



Urban Agenda Platform

The global platform for sharing progress, action and knowledge on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve sustainable urban development.

Enhancing the climate and disaster resilience in Lao PDR

Region	Asia and the Pacific
Climate Action Solution Category	Resilience 4 Cities
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Summary

Solution Category: Resilience 4 Cities

Background and Objective

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.

Actions and Implementation

Lao PDR is urgently exploring ways to build its resilience by enhancing its adaptation efforts across sectors and 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 with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, built 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. In Tangko, one of the 189 villages identified as being highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, a simple and cost-effective gravity fed water supply system that taps into a reliable spring up a nearby mountain has been built. In this way, water is filtered and safely stored for ready use. Now all households have kitchen gardens which supplement the available food and help through dry periods and their associated food insecurity.

Conclusion

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