



Chapter Four: YELLOW: Lao PDR

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"The violence increased because of the lack of safety and surveillance [after the disaster]. It started to get worse after two weeks"

- Adolescent boy, Oudomxay

Key Findings



Risk factors identified in the disaster response



What can be done?





Snapshot



A data collection team, comprised of an in-country Lead Researcher, two field level supervisors (one male and one female) and eight Lao Red Cross (LRC) Volunteers and six local interpreters (five male and nine female) were recruited and collected the following data:

- Two hundred and sixty five household surveys (179 female and 86 male respondents) were collected across 27 villages (15 in Oudomxay and 12 in Sekong).
- Seventy nine disaster affected individuals (23 men, 20 women, 17 adolescent boys and 19 adolescent girls) participated in eight Focus Group Discussions (FGDs, four in Oudomxay and four in Sekong).
- Eleven Key informant interviews (KIIs) (two health care staff, two community leaders, one police staff, two judges, one LRC staff) were conducted.
- 47% of respondents reported women and girls felt distressed by the rise in early marriage after the disaster. Thirty two per cent of respondents reported that women and girls felt distressed by the rise in domestic violence after the disaster.
- 29% of respondents reported that men and boys felt distressed by the rise in domestic violence after the disaster. Thirty per cent of respondents reported that men and boys felt distressed by the rise in communal violence after the disaster.
- 43% of respondents said they heard about someone sustaining injuries from domestic violence after the disaster and accessing a health centre. 27% of respondents said they heard someone got raped after the disaster.
- Survivors in this sample population most often go to their sister (45%), father (57%) or mother (58%) for support. However, the village mediation unit is also heavily relied upon.
- The level of SGBV awareness among sector specific personnel is low, shared the majority of KII respondents.
- FGDs with adolescent boys and adult women in Oudomxay point to the risks to SGBV increasing between the first week up to a month after the disaster.
- 54% of all respondents stated that female survivors would best cope by understanding how to discuss such issues within their family. 48% of respondents said the same for male survivors. 42% expressed that support groups for women would help female survivors and 26% support groups for men would help male survivors. 26% also remarked that female survivors need better medical assistance and that both male and female survivors also use "talking to their friends" as a coping mechanism.

