



## CONCEPT NOTE FOR SECURE WEBINAR 28

### Resilient Border Areas: Climate and Health Lessons from Laos and Cambodia

26 March 2026 (2:00–3:30 PM Manila Time)

#### 1. Background

Climate change in Lao PDR is impacting multiple domains, including health and migration. Intensified floods, droughts, and extreme weather are damaging infrastructure, reducing livelihoods, driving internal/cross-border migration, disrupting health facilities, increasing the incidence of climate-sensitive health risks, and further straining a constrained health system.

The most vulnerable groups include outdoor labourers (particularly farmers) and border communities with poor access to essential health services. Climate-induced migration, in the context of intensifying climate shocks and declining agricultural yields, contributes to increased disease transmission, unpredictable patterns of healthcare access among migrants, and strained border health facilities. Future risks include rising migration into high-risk, informal employment in host countries.

The Greater Mekong Subregion Border Areas Health Project endeavours to enhance health services through upgraded infrastructure, improved water systems, and bolstered climate-resilient capacity-building.

In June 2025, multi-stakeholder consultations in Champasak, Savannakhet, and Phongsaly mapped priority vulnerabilities among border communities and migrants. The findings will inform Lao PDR's climate change and health policies and plans, build on previous experiences, and guide integrated interventions to strengthen resilience pathways, improve healthcare planning, and promote regional collaboration.

This webinar presents the assessment's lessons learned and proposed interventions to balance climate adaptation with broader health quality improvements. It also offers recommendations to strengthen the climate resilience of communities and migrants. The intended audience includes policymakers, development partners, and health practitioners with an eye toward integrating resilience and decarbonization into health facility planning and management.

The SECURE Webinar Series is a platform for knowledge exchange among governments, the private sector, development partners, civil society networks, and other stakeholders on best practices to strengthen health security in SEA. This series is supported by the ADB-supported technical assistance on Supporting Enhanced COVID-19 Vaccination and Post-COVID-19 Health Security Response in Southeast Asia (TA 6767-REG).

#### 2. Objectives are to:

- Recommend interventions to strengthen community health resilience in the context of climate change, taking into account the multiple factors that drive migration, as well as the trade-offs inherent to public health priority-setting.
- Recommend regional cooperation interventions on climate, migration and health.

### 3. Target audience

- Health policymakers and planners (e.g. Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Environment)
- Development partners, ADB project teams, and WHO and IOM country offices
- Researchers and local NGOs working to advance community health, agricultural development, and climate resilience

### 4. Webinar Format

A 90-minute virtual session featuring opening remarks, technical presentations, a moderated panel discussion, and an open forum for participant engagement.

### 5. Guiding Questions

- What are the global, regional, and national trends in climate change and health resilience – especially as they impact Lao PDR?
- What past and ongoing efforts address community and migrant health access, generally and within the context of climate change?
- What are the key challenges and enabling factors to improve climate-resilient health systems at the community level?
- What have been and are the potential regional collaboration for better border areas health services?
- What are the policy implications and investment priorities for strengthening community health resilience?

### 6. Proposed Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
2:00-2:03 PM	Welcome and Introductions	<b>Mr. Randy Dacanay</b> Consultant, ADB and Moderator
2:03 – 2:23 PM	Opening Remarks and ADB lessons learned in climate and health projects	<b>Dr. Alexo Esperato</b> Senior Health Specialist, ADB
2:23 – 2:38 PM	Climate and health in Laos: risks and response	<b>Dr. Viengkhan Phixay</b> DHHP, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR
2:38 – 2:58 PM	Perspectives and insights on climate change and health from Cambodia's border areas	<b>Dr. Vannarom Moeung</b> Under Secretary of State for Health and Project Coordinator for BAHP, Cambodia
2:58 – 3:10 PM	Discussion on regional migrant-health priority issues and scope for regional collaboration	<b>Dr. Patrick Almeida</b> Regional Thematic Specialist (Migration Health), IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
3:10 – 3:25 PM	Q&A and Open Forum	<b>Mr. Randy Dacanay</b> Consultant, ADB and Moderator

Time	Topic	Speaker
3:25 – 3:30 PM	Closing Remarks and Way Forward	<b>Dr. David Angelson</b> Clinical epidemiologist/Consultant, ADB

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### 7. Expected Outputs

- Case studies contextualizing Lao and Cambodia border areas communities
- Shared understanding of policy and intervention priorities for climate change and health within border areas within Laos and regional view.