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Latest Updates on Implementation of HFA in the Lao PDR

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I. Make disaster risk reduction [DRR] a priority

Activities and results

- A landmark decree No. 158/PM signed by Prime Minister in August 1999 provides the legal basis for disaster management activities and structures of the Government of Lao PDR.
- DM Committee at local level established (provincial and district, include villages)
- NDMC is now under the development (More agencies involvement).
- Strategy Plan on DRM at National and some provincials set up and some under development.

Gaps and challenge identified

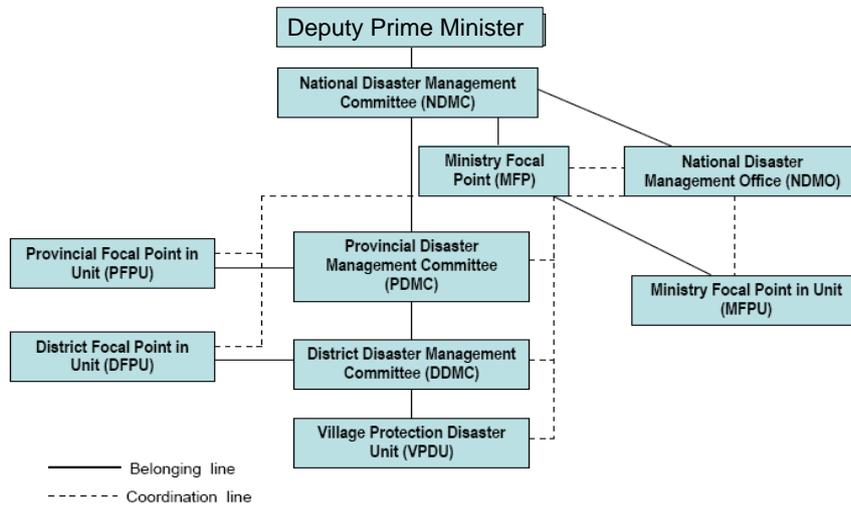
- Organization of DMC are in place from national down to local levels, but facing many difficulties, difficulties and challenges mainly due to inadequate financial resources, lack of knowledge and capacities of disaster management committee members, lack of necessary facilities, equipment, and operational systems.
- The PDMCs have been better developed in the lowland provinces within the Mekong River plain, but less so in mountainous provinces particularly close to the borders of Vietnam and China.
- The national strategic plan on disaster management is not actively implemented by all stakeholders, mainly because it was issued as an internal NSLW decree. The NDMO has very limited budget for disaster preparedness and limited authority to engage other Ministries and inadequate number of staff relative to the requirements of the Strategic Plan.

Plan

- Development of a Comprehensive National Disaster Risk Management Plan as well as the local DM Plan.
- Need to strengthen and enhance capacities of DMC at all levels.

I. Make disaster risk reduction [DRR] a priority

The NDMC Diagram



II. Improve risk information and early warning

Activities and results

- Disaster information and disaster data base system.
- Flood Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping Project (FVAMP-started in June 2007)
- Disaster risk assessment, hazards and risk mapping had been done through the CBDM and DRR projects.
- Early warning information and communication systems.
- Community based early warning system

Gaps and challenge identified

- Limited expertise in vulnerability assessment and hazards
- Financial constraints, the NDMO lacks the human and information management capacities
- Communication infrastructure is inadequate and the sparse

Plan

- DRR and CBDRM projects
- Development of web-based GLIDE associated disaster event database project
- Disaster Information Center

III. Build a culture of safety and resistance
Activities and results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream disaster risk reduction into the education sector project • Disaster Risk Education for Children project • International Day on DR and ASEAN Day on DM
Gaps and challenge identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum developer lack of knowledge on DRM. • School teachers need more training on DRM curriculum • Financial constraints, the NDMO lacks the human and logistical capacity to meet the requirements for countrywide public awareness programme.
Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue conducting PEA activities at both national and local level • Conduct more training courses for education staffs • Mainstreaming DRR into education phase II project • Implementing DREC

IV. Reduce the underlying risk factors
Activities and results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Steering Committee on Climate Change • United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2007-2011) • Conducted a research on the impact of disasters on the education sector.
Gaps and challenge identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent national disaster management planning workshop organized by the NDMO initiated the process to develop a common framework for disaster risk management practices in Lao PDR.
Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative Planning Project • A comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Plan development

V. Strengthen preparedness to respond in an emergency at all levels in order to effectively and speedily assist those who are adversely affected

Activities and results

- DMO network and coordination mechanism
- Disaster preparedness response plan
- Training courses conducted
- Emergency fund
- UNDAC mission recommendations

Gaps and challenge identified

- Inadequate mandate and resources of NDMO
- No comprehensive contingency plan
- DMO not clear their mandate

Plan

- a comprehensive contingency plan
- Emergency Operation Center
- Emergency response team
- Information management and information center

Conclusion

- Disaster Risk Reduction is essential and priorities to the national development plans and programs.
- Current systems and initiatives on DRM need to be enhanced and strengthened.
- Government Institutions dealing with DM should be positioned in a way that they possess the required authority and resources to be able to fully execute their responsibilities before, during and after natural disasters.
- Building community disaster preparedness and response capacity are particularly important.