



**WFP (THAILAND)
SPECIAL OPERATION SO (200372)**

Country:	Thailand
Type of project:	Special Operation
Title:	Provision of logistics support to the government of Thailand's response to floods in 28 districts
Total cost (US\$):	US\$ 497,550
Duration:	1 month (25 October to 24 November 2011)

Executive Summary

Thailand is experiencing its worst flooding in decades, with 2.45 million people affected across 28 of 77 provinces which are now beset with heavy or partial flooding and declared “disaster areas”. The death toll from three months of downpours has risen to 356. An estimated 113,000 people have been displaced and are living in temporary shelters. In Bangkok, evacuations are underway in perimeter provinces of Nonthaburi and Pathum Thani and the city remains on high alert.

The Royal Thai Government, following meetings with UN agencies and international responders, has confirmed that it would welcome WFP's assistance in filling critical gaps in the relief effort. The main gap as outlined by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) is a lack of emergency equipment, namely outboard motors needed to power the numerous boats that have been received through bilateral mechanism and from the private sector. WFP proposes to utilise its procurement and logistics capabilities to immediately supply the Government of Thailand with 120 outboard engines, through the use of the United Nations Response Depot in Subang, Malaysia.

Project Background

1. Thailand is experiencing its worst flooding in decades, with 2.45 million people affected across 28 of 77 provinces which are now beset with heavy or partial flooding and declared “disaster areas”. The death toll from three months of downpours has risen to 356. An estimated 113,000 people have been displaced and are living in temporary shelters. In Bangkok, evacuations are underway in perimeter provinces of Nonthaburi and Pathum Thani and the city remains on high alert.
2. The floods have caused extensive damage to Thailand's infrastructure, with a significant number of highways, rural roads and railway lines rendered inaccessible. Heavy flooding has also brought steep costs to the Thai economy and foreign investment: 10.3 million rai of farmland and 206,000 rai for fish/shrimp ponds have been damaged and 12.6 million livestock have been affected. Some 14,000 companies in major industrial estates employing more than 600,000 workers have been forced to shut down.

3. Estimates of overall flood damage have risen to US\$6 billion and could be much higher if Bangkok is seriously flooded. The Bank of Thailand has cut the country's economic growth for 2011 to 3.1 percent from a previous projection of 4.1 percent. Meanwhile, the cabinet has approved a 120 billion Baht (US\$4 billion) budget for flood relief, and additional 50 billion baht (US\$1.6 billion) to finance the reconstruction of flood-affected areas.
4. The Irrigation Department has estimated that it will take 40 days for the 12 billion cubic meters of floodwater to drain into the Gulf of Thailand. As one third of the country remains inundated, access to severely affected areas has been limited. However, preliminary assessments by the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) have identified urgent needs such as shelter materials, water and sanitations and basic household supplies.
5. The Government continues to lead all relief efforts, mobilising a wide range of resources to the flood-affected provinces, including the provision of food, emergency medical services, water and basic supplies, and the activation of evacuation and search and rescue operations. The Thai military has also been deployed to assist with coordination efforts such as preparing aircraft and vehicles to transport relief items and evacuees and excavate rivers and canals to accelerate water drainage.
6. While the Government recognizes that the situation is critical, the Prime Minister has reaffirmed that there would be no international appeal. However, the Government confirmed that it would welcome WFP complementary assistance to fill critical gaps, namely the provision of outboard engines, which would augment its emergency response capacity to the flood-affected population.

Project Justification

7. The justification for WFP assistance follows several discussions on the effects of the floods with senior officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence and the Emergency Operation Center for Flood, Storms and Landslides of the DDPM.
8. On 23 October, WFP received a request from the DDPM to support and augment its relief efforts across the nation. Following discussions, the Department identified the critical need for
 - a. A large number of 40HP outboard engines to increase the government's boat operation capacity to access and provide relief assistance to communities in cut-off areas;
9. The Government's response capacity to reach the most affected and isolated communities has been hampered by a severe shortage of boat engines in the local market. Following bilateral donations from neighbouring countries and the private sector, numerous boats have been received by the DDPM. However most of these cannot be utilised as they have no engines. The provision of 40 HP engines by WFP would therefore immediately fill this urgent gap, facilitating and expediting the Government's delivery of relief assistance to those affected.

10. WFP's proposed assistance will be provided as a one-off delivery of these emergency items to the Government of Thailand. Its assistance is expected to facilitate and expedite the Government's relief efforts which include simultaneous food and non-food assistance (shelter materials, water, sanitation, basic supplies) in several regions to the most affected population, including those in cut-off areas. Any additional assistance for the affected population will be considered on the basis of assessments and discussions with relevant stakeholders.
11. A regular Emergency Operation is not expected at this stage, although the Government continues to welcome in-country and bilateral assistance. Note that the Resident Coordinator a.i. sent an official letter to the Prime Minister on 10 October offering the UN Country Team's support to national efforts.

Project Objective(s)

12. The objective of this Special Operation is to:
 - a) Provide assistance to the Government of Thailand's flood response by immediately providing operational support items that form a critical gap in their response capacity.

Project Implementation

13. The project will be implemented by combining ODB's procurement capability and UNHRD Subang's logistics presence. All items will be sourced in Malaysia and delivered to UNHRD facilities for packaging and consolidation.
14. Transport of the Outboard Engines will be carried out by Air, from UNHRD Subang to the Flood Relief Centre in Bangkok.

Project Cost and Benefits

15. This project has a total cost of US\$ 497,550, which is to be fully funded by WFP. The benefit of the project will be the increased efficiency of the Thai Government's relief operation, especially in reaching the most affected and isolated populations in Thailand.

Monitoring & Evaluation

16. The Key Performance Indicator will be:
 - a. Speed of delivery of the items to the Thai Government authorities

RECOMMENDATION

This Special Operation covering the period from 25 October to 24 November at a total cost to WFP of US\$ 497,550 is recommended for approval by the Deputy Executive Director and COO, under the Executive Director's delegated authority.

APPROVAL

.....
Ramiro Lopes Da Silva
Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer.