

**POLICY, LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS,  
AND PLANNING FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
IN LAO PDR**

**October 2001**

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## **NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT POLICY**

### **Country Background**

The Lao PDR is a landlocked country, situated in the center of the Indo-Chinese Peninsula, sharing borders with China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar. The country covers an area of 236,800 sq. km. of which 70% is mountainous and 46% is covered by forest. According to statistics, from 2000 the Lao PDR has a population of 5.2 million, with an annual growth rate of 2.6% and an average population density of only 20 persons per sq km. The majority of the population lives in lowland areas along the Mekong River. There are more than 47 ethnic groups within the country with different cultures and language dialects. Around 90% of the rural population practice agriculture using rainwater for cultivation. Laos is classified as one of the least developed countries in the world, with an estimated GDP per capita of approximately US\$ 290. In Laos, the climate is divided into two seasons: the rainy (or wet) season and the drought (or dry) season.

In terms of its geographical location, Laos seem to be well protected from typhoons and wind storms. Nevertheless, besides poverty, the country still suffers from the widespread effects of natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, infestations and fire.

According to information from the last 30 years, Laos is faced with serious floods and droughts with an average re-occurrence of every 1.5 years. Sometimes flood and drought occur in the same year, but in different provinces. Floods happen in the monsoon season from May to September, when the rain increases the amount of water in the upper Mekong basin, as well as the water level of the tributary rivers. Drought mainly occurs in mountainous areas and affects agricultural production. In some districts, people also may suffer from a lack of water.

There are also other hazards in Laos. Between 1997 and 2000, more than 500 cases of fires occurred. This is quite high when compared with previous years. The major disasters which have occurred in Laos have had a significantly negative impact on the socio-economic situation of the country contributing to poverty.

### **The Relief and Mitigation Efforts of Government and NGOs**

From 1975, since the inauguration of the Lao PDR, Government policy on Social Welfare was 1) to help the migratory post-war population to permanently resettle, 2) to assist the disadvantaged groups of the population, many of whom were affected by natural disasters, with food, shelter and other basic needs. These activities were carried out by the Department of Public Welfare within the Ministry of Interior (MOI) of the Lao PDR.

To mitigate drought and flood, the MOI mobilized Government and public resources to upgrade and build water gates at the Mekong, water reservoirs, and drainage systems in cities. “A Free Labour Campaign” of Government for building those facilities was very popular with the public sector and communities.

In 1980, the Committee on Social Welfare and War Veterans was established. This Committee was dissolved in 1987, when the Department of Public Welfare was transferred to the Ministry of Public Health, which carried out the same activities. The Committee on Social Welfare and War Veterans was re-established in 1990-93 and expanded to include Relief and Mitigation Programs. The joint Government/ NGO project on “Mitigation of Harmful Effects of Natural Disasters” also started in this period. The Government annually allocated funds equivalent to US\$ 700,000 to help disadvantaged persons and victims of disasters.

In 1993, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) was established. Since then, relief and mitigation activities have had a clearer status. The Social Welfare Department within the MLSW is responsible for running projects on relief and mitigation with NGO partners in areas which are either vulnerable to or which have been affected by disaster. The activities of these programs have focused on mitigation and post flood or drought rehabilitation, such as repairing roads, canals, irrigation schemes as well as mobilizing resources for replanting second crops. The Social Welfare Department has, at the same time, cooperated with its Provincial Departments to implement these activities by using government and donor funds and other available resources for the relief of victims of fire.

Until 1997, actions taken by the Government of the Lao PDR with assistance from international organizations, donor countries and NGOs had focused very little on disaster preparedness. During that time, the perception of the Government and communities about natural disasters such as flood and drought was associated with the idea of natural phenomenon, which cannot be managed.

In Lao culture, it is very common that people use superstition or spirit beliefs to explain natural disasters they are faced with. However, Government and local communities are now considering a new way of thinking. This is due to many factors such as climate change, increases in the frequency of flooding and drought, increases in cases of fire, environmental degradation, devastation of forest, land erosion as well as the economic loss and damage suffered as a result of disasters (in particular the two big floods of 1995 and 1996).

In June 1996, when floods occurred in several provinces, more than 450,000 people were affected and economic loss was very high. The Prime Minister established an ad-hoc committee, which enables ministries to deal with the effects of the flood. However, the main mandate of this ad-hoc committee was limited to relief and the organization of replanting vegetable crops and second season paddy rice cultivation. With the aim of raising awareness on the importance of Disaster Preparedness, the project on “Capacity Building for Lao Government officials on Disaster Management” (Lao/97/013) was signed between the Government and the UNDP on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1997.

## **The Development of Government Policy on Disaster Management**

The Lao Government Development Program for 1996-2000 consisted of eight priority areas with an overall objective to eradicate absolute poverty in the country. The Country Strategy Note mentioned Natural Disaster Preparedness as a key rural development activity. Lao communities are highly vulnerable to the disruption from natural disasters. Rural communities living on the edge of subsistence are particularly vulnerable to even moderate climatic disruptions which can jeopardise food security. Rain-fed fields providing only single annual harvest are often subject to floods or drought, which ruin crops, so villagers must forage for food or rely on emergency food donations to survive. Effective preparedness and the capacity to mount swift emergency responses when natural disasters strike will have a real impact in combating poverty and in promoting development.

Since September 1997, the study for drafting Government policy has become one of the main targets of the Capacity Building Project in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, which received funding support from the UNDP. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) took responsibility for the formulation of the government policy on Disaster Management (DM). The NDMO has analysed and studied almost all government documents, laws and decrees which relate to DM, the environment, water, land management and other related issues. A study on the strategies, policies and frameworks of other countries in the region had also been carried out by the NDMO. The Prime Minister's Decree No. 158 (dated 23 August 1999) is a fundamental basis for policy development on DM in Laos.

In order to reduce losses and damages from flood and other disasters, the Government has been required to adopt a new vision and perception and a proactive approach. This means linking the strategy for relief and mitigation after disasters with preparedness and prevention activities. In accordance with this, the national Policy on DM of the Government of Lao PDR has been formulated as follows:

- The recognition of the problem associated with disaster as being part of a total Government responsibility and to ensure the best possible arrangements, given available resources.
- The adoption of all hazards and people-centered approach to Disaster Risk Management
- The recognition of disaster risk and vulnerability reduction as essential for sustainable development planning.
- The development of effective Risk Management arrangements that link various levels of Government and Lao communities
- The development of an attitude of self-help within the community through ongoing education and awareness programs.

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate the establishment of institutional arrangements for disaster risk management in the Lao PDR, which facilitate sustainable efforts for the prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from natural and man-made disasters.

The Lao Government recognises disaster risk management as a key development priority that will encompass hazard mitigation and vulnerability reduction through an effective preparedness strategy aimed at reducing the effects of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in rural areas. Effective preparedness and the capacity to provide effective emergency response when disaster strikes will have a real impact in combating poverty and promoting sustainable development in Laos.

## **NATIONAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES IN LAO PDR**

1. To develop a rational Disaster Risk Management Plan which will focus on mobilization, deployment and coordination of National Resources and requests for international assistance.
2. To prepare Disaster Risk Management Plans at provincial, district and local levels.
3. To develop and train community level disaster response teams.
4. To target the initial efforts on the risk management of floods and droughts.
5. To focus on capacity building of Government officers and personnel of associated agencies from the community level to the national level and on community mobilisation, i.e. motivating and supporting people to organise and take appropriate action to protect themselves, their property and their communities against hazards.
6. To improve disaster preparedness through:
  - A clear and comprehensive policy, which addresses all elements of disaster risk management planning
  - Effective disaster planning and linkages at national, provincial, district and local levels as a basis for coordination action with clear allocation of role and responsibilities
  - Operational planning for all concerned government and non-government agencies to ensure effective response actions in time of emergencies
  - Effective implementation of specialist programs
  - Early warning systems for floods and droughts
  - Public awareness and training
  - Support for the development of self-reliance and self-help at community levels
7. to focus disaster prevention and mitigation on:
  - Agricultural and sectoral programs aimed at food, income and water security and on reducing community vulnerability
  - Protection of key economic facilities
8. To improve disaster response and recovery by improving emergency management systems such as command, control and coordination, damage and need assessment, relief distribution and “food for work” rehabilitation and reconstruction programs.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Beside the National Strategy, action plans on DM are formulated in accordance with various sector plans. The National Disaster Management Action Plan consists of various programs, expressing the general vision to 2020, which is broken down into the following periods:

- 2001-2005
- 2005-2010
- 2001-2020

### **The General Objectives of the Action Plan to 2020**

1. Continuation of the program on building institutional arrangements of Disaster Management within the country at all levels according to the Prime Minister's Decree No. 159 (dated 23 August 1999).
2. Establishment of focal point and identification of a contact person in every institution, and developing effective coordination and cooperation culture between agencies in disaster management.
3. Organisation of effective early warning and information management systems. This guarantees timely and effective dissemination of early warning information to the community level.
4. Building storage systems at regional and provincial levels in order to effectively dispatch material resources for relief and rehabilitation.
5. Organisation of public awareness and education programs that aim at educating all members of society on the causes of disasters.
6. Development of training programs for all government departments and the public sector.
7. Establishment of rescue and emergency response teams.
8. Establishment of an Information Centre for Disaster Management.
9. Organisation of simulation exercises for Disaster Preparedness.
10. Linkage programs between Disaster Management and other sector programs.

### **The Goals of the National Action Plan from 2001 to 2005**

1. Development of DM Organisations at the district level:
  - Establish Disaster Management Committee in 80% of the total number of districts which are vulnerable to disasters
2. Establishment of a focal point (FP) and identification of a Contact Person (CP) on DM:
  - Establish FP and identify CP in 40% of Senior Secondary Schools, 30% of Junior Secondary Schools and 20% of Primary Schools
  - Establish FP and identify CP in 60% of Professional Schools
  - Establish FP and CP in all faculties of the National University
  - Establish FP and CP in all Army Division levels
  - Establish FP and CP in 20% of factories (e.g. industry, garment)

3. Organisation of effective Early Warning (EW) systems:
  - Exchange EW information between the centre and 80% of the total number of districts
  - Organise the dissemination of EW information to 30% of villages which are located in vulnerable areas
4. Building storage:
  - Build 3 regional stores
  - Build and repair 5 stores at the provincial level and some at the district level
5. Continue the organisation of 2 programs per year of PA and EP with media
6. Training courses:
  - Organise 4 training courses per year for Government officials and the private sector at the provincial and district levels and 4 courses for the village level
  - Develop school programs on DM which focus on Primary Schools
7. Establishment of special teams:
  - Establish rescue teams at provincial level in all provinces
  - Establish one quick response team at the central level
8. Development of Information Centre on DM:
  - Based at the NDMO
  - Based at the Urban Research Institute (URI) for Urban Information on DM
9. Organisation of 2 simulation exercises per year on Disaster Response
10. Link DM programs with programs for rural and urban development that focus on Flood and Drought Mitigation and Prevention, Fire Prevention, Land and Water Management, Environment and Forest Protection.

## **Provincial Plan Framework**

The establishment of Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC) in 2000 will go hand in hand with the continued implementation of programs on mitigation and preparedness, and the development of the Provincial Plans, which is the responsibility of the PDMCs. This process has now started and is using guidelines provided by NDMO as a key tool.

### **Overall Aim and Approach**

The overall aim of provincial disaster risk management planning in the Lao PDR is to develop a planning framework that mirrors the National Plan, but which specifically focuses on the particular risks, hazards and vulnerabilities of each province.

The effective management of provincial hazards and risks requires the combined expertise and resources of the Provincial Government, local NGOs, and the community. In order to be successful these organisations and individuals must come together in a coordinated way and work within the framework of the provincial plan, which clearly identifies their respective roles and responsibilities.

The primary responsibilities for disaster risk management in the provinces rests with the Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC) which coordinates and liaises with the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC).

## **Disaster Risk Management Priorities at the Provincial Level**

1. To develop effective strategies for the risk management of floods and droughts
2. To focus on capacity building of provincial government officers and personnel of associated agencies from the community level, and on community mobilisation, i.e. motivating and supporting people to organise and take appropriate action to protect themselves, their property and their communities against hazards.

