

Strategic Plan On Disaster Risk Management in Lao PDR 2020, 2010 and action plan (2003-2005)

N. 1139/MLSW, dated 18 April 2003.

- Referring to 7th Congress of the Lao People Revolution Party and Country Strategy for Socio-Economic Development to 2020.
- Based on Strategic Development Plan of the Labor and Social Welfare sector to 2020, 2010 and 3 years plan to 2005.

The National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MLSW) had evaluated its experience on disaster management and adopted from lesson learned DM Country Strategy with defined goals to achieve.

The paper of Country Strategy on Disaster Management is composed of following parts:

- Lesson learned from experiences in dealing with disaster problems.
- Strategy and direction for DM
- Aims and goals:

To 2020

To 2010

Plan 2003- 2005

Lesson learned from experiences;

1. Disaster problem in Laos
2. Past experiences in dealing with disaster.

1. Disaster problem in Laos.

About disaster in Laos we have information from 1966 and can overview as follow: in monsoon months of 1966 provinces located along Mekong from Vientiane down to the south faced with worst flood. Heavy rain and lasted for week in up basin of Mekong and central part of country. In Vientiane city many areas included WATAY Airport and TALADSAO (morning market) had been flooded by water between 70 to 110 cm and water kept flooded for more than one week. The flood brought loss to socio-economic of country and more than 100 thousand people living along the bank of Mekong river from centre to the south had been effected.

Almost annually Laos is faced mainly with natural disasters such as flood, drought and landslide, also manmade disaster as fire, included forest, village, community and urban fire. Since 35 year to now our country frequently faced with natural disaster and every 1, 4 years is experienced with big flood.

Flood in 2000 brought loss to more than 42000 ha of agriculture crops and damaged to more than 200 irrigation units, loss to 15 lives. Parallel with those population in many region are faced with sever drought which caused by shortage of drinking water, water for consumption and for agriculture and animal rising. Fire is also made big impact and losses to population property. Only in 3 years (1997-2000) in whole country had more than 500 cases of fire accident and estimate of losses was to 30 billion KIPS. Beside those our people had still impacted by diseases, infestation, unexplored ordinance of pass INDOCHINA war and other... which were seriously hit people income and country economy.

Since past decade the changing of the nature, climate and environment in region and in country with contributing of human intentional or unintentional made factors in degradation of environment, opening more spaces, over logging, continuation of slash and burn cultivation practices, weakness on enforcement of using chemical pesticides and fertilizers and other are made people more vulnerable and increasing losses. *For example:* flash flood and land slide occurred in Houaphanh, Louangprabang and Vientiane provinces which were never seen before in Laos. The flash flood and landslide in July 2001 in Vangvieng and Kasy districts of

Vientiane province destroyed 8 houses, all cultivation area, cut of national road for some time impacted to more than 200 families in 4 villages.

2. Lesson learned from past experience;

In dealing with disaster problem in Laos especially with flood in the past much more depended to the perceiving to problem of Authority in organization and community themselves.

After 1975 establishment of Lao PDR, the Government has paying more attention on assistance to disadvantage groups of people who had been victims of natural disasters with emphasized on relief and mitigation after disaster struck. *For example:* supplied of water, seeds, rice, medicines, chemical peptizes, distribution of relief goods, building of weir and embankment, irrigation and other. Since 1993 government has allocated annual budget for those activities from 500 to 1000 ml kips for emergency relief to victims of disaster in country. In implementing those activities, other government agencies and privates, international organizations, friend countries, inter NGOs were also participated and contributed with their resources which could help mitigate with foods and shelters to victims, allowing for victims of disaster to recover and return live cycle to normalcy after disaster struck. Nevertheless we had mentioned that in managing disaster we still weren't proactively dealing with arising problems, beside that the lacking of necessary regulations, codes in implementing and procedures in coordination are also require for carefully study to understand real courses of problem and design from that strategy, priority, concept and select appropriated measures for realization in new term.

II . Strategy on Disaster Management and implementation methods:

1. Strategy:

From past decade had mentioned in all worldwide event natural or manmade disasters are increased in number and intensity which were impacted and brought losses to human lives, population and government property, environment. The estimate of losses reached some USD billions annually. From those factors are required to international community for having new approach and methods to deal with disaster, minimize damages and losses. Parallel with that, the government of Lao PDR is also build up it strategy on disaster management with the aims to:

- 1.1 Safeguard sustainable development and reduce the damage of natural or manmade disasters to community, society and country economy.
- 1.2 Shift strategy from relief and mitigation after disaster impact to community, society and economy of government organizations to preparedness before disaster strike emphasizing on flood, drought, landslide and fire parallel with continuing mitigate in post disaster period.
- 1.3 Turn from responsibility of only government agency to people centered in dealing with disaster by building capability for community.
- 1.4 Promote forever protection of the environment and country rich such as: forest, land and water.

2. Implementation approaches.

We have selected implementation approaches as follow:

- 2.1 Continue building a Disaster Management Institution from centre to village levels based on the Government Decree N. 158/PM dated 23 August 1999.
- 2.2 Establish focal points and build DM coordination procedures to unity working toward government plan on socio-economic development.
- 2.3 Building and improve codes and regulations on DM.
- 2.4 Building early warning systems, system for effective information collection through out country, granting for community to timely receiving basic needed information and be able to effectively taking appropriate measures in dealing with disaster when it strike.
- 2.5 Build stockpiling system with basic needed goods within country in 3 parts and provinces for effectively providing relief to the victims and mitigation in post disaster period.
- 2.6 Organizing public education activities for community with explaining real courses of disasters and it impact.
- 2.7 Organizing wider training work for governments and privates on DM by Lao trainers and outside experts.

