
A photograph showing a flooded street in a rural or semi-urban area. Several people are wading through the murky brown water. In the foreground, a young girl in a light-colored shirt is carrying a blue plastic basket. In the background, there are simple buildings, trees, and a white pickup truck. The scene illustrates the impact of flooding in Lao PDR.

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DRM and Emergency Response in Lao PDR

- Mekong floods, 2008
- Typhoon Ketsana, 2009
- Tropical Storm Nock-ten, 2011

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Lao PDR Country Profile

Laos is a landlocked country and covered by high mountainous ranges but criss-crossed by many rivers and stream:

Capital: Vientiane

Population: 6.8 million (2014)

Area: 236,800 square kilometers

Language(s): Lao, various ethnic languages including Hmong and Khmu

Poverty rate: 27.6% (2012)

Gross National Income per capita: US\$4,351(2014)

Human Development Index: 0.569 (2014)

Laos shared border with China to the north, Cambodia to the south, Vietnam to the east, Thailand to the west and Myanmar to the northwest.



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DRM and Emergency Response in Lao PDR

▪ **Mekong floods, 2008**

82,000 people benefited from dissemination of hygiene and sanitation and over 43,000 people benefited from repair and rehabilitation of damaged water and sanitation infrastructure.

▪ **Typhoon Ketsana, 2009**

The project reached out to almost 50,000 people through repair and restoration water treatment plants and repair of system such as water networks, sanitation facilities, solid waste management, sewerage drainage system and hygiene and sanitation awareness campaigns and 1,390 vulnerable displaced families were provided with emergency housing materials.

▪ **Tropical Storm Nock-ten, 2011**

Nearly 350 latrines and dug wells damages in Nock-ten storm were rehabilitated or new ones built in the affected villages using the **build Back Better (BBB)-principles**. **Shelters:** Major rehabilitation and construction work with BBB-principles was carried out for six demonstration houses in 5 villages and almost 50 local carpenters had been trained on “**BBB-principles**”. The project also included a hygiene kits and emergency housing materials to flood-affected communities.

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Climate Change resilience and Adaptation

Achievements


- Development and adaptation of Building Back Better (BBB) designs and guidelines for water, sanitation and shelter
- Raising awareness of BBB at national and local level, including communities
- Implementing a pilot project that demonstrated the benefits of BBB in disaster response and making vulnerable communities more resilient
- Establishing strong relationships with the PDMC and other provincial-level mechanisms

Challenges


- Lack of funding in expanding the BBB programme nationwide
- Availability, quality or lack of data at local level at project planning stage
- Lack of information sharing and coordination of agencies working in the same area




UN-HABITAT's BBB guidelines for shelter and sanitation aimed at communities




Climate Change resilience and Adaptation



BBB dug well




BBB house



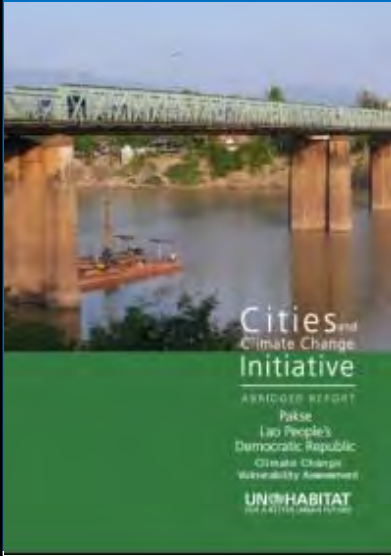
BBB latrine

Recommendations

- DRR to be incorporated in the Urban Planning Law
- Mainstream Building Back Better in all infrastructure –related disaster response activities
- Improve availability and quality of data at local level



Pakse Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment



Flash flood resulting from heavy rain on the mountainous areas

The climate change vulnerability of Pakse can be analysed by three main pillars: exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity to change:

