



Lao PDR

KEY PRIORITIES RELATED TO DRM IN THE COUNTRY

In recent years, Lao PDR has taken important steps towards building resilience to natural hazards. The Seventh National Socio-Economic Development Plan (7th NESDP 2011-2015) seeks to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development planning and to create legal frameworks and strategies for Disaster Risk Management (DRM). However, existing decrees and regulations on DRM in Lao are limited to defining broad mandates and functions, resulting in implementation difficulties

and allowing for gaps in assigning clear responsibilities before, during, and after natural disasters. This is further complicated by the lack of a legal framework for hydro-meteorological services. Overall, the Government faces challenges in realizing sectoral DRM implementation. Moreover, while annual spending on post-disaster recovery is significant, the country lacks risk financing frameworks and clear strategies for post-disaster budget allocations and tracking of funding in post-disaster situations.

GFDRR ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

The devastating Typhoon Ketsana in 2009 highlighted the country's vulnerability to natural hazards and underscored the need to strengthen national and provincial level capacity in DRM. Shortly after Typhoon Ketsana, GFDRR started working with the Government to manage risks and build resilience. Achievements to date include: (i) the development of a new draft decree and strategy for DRM; (ii) the development of risk profiles and integration of DRM into socio-economic development plans in three provinces affected by Ketsana;

(iii) the development of a national strategy and standard operating procedures for early warning; (iv) the integration of DRM into the government's main planning documents (i.e. the 7th NESDP 2011-2015) and urban development law and; (v) institutionalizing a Lao-specific post-disaster needs assessment methodology. The joint Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) after Typhoon Haima in 2011 identified additional needs particularly in the area of mainstreaming DRM into structural investments.

LOOKING AHEAD

During 2014-2016, GFDRR will support the development of a legal framework for hydro-meteorological services to enhance disaster preparedness and response. GFDRR will also strengthen the Government's capacity to design reconstruction operations, effectively govern post-disaster reconstruction and make optimal use of public and private resources. Furthermore, building on

the 2012 GFDRR report "Advancing Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance in ASEAN Member States," GFDRR will develop a feasibility study for risk financing and insurance options. GFDRR will also support the improvement of understanding risk and promote risk-informed decision making and planning in various sectors, including the education sector.

Background

CLIMATE CHANGE & DISASTER RISK PROFILE

Lao PDR is a small land-locked country located on the mainland of Southeast Asia. Almost 80% of the population practice subsistence agriculture. As a low-income country and an agricultural-based economy, it is considered one of the most vulnerable countries to impacts of future climate change in the Southeast Asian region, especially in the form of droughts and floods causing landslides, river bank erosion and reduced food security. The most vulnerable areas are the low-lying areas along the Mekong River and its major tributaries in the central and southern regions, as well as the mountainous areas in the northern regions. Historical data recorded from 1966 to 2009 show that Lao PDR experiences an average of 1.5 severe floods and droughts every year.

Recent disasters include the Kammuri flooding (August 2008) which affected about 200,000 people, followed by Typhoon Morakot (August 2009) and Typhoon Ketsana (September 2009). Typhoon Ketsana affected more than 180,000 people and resulted in US\$58 million of damages and losses – approximately 0.4% of GDP. In 2011, the country was hit by Typhoon Haima and Typhoon Nock-Ten causing US\$200 million in damages and losses. More than 500,000 people were affected and 38 deaths were reported.

GFDRR ENGAGEMENT

Source of Funding	Japan SDTF, SRFF
Resources Awarded	US\$2,870,000
Resources Disbursed	US\$1,759,000
Number of projects	Ongoing: 1; Completed: 5

KEY INDICATORS

DRR Index¹	WDI: 2.25 DRI Class: 6/7
Income Group	Lower-Middle
Population	6.288 million (2011)
GDP	US\$1,320/capita
Poverty	28% of population
Urban Population	34% of total

DRM/CCA IN POLICY PAPERS

(as assessed by the DRM specialist)

Mainstreaming:	Low	High
National Dvt		
UNDAF		
WB-CAS		
CCA Strategy		

NATIONAL PLATFORM

National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee
Declared to UNISDR. Focus: Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

A Decree on Disaster Management is under development (2012) with joint support from GFDRR and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

1. The World Development Indicators (WDI) Disaster Risk Reduction progress score is an average of self-assessment scores, ranging from 1 to 5, submitted by countries under Priority 1 of the Hyogo Framework National Progress Reports (1-5 scale; 5=best). The Disaster Risk Index (DRI) is a mortality-based index developed in order to enable comparisons of countries hit by different hazard types (7 classes; 7=high mortality).

