

# Northern river floods reach highest levels in over five decades

By **Gia Chinh** September 10, 2024 | 11:38 am GMT+7



A man swims in the floodwaters in Yen Bai Province in northern Vietnam, Sept. 9, 2024. Photo by VnExpress/Ngoc Thanh

The water levels on the Thao River in northern Vietnam have surged past 87 meters, breaking a 53-year record, while the Cau River swelled to nearly 29 meters, surpassing a 65-year record high.

Over the last three days, all 25 cities and provinces in northern Vietnam have experienced heavy rainfall following typhoon Yagi, typically ranging from 200-400 mm. The northwestern provinces of Lao Cai, Yen Bai, and Thai Nguyen were dumped with 400-600 mm, and up to 760 mm in some locations.



Nguyen Hoang Hiep, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, said the rainfall in provinces like Lang Son, Yen Bai, Lao Cai, and Thai Nguyen on a single day was double the typical September average of previous years.

"This is the most concerning impact of typhoon Yagi. The heavy rains have caused flooding, posing a high risk of flash floods, landslides, and threatening the dyke system," Hiep said.

The National Center for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting (NHMF) said the heavy rains in the north were influenced not only by the aftermath of typhoon Yagi but also by a tropical convergence zone moving through the region.

The center said these weather patterns will continue to cause widespread heavy rainfall in the north until Sept. 12, adding that in the next two days, heavy rain will persist in the midlands and northern mountainous areas, with expected totals of 70-150 mm, and some locations could see more than 350 mm of rain.

On Sept. 10-11, rainfall is expected to decrease but will still range from 40-80 mm, with some areas receiving over 150 mm. By Sept. 13, rainfall will further diminish, pouring in only a few areas, it said.

The Red River Delta, which includes Hanoi, is forecast to receive 70-150 mm of rain, with some areas potentially seeing more than 300 mm from Sept. 9-11, resulting in river floods.

The flooding is most severe along the Thao River, the upper stretch of the Red River that flows through Lao Cai, Yen Bai, and Phu Tho. At 7 p.m. on Sept. 9, the water level in Lao Cai reached 87.27 meters, surpassing the historical peak from 1971 by approximately 0.27 meters.

On the Cau River, which runs through Bac Kan, Thai Nguyen, Bac Giang, Hanoi, and Bac Ninh, the water level peaked at 28.71 meters, exceeding the 1959 flood record by about 0.57 meters.

The NHMF warned of a very high risk of landslides in 17 northern provinces, including Quang Ninh, home to UNESCO heritage site Ha Long Bay.



Typhoon Yagi, the strongest storm to hit the East Sea in three decades, escalated into a super typhoon last Thursday, with winds reaching 201 kph. The storm has left 65 people dead and 40 missing across northern Vietnam, primarily from landslides, floods and falling trees.

On Monday morning, Phong Chau Bridge across the Red River in Phu Tho Province collapsed, sending 10 cars and two motorcycles into the river, according to initial reports. While three people were rescued, 13 remain unaccounted for as search efforts continue. The Phu Tho Transport Department attributed the collapse to the effects of typhoon Yagi, which brought heavy rain and flooding, rapidly increasing the river's water level and altering the riverbed's terrain.

### **Typhoon Yagi leaves 87 dead, 70 missing in Vietnam**

Emergency workers were racing to evacuate thousands of people from severe floods Tuesday after typhoon Yagi swept through northern Vietnam, killing 87 people and leaving 70 others missing.



### **Hanoi braces for more heavy rains as residents scramble with rising floods**

As rising floodwaters in the Red River forced Hanoi residents to evacuate from Monday night, the city is forecast to receive more heavy rains on Tuesday.



### **Typhoon Yagi blamed for bridge collapse leaving 13 people missing in northern Vietnam**

The country's roads management authority said the Phong Chau Bridge in Phu Tho Province undergoes regular maintenance and faced no safety concerns at the time it suddenly collapsed Monday.



### **15 hours of typhoon Yagi's destruction in northern Vietnam**

Typhoon Yagi, the strongest in the South China Sea in 30 years, hit Vietnam on Saturday, devastating Hanoi and northern provinces for 15 hours and leaving unprecedented destruction before weakening into a tropical depression.



### **Floods ravage Vietnam's northern highlands in wake of typhoon Yagi**



Wind patterns from typhoon Yagi triggered heavy rains that caused devastating floods and landslides in Lao Cai, Yen Bai, Thai Nguyen and Cao Bang provinces on Monday.



## Northern Vietnam faces widespread landslide threats as typhoon Yagi deaths rise

Heavy rains from typhoon Yagi are imposing severe landslide risks in 17 northern provinces in Vietnam, including Quang Ninh that is home to UNESCO heritage site Ha Long Bay, as death toll kept increasing.



VnExpress has launched the campaign "To Weather the Storm" to help communities recover and rebuild livelihoods after typhoon Yagi. [Click here](#) to lend your support.

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