



Mission Overview

Thailand Floods 2000

Following the devastating floods that struck Thailand, TSF deployed in support of the Thai population from 27th November to 7th December 2000.

On November 25, 2000, southern Thailand experienced its worst floods for twelve years.

These devastating floods left 53 dead and one million people affected in ten of the fourteen provinces.

The city of Hat-Yai (1 million inhabitants) remained totally isolated for several days. It is in this city that Télécoms Sans Frontières focused its intervention as a priority. Water was still present, but the heat caused rapid evaporation, leaving behind piles of debris, pollution and a high risk of epidemics.

Upon arrival, TSF dispatched to the Hat-Yai crisis centre and worked with the District Governor to assess priority needs.

TSF's first objective was to install satellite lines in the municipality for the authorities, the local population and tourists stuck in the city. The authorities requested that Télécoms sans Frontières provide announcements in French, English and Spanish informing the population of the possibility of making calls.

In parallel, TSF installs telephone lines by satellite with the Thai tourism authorities for tourists, but also for their personal management.

In order to coordinate emergency actions, telephones were installed in the Governor's building, with water having risen to the second floor. Télécoms Sans Frontières moved to neighbouring villages where the situation was just as extreme.

TSF dispatched phones to the Khunn-Llung police station, at the Chalung social centre and the town hall in Tung-Tum-Sao.

At the end of its mission, Télécoms Sans Frontières was received by Mr. Artorn Chandavimol, Secretary General for culture and humanitarian action. Team members were decorated with the of the National Order of Solidarity.