



Climate Change, Health, and Migration in Lao PDR

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Findings & Recommendations from the GMS BAHP Climate Change & Health/Migration Vulnerability Assessment

Laos.

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1. Objectives

- Share key findings from the climate/health/migration assessment
- Highlight policy and programme recommendations
- Engage stakeholders in implementation dialogue
- Hearing policy perspectives and ways forward



2. Methodology/Process:



Secondary Data Review

Climate change and health previous and current initiatives .

Data Collection Tools

Development of specialized fieldwork instruments for Champasak, Savanakhét, and Phongsaly Province and tailored for assessment and community engagement.

Multi-Level Consultation

Provincial consultations with DPs, MOH, plus village-level group discussions and individual interviews.



3.Contextual information

Climate change trends

- Climate trends: heat, floods, droughts
- Rising health and migration vulnerabilities
- Climate/health/migration nexus

Key Climate Risks in Lao PDR

- Rising temperatures
- Rainfall variability
- Extreme Weather Events (EWEs)
- Impact on agriculture, water, infrastructure

Climate change and health related

- Water- and vector-borne diseases, malnutrition and maternal health, chronic diseases, mental health impacts
- Emergencies and related access to food, water and routine health services

Migration and Mobility Trends

- Internal and cross-border migration
- Climate as an amplifier of migration
- Reintegration challenges



4. Key findings: Ongoing (1)

Quantitative Discussion

- Data Discrepancy: H-NAP and questionnaire results align generally but differ in details (e.g., skin issues are high in surveys but missing from H-NAP).
- Ranking Differences: The priority of health issues (incidence and severity) varies between the two data sources.
- Local Variation: Migration patterns and their impacts vary significantly depending on the specific location and population group.



4. Key findings: Ongoing (2)

Qualitative Findings

- Missing Data: Chemical exposure (pesticides/fertilizers) and skin problems are common concerns but are not clearly included in the H-NAP report.
- Request for Help: Health officials want better ways to predict how extreme weather will affect health and how severe those impacts will be.
- Need for Education: There is a constant demand for more public health training and education on climate-related health risks and disaster management.

- Relatedly: waste management and intersection with EWEs (e.g. flooding, epizootics is another theme that may be worth exploring in greater detail)
- Many villages are currently in the 'more frequent EWEs but still able to adapt' phase, but may be verging on using up adaptive capacity buffer



5. Gaps



- Despite strong political commitment, there is a lack of data to inform decision-making
- Implementation challenges including lack of financing and human capacity
- Lack of urgency and awareness relating to environmental health at community level
- EWE-vulnerable populations and infrastructure
- Insufficient early warning systems
- Challenges with cross-sectoral integration

6. Potential interventions/Opportunities

Community level

Climate-Resilient Health Systems

- Resilient infrastructure including housing and services
- Health promotion & education; CSHR prevention
- Disease surveillance, response, and community preparedness
- Emergency early warning: integrated, interactive system
- Emergency services (access to water, food, and health services for both injuries and routine but life-saving services)

Risk Reduction for Migrant Populations

- Mobile/migrant-friendly services
- Extend health coverage-mobile health check up
- Promote safe migration regardless of channel
- Incorporate climate concerns into migration planning (services, medicines)

Gender and Disability Inclusion

- Women's leadership - meeting chair rotation
- Accessible services - both at school and health center
- Tailored communication - local languages and visual aids

Local-Level Resilience and Preparedness

- Health volunteer training
- Rural livelihood support: GEDSI-sensitive
- Health in local government policies/plans

National level

Data, Monitoring, and Governance

- Strengthen data systems
- Disaggregated data
- Inter-ministerial coordination
- Civil society participation
- Disaster Preparedness Planning

Financing and Implementation Support

- Resource mobilization
- Bilateral agreements
- Central and Local CC&H capacity-building
- Align frameworks

Policy

- Balancing investment on infrastructure and healthcare services quality improvement
- Incorporate migration & health considerations in NAP and any other relevant policies

Regional level

Cross-border cooperation

- Data, knowledge and experience sharing
- Collaboration for disease control (e.g. dengue, malaria)
- Medical services and digital records
- Cross-border cooperation for emergencies and disease outbreaks (e.g. cholera, COVID-19)
- MDB/IGO-mediated regional projects (e.g. GMS projects)

Project Outcome: Community Health + Pathways to Climate Resilience

6. Additional Regional interventions/Opportunities (Continued)

- **Cross-Border Emergency Plan:** Create shared rules and communication channels to handle health emergencies and disease outbreaks across borders.
- **Climate-Health Training:** Organize regional workshops to train health and disaster teams on managing climate-related health risks.
- **Shared Data Platform:** Build a regional system to share and analyze data on migration, health, and climate impacts for better decision-making.
- **Unified Early Warning Systems:** Link national systems together to provide real-time alerts for diseases and climate disasters in border areas.
- **Align Regional Policies:** Link national health and migration policies across GMS countries to ensure consistent services for mobile populations.
- **Cross-Border Communication:** Create multilingual info campaigns to teach migrants and border communities about climate health risks and their rights.
- **Joint Research:** Conduct shared studies to understand how environmental damage and climate change drive migration and impact health.
- **Funding Partnerships:** Work together to secure grants and funding from major donors (like the World Bank or ADB) for regional projects.
- **Coordination Platform:** Set up a GMS task force to manage cooperation, share tools, and track regional progress.

Project Outcome: Community Health + Pathways to Climate Resilience

7. Moving Forward

- Align Lao strategy with international best practices
- Develop local plans for climate change adaptation and relevant emergency preparedness
- Pilot and replicate models of CC&H + migration
- Multi-sectoral partnerships
- Strengthen community resilience for EWEs and other emergencies



Thanks!