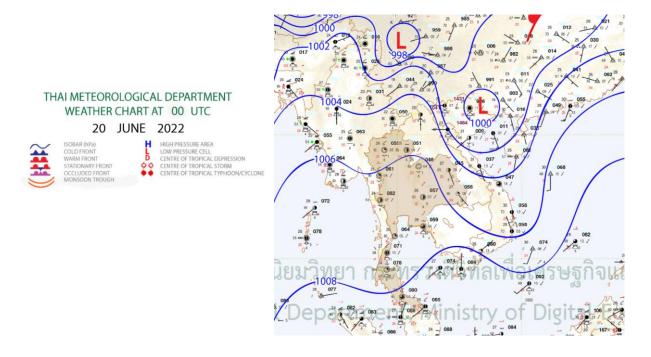


Figure 1. Summary of weather conditions over the LMB.

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), the highest probability of warm and wet conditions is predicted over the lower part of the Mekong region from 13 to 26 June 2022. Moreover, the Mekong region is likely dominated by warm condition, which may bring rainfall and warm temperatures in general to the lower part of the LMB. **Figure 2** shows the outlook of weather condition from 13 to 26 June 2022 in Southeast Asia based on results from the NCEP model (National Centres for Environmental Prediction).

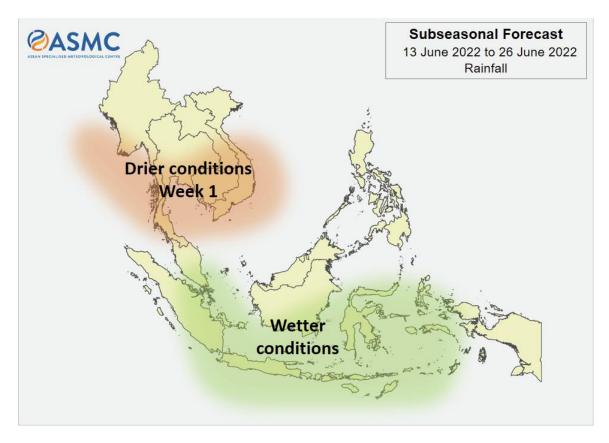


Figure 2. Outlook of wet and dry conditions over the Asian countries by ASMC.

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

There is no sign of Tropical Storm moving from the Sea to the LMB between 15 and 20 June 2022, a low- pressure line is still presenting as shown in <u>Figure 1</u>. No storms movement detected on 20 June in the LMB, as displayed in <u>Figure 3</u>.



Figure 3. A tropical depression risk observed on 20 June 2022.

2.2 Rainfall patterns over the LMB

This week from 15 to 20 June 2022, rainfall was observed from the upper to lower part starting from Chiang Saen in Thailand to Tan Chau and Chau Doc in Viet Nam of the Lower Mekong Basin, varied from 1.00 mm to 151.40 mm. The highest rainfall of this week report concentrated in Luang Prabang of Lao PDR, which reached up to 151.40 mm. The total rainfall this week was smaller in the lower part, compared with last week rainfall taking place in the Mekong region. (See shown in Figure 4).

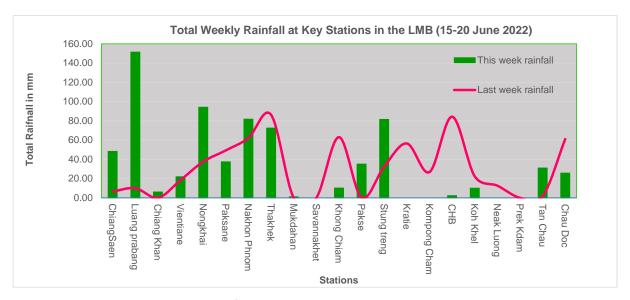


Figure 4. Weekly total rainfall at key stations in the LMB during 15-20 June 2022.

To verify area rainfall distribution, <u>Figure 5</u> shows a map of the weekly accumulated rainfall based on observed data provided by the MRC Member Countries – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam – from 14 to 20 June 2022.

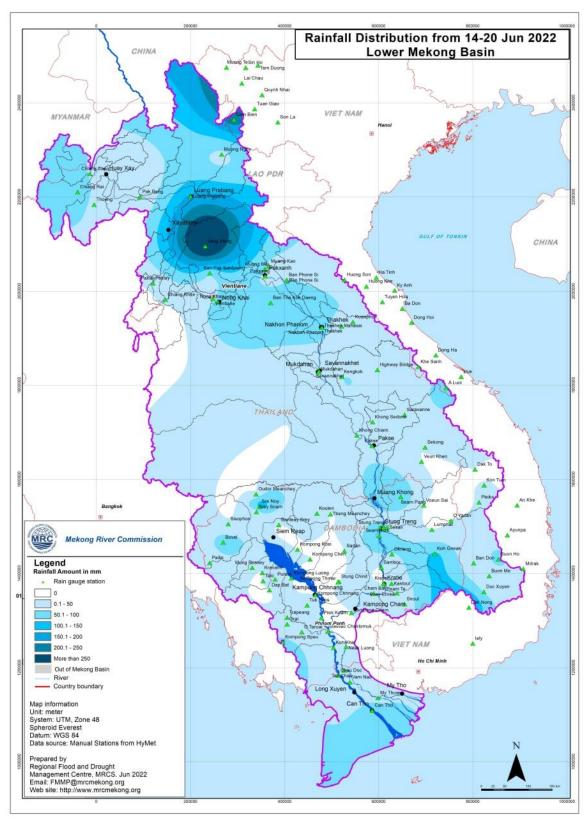


Figure 5. Weekly rainfall distribution over the LMB during 14-20 June 2022.

3 Water Levels in the Lower Mekong River

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

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

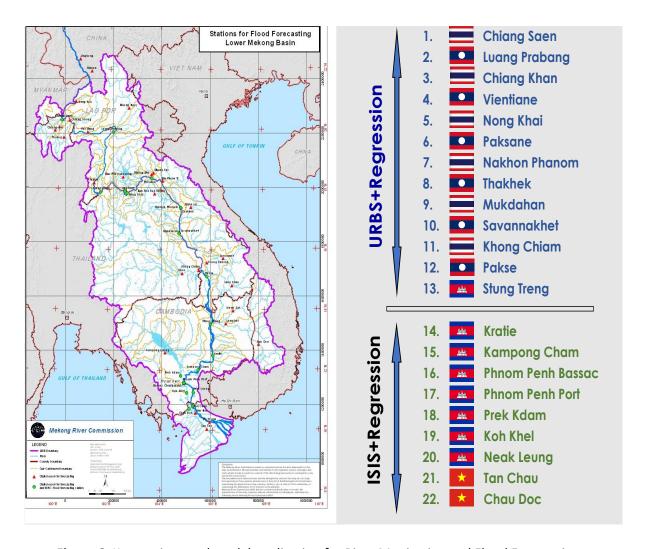


Figure 6. Key stations and model application for River Monitoring and Flood Forecasting.

According to MRC's observed water level at Jinghong, it showed many fluctuating water levels **between 536.59 m and 536.63 m from 15 to 20 June 2022 (recorded on 7:00 am)**. The current level is staying about 0.22 m higher than its Long-Term-Average (LTA: 2015-2021) value. The outflow at Jinghong station fluctuated between 1,750.00 m³/s and 1,790.00 m³/s from 15 to 20 June 2022. Figure 7 below presents water level that increased at the Jinghong hydrological station¹, indicating the trend of fluctuating water level up to 14 June 2022

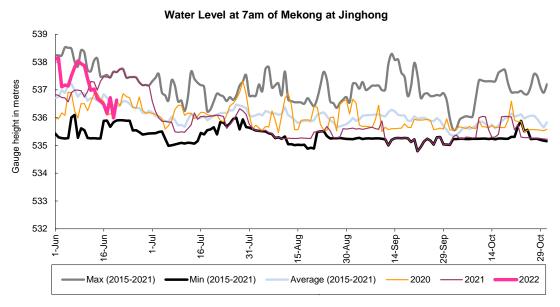


Figure 7. Water level at the Jinghong hydrological station during 15-20 June 2022.

Along with the fluctuation of outflow from Jinghong upstream, water levels of monitoring stations at Chiang Saen in Thailand increased about 0.09 m from 15 to 20 June 2022, staying about 0.25 m higher than its LTA level, which is considered normal.

However, water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand from 15 to 20 June 2022 decreased about 0.55 m and stayed about 1.01 m higher than its LTA value, while water level at Vientiane decreased about 0.58 m but still stayed about 1.34 m higher than its LTA level, which **considered normal**. Water levels at Nong Khai decreased 0.49 m and at Paksane decreased about 0.09 m, staying about 0.55 m and 0.07 m higher than their LTA value, respectively.

Water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand and Pakse in Lao PDR increased between 0.07 m and 0.20 m. The current WLs at Thakhek, Mukdahan, Sannnakhet and Pakse were staying about 0.10 m and 0.35 m lower than their LTA level, considering **abnormal**. From the stretches of the river from Stung Treng to Kratie, water level decreased from 0.20 m to 0.38 m, staying 0.10 m and 0.34 m lower than their LTA level, respectively.

Water levels from Kompong Cham down to Chaktomuk, Koh Khel and Phnom Penh Port to Prek Kdam in Cambodia decreased between 0.20 m and 0.50 m, staying between 0.10 m and 0.30 m lower than their LTA level.

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.

The current water levels from Chiang Saen in Thailand to Paksane in Lao PDR are higher than their LTA value, except the stations from Thakhek to Pakse where WLs are lower than their LTA level. The tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc have WL below their LTA value due to tidal effect during this monitoring period.

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

Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang

The water level from 15 to 20 June 2022 at Thailand's Chiang Saen increased from 3.56 m to 3.65 m, showing 0.25 m higher than its Long-Term-Average (LTA) value, which considered normal. The water level at Luang Prabang station in Lao PDR fluctuated between 10.51 m and 10.52 m during the reporting period. This level shows 1.05 m lower than its long-term-maximum value (about 3.68 m higher than its LTA value). The trend – sometimes higher or lower to its historical maximum and LTA values – has been observed since early 2022. The phenomenon was potentially caused by upstream dam operations, downstream Xayaburi dam, and heavy rainfall in the surrounding areas. The water levels at Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang are shown in Figure 8 below.

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

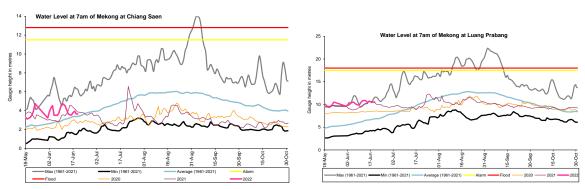


Figure 8. Water levels at Chiang Saen in Thailand and Luang Prabang in Lao PDR.

Chiang Khan, Vientiane-Nong Khai and Paksane

The water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand (downstream of the Xayaburi dam) decreased from 8.19 m to 7.64 m during the reporting week. It showed 1.01 m higher than its LTA value. The water level downstream at Vientiane in Lao PDR followed the upstream trend. It also decreased from 5.57 m to 4.99 m and was about 1.34 m higher than its LTA during 15-20 June 2022. At Nong Khai station in Thailand, the water level was down during the reporting period. It decreased about 0.49 m from 5.34 m to 4.85 m and showing 0.55 m higher than its LTA. At Paksane in Lao PDR, water levels decreased about 0.09 m, dropping from 6.13 m to 6.04 m. The water levels at this station were still about 0.07 m higher than their LTA. The recently decreased water levels were obviously due to the low rainfall in the sub-catchment area, amid

the inflows and water storing from upstream. The water levels at Vientiane and Paksane are shown in Figure 9 below.

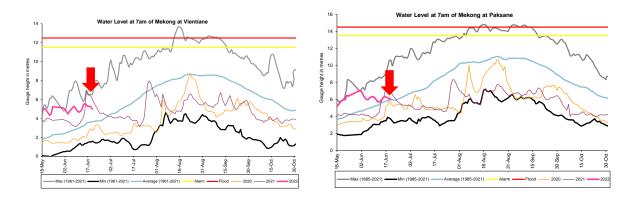


Figure 9. Water levels Veintiane and Paksane in Lao PDR.

Nakhon Phanom to Pakse

The water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to Pakse in Lao PDR were increasing between 0.05 m and 0.30 m due to some rainfalls and inflow from upstream. Water levels at these stations are still staying close to their LTA level, which considered normal. Figure 10 shows the water levels at Nakhon Phanom and Pakse stations.

