

Enhancing Climate and Disaster Resilience

Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR)

Project overview

UN-Habitat together with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport is implementing the first Adaptation Fund project in Lao PDR. The project's main objective is to enhance the climate and disaster resilience of the most vulnerable rural and emerging urban human settlements in Southern Lao PDR by increasing sustainable access to basic infrastructure systems and services, emphasising resilience to storms, floods, droughts, landslides and disease outbreaks.

Sector: Climate change/Disaster risk reduction
Adaptation Fund Grant: USD 4,500,000
Implementing Entity: UN-Habitat Lao PDR
Executing Entity: Ministry of Public Works and Transport & Nam Papa State Enterprise
Duration: 4 years

The specific project objectives are:

- 1** Develop institutional capacities of the national government and local authorities to increase the resilience of human settlements and infrastructure systems
- 2** Enable communities to improve their well-being/health conditions by developing local capacities and resilience strategies for their settlements and infrastructure systems;
- 3** Enhance climate and disaster resilient infrastructure systems in human settlements.
- 4** Ensure project compliance with AF and UN-Habitat standards for Knowledge Management, Advocacy and Monitoring



First Adaptation Fund Project in Lao PDR implemented by UN-Habitat



Addressing climate vulnerability in 189 villages across Saravan, Sekong and Attapeu provinces



Using free open software tools to map vulnerability assessments and plan for resilience

Implementation status

Component 1: 2017 - 2018

Understanding vulnerability in Southern Lao PDR

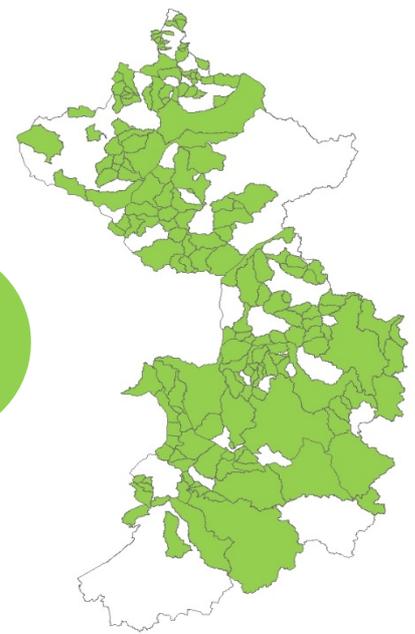
Project implementation began in July 2017. Vulnerability in the provinces were understood through GIS and spatial analysis, existing vulnerability indexes, and comprehensive secondary data review.

Innovative approaches

Primary data gathering in the 189 villages was carried out using Kobo Toolbox on low-cost tablets and exported to Excel. The survey identified gaps in survey data, local database developed with detailed information at the village level based on community perception and experience.

GIS, spatial analysis and vulnerability index

Use the data to analyse surrounding eco-systems, territorial linkages and critical infrastructure, and to identify these changes over time. Understanding the environment, ecosystem services and establishing the weaknesses of infrastructure coverage allows for identification of 'hotspot' areas and action prioritisation.



189 villages surveyed across the provinces of Saravan, Sekong and Attapeu

	Villages	Collected
Attapeu	66	66
Phouvong District	8	8
Samakhhixay District	10	10
Sanxay District	33	33
Xaysetha District	15	15
Saravan	61	61
Samuoi District	30	30
Ta oi District	31	31
Sekong	62	62
Dakcheung District	33	33
Kaleum District	29	29
TOTAL	189	189



WORKING WITH THE MOST VULNERABLE CONTEXTS IN LAO PDR: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Achievements

- Reached a large number of villages in a short time with low-cost materials and available data
- Tablet-based data collection allows for efficient data collection
- Participatory survey processes contributes to building capacity
- Engages local officials in the vulnerability assessment process

Challenges on the ground

Some villages are difficult to access in the rainy season - several villages were replaced