## **Organisational Arrangements and Structure**

### **Provincial, District and Local Committees**

At provincial, district and local levels, disaster management committees need to be established with representatives of the concerned government bodies and NGOs.

### **Community Involvement**

At the village level, community safety teams need to be established with links to local and district committees.

### **NGO Disaster Support Organisations**

It must be ensured that NGOs' disaster management activities are linked to government plans and programs.

### **Coordination**

It is essential that effective coordination arrangements are developed to ensure effective linkages between the various government levels, the NDMC, the NDMO and the national Emergency Operations Centre.

## **Plan Development**

The provincial plan should be developed by the Provincial Government with support from the NDMO. A process similar to the one used in the development of the National Plan needs to take place, including participatory planning and stakeholder consultations to ensure that the plan reflects the needs and ownership of the community. The plan should include the following phases of disaster risk management at the provincial level:

### **Phase 1 – Pre-disaster Period**

This involves preparedness measures undertaken in relation to:

***Risk Assessment***

- Identifying, assessing and monitoring of the potential hazards, risks and vulnerabilities
- Describing the potential effects on the community, property, services, the economy and the environment
- Determining resource requirements

***Early Warnings***

- Conducting public education programs
- Disseminating early warnings to all potentially affected communities

***Communication***

- Establishing effective links between the NDMO and the National EOC
- Establishing and testing provincial EOC
- Identifying all available communication back up systems (Government and private sector)
- Developing emergency communication back up systems

**Utilization of available resources**

***Personnel***

- Identifying and recording all available resources (Provincial Government)
- Defining their roles and functions
- Identifying training needs
- Conducting regular training programs

***Mobility***

- Identifying available emergency transportation
- Identifying rescue and evacuation routes
- Identifying and preparing staging areas for national support resources

***Evacuation***

- Identifying and preparing evacuation points/ areas
- Arranging for stockpiling of critical relief supplies
- Identifying relief distribution points/ areas
- Preparing lists of available local resources

***Materials and Equipment***

- Conducting regular vulnerability assessment
- Preparing resource inventories at provincial, district and local levels

***Training***

- Identifying disaster risk management training needs
- Developing and maintaining an effective disaster risk management training program

### ***Public Awareness and Education***

- Developing and implementing a public awareness program
- Introducing disaster awareness training in schools
- Developing and disseminating a range of disaster awareness information

### **Phase 2- Emergency Response**

The response management requirements for the emergency phase involves the bringing together in an integrated organizational network the resources of the many agencies who can take appropriate and timely action for the following activities:

#### ***Command, control and coordination***

- Ensuring that the Primary and support agencies are in attendance or have been notified and are responding to the emergency.
- Ensuring that effective control has been established at the emergency scene.
- Activating the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre.
- Ensuring the appropriate coordination of resources and services.
- Sending regular situation report to the NDMO.
- Ensuring that consideration has been given to alerting the community establishing casualty procedures.
- Considering the need for international assistance.

#### ***Search and Rescue***

- Conducting rescue , evacuation and recovery operations as necessary.

#### ***Evacuation and Relief***

- Activating evacuation points/areas and distributing relief supplies.
- Providing relief and medical supplies to disaster victims.
- Undertaking rehabilitation activities.

#### ***Recovery***

- Identifying immediate community and individual needs.
- Developing recovery plans based on community needs and priorities.
- Implementing agreed recovery management arrangements as required.
- Preparing damage assessment reports.

### **Phase 3- Post Disaster Phase**

Once the emergency situation has been brought under control the following post disaster activities should occur:

- Providing relief and recovery services as necessary.
- Providing restoration and rehabilitation assistance to disaster victims.
- Conducting an inventory of resources.
- Preparing evaluation reports and implementing improvement strategies.

## **Planning Review Process**

The provincial Disaster Risk Management Committee is responsible for ensuring that the Provincial Plan is tested on a regular basis to ensure that it is workable and effective and that a thorough and accurate post disaster review is conducted following any activation of the Plan.

## **DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DM PLAN**

One of the main functions of the NDMO is to create a good climate for cooperation and to build a culture for coordination between various sectors in disaster management. Organizations, which have been developed at the central and provincial levels, function through a focal Point, which initiates monthly or bi-monthly meetings through the NDMO.