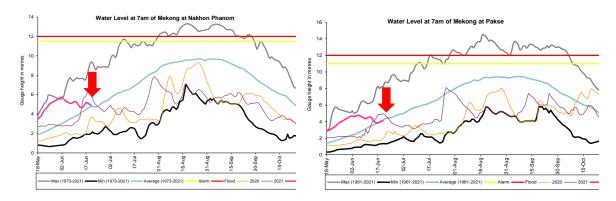


Figure 10. Weekly water levels at Nakhon Phanom in Thailand and Pakse in Lao PDR

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

Following the same trend from the upstream part of the Mekong River and the 3S river (Sekong, Se San, and Sre Pok), the water levels from Stung Treng to Kratie in Cambodia were significantly decreasing during 15-20 June 2022. This week water level at Stung Treng and Kratie decreased about 0.21 m and 0.90 m, respectively, pushing water levels about 0.10 m and 0.34 m below their LTA (as showed in <u>Figure 11</u>). The water level at Kompong Cham decreased about 0.74 m and was about 0.84 m lower than its LTA. Generally, the **Water levels at these stations were lower than their LTA, which considered abnormal**.

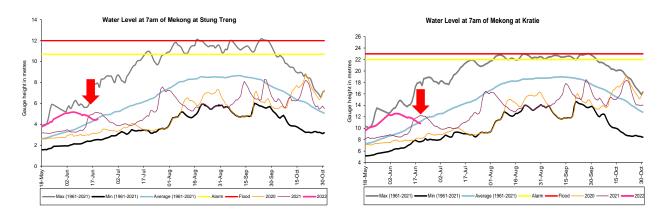


Figure 11. Water levels at Stung Treng and Kratie on the Mekong River.

However, at Chaktomuk on the Bassac River, due to less rainfall and contributed flows from upstream catchment, the water level was down by about 0.74 m and stayed 0.81 m lower than its LTA value; while at Koh Khel, water level decreased about 0.10 m, staying 0.23 m higher than its LTA value. The water level at Prek Kdam on the Tonle Sap Lake decreased about 0.20 m and was about 0.22 m lower than its LTA value. The water level at the Tonle Sap Lake (observed at Kampong Luong) was similar to Prek Kdam station's water level. The recently decreased water level was because of less rainfall and low inflow contributed from upstream of the Tonle Sap Lake area during the reporting period. The water level at the Tonle Sap Lake (observed at Kampong Luong) followed the same trend of Prek Kdam station's water level. Water levels at most of these stations were staying lower than their LTA level, which considered abnormal.

Tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc

Like last week, the water levels from 15 to 20 June 2022 at Viet Nam's Tan Chau and Chau Doc were fluctuating due to daily tidal effects from the sea. The fluctuation levels were between 0.30 m and 1.22 m; they were in between the range of their LTA and historical minimum levels and **considered critical**. The current water level at Chau Doc is lower than its LTA level up to 20 June 2022.

The Tonle Sap Flow

At the end of the dry season, when water levels along the Mekong River rise and the inflows of the Mekong River return into the Tonle Sap Lake. This phenomenon normally takes place from end of May to July. Based on flow observation at Prek Kdam, the inflow of the Tonle Sap Lake took place since 29 May 2022.

Figure 12 shows the seasonal changes of the inflow/reverse flow and the inflow of the TSL at Prek Kdam in comparison with the flows of 2019 and 2020, and their LTA level (1997-2020). Up to June 20 of this reporting period, it was observed that the main inflow into Tonle Sap Lake decreased due to less rainfall and inflows from upstream. This decreased inflow into the Tonle Sap Lake was most likely caused by low inflows and less rainfall from the catchment area. Up to present, the inflow into the Tonle Sap Lake condition in 2022 is higher than 2019, 2020, 2021 and even its LTA (1997-2021) inflow conditions. For next week, some rainfall is forecasted for the Tonle Sap area; thus, the outflow from the Tonle Sap Lake is likely continuing to drop from the current level.

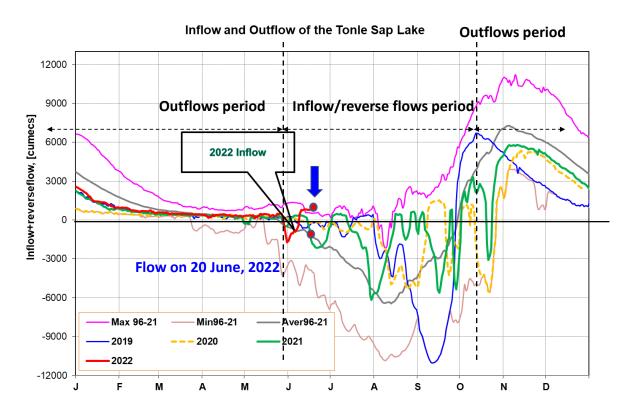


Figure 12. Seasonal change of inflows and outflows of Tonle Sap Lake

<u>Figure 13</u> shows seasonal changes in monthly flow volumes up to 20 June 2022 for the Lake compared with the volumes in 2019, 2020, 2021 and their LTA, and the fluctuation levels (1997–2021). It shows that up to June 20, the water volume of the Tonle Sap Lake was even higher than 2019, 2020, 2021 and its LTA (127%), during the same period. The figure is displayed in <u>Table 1</u>, which indicates that the Tonle Sap Lake has been affected by water levels from the tributaries and rainfall in the surrounding sub-catchments and <u>considered normal</u>.

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

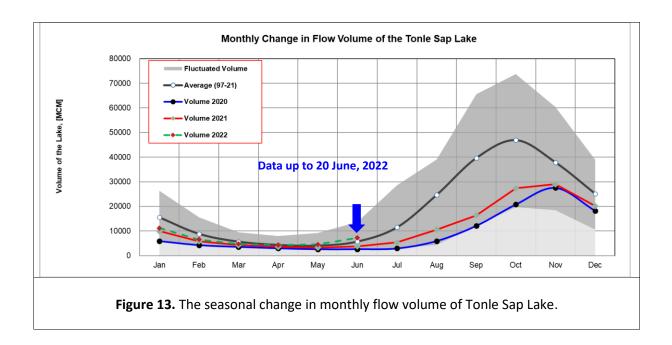


Table 1. The monthly change in the flow volume of Tonle Sap Lake.