Next steps

- Conduct environmental and social safeguard screening
- Capacity Building at the sub-national and national level on specific technical disciplines
- Design and construct resilient infrastructure to benefit at least 47,000 people in 189 villages
- National level workshop to plan for the projected impacts of climate change



2017-2020: Four years, four components

1

USD 687,640

Institutional level strengthening to reduce vulnerability in human settlements

2

USD 200,000

Building capacity at the human settlement and community level for climate change

3

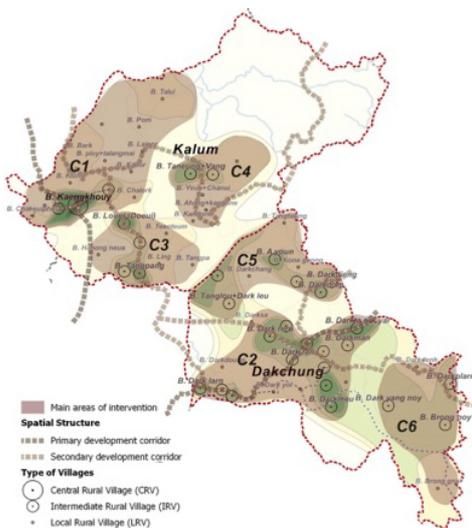
USD 2,800,000

Enhance climate and disaster resilient infrastructure systems in human settlements

4

USD 100,000

Ensure project compliance with Adaptation Fund and UN-Habitat standards for knowledge management and advocacy



Example of a GIS map of two districts in Sekong Province: Strategic areas of intervention in planning for adaptation and building resilience

Component 1: The component aims at developing climate change vulnerability assessments of the three target provinces (including disaggregated information for 8 districts and 189 villages), as well as building capacity at the local and national level. Formulating action plans to address the vulnerabilities highlighted in the assessments.

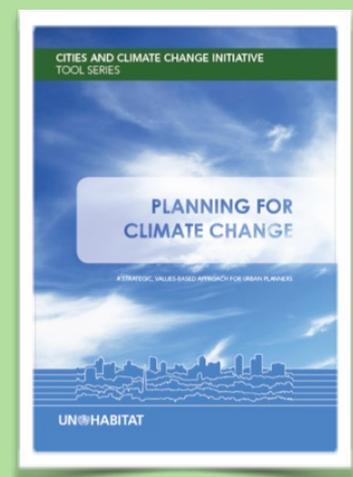
Component 2: This component will build capacity at the village level, empowering communities to take charge of the construction, maintenance and management of their infrastructure systems.

Component 3: The results of the vulnerability assessments will be used i.e. action plans from Component 1 and enhanced community capacity from Component 2 to construct, upgrade and rehabilitate infrastructure in the target villages to increase resilience.

Component 4: Ensure that project information are in compliance with the Adaptation Fund and UN-Habitat standards for knowledge management and advocacy.

NEXT STEPS: DESIGNING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Putting action plans developed by the communities, local government and other stakeholders into resilience projects
- Apply normative planning tools like UN-Habitat's Planning for Climate Change in the process
- Detailed engineering design and economic analysis that will prepare for climate financing, projects and programming
- Work together to address the context of a changing climate change in Lao PDR!