As a central coordination point, the NDPMO will set up a link with the provincial authorities. A good example to mention here is from the floods of 2000 and 2001, where the information and data collection of the flood was conducted more effectively with more satisfaction and accuracy when compared with previous years.

Following the production of damage and needs assessment information, relief and rehabilitation activities are jointly implemented by the concerned organizations. Central Ministries deliver food, rice, vegetables seeds and medicine to the Provincial Disaster Management Committees who then distribute this to the district level. In fact, the measures taken after the floods in 2000 and 2001 could be seen as one progressing step forward in terms of coordination and collaboration of actions between several agencies implementing disaster management activities.

Nevertheless, the present organizational structures need further improvement of its programs in many areas, such as:

1. Strengthen policy support from government and leaders of the country.
2. Determination of roles and responsibilities within local institutions.
3. Development of Action Plans of various sectors and local level organizations, with consideration of local priorities and resources for Disaster Preparedness.
4. Establishment of coordination rules amongst DM Agencies and with other sectors.
5. Identification of the role and function of NGOs in DM.
6. Continuation of building the capacity of local government officials and partners of NGO staff on DM.
7. Regional and international cooperation.

Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Peace Independence Unity Prosperity  
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Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare

No: 097 / NDMO

Dated: 30 / 6 / 2000

**The assignment to the members of  
National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC)**

- Based on the Prime Minister Decree of establishment of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (No: 04/PM dated 22 January 1999).
- Referring to the meeting of the national Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) dated 14 December 1999.

The chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) assigns Role and Responsibility to the members of NDMC as follows:

**Article 1: Chairman:**

- Represent for Government to organize DM activities.
- Making situation report on Disaster Management to the Government.
- Calling for regular meeting of NDMC and special meeting with partners (if needed)

**Article 2: Vice chairman – representative Min. of Agriculture and Forestry**

- Establishment Focal Point (FP) within MAF.
- Responsible for warning (by Meteorology and Climate Forecasting)
- Responsible for mitigation and recovery of agriculture in post disaster period.

**Article 3: Vice chairman – Rep. Min. of Foreign Affair**

- Establishment FP with MFA.
- Responsible for mobilizing external emergency assistance in case needed.

**Article 4: Rep. Min. National Defense – Member:**

- Establishment FP within MND, Region ND, Provincial ND, District ND, Military Hospital...
- Responsible for participation of Arm forces in rescue and evacuation.
- Responsible for training and Simulation exercise on rescue for Arm Force and Public.

**Article 5: Rep. Min. of Interior – Member:**

- Establishment FP within MOI, Provincial DI , District DI and....

- Responsible for rescue teams.
- Organization the training course of DM and simulation exercise for police officers and public.
- Participation of security forces in rescue and mitigation activities.

**Article 6: Rep. Min. of Finance – Member**

- Establishment FP within MF.
- Responsible for emergency fund for DM.
- On behalf of NDMC – Request recovery fund for Post Disaster Activities.

**Article 7: Rep. Min. of Communication , Transport , Post and Construction (CTPC)- Member**

- Establishment FP within MCTPC.
- Responsible for transport and road network for DM.
- Responsible for warning action through CTPC Network (if needed).
- Responsible for enforcement of building code , environmental Protection code for city , Town and Community.

**Article 8: Rep. Min. of Health - Member**

- Establishment within MH in the provincial HD , District HD , Institution , Hospital...
- Supervision of participation of medical personal in rescue and relief.
- Responsible for preparation of equipment and resources for DM.
- Responsible for epidemic control in post Disaster Term.
- Provide training on DM for medical personnel.

**Article 9: Rep. of Min. of Industry – Member**

- Establishment FP within MI.
- Supervision of Safety cope enforcement for factories , Industrial workshop.
- Supervision of using dangerous chemicals and storage Toxic Waste.
- Promotion DM training on Industrial accident.

**Article 10: Rep. Min. of Information and Culture – Member**

- Establishment FP within MIC , Provincial DIC, District DIC, Institutions.
- Responsible for broadcasting of emergency, warning , resuce , relief through media.
- Responsible for developing radio , TV, programs on DM.

**Article 11: Rep. Min. of Education -Member**

- Establishment FP within MOE , Provincial ED, District ED, University, Colleges and Schools.
- Responsible for putting DM Concept into education program, Organize training and workshop on DM for Educational personals, teachers and students.

- Supervision evacuation activities for student on case of Disaster occur, taking decision of using school for temporary shelter.

**Article 12: Rep. Lao Red Cross Society (LRCS) - Member**

- Establishment FP within LRCS and provincial branches.
- Supervision data collection and damage assessment.
- Supervision the participation of LR voluntary teams on rescue and emergency relief.
- Mobilization the assistance from Internal and External source for relief.  
Cooperation on training , workshop m public awareness and education on DM.

**Article 13: Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare**

- Secretariat of NDMC – National Disaster Management Office within Social Welfare Dept. Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare is a coordination center for Internal and External affair on disaster management.
- Coordination of Activities on Disaster Preparedness , Organization of Rescue, Relief during Disaster and implementation of After – Disaster Mitigation work
- Promotion in Country DM training activity for Government officials and public.
- Coordination and Production of annual report on DM.
- During disaster, coordination and organization of Shelter, Food and material supply.

**Article 14:** The chairman obligate the task to member of NDMC and NDMO to successfully implement this assignment.

**Article 15:** This Assignment comes into force since signed.

The Chairman of National Disaster Management Committee  
**Minister of Labor and Social Welfare**

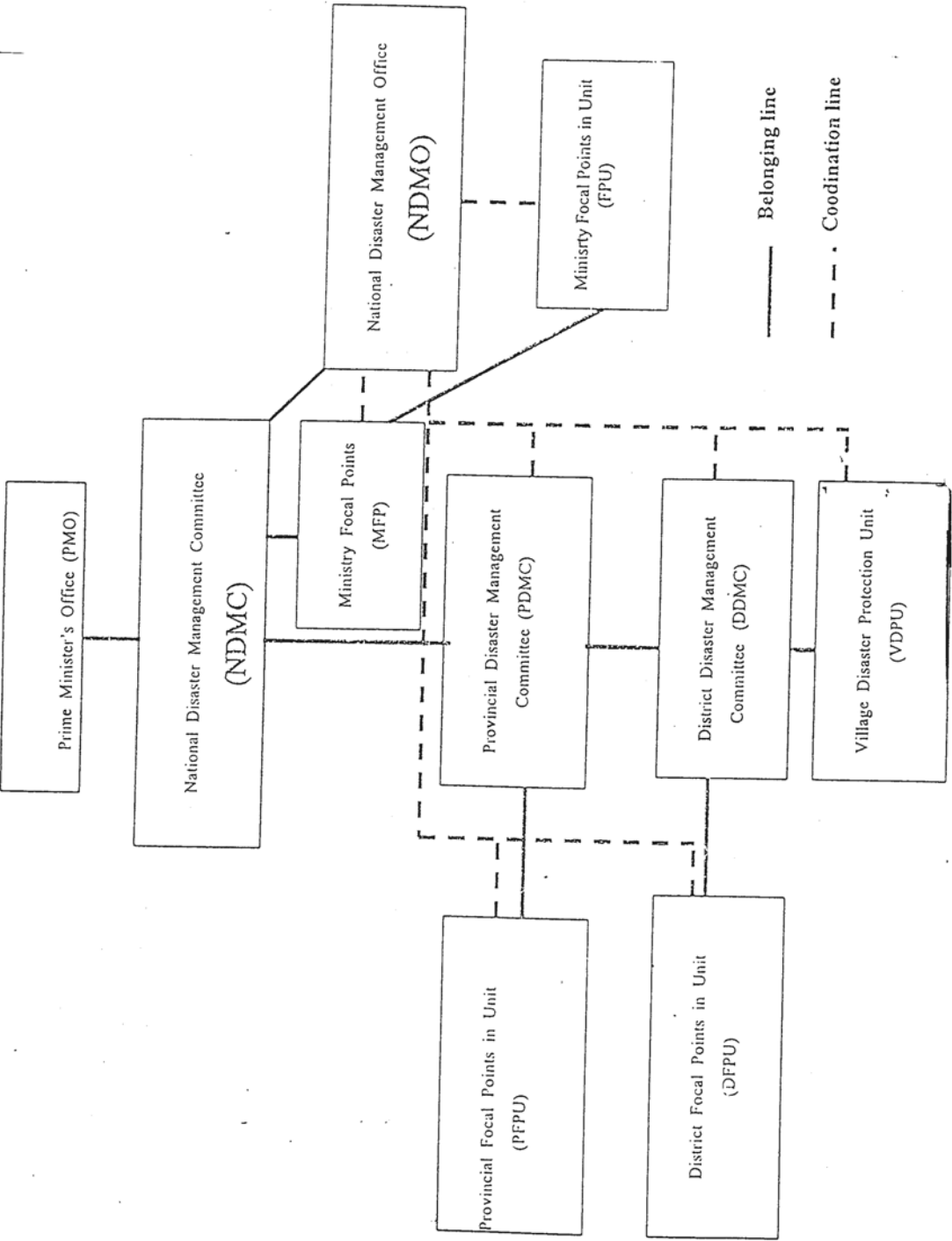
(Non official translation)

Mr. Somphanh PHENGKHAEMY





**Diagram of Organization of Disaster Management in Lao PDR**



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Prime Minister

No: 158/PM

**DECREE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF  
NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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Based on:

- The constitution of Lao PDR
- Refer to the need of DM activities in Lao PDR in order to have more efficiency on DM and relief activities
- The Proposal of Ministry of labor and Social Welfare No: 767/ MSF dated March 25 , 1999.
- The Consideration of Party Central Committee Organization Board

**Prime Minister issues decree:**

**Article 1:** Establishing National Disaster Management Committee, which complies of persons as follow:

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare  | President      |
| 2. Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry   | Vice President |
| 3. Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affair  | Vice President |
| 4. Chief Cabinet, Ministry of National Defense   | Member         |
| 5. Chief Cabinet, Ministry of Interior   | Member         |
| 6. Director of Budget, Department , Ministry of Finance  | Member         |
| 7. Director of Transport Department, Ministry of Communication,<br>Transport , Post and Construction | Member         |
| 8. Director of Industry Department, Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts                             | Member         |
| 9. Director of Hygiene Department, Ministry of Health  | Member         |
| 10. Director of Mass Media Department , Ministry of Information and<br>Culture                       | Member         |
| 11. Chief of Cabinet , Ministry of Education   | Member         |
| 12. President of Lao Red Cross   | Member         |
| 13. Director of Social Welfare Department, MLSW  | Member         |

The member of NDMC have been nominated by their job position, have no permanent office and under Government direction.

**Article 2:** Roles and Responsibilities

1. Responsible for disaster preparedness and management as a center of country coordination of DM activities.
2. Prepare Policy plan and present to the Government for consideration.
3. Responsible for information and data collection of disaster and making mitigation plan.
4. Mobilization of funding support , technical and material assistance from individuals, organization, private and public sectors of internal or outside country DM activities.
5. Responsible for Public awareness and Public education activities in order to strengthen preparedness, reduce the harm effect of Disaster-Responsible and for adopting Disaster Management Environmental Protection concepts into Education curricular.
6. Responsible for organization Rescue, Relief activities and other project for Prevention , Responses, Mitigation by using Government fund and assistance from Governments, International and Private Organization, NGOs.
7. Recommendation to Provincial Governors for establishing Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC) , District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) and help strengthen their capacity.

**Article 3:** National Disaster Management Committee has Secretary office. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) within Social Welfare Department , Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. The Mandate and Responsibilities of NDO will be assigned by NDMC.

**Article 4:** National Disaster Management Office has seal as official Status.

**Article 5:** National Disaster management institution in Laos is branches in all administrative level from central , Provincial , District and some villages which are located in vulnerable to Disaster areas.

**Article 6:** Prime Minister Obligate to the PM cabinet , Central Party Organization Board, Ministries, Government and Party Organization , Private Sectors and Partners concerned to implement this Decree.

**Article 7:** The Decree is going into force from it signed.

Vientiane , dated 23 August , 1999  
Prime Minister of Lao PDR

(Non official Translation)

Mr. Sisavath Keobounphanh