Month	Average Volume (97-21) [MCM]	Max Volume [MCM]	Min Volume [MCM]	Volume 2018 [MCM]	Volume 2019 [MCM]	Volume 2020 [MCM]	Volume 2021 [MCM]	Volume 2022 [MCM]	Percentage of Volume in 2021 [%]
Jan	15523.23	26357.53	5906.80	13633.41	10285.31	5906.80	9923.80	11214.32	72.24
Feb	8837.89	15596.22	4198.60	7729.72	6019.30	4264.19	5832.97	6558.79	74.21
Mar	5654.18	9438.24	3347.07	5037.06	4354.62	3553.99	4264.88	4736.52	83.77
Apr	4346.65	8009.14	2866.91	3956.47	3667.47	2992.61	3556.68	4288.31	98.66
May	4030.23	9176.93	2417.81	3864.00	3266.43	2594.92	3240.78	4556.83	113.07
Jun	5708.30	13635.01	2468.70	5919.18	3517.06	2641.88	3798.29	7273.53	127.42
Jul	11493.25	28599.56	2925.86	12024.96	4001.99	2925.86	5346.73		
Aug	24666.69	39015.12	4433.46	22399.65	7622.71	5941.07	10547.80		
Sep	39634.03	65632.35	12105.31	53639.54	24194.19	12105.31	16382.34		
Oct	46873.44	73757.23	19705.50	48193.08	30358.38	20799.13	27318.21		
Nov	37823.16	60367.33	18534.61	31036.07	19112.65	27546.80	28982.93		
Dec	25126.11	38888.95	10563.49	18469.21	10577.29	18251.65	20170.76		
	Critical situation, co	mapred with his	storical Min val	ues					
	Normal condition, co	ompared with L	TA (Long term	average)	Ì				
	Low volume situatio	n, comapred w	ith LTA values						
Unit: Million	Cubic Meter (1 MCM=	= 0.001 Km ³)							

4 Flash Flood in the Lower Mekong Basin

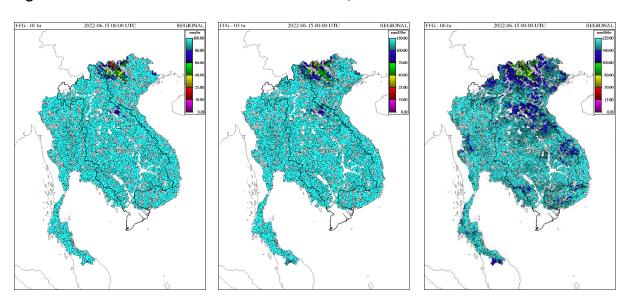
From June 14 to 20, the LMB was affected by three weather factors including (i) low-pressure cell which covered upper Viet Nam, (ii) moderate southwest monsoon prevailed over Thailand and the Gulf of Thailand during the first half of the week then it weakened, and (iii) the southerly and south-easterly wind prevailed over lower north-eastern, lower central and eastern parts on 14-16 June. These conditions caused moderate and heavy rainfall in some areas from the upper to the lower part of the LMB.

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

Rate-risk and location of the flash flood may occur in the next 1, 3, and 6 hours in Viet Nam Date of FFG products 15/06/2022 00:00 UTC time 01-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Locatio 3-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location in Vietnam 6-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location in Vietnam Districts Level Risks Provinces Districts Provinces Districts Lao Cai Bat Xat TX. Cam Duong Loc Binh Northea Ha Giang Xin Man Northeast Tram Tau Northwes Ha Giano Hoang Su Phi Northeast Lai Chau Lao Cai Bat Xat Northwest Xin Man Xin Man
Bao Yen
Bac Quang
Bao Yen
Dien Bien Dong
Thuan Chau
Bat Xat Phong Tho
TX. Nghia Lo
Bac Yen
Da Bac
Van Ban
Mu Cang Chai
Than Uyen
Sa Pa
Quvnh Nhai TX. Cam Duong Lao Cai Lao Cai Lao Cai Son La Yen Bai Phu Tho Hoa Binh Da Bac Northwest Quynh Nhai TX. Nghia Lo Son La Ha Giang Yen Bai Sa Pa Than Uyen Bac Quang Northwest Hoa Binh Da Bac Lao Cai Son La Quvnh Nha Northwest Lao Cai Van Bar Lai Chau Dien Bien Dong Lai Chau Muong Lay Muong Te Mu Cang Chai Muong Lay TX. Lai Chau Muong Te TX. Lai Chau Muong Lay Tuan Giao Thuan Chau TX. Son La TX. Son La Muong Lay Sa Pa Than Uyen Quynh Nhai Muong Lay TX. Lai Chau Northwest Muong La Muong Lay

Table 2. Detected flash flood in Viet Nam on June 15.

Figure 14. Flash Flood Guidance for the next 1 hour, 3 hours and 6 hours on June 15.



5 Drought Monitoring in the Lower Mekong Basin

Weekly drought monitoring from 12 to 18 June 2022

Drought monitoring data in 2022 are available from Sunday to Saturday every week; thus, the reporting period is normally delayed by three days compared to Flood and Flash Flood reports. We adopt the Index of Soil Water Fraction (ISWF) data obtained from FFGS to represent soil moisture of agricultural indicator for both dry and wet seasons.

Weekly Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI1)

The meteorological drought indicator of SPI from June 12 to 18, as displayed in <u>Figure 15</u>, shows moderate and severe droughts scattered as small areas over the LMB from the north to the south across many provinces. Specifically, they took placed in Chiang Rai, Bokeo, Xayaburi, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang, Vientiane, Nong Khai, Si Saket, Surin, Ubon Ratchathani, Saravane, Chanthaburi, Pailin, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Preah Vihea, Kampong Thom, Ratanak Kiri, Mondul Kiri, Kon Tum, and Gia Lai. The other areas were normal.

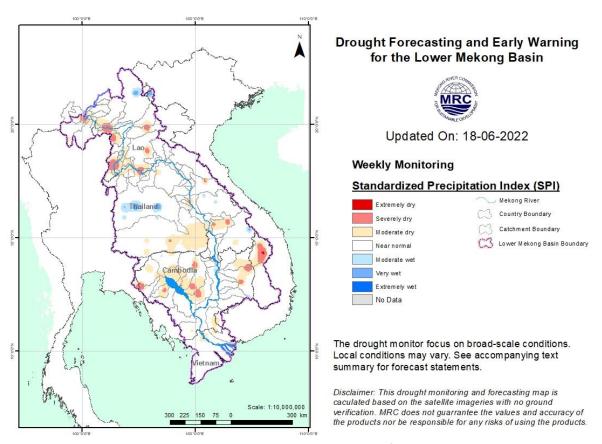


Figure 15. Weekly standardized precipitation index from 12 to 18 June 2022.

Weekly Index of Soil Water Fraction (ISWF)

Unlike SPI, the soil water fraction from June 12 to 18, as displayed in <u>Figure 16</u>, shows normal condition in most places of the LMB except some moderate dry condition in some areas of Surin, Battambang, Mondul Kiri, Gia Lai, and Dak Lak. However, the condition was not significant.

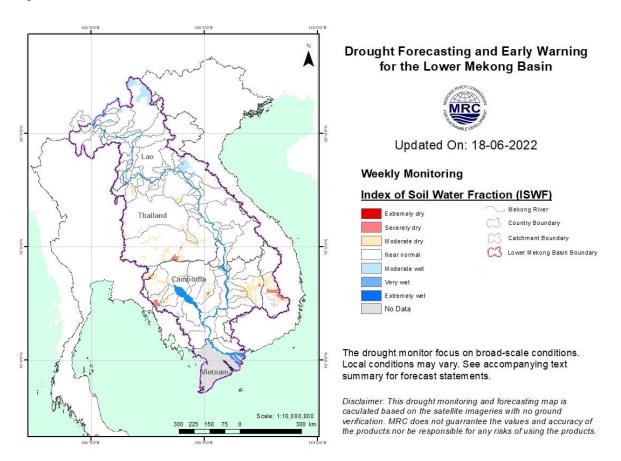


Figure 16. Index of Soil Water Fraction from 12 to 18 June 2021.

• Weekly Combined Drought Index (CDI)

The combined drought indicator from the meteorological and agricultural indices, as displayed in <u>Figure 17</u>, shows that most areas of the LMB were at normal condition. Nonetheless, some moderate droughts were detected in the lower part of the region covering some area of Surin, Si Saket, Chanthaburi, Banteay Meanchey, Pailin, Battambang, Preah Vihea, Kampong Thom, Mondul Kiri, Ratana Kiri, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, and Dak Lak. However, it was a short-term moderate drought which took place in small areas which would not be a big threat to agriculture.

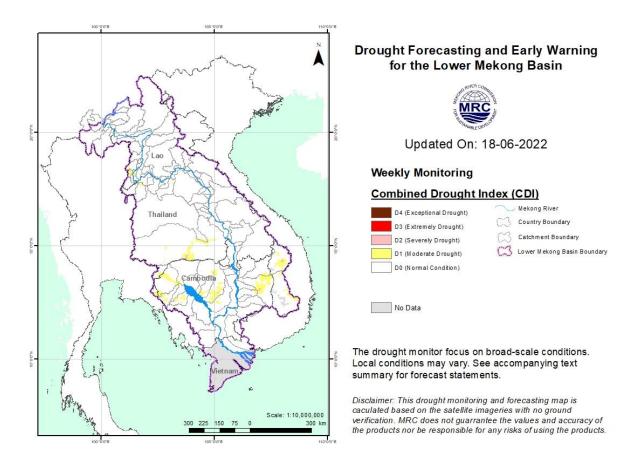


Figure 17. Weekly Combined Drought Index from 12 to 18 June 2022.

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

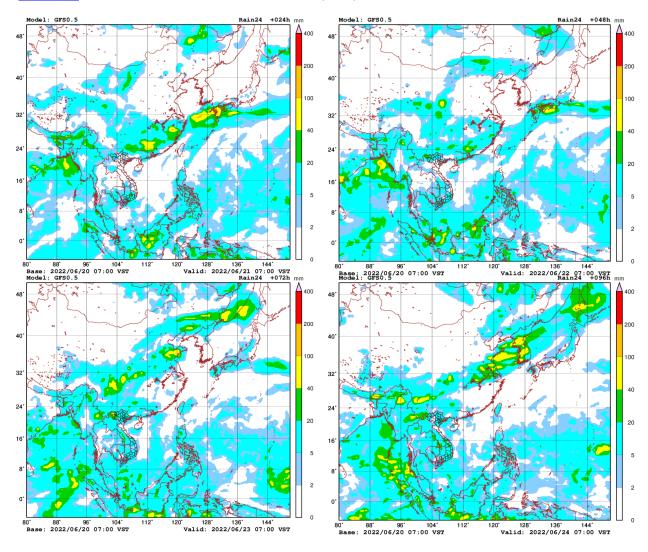
6 Weather and Water Level Forecast and Flash Flood Information

6.1 Weather and rainfall forecast

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

In general, from June 21 to 27, small (5 -20 mm/24h) amount of rainfall will likely occur over the LMB.

Figure 18 shows accumulated rainfall forecast (24 h) of the GFS model from June 21 to 27.



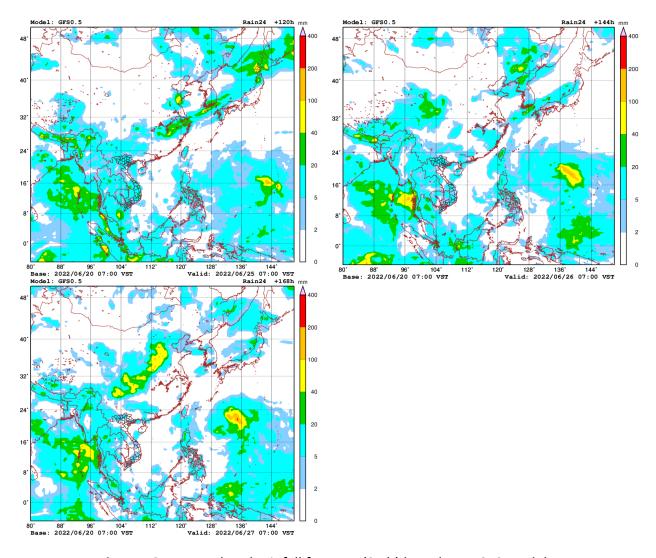


Figure 18. Accumulated rainfall forecast (24 h) based on a GFS model.

6.2 Water level forecast

Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang

Based on June 20's daily flood forecasting bulletin, the daily forecasted water level at Chiang Saen in Thailand is expected to increase from 3.65 m to 3.70 m over the next five days. The trend will keep the water level at this station above its LTA.

For Luang Prabang in Lao PDR, the water level will decrease from 10.52 m to 10.42 m during the next five days. The current water level is higher than its LTA. Precipitation is forecasted for the area between Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang next week.

Chiang Khan, Vientiane-Nong Khai and Paksane

The water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand is forecasted to go down approximately 0.37 m, while water level at Vientiane in Lao PDR will also decrease about 0.79 m. Furthermore, from Nong Khai in Thailand, the water level will decrease also about 0.65m over the next five days; at Paksane in Lao PDR water level will decrease about 0.69 m due to less forecasted rainfall in the upper catchments. Rainfall is forecasted for the area of Paksane next week.

The water levels at these stations are remaining lower than their LTA.

Nakhon Phanom to Pakse

The water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to Pakse in Lao PDR are forecasted to go down between 0.20 m and 0.70 m over the next five days. Water level at these stations will stay lower than their LTA level. Rainfall is forecasted for the area next week.

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

From Stung Treng to Kompong Cham along the Mekong River in Cambodia, the water levels will go down from 0.10 m to 0.30 m over the next five days. Precipitation is forecasted for the area between Stung Treng and Kompong Cham during next week.

