

Relief and Development Forum
Disasters: an integrated response, 14 June 2012

Flood Case Study

The village of is situated close to the Mekong River. There is a population of 450 people; of these 30 are under 5 years old, and 25 are older people, some with disabilities. The main livelihood is farming. A few people have boats for fishing and they keep some animals.

Last year, the village was severely flooded and the whole village evacuated for 2 months to a small hill, approx. 3km from the river. They had to clear small areas of forest and quickly make temporary shelters. They had to leave quickly and could not carry all their possessions. There are only 5 ox-carts available in the village.

The road to the hills is very bad in the rainy season. 10 cows and 6 pigs were drowned in the evacuation but no human lives were lost. Villagers are fearful there may be a flood again this year.

When living on the hill, there was a big problem to find clean drinking water and there were no toilets. There were a few cases of violence against women. Also, the only way to reach markets to buy food was by boat, in dangerous conditions.

The village has 2 churches and one school. One church is newly started and has just 5 families, meeting in a home. The other church is bigger, with an energetic Pastor, and team of elders. There is an active youth group and a women's fellowship. This church has a brick building and a compound, but this area also becomes flooded. Most church families have a mobile phone.