GFDRR KEY PARTNERS

National Services	Ministry of Education, National Disaster Prevention and Control Secretariat (NDPCS), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, and agencies involved in meteorology, hydrology, and water resource management
International Organizations	World Bank, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), UNDP, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), WFP, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Save the Children (Australia), Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), World Bank
Regional Organizations	ADB
NGOs/CSOs	World Vision, Oxfam, Save the Children, Plan International, Concern International
GFDRR Donors	Australia, EU, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (UK), United States (USA)

Project

Description

PROJECTS AWARDED BY GFDRR 2007-2014

Operationalizing Strategic Plan for Disaster Management

US\$904,000 | 2008-2013 (Completed)



Supports the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in implementing the National Strategic Plan for Disaster Management (SPDRM) with a focus on strengthening early warning systems and improving the country's legal framework. Expected outputs include: (i) the development and dissemination of a report on exposure and risk profile in the three target provinces, provincial DRM action plans and a Community Based Disaster Risk Management Assessment in selected villages in the three provinces; and (ii) the report for a National Early Warning Strategy and establishing a flood forecasting model for the Sekong Basin.

Strengthening the In-Country Capacity for Disaster Recovery Planning

US\$336,000 | 2009-2013 (Completed)



Strengthened the capacity of the Government in carrying out the Damage and Loss Assessments (DaLA) to measure the impact of natural disasters. Outputs included: (i) a handbook on post-disaster needs assessment and recovery for Lao with a tailored DaLA methodology, standard operating procedures for preparing a post-disaster management plan and a strategy for mainstreaming DRM into vulnerable sectors and (ii) training individuals, including staff from line Ministries at central and local levels, on conducting post-disaster needs assessment using the DaLA methodology for developing a post-flood recovery and investment plan and mainstreaming DRM into recovery.

Post-Ketsana Community-Driven Disaster Recovery

US\$428,000 | 2010-2011 (Completed)



Supported the rehabilitation of infrastructure damaged by the Ketsana Cyclone and assisted the Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) in developing a DRM strategy. Outputs included: (i) disaster reduction and response strategy for PRF; and (ii) training of PRF staff and relevant line Ministries on disaster risk mitigation and response.

Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) after Typhoon Haima in 2011

US\$52,000 | 2011 (Completed)



Carried out the joint PDNA. Based on the assessment, the World Bank allocated US\$8 million to assist the Government in the recovery and rehabilitation of the most affected sectors. The Government also allocated Lao Kip 400 billion (US\$50 million equivalent) for disaster recovery.

Joint Damage, Loss and Needs Assessment for Post-Ketsana Recovery

US\$250,000 | 2009-2010 (Completed)



Assessed the overall impact of the disaster on the socioeconomic development of the country and the affected areas. A financial plan for recovery and reconstruction of the affected areas was drafted based upon the needs of the key sectors of the economy.

Building Resilience to Natural Disasters

US\$900,000 | 2012 (Ongoing)



Building on the capacity developed under the Phase I program, this program improves resilience to hydro-meteorological services and early warning systems; establishment of a "value-for-money" strategy in disaster reconstruction that includes strengthening statistical preparedness for Post Disaster Needs Assessments; and developing a feasibility study for risk financing and insurance options.

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

UNDP	The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has joint implementation plans with GFDRR and also supports the National Disaster Management Office in drafting a new DRM plan and relevant laws. UNDP and the World Food Programme (WFP) are leading the donor coordination in Laos of emergency response in times of natural disaster. An Inter-Agency Contingency Plan (IACP) has recently been completed.
ADB	The Asian Development Bank (ADB) supports the climate change adaptation strengthening project through the Department of National Disaster Management and Climate Change under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
EU, WFP	The European Union (EU) is supporting the World Food Program's (WFP) regional food security program with a component which provides meteorological data for agricultural purposes.
World Bank	<p>Lao Road Sector Project:</p> <p>Allocated US\$8 million as contingency funding for fixing and upgrading the road sections affected by the 2011 Typhoons Haima and Nock-Ten in Vientiane Province to be more climate resilient.</p> <p>Hydro-Agronomic and Economic (HAE) Model and Local Adaptation in Lao PDR and Thailand:</p> <p>Assisted the Governments of Thailand and Laos to develop policy tools for adapting to the impacts of climate change on water and natural resources in the Mekong River Basin. The outcome will be to develop a pilot Hydrologic-Agricultural-Economic Model for each country - a hydrological model of the river systems, integrated with agricultural and economic models to permit assessment of climate change impacts and evaluation of adaptation strategies.</p> <p>Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project:</p> <p>Develops tools to analyze and structure the knowledge on water resources in order to facilitate decision-making processes.</p> <p>Lao Poverty Reduction Fund Phase II:</p> <p>Includes DRM considerations into the community-driven development project design and implementation. For example, resilient standards for community infrastructure have been developed and are applied within the project. The project also assists communities to identify disaster risks and develop mitigating measures in their village and koumban (a cluster of around three to five villages) planning processes.</p> <p>Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Public Investments:</p> <p>Integrates climate risk management into strategic national and sectoral planning and development policies. It improves the consideration of disasters and climate change in the implementation of public infrastructure through assessing sectoral risks, developing building codes and capacity building.</p>