The water levels of the Tonle Sap Lake at Prek Kdam and Phnom Penh Port as well as at Phnom Penh's Chaktomuk on the Bassac River will decrease about 0.15 m over the next five days.

Water levels at most of the stations will continue to go down and stay lower than their LTA value, particularly in the middle and lower parts of the region from the Nakhon Phanom to Pakse and from the Bassac at Phnom Penh, Koh Khel as well as from Tonle Sap at Prek Kdam to Phnom Penh Port, including the Tonle Sap Lake. Precipitation is forecasted for the low-lying area of Cambodia next week.

Tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc

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

The performance of the weekly flood forecast, with an accuracy and data input evaluation from 15 to 20 June 2022, is presented in **Annex 1**.

<u>Table 2</u> shows the daily flood forecasting Bulletin issued on 20 June 2022. Results of the weekly river monitoring bulletin are also available at http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin wet.php.

6.3 Flash Flood Information

With small and moderate rainfall forecasted for next week, flash floods with high level are not expected to take place in the LMB. However local heavy rain in a short period of time is possible with unexpected short flash floods. The information on flash flood guidance for the next one, three, and six hours is updated twice a day at: http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/ffg.php.

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

6.4 Drought forecast

There are several climate-prediction models with different scenarios on the upcoming months until November 2022. The MRC's DFEWS adopts an ensemble model called the North America Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME), which averages all scenarios.

The global scale of rainfall prediction is used to see how the rain distribution looks like for the coming months. Figure 18 shows the ensemble mean of daily average precipitation (mm/day) each month from July to November 2022 produced by the NMME.

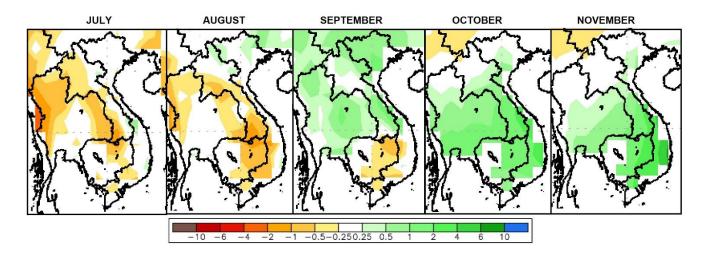


Figure 19. Daily average of monthly rainfall anomaly forecast from July to November 2022.

The ensemble prediction model based on the initial conditions in June 2022 reveals that the LMB is likely to receive below-average rainfall in July and August with equivalent from moderate to severe meteorological droughts. Below-average rainfall is also forecasted for the lower part of the region covering Cambodia and Viet Nam during this coming September with moderate drought. While in October and November the LMB is likely to receive more than average rainfall, meaning no drought threat is predicted for the LMB.

The 2021 dry season is relatively wetter than that of 2020 and the monsoon rain in 2022 might come on time or even earlier than normal year.

Table 2. Weekly River Monitoring Bulletin.



Mekong Bulletin

Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS)
Regional Flood and Drought Management Centre (RFDMC)
P.O. Box 623 #576, National Road #2, Chak Angre Krom, Meanchey, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel: (855-23) 425353, Fax: (855-23) 425363, Email: floodforecast@mrcmekong.org
River Flood Forecast: 21 June -25 June 2022

Date: 20 June 2022

Location	Country	24-hr Observed Rainfall (mm)	Zero gauge above M.S.L (m)	Flood level (m)	Alarm level (m)	against z	d W. level ero gauge n)	Forecasted Water Levels (m)						There is currently no flood warning in place at monitoring sites on the Mekong						
		19-Jun				19-Jun	20-Jun	21-Jun	22-Jun	23-Jun	24-Jun	25-Jun	20	21	22	23	24	25		
Jinghong	***	0.0				535.99	536.63						^	×	×	×	×	×		
Chiang Saen		0.0	357.110	12.80	11.50	3.65	3.65	3.36	3.65	3.80	3.74	3.70		*	•	^				
Luang Prabang	•	0.0	267.195	18.00	17.50	10.53	10.52	10.26	10.24	10.00	10.28	10.42		+		*	^	^		
Chiang Khan		0.0	194.118	16.00	14.50	7.85	7.64	7.57	7.35	7.30	7.12	7.27	*		+		*	^		
Vientiane	•	0.0	158.040	12.50	11.50	5.24	4.99	4.75	4.66	4.44	4.39	4.20	+	+		*		•		
Nongkhai		0.0	153.648	12.20	11.40	5.05	4.85	4.63	4.57	4.38	4.35	4.20	*	+		*		•		
Paksane	•	9.3	142.125	14.50	13.50	6.10	6.04	5.82	5.60	5.56	5.43	5.40		+	+		*			
Nakhon Phanom		0.0	130.961	12.00	11.50	5.02	4.89	4.80	4.58	4.40	4.35	4.22	*		+	*		*		
Thakhek	•	0.0	129.629	14.00	13.00	6.15	6.02	5.92	5.69	5.50	5.45	5.30	*		+	*		*		
Mukdahan		0.0	124.219	12.50	12.00	4.95	4.89	4.84	4.80	4.67	4.50	4.45				*	*			
Savannakhet	•	0.0	125.410	13.00	12.00	3.36	3.24	3.13	3.06	2.92	2.75	2.70	*	+		*	*			
Khong Chiam		0.0	89.030	14.50	13.50	5.43	5.44	5.40	5.32	5.25	5.08	4.87					*	*		
Pakse	•	0.0	86.490	12.00	11.00	4.04	4.12	4.13	4.09	4.05	4.00	3.90	^					•		
Stung Treng	Add	nr	36.790	12.00	10.70	4.41	4.48	4.52	4.50	4.47	4.44	4.40	^							
Kratie	Adda	nr	-0.101	23.00	22.00	10.92	10.84	10.89	10.95	10.90	10.85	10.80	*	1	^	*	*	*		
Kompong Cham	Add	nr	-0.930	16.20	15.20	5.67	5.48	5.40	5.44	5.49	5.45	5.40	*	+	^	^	*	*		
Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Ala	nr	-1.020	12.00	10.50	3.51	3.45	3.40	3.40	3.42	3.40	3.38	*	+						
Phnom Penh Port	Ald	-	0.070	11.00	9.50	2.40	2.33	2.28	2.29	2.31	2.29	2.26	*	+				*		
Koh Khel (Bassac)	Ala	nr	-1.000	8.40	7.90	3.48	3.40	3.32	3.27	3.27	3.24	3.22	*	+	+		+			
Neak Luong	Ald	nr	-0.330	8.00	7.50	2.48	2.42	2.36	2.34	2.35	2.37	2.35	*	+						
Prek Kdam	Ala	nr	0.080	10.00	9.50	2.79	2.65	2.60	2.56	2.57	2.55	2.53	+	+	+					
Tan Chau	*	11.0	0.000	4.50	3.50	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.37	0.42	0.52	0.65			^	^	1	^		
Chau Doc	*	22.0	0.000	4.00	3.00	0.32	0.31	0.33	0.39	0.47	0.58	0.74			^	^	1	^		

REMARKS:

-: not available. nr: no rain.

