



Operationalizing Strategic Plan for Disaster Management in Lao PDR (2010-2012)

A. Background:

Lao PDR has made significant gains in the area of disaster risk management in recent years and presents a suitable environment to grow further DRM initiatives: National institutions at various levels are making efforts to expand their roles from disaster managers to proactive disaster risk reduction planners. A Strategic Plan on Disaster Risk Management (SPDRM) was adopted in 2003 and there is considerable presence of donors willing to support Lao PDR in the field of DRM. By managing its disaster risks more systematically, Lao PDR also has an opportunity to preserve development gains, reduce poverty and improve the living standards of rural farmers, and ultimately graduate out of its status as a Least Developed Country.

Following the serious flooding in 2008 and then the Typhoon Ketsana in late 2009, one of the bold initiative taken by the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) is to make effort to increase preparedness and early warning dissemination and public awareness. Learning from its past experiences, the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) is now very keen to move forward to start implementing the strategy on the disaster management developed in 2003 (Strategic Plan on Disaster Management, SPDM) on the ground to increase preparedness and resilience. The GoL plans to strengthen the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC), which is an inter-ministerial committee responsible for policy formulation and disaster management, and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), which is a secretariat to the NDMC.

In order to support the Government of Lao PDR's effort in strengthening disaster management, the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR) is supporting a project named **Operationalizing Strategic Plan for Disaster Management in Lao PDR** through the World Bank. The Water Resource and Environment Administration (WREA) is the main implementing agency in support with other Ministries and Departments. To build capacity and support in disaster risk reduction initiatives of the GoL, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) has collaborated to provide Technical Assistance (TA) to WREA and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Government Lao PDR as well as the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) in implementing the above mentioned project and contribute to the institutional strengthening on disaster management in Lao PDR.



B. Project Implementation:

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) has been selected and collaborated to provide Technical Assistance (TA) to the Water Resource and Environmental Administration (WREA) and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Government Lao PDR in implementing the above mentioned project and contribute to the institutional strengthening on disaster management in Lao PDR. The activities under this project are listed below;

Activity 1: Analysis of Existing Institutional Capacity/Legal Framework

- Conduct and Facilitate a meeting to discuss the role of the NDMC and its member agencies (legal and institutional review);
- Review the effectiveness of the early warning system and operation procedure
- Review the effectiveness of the NDMC and prepare an Issue Paper containing recommendations on legal and institutional arrangements
- Assist in preparation of a multi-stakeholder workshop to be organized by the GoL to discuss the Issue Paper and consolidate the recommendations
- Assist in the preparation of a multi-stakeholder workshop to discuss the draft legal document prepared by international consultant

Activity 2: Assist in Implementing the SPDM Strategy National Level

- Assist in developing a national implementation strategy for the SPDM. Strategy should be action oriented, indicating the geographical sequencing, timeline and modality.
- Assist in collecting relevant and related data and information on flood and drought from the MAF and other line ministries and agencies, MRC, UN, and NGO, etc.
- Compile and Develop the disaster hazard maps for Lao PDR
- Assist and develop the disaster damage data and information (standard template and operation procedure)
- Assist in identifying the 3 priority provinces through a set of objectives and criteria (drought and flood risks, but consideration on the social vulnerabilities and river basin approach);
- Conduct the national orientation workshop for the effective implementation of SPDM Strategy

Provincial Level

- Assist in preparation of the province/district disaster preparedness plans based on a river-basin approach;
- Assist in the completion of the provincial investment plan which incorporates DRR in collaboration with Khammouane Development Project (KDP) and river-basin based investment plan for mitigating drought and flood and the



rehabilitation plan for the affected areas from the Ketsana Tropical storm (Sekong, Saravanh and Attapeau Provinces)

- Conduct the provincial orientation workshops for the effective implementation of SPDM Strategy

Activity 3: Strengthening the Early Warning System.

- Assist DMH in developing a model for an early warning system integrating the MH system and communities through establishing the communication lines between the DMH, NDMO, Provinces, Districts, and communities.
- Assist in conceptualizing, supporting, and implementing the pilot early warning projects / activities / simulations at the village level.
- Assist in developing the standard operation procedure for an early warning
- Assist development a program to disseminate disaster risk information/early warning in selected provinces (building on the existing program)

Activity 4: Institutional Strengthening through Capacity Building on DRR

- Assist core training institutions in developing DRR training curriculum on
- Development and implementation of disaster preparedness plans targeting provinces and districts
- Community based Flood and drought Risk Reduction targeting communities
- Undertake training for the trainers (identified training institutions) and guide a few training to be carried out trained trainers at the provinces and districts.
- Assist in the conduct of trainings on the development and implementation of disaster preparedness plans , targeting the provinces and districts;
- Assist in conducting Community Based Flood and Drought Risk Reduction training at selected communities.
- Conduct pilot testing training workshops on the early warning and preparedness response (simulating the interaction between the national and provincial authorities on early warning response , preparedness program, and rehabilitation plan)

Activity 5: Mainstream DRR into Development Agenda.

