Overview of IOM’s flood relief efforts during the Thai flood crisis 2011/12

March 2012

Overview

During the second half of 2011 until early 2012 flooding from typhoons and heavy seasonal rains has affected more than four million people across Thailand and destroyed vast amounts of farmland*, each day bringing more despair as flood waters slowly encroached on houses, industry, farmland and the capital, bringing emergency evacuation and destruction to many parts of the country.

There was an urgent need for basics such as food, drinking water, medicine and non-food items, as well as emergency equipment to conduct rescue and relief operations in the midst of advancing floodwaters. Further, migrants were identified as one of the underserved and thus most vulnerable populations during this time of crisis, and many migrants in the affected areas of Thailand were directly at risk.

*IOM has carried out rapid assessments on the collective center coordination and management in and around Bangkok. In conjunction with the Ministry of Public Health, Surveillance Rapid Response Teams have been deployed to monitor possible disease outbreaks, however fortunately none have occurred at large-scale.
Through financial support from five donors (United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Governments of Australia, Germany and Israel), IOM was able to procure and distribute much needed emergency equipment including boats, life vests, pumps, generators, water purifiers and water treatment kits which were delivered to DDPM for their distribution. The target areas included six of the worst affected areas in the central plain region (greater Bangkok, Nakhonpathom, Samut Sakhon, Nonthaburi, Pathumtani, Lopburi, Chanait, Uthaitani, Nakon Sawan, Nakon Pathom), as well as the southern province of Nakon Si Tammarat.

Further, IOM organized direct distribution of approximately 2,500 relief kits that included food and non-food items to affected migrant population, as well as approx. 10,000 medical and hygiene kits including mosquito nets, hygiene items and medical supplies.

Being aware of the need for continued monitoring during the recovery phase, IOM also conducted follow-up visits to affected areas between January and March 2012 during which further food and non-food items were distributed and affected Thai and migrant community members were checked on their health status’ improvements. Although many flood-related conditions had markedly improved, some cases were referred to local hospitals.

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