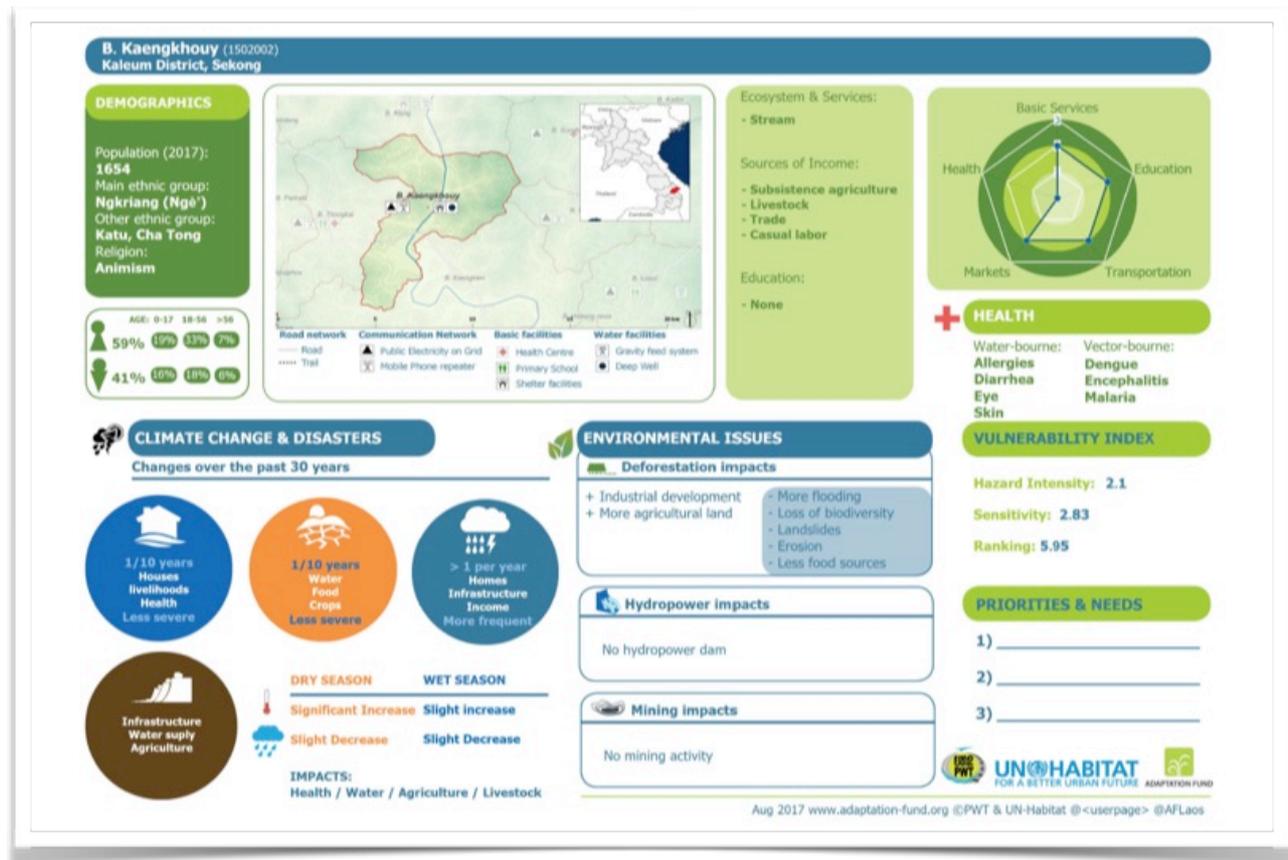
Project at a glance

Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) is one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world. This is mainly due to its high dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources and its low adaptive capacity.

The country has been increasingly affected by natural hazards. Floods, droughts, and storms, which often trigger secondary hazards such as landslides, fires, infestations and outbreaks of disease, cause each year loss of life and severe damage to livelihoods and infrastructure.

Considering the expected impacts of climate change, with wet seasons getting wetter and dry seasons getting dryer, these hazards are likely to increase in frequency and intensity.

UN-Habitat together with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport is implementing the first Adaptation Fund project in Lao PDR to enhance the climate and disaster resilience of the most vulnerable rural and emerging urban human settlements.



Example of a village info-graph based on data collection from Component 1.

Contact us

UN-Habitat Lao PDR
UN House
Lane Xang Ave, P.O. Box 345
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Telephone: (856) 21 267707

Ministry of Public Work and Transport (MPWT)
Lan Xang Avenue
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Telephone: (856) 21 412250

Adaptation Fund
Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
c/o Global Environment Facility
N 7-700, 1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433
Telephone: (1) 202 458 7347

Find us on Facebook
@AFProjectLaos