LEGEND alling water level ılarm stage ood stage × o data available

Note: Stable water level is defined as a daily change of less than 10cm from Chiang Saen to Savannakhet; less than 5cm at Pakse and Stung Treng; and no more than 3cm cm from Kratie downstream. Flood stage is when the flood level exceeds. A flood level is determined by each Member Country.

Alarm stage is when the water level ranges between alarm and flood

Alarm situation is when the water level is forecasted to reach the floo stage within the next three days.

River Flood Forecaster

NOTE: Discharge at Luang Prabang may be influenced by hydropower operations (at both upstream and downstream). For more info, please refer to this link:
http://www.mrcmekong.org/; http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/reportflood.php

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7 Summary and Possible Implications

7.1 Rainfall and its forecast

Rain was observed from Chiang Saen in Thailand to Tan Chau and Chau Doc in Viet Nam during June 15-20, including the lower part in Lao PDR and Cambodia, varying from 1.00 mm to 151.40 mm due to low-pressure dominating the LMB. However, this week rainfall was considered low in the middle and lower parts of the LMB compared with last week rainfall.

Based on the forecasted satellite data, rainfall is forecasted for some areas of the LMB with the value range from 30 mm to 100 mm for the next seven days. The forecasting model using GFS data, moreover, shows that no significant rainfall (<100 mm) is likely to take place in the Mekong region from 15 to 22 June 2022.

7.2 Water level and its forecast

According to MRC's observed water level at Jinghong, it showed many fluctuating water levels between 536.59 m and 536.63 m from 15 to 20 June 2022. The current level is staying about 0.22 m higher than its LTA (2015-2021) value. The outflow at Jinghong station was fluctuating between 1,750.00 m³/s and 1,790.00 m³/s from 15 to 20 June 2022.

Along with the decreased outflow from Jinghong upstream, water levels of monitoring stations at Chiang Saen in Thailand also decreased about 0.10 m from 15 to 20 June 2022. Moreover, from Chiang Khan in Thailand to Vientiane in Lao PDR, water levels decreased about 0.25 m during June 15-20 due to some rainfall in the area and influence of dam operation. Water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to Pakse in Lao PDR, on the other hand, were increasing. Water levels from the stretches of the river from Stung Treng to Kratie and at Kompong Cham in Cambodia were also decreasing, due to less contributed rainfall from the upstream part (at Pakse and 3S area in Viet Nam).

Over the next five days, the water levels from Stung Treng to the lower part at key stations in Cambodia are expected to go down between 0.05 m and 0.30 m.

The flow volume of the Tonle Sap Lake is higher than its LTA. From next week, the flow is expected to continue increasing due to some rainfall forecasted in the inflow catchments of the Tonle Sap Lake.

From Stung Treng to Kratie, the water levels will continue staying higher than their LTA value. The water levels – at Neak Luong on the Mekong River, from Prek Kdam to Phnom Penh Port on the Tonle Sap, and from Chaktomuk to Koh Khel on the Bassac – are forecasted to continue staying higher than their LTA.

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

Since the second week of June 2022, water levels across most monitoring stations in the LMB have significantly dropped to the level lower than their LTA (from middle to lower stretches within the LMB). The preliminary analysis of the hydrological conditions in the LMB over July–December 2020 and November 2020 to May 2021 was done as <u>Situation Report</u>, which can be used as reference for the trend of water level and flows of the Mekong River Basin.

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

7.3 Flash flood and its trends

With the predicted amount of rainfall for the coming week as mentioned earlier in <u>section 6.1</u>, the major flash floods are not expected in the LMB during next week. However local heavy rain in a short period of time is possible with unexpected short flash floods.

7.4 Drought condition and its forecast

During June 12-18, the LMB was facing some moderate and severe meteorological droughts scattering over small areas across the regionB from the north to the south. Specifically, they took placed in Chiang Rai, Bokeo, Xayaburi, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang, Vientiane, Nong Khai, Si Saket, Surin, Ubon Ratchathani, Saravane, Chanthaburi, Pailin, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Preah Vihea, Kampong Thom, Ratanak Kiri, Mondul Kiri, Kon Tum, and Gia Lai. However, it was just a short-term meteorological drought which would not be a big threat to agriculture.

For the upcoming three months' forecasts, the LMB is likely to receive below-average rainfall in July and August with equivalent from moderate to severe meteorological droughts. Below-average rainfall is also forecasted for the lower part of the region covering Cambodia and Viet Nam during this coming September with moderate drought. While in October and November the LMB is likely to receive more than average rainfall, meaning no drought threat is predicted for the LMB.

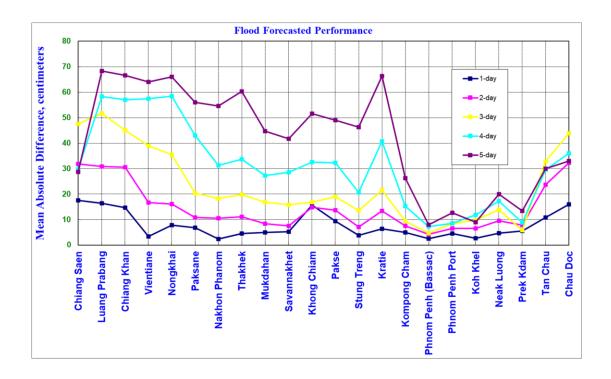
Annex 1: Performance of the weekly flood forecasting

Accuracy

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

The adjustment of flood forecasting outcomes from the flood forecasting system requires flood forecasters to have extensive knowledge in hydrology and statistical modelling for estimating the relationships between stations upstream and downstream in the Mekong River Basin. Flood forecasting performance presented in the graph below shows the average flood forecasting accuracy at each key station along the Mekong mainstream from 15-20 June 2022.

The forecasting values from 15-20 June 2022 show that the overall accuracy is fair for a one-day to five-day forecast in lead time at stations in the lower parts of the Mekong River from Luang Prabang in Lao PDR to Kratie in Cambodia due to some effect of rainfall and dams' operation in this area during the report period.