- 2.8 Establishing and training on search and rescue for specializing teams.
- 2.9 Establishing DM info collection, storage and exchange centre with using more modern equipments
- 2.10. Organizing drills, simulation exercises as needed.
- 2.11. Integrating DM activity and projects in to development process.
- 2.12. Monitoring the enforcement of laws, codes and regulations on management of forest, land use, water conservation and nature in preventing the courses of disasters.
- 2.13. Monitoring the enforcement of codes and regulations on importing and using chemical peptize, toxics and fertilizers of various sectors.
- 2.14. Strengthen cooperation within ASEAN and region on DM.
- 2.15. Promoting and corporation on integrating DM concept into other sectors programs.

3. The goals of DM strategy plan:

1. The aims to 2020.

- 1.1 Making Lao society safer and minimizing the impact of disaster to people life, country economy, government's and population property.
- 1.2. To timely assist to the victims of disaster helping they mitigate disaster impact and quick return to normalcy.
- 1.3. Building completed legal system on disaster management and prevention of disaster impact to individual, community, society and country economy.
- 1.4. Making disaster management concept and environmental protection as unique to development and becoming cultural perception of society.

2. The goals to 2010:

- 2.1. Establishment of DDMC at all districts.
- 2.2. Establish DM focal points and contact persons in all major government agencies, units, privates, factories and other.
- 2.3. Enhance capability and building information dissemination to all 142 districts of country.
- 2.4. Develop early warning information receiving points at risky to disaster villages.
- 2.5. Establish storages at provinces and some vulnerable to disaster districts.
- 2.6. Continue sustainable public awareness and education programs through media.
- 2.7. Expand DM training in all sectors at various levels.
- 2.8. Organizing drills and simulation exercises with participation of emergency rescue teams of sectors and population.
- 2.9. Enhance capability on cooperation with ASEAN, region and international on exchanging of expertise, information on DM and joint implementing projects, simulation exercises and relief drills.

3. Goals to 2005

- 3.1. Establish DDMC with created their role and responsibility at 80% of total districts through out country.
- 3.2. Establish DM focal points and contact persons as appropriate at:
 - 10% of total primary school.
 - 20% of junior secondary school.
 - 30% of upper secondary school.
 - 50% of professional school.
 - 80% of military division.
 - 40% of factory.
- 3.3. Develop DM regulation and code.
- 3.4. Enhance and establish information dissemination system and receiving information at 30% of total 142 districts in country. Establish information dissemination at 30% of vulnerable villages.
- 3.5. Building storages at 3 part of country, build or repair storage at the Provincial Department of Labor and Social Welfare and at some districts, inserting this work into MLSW plan.
- 3.6. Annually continue two public awareness and education programs through media.
- 3.7. Annually organize 4 DM training courses for government officials and privates at provincial and district levels and 4 other courses for village leaders.

- 3.8. Establish rescue and relief teams at VTE MUN, provinces base on manpower of military, police, schools and Lao Red Cross volunteer.
- 3.9. Develop hazards and risk map of Lao PDR.
- 3.10. Establish DM information exchange centre at the NDMO and urban disaster information at the Urban Research Institute (URI).
- 3.11. Organize 2 rescue drills or simulation exercises on annual basic
- 3.12. Integrating DM concept into other projects of urban and rural development with focused on flood, drought, fire, land management, bank erosion, water management, protection of environment, forest and other natural resources. NDMO is a centre focal point on implementation.

4. Implementation methods:

From the above aims and goals some implementation methods have been set up:

- 4.1 Establish District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) at all districts and future at villages (Village Protection Unit- VPU)
- 4.2 Continue training program for PDMC, DDMC and VPU with identifying the role and responsibility along with plan of those Organizations.
- 4.3 Improve and establish information network and data bank of disaster related resources of Labor and Social Welfare, Agriculture and Forestry, Public Health, Transport, Education, Lao Red Cross Society and others with Information Unit of NDMO as Contact Point.
- 4.4 Improve synoptic weather forecasting of disasters, building information dissemination network to community via media and other means with Department of Hydrology-Meteorology Dept and NDMO are as Organizers
- 4.5 Develop as needed specialized teams such as search and rescue, relief with using resources of military, police, school and Lao Red Cross Society Volunteer in Vientiane City and provinces.
- 4.6 Collaborate with provinces and sectors concerned finding place for future building an emergency storage which accordant with existing capability, NDMO is responsible for finding land plot, MLSW is responsible for building plan
- 4.7 Started up projects on integrating DM concept and environmental protection into primary school curricular by Ministry of Education as the lead shepherd.
- 4.8 Collaborate with sectors as agriculture, health, education and rural development on DM activities in high risk to disaster area.
- 4.9 Effectively use government allocated budget with expanding mobilization of resource assistance from charity, internal country and outside for emergency relief and assistance for victims of disaster.
- 4.10 Establish information units and network, develop disaster risk map of Lao PDR.
- 4.11 Further use man power and resources of national defense, public security for search and rescue work in countrywide with collaboration of locals and related agencies, looking for further collaboration with ASEAN partners and region.
- 4.12 Raising public awareness, education campaign and program on DM though public media.

5. Budget:

- 5.1 The budget for implementing this Country Strategy Note in 3 years period (2003-2005) will be 150 ml kip/year from government.
- 5.2 From public donation.
- 5.3 From Disaster Relief Fund (KR1) and
- 5.4 Cooperative projects with international organization, foreign assistance, inter NGOs, estimate 500 ml kip/year.

**Minister of Labor and Social Welfare
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(Signed with sealed)