- Compile and Identify the list of key issues to be mainstreamed from the international best practices
- Conduct workshop on mainstreaming DRR in the following sectors. i.e. Agriculture, health and education.
- Design the DRR mainstreaming into sector programs (agriculture, education and health);
- Coordinate with DPI to develop priority investment plans;



- Assist the NDMO and other key agencies to organize a series of workshop targeting the 7th NESDB and recommendations for DRR integration for the next round NESDP in partnership with DPI
- Facilitate the workshops for sectoral working groups and key donors to integrate DRR aspects to the support for key sectors

The details are provided in the ***Project Implementation Plan***

C. Key Milestones

During 2010-2012, the following would be achieved

Activity 1: Analysis of Existing Institutional Capacity/Legal Framework

- *Draft Issue Paper on effective I&L for DRM in Lao PDR*
- *Assisted NDMO in organizing workshops to disseminate the report and help prepare a draft legal document for the refined institutional framework*
- *Status report on existing Early Warning System and Operating Procedure*
- *Workshops and Consultation Meetings*

Activity 2: Assist in Implementing the SPDM Strategy

- *Development of a national SPDM implementation plan*
- *Profile of Lao PDR's historical flood related information*
- *Dissemination of the Hazard Maps in provinces*
- *Water Resource sector template for damage data and information and operation procedure being facilitated under the MPI-PDNA Project*
- *3 Provincial DRR Action Plans*
- *Sekong , Saravan and Attapeu Provincial Plans*
- *Provincial Workshop Report*
- *Workshop and Consultation Meetings*

Activity 3: Strengthening the Early Warning System

- *Early Warning strategy paper with set of recommendations*
- *Early Warning Model established at DMH , Lao PDR*
- *Innovative Early Warning Project for Communities prepared*
- *Improved communication between DMH and NDMO including NDMO website*
- *Development of the standard operation procedure for an early warning*

Activity 4: Institutional Strengthening through Capacity Building on DRR

- *develop a training curriculum on DRR Plan preparation and CBFRR for Communities*
- *Core Training Institutions and Courses*



- *Training Courses Materials and Training delivery schedule on the development and implementation of the Provincial and District disaster preparedness and risk reduction plans*
- *Training on Community Based Flood and Drought Risk Reduction provided at select provinces*

Activity 5: Mainstream DRR into Development Agenda.

- *National Strategy Paper on Mainstreaming DRR into the development Agenda*
- *Workshop on the Risk reduction interventions into the 7th NSDEP*
- *Guidelines for sectors such as Agriculture, education and health for possible DRR mainstreaming*
- *Provincial Investment Plans with disaster risk reduction priorities under KDP project*
- *Workshop for key donors and sectoral working groups for integration of DRR*

D. Key Contacts

World Bank	WREA	NDMO
<p>Mr. Toru Konishi Task Team Leader</p> <p>The World Bank Office Patou Xay, Nehru Road PO Box: UN 345 Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR Tel: +856-21 450010 Fax: +856-21 414210 Mobile: 856 20 2221329 E-mail: tkonoshi@worldbank.org</p>	<p>Virana Sonnasinh Acting Director Planning and Cooperation Division Cabinet Office of the Water Resources and Environment Administration (WREA) Lanxang Avenue Vientiane Capital 01000 Lao PDR Mobile: 856 20 5407582 Fax : 856 21 263799 Email: viranas@yahoo.com, Virana@wrea.gov.la</p>	<p>Vilayphong Sisomvang Deputy Director National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Social Welfare Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) Pangkham Road P.O. Box: 347 Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR Tel: 856 21 219450 Fax:856 21 213287 Email: Sisomvang1@yahoo.com</p>

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

<p>Aslam Perwaiz Program Manager Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) <u>Bangkok Office</u> SM Tower, 24th Floor, 979/69 Paholyothin Road Samsen Nai, Phayathai, Bangkok 10400 Thailand Tel: 66 (0) 2298 0682 to 92 Fax: 66 (0) 2298 0012 to 13 Email: aslam@adpc.net</p>	<p>Thanongdeth Insisiengmay Senior Project Manager Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) <u>Vientiane Office</u> 399 Khunboulom Street, Watchan Village, Unit 07 Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR Tel./Fax: 856-21 254 112, E-mail: thanongdeth@adpc.net Mobile: +856 20 55700136</p>
--	--