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

- Missing rainfall in Cambodia (DOM) data and data input are not sufficient to be used for inputting into the flood forecasting model system.
- Luang Prabang to Chiang Khan and Stung Treng to Kratie have been effluent 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).
- Khong Chaim, Pakse, Stung Treng and Kratie stations have been affected by heavy

rainfall from Viet Nam and some hydropower operations on Sekong, Sesan and Sre Pok (water retention and release). Rainfall always accumulates at this spot, which could be causing rapidly high-water levels.

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

Performance based on data from the Member Countries

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

The evaluation of performance indicators, missing data and completion time for flood forecasting are presented in Table B3 and Figures B4, B5 and B6, respectively from 15 to 20, June 2022.

Table B1: The Mean Absolute Difference (Error) of Flood Forecasting base on old defined Benchmark from 15 to 20 June, 2022 in cm

Lead-time Forecasted	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Thakhek	Mukdahan	Savannakhet	Khong Chiam	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Phnom Penh Port	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc
1-day	18	16	15	3	8	7	2	5	5	5	16	9	4	6	5	3	5	3	5	6	11	16
2-day	<u>32</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>	17	16	11	11	11	8	8	15	14	7	13	8	4	7	7	10	8	<u>24</u>	<u>32</u>
3-day	<u>48</u>	52	<u>45</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>20</u>	18	20	17	16	17	19	14	<u>22</u>	9	5	8	10	14	6	<u>33</u>	44
4-day	<u>30</u>	58	57	58	59	<u>43</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>41</u>	15	7	9	12	17	9	<u>30</u>	<u>36</u>
5-day	<u>29</u>	68	67	64	66	56	55	60	<u>45</u>	<u>42</u>	52	<u>49</u>	<u>46</u>	66	<u> 26</u>	8	13	9	<u>20</u>	13	<u>30</u>	<u>33</u>

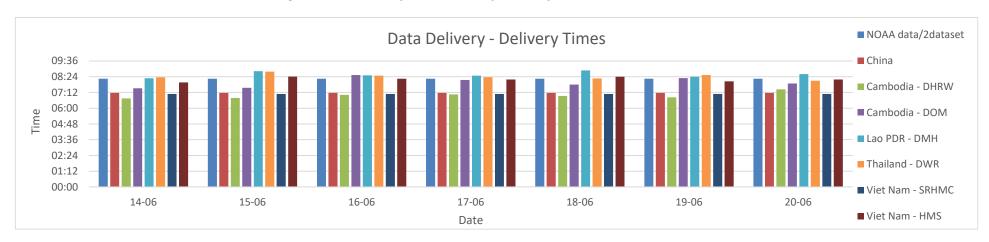
Table B2: The Mean Absolute Difference (Error) of Flood Forecasting base on old defined Benchmark from 15 to 20 June, 2022 in %

Lead-time Forecasted	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Thakhek	Mukdahan	Savannakhet	Khong Chiam	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Phnom Penh Port	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc	Average
1-day	57.1	57.1	57.1	71.4	57.1	<u>42.9</u>	57.1	57.1	71.4	57.1	71.4	57.1	57.1	<u>42.9</u>	71.4	57.1	71.4	<u>42.9</u>	71.4	57.1	57.1	57.1	59.1
2-day	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	66.7	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	66.7	<u>50.0</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>50.0</u>	66.7	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	49.2
3-day	80.0	<u>20.0</u>	60.0	<u>40.0</u>	<u>40.0</u>	60.0	<u>40.0</u>	<u>40.0</u>	60.0	60.0	80.0	<u>40.0</u>	60.0	<u>40.0</u>	<u>40.0</u>	60.0	80.0	60.0	60.0	<u>40.0</u>	<u>40.0</u>	80.0	53.6
4-day	75.0	<u>25.0</u>	<u>25.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>25.0</u>	<u>25.0</u>	<u>25.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	75.0	75.0	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	75.0	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	75.0	50.0
5-day	66.7	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	66.7	66.7	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	66.7	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	66.7	66.7	48.5

Table B3: Overview of performance indicators for the past 7 days from 15-20 June, 2022

		FF t	ime sent	t			Arr	ival time	of input	data	•	Missing data (number-mainstream and trib.st.)								
2022	FF completed and sent (time) Stations without forecast FF2 completed and sent (time) Weather data available (time)				NOAA data	China	Cambodia - DHRW	Cambodia - DOM	Lao PDR - DMH	Thailand - DWR	Viet Nam - SRHMC	Viet Nam - HMS	NOAA data/2dataset	China/2	Cambodia - DHRW/15	Cambodia - DOM/34	Lao PDR - DMH/32	Thailand - DWR/13	Viet Nam - SRHMC/6	Viet Nam - HMS/39
week	10:25	#DIV/0!	-	-	08:15	07:10	06:58	07:57	08:34	08:24	07:05	08:12	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0
month	10:29	#DIV/0!	-	-	08:15	07:10	07:20	07:53	08:32	08:24	07:15	08:14	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	2

Fig. B4: Data delivery times for the past 7 days from 15 to 20 June, 2022



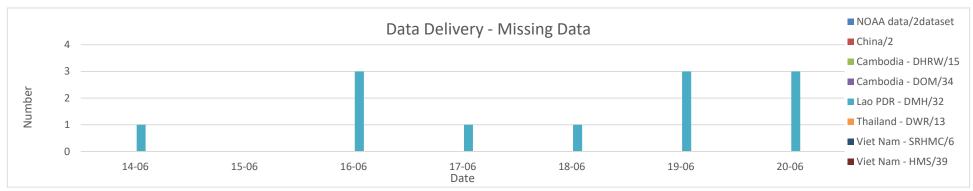
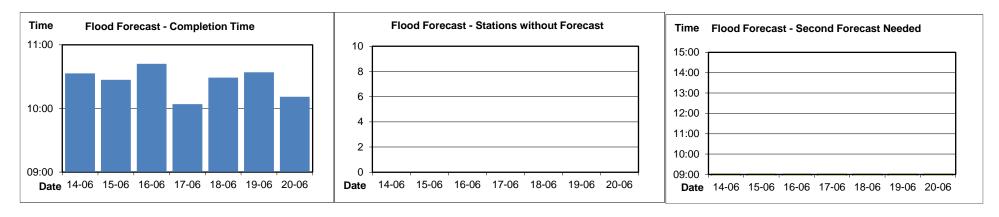


Fig. B5: Missing data for the past 7 days from 15 to 20 June, 2022







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