

LAO PDR

I. Natural hazards in Lao PDR

1.1 Natural hazards likely to affect the country

Drought; Earthquake; Epidemic; Extreme Temperature; Famine; Flood; Insect Infestation; Slides; Volcano; Wave / Surge; Wild Fires; Wind Storm;

1.2 Recent major disasters

year	dis_subset	killed	total_affected	dam (US '000s)
2000	Diarrhoeal/Enteric	44	—	—
2000	Diarrhoeal/Enteric	0	9685	—
2000	Flood	15	450000	—
2001	Flood	0	453000	—
2002	Flood	2	150000	—

Source: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, www.em-dat.net - Université catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium"

Ex: Floods of 2002

In the rainy season, agencies whose in charge of gathering information has closely coordinated with NDMO. National Disaster Management Office has got the data of weather forecasting from Meteorology and Hydrology Department, Mekong River Commission and getting news from international mass media. While data and information collected, NDMO will be providing through network agency of provincial disaster management coordinator which located along the Mekong River where prone to flooding. NDMO will be core agency of checking up information through media for instance: National Television Broadcasting, Newspaper, National Radio and Provincials located by the side of Mekong River.

Vong Phong typhoon which came from South China Sea made of heavy rain at up stream reservoir of Mekong River in August 14th, 2002 at Houaysai, Bokeo province. Flooded August 16th, 2002 Mekong flooded Luangprabang province and August 18th, 2002 water came to Vientiane and getting higher through tributaries of Mekong River and caused of water level at warning point (12,5 m) in Vientiane Municipality and keep continuing higher, and raining can't drain out that caused water level get higher and higher. During this period, broadcasting of flood warning had been made many times and every 30 minutes through Nation and

Provincial Radio and TV to alert people who have been living the hazard prone areas particularly near by the Mekong River and its tributaries in order to evacuate and take away of things to safety place in case of water getting higher to flooding.

Paddy fields, gardens and people's cultivation product were inundated by Mekong River and Ngum River (Nam Ngum) in urban areas of Vientiane Municipality. Prime Minister was setting up the ad hoc committee for flood fighting in the year 2002 which presided by Agriculture & Forestry Minister. Role and function of the ad hoc committee is to collaborate with the National Disaster Management Committee for flood prevention and fighting in this year. The ad hoc committee for flood fighting met Vientiane authority officials and districts to make a flood prevention plan for instance: proof of embankment along Mekong River, set up teams to monitor water level and water gate and other areas which embankment are weak by encourage local security guards to collaborate with district police for watching throughout 24 hours. The ad hoc committee for flood fighting in year 2002 had delegated its responsibility to Vientiane Authority Officials and Irrigation Officials to catch up and watching regularly of flood situation. The inspection Committee was also set up in order to do daily follow up issues with consists of various government agencies. Proofing of embankment and water gate had been carried out under the Agriculture sector to provide mechanic. Transportation and communication section in charge of sand supplier and Labour & Social Sector was a sand-bag supplier. Mass media is a core point for stimulation of sand-bags and kinds contribution from NGOs and private sectors and etc... Dried food, rice, pure water and other nutriments are also donated to the flood victims by the Disaster Management Committee. Boat mobilize force which get collaborated by private sectors & village security guards to evacuate people, animals and needed things in flooded area along river bank. Beside that those force also mobilized food, pure water and medicines to distribute to flood victims at temporary sites. At the district and village level was encouraging the youth forces and volunteers to work on improving embankment and set up team to give watching through 24 hours. Chairman and members of flood relief committee distributed relief packages and medicines to flood victims in 4 districts and Ministry of Agriculture had distributed organic fertilizers, vegetable, rice and corn seeds to various villages for replanting after flood.

II. Disaster Management system

2.1 Administrative system

<i>Conventional long form:</i>	Lao People's Democratic Republic
<i>Conventional short form</i>	Laos
<i>Government type:</i>	Communist state

<i>Capital:</i>	Vientiane
<i>Administrative divisions:</i>	16 provinces (khoueng, singular and plural), 1 municipality* (kampheng nakhon, singular and plural), and 1 special zone** (khetphiset, singular and plural)

2.2 Legal system, legal framework

The Prime Minister's Decree No. 158 (1999) created the National, Provincial and District Disaster Management Committees (DMCs). It provided the basis for the development of a disaster management policy. NDMC Decree No. 097 series of 2000 assigned the roles and responsibilities of various sectors composing the NDMC.

The National Policy on Disaster Management adopts an all-hazard and people-centered approach to disaster risk management. It recognizes that disaster risk and vulnerability reduction are essential to sustainable development.

2.3 Structure of disaster management

The National Disaster Management Committee is coordinating disaster prevention and protection activities and efforts in the country. It promotes disaster reduction activities of existing Line Ministries and Provinces on natural disaster management and protection which consists of representatives of key ministries, institutions and provinces.

Macro-level disaster management is being carried out by Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (LSW) and Science Technology and Environment Agency (STEA), while each technical ministry and province has responsibility over their respective environment relating the disaster management in close cooperation with MLSW, STEA; Lao Red Cross (LRC), the Ministry of Agriculture/Forestry and Ministry of Health etc.

