



ADAPTATION FUND

Adaptation Story



LAO PDR

Climate change is already causing economic loss and affecting the livelihoods of many people in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).

The country is one of the most vulnerable in the world to climate change, extreme weather events and rainfall irregularity, which is impacting physical infrastructure, health and food security. This is exacerbated due to its high dependence on natural resources and low adaptive capacity. The frequency and intensity of climate related hazards such as droughts and floods are expected to increase in the future and most severely hit the poorest areas of the country, so Lao PDR is urgently exploring steps to build its resilience by enhancing its adaptation efforts across sectors - particularly disaster risk reduction.

Concrete steps are being made. A project totaling US\$ 4.5 million funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by UN-Habitat is enhancing climate and disaster resilience across 189 of the most vulnerable human settlements in eight districts of the southern provinces of Attapeu, Sekong, and Saravane (Salavan),

by increasing sustainable access to basic infrastructure systems and services, as well as emphasizing resilience to storms, floods, droughts, landslides, and disease outbreaks.

The southern urban settlement of Pheerkeo is also affected by floods on an annual basis. In order to address the water shortages during these periods, UN-Habitat in coordination



Water tank with slow sand filter system, Tangko village, Samuoi District, Saravane Province, 2020. (Photo by UN-Habitat / Juan A. Torres)



Left: Rice fields, Attapeu Province (Photo by UN Habitat / Moe Mashiko). Right: Villager showing his first household water tap, Tangko village, Samuoi District, Saravane Province, 2020. (Photo by UN-Habitat / Juan A. Torres)



The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a Least Developed Country (LDC). About half of the countries where the Adaptation Fund is active are LDCs or Small Island Developing States.

PRIMARY goals

- Develop institutional capacities to increase the resilience of human settlements and infrastructure systems
- Enable communities to improve their well-being/health conditions by developing local capacities and resilience strategies for their settlements and infrastructure systems
- Enhance climate and disaster resilient infrastructure systems





ADAPTATION FUND

Adaptation Story

LAO PDR



Communal water pump, Sanxay District (Photo by UN Habitat / Moe Mashiko)

“Before, I used to go twice a day to the river which is 20 minutes away from my village to collect water. I have to walk even more during the dry season. Thanks to the project, now I have water in my own house.

I am even able to grow vegetables in my garden.”

– Sipaphai Kiuleshai, resident of Lahang village, Saravane province

with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, resolved to build a borewell powered by solar panels with an overhead reservoir at 3 meters above ground level, benefiting 458 people with improved access to potable water.

In total, more than 125,000 people are benefiting from the construction of socially inclusive and climate-resilient infrastructure in the project. The project also has a focus on empowering women, with more than 40,000 women being engaged throughout its implementation.

PROJECT activities

- Develop multi-hazard analyses to identify the most vulnerable settlements
- Conduct vulnerability assessments in 189 villages
- Develop online hazard map showing the impacts of extreme weather events in the project areas
- Develop action planning documents at province, district and village levels
- Conduct environmental and social safeguards procedures
- Build climate resilient small-scale infrastructures

BY THE NUMBERS

\$4,500,000

IN GRANT FINANCING

39

EHTNIC GROUPS BENEFIT FROM THE PROJECT

8

DISTRICT VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

3

TARGET PROVINCES

17,500 sq km

TOTAL PROJECT AREA COVERED

8

VULNERABLE SETTLEMENTS TARGETED WITH CLIMATE-RESILIENT MEASURES

125,560

PEOPLE BENEFITTING FROM SMALL-SCALE CLIMATE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURES

GREATER THAN

42,768

WOMEN ENGAGED DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



Woman chopping casaba with her daughter at the household doorstep, Dakcheung District, Sekong Province, 2020. (Photo by UN-Habitat / Juan A. Torres)