

# Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development on Disaster Risk Management in Lao PDR



## Description

The Lao PDR is prone to river floods, drought, fires, rodent infestation, flash floods, and storms. These recurrent natural hazards often result in human and economic losses, mainly affecting poor rural communities whose livelihoods depend heavily on agricultural activities. In order for Lao PDR to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDG), in particular, MDG 1, Poverty Reduction, it is imperative to enhance disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response capacities at all levels. Lao PDR has committed itself to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. It is also a signatory to the ASEAN Agreement for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). Both these international and regional instruments have as their primary objective the substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives, and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and promotion of good governance along the process.

UNDP has committed to contribute to this process in its current Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) for 2007-2011 and to work alongside the government to develop national and local capacities to better prepare for and respond to disasters and ultimately strengthen capacities for disaster risk management. In 2008, an Initiation Plan was put in place to support preparatory assistance activities on disaster risk management. This project initiative builds on the 2008 initiation plan. The strategy of the project is to work with and through the existing mechanisms for disaster management in the country, that is, the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) and its secretariat, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to develop national and local capacities for disaster risk management. More specifically, the project will have four distinctive but mutually reinforcing output as follows: UNDP provides NDMO with program oversight and administrative, technical and financial support to build local capacity and to provide support to staff.

## Main Objectives and Activities in 2010

This project is to strengthen national and local capacities for effective disaster risk management in Lao PDR.

Key objectives of the programme in 2010 will include:

- Support the formulation of the legal instrument (presidential ordinance and decrees) on disaster risk management, development of the national disaster management plan and strengthening disaster management coordination mechanisms from national to local levels.
- Restructure the organizational set up of NDMO and establish a functional organizational structure, developing technical capacities of NDMO and other DM actors, relevant line ministries and departments on disaster risk reduction/disaster management, preparedness and response, among others.
- Increase awareness of Lao population on DRR/DM, preparedness and response through advocacy and awareness campaign.
- Improve the timely implementation of critical early recovery activities and strengthen the early recovery cluster in Lao PDR, developing early recovery guidelines by drawing on the lessons

## Duration

14 January 2010 to 31 December 2011

## Location

Vientiane Capital, Lao P.D.R.

## Budget

Budget in 2010: US\$ **395,759**

## Partners

Implementing partner: National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW)

Responsible parties: The Department of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning and Investment; Ministry of National Defense; and Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of Water Resource and Environmental Administration

## Contributing donor(s)

Donor	Amount (US\$)
UNDP	395,759

## Delivery

## Funding Shortfall

Funding Shortfall in 2010: US\$ 60,500

learned from the flood response and recovery activities in 2008-2009.

### **Agreement Signed with the Government**

Agreement signed with the Government and current annual work plan can be accessible at <http://www.undplao.org/whatwedo/crisisprev.php>

### **Key Results, Reports and Publications to date**

The draft outline of the National Disaster Management Plan was developed to be presented to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

Training on Disaster Risk Management for Selected Senior Officials and Staff of the Government of Lao PDR was successfully organized during 2-4 September 2009.

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, in collaboration with the Public Works and Transportation Institute of Lao PDR has been awarded to deliver consulting services for developing a national risk profile. The key national partner of this is the NDMO, its provincial disaster management offices and other line agencies. Inception workshop and technical working group meeting have been conducted for supporting the development of comprehensive hazard mapping, vulnerability and risk assessment of country and assess the economic impact on various vital infrastructures.

The Letters of Agreement were signed with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (Department of Provincial Road, Planning and Disbursement Division) as well as with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for the conditional grants for restoration of livelihoods of flood-affected households and the cash for work scheme for repair/rehabilitation of critical infrastructure. \$914 was further transferred to each of the targeted affected 6 districts for equipment procurement and local training and maintenance. In addition, the departments contracted out worth USD 60,000 for rehabilitation of rural access roads totaling 22.7 km in Vientiane, Luang Prabang and Khammouane provinces for cash-for-work scheme and hand gear provision.

The grant partnership agreement with the Lao Red Cross/French Red Cross was signed. Inception meeting for implementation of capacity building project for community based sustainable disaster risk reduction Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Pakxan, Bolikhamxai, on 27th July 2009 which well presented by top government officials of the 3 target provinces of Bolikhamxai, Vientiane and Khammouane and at least 24 participants representing the French red Cross, UNDP, NDMO, Provincial Disaster Management Committees (PDMCs), District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) and Local LRC. By end 2009, community based disaster preparedness activities were successfully carried out for 30 villages for sustainable risk reduction, skills training for village volunteer and disaster risk awareness raising. Training of Trainer was completed for 22 officials, Village Disaster Protection Unit established with 5 volunteer including 2 village red cross.

For more details please visit <http://www.undplao.org/whatwedo/crisisprev.php>

### **Thematic Area**

**Corporate Thematic Area:** Crisis Prevention and Recovery

**UNDAF Outcome:** By 2011, the livelihoods of poor, vulnerable and food insecure populations are enhanced through sustainable development (within the MDG framework)

**Country Programme Action Plan Outcomes and output:**

Outcome 2: Enhanced ownership and capacity for pro-poor planning, implementation and harmonized aid coordination, and disaster management

Output 2.4: Increased capacity within the Government to prepare and respond to natural as well as man-made disasters at all levels

### **Millennium Development Goal**

In order for Lao PDR to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDG), in particular, MDG 1, Poverty Reduction, it is imperative to enhance disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response capacities at all levels. The current Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) for 2007 to 2011 includes the development of national and local capacities to better prepare for and respond to disasters and ultimately strengthen capacities for disaster risk management as a priority activity. Lao PDR has committed itself to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015:

### **Contacts**

Ms. Chikako Kodama, Unit Chief, Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit, email: [chikako.kodama@undp.org](mailto:chikako.kodama@undp.org)

Address: Lane Xang Ave., P.O. Box 345, Vientiane Lao PDR, phone: +856-21-267 743

Ms. Viratsamay Visonnavong, UNDP Programme Analyst, email: [viratsamay.visonnavong@undp.org](mailto:viratsamay.visonnavong@undp.org)

Address: Lane Xang Ave., P.O. Box 345, Vientiane Lao PDR, phone: +856-21-267 746

Mr. Prasith Dethphommatehth, Director-General of Social Welfare Department, Director of the National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Address: National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, phone: +856-21-219450