2.4 Priority on disaster risk management

With recognizing that the managing the risk to disaster and reduction of vulnerability are essential elements of sustainable development. The priority for disaster management in Lao PDR is therefore:

- To develop a rational Disaster Risk Management Plan will focus on mobilization, deployment and coordination of National Resources and requests for international Assistance.
- To prepare Disaster Risk Management Plans at provincial, district and local level.

- To develop and train community level disaster response teams.
- To target the initial efforts on the risk management of floods and droughts.
- To focus on Capacity Building of Government officers and personnel of associated agencies from the community level to the national level and on community mobilization...i.e. motivating and supporting people to organize and take appropriate action to protect themselves, their property and their communities against hazards.
- To improve disaster preparedness through:
 - A clear and comprehensive policy, which addresses all elements of disaster risk management planning.
 - Effective disaster planning and linkages at national, provincial, district and local levels as a basis for coordination action with clear allocation of role and responsibilities.
 - Operational planning for all concerned government and non-government agencies for ensure effective response actions in time of emergencies.
 - Effective implementation of specialist programmes.
 - Early warning systems for floods and droughts.
 - Public awareness and training.
 - Support for the development of self-reliance and self-help at community levels.
- To focus disaster prevention and mitigation on:
 - Agricultural and related sector programmes that aim at food, income and water security and on reducing community vulnerability.
 - Protection of key economic facilities.
- To improve disaster response and recovery by improving emergency management systems such as command, control and coordination, damage and need assessment, relief distribution and "Food for work" rehabilitation and reconstruct programs.

III. Disaster management plan

The National Disaster Management Plan for the period 2001-2020 has been formulated, while provincial disaster management plans are still under development. Provincial plans are based on the specific hazards in the locality.

National Strategy Plan on DM is consisted of the works expressing in the general vision to 2020 which is broken down into periods as:

- 2001 - 2020
- 2001 - 2010
- 2001 - 2005

The General Objectives of the National Action Plan on DM to 2020 are:

Make Lao society safe and could be able to reduce the negative impacts of disaster to people lives, economy, state assets and people properties.

- To make sure that people who were affected by disaster have been assisted on time and quickly recovery.
- Having the regulations with fully insurance welfare.
- Link programme between Disaster Management and other sector programs.

The goals of the National Action Plan on DM from 2001 to 2010 are:

Establish the District Disaster Management Committee in all districts.

- Identify the focal point in all sectors (state and privation).
- Develop and establish early warning and information system in all of 142 districts in country.
- Set up information network in disaster prone villages.
- Construct warehouses for storing the emergency assistance materials in all provinces and some disaster prone districts.
- Continue public awareness activities with media.
- Widely organizing training on DM for all sectors and levels.
- Organize simulation exercise with the involvement of rescue team unit in sectors and community.
- Raise capacity up on cooperation with other countries in the framework of Asian, Regional and United Nations to exchange information and experiences on DM.

IV. Budget size on national level

V. Progress and situations of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

VI. Projects on disaster reduction headed by Ministry

Lao PDR Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (LUDMP)

Background

The People's Democratic Republic of Laos (Lao PDR) faces a range of disasters including flood, drought, landslides, as well as unexploded ordinance, fires and other man-made hazards. An analysis of disaster impacts on urbanizing areas, however, finds that fires and traffic accidents cause the greatest loss of life and property. Dense building concentrations, narrow roads, flammable building materials, aging water and electrical supply systems, and lack of resources to upgrade preparedness and response have resulted in a growing risk of large scale, multiple structure fires.

The Lao PDR Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (LUDMP) focuses on these two major hazards (fire and traffic accidents). It generally aims at

incorporating risk management and hazard mitigation into the development planning of urban areas in Lao PDR, with the city of Vientiane as the pilot demonstration site.

Objectives

The main objective of the LUDMP is to reduce the disaster vulnerability of population, infrastructure, and economic assets in Lao urban areas to fires by establishing systems for hazard assessment and disaster mitigation to ensure fire and road safety for the city of Vientiane, and other major cities and communities in Lao PDR.

More specifically, the project aims to:

- conduct a risk assessment of Vientiane, both at the city and community levels
- build capacity for prevention and response within the city's emergency service departments
- establish a public awareness campaign
- improve the regulatory system for fire mitigation

Project Profile

- Project Title: Lao PDR Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (LUDMP)
- Project Location: Vientiane Municipality areas
- Hazard Type: Urban Fires and Road Safety
- Project Management: National Disaster Mitigation Office (NDMO)
- Project Counterparts: Municipal Disaster Management Committees, Urban Research Institute (URI) and the Fire Department
- Project Manager: Mr. Phetsavang Sounnalath, NDMO Director
- Project Concept: Ms. Jinx Parker, ADPC Project Design Consultant (Team Leader); Mr. Mark Swiney, Melbourne Fire Brigade (Technical Analysis)
- Date of Commencement: 1 July 2002¹

VII. ADRC Counterpart

Director of Department of Social Welfare National Disaster
Management
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
Pangkham.Rd P.O.Box 347 Vientiane

¹ <http://www.adpc.net/audmp/Lao.html>