



Health center during the flood.



**Save the Children**

# Strengthening Climate Resilience of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) Health System

## Context and Background

The projected changes in climate in Lao PDR are expected to impact the health sector directly (through more frequent and intense EWEs that damage health facility infrastructure, including for water, sanitation, and hygiene [WASH] services) and indirectly (by creating conditions that increase the incidence of certain diseases, including dengue and diarrheal disease), which will ultimately place new demands on the health system.

Recognizing the importance of the transition to a climate resilient health system in Lao PDR, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is supporting the effort to adapt the health system to the impacts of climate change with a new project Strengthening Climate Resilience of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) Health System. Developed and designed over 3 years by Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion, Lao PDR Ministry of Health, WHO and Save the Children International in Laos *the project represents the first health project in the world funded by the GCF.*

## Project Objectives:

The general objective is to contribute to overall socio-economic development of the Lao PDR specifically increasing the climate resilience of the Lao PDR health system in 7 provinces.

## Expected Outcome:

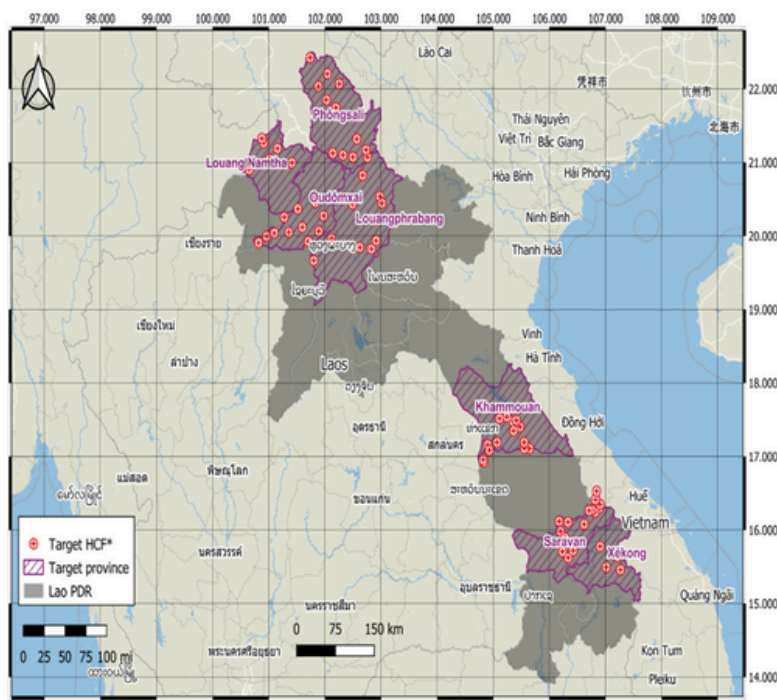
The project aims to achieve impact via four interlinked outcomes, each representing one project component, with mitigation, health, and gender co-benefits anticipated. The outcomes correspond to the three infrastructure levels of resilient health systems: institutional, built, and social infrastructure.

**Outcome 1:** The health system's governance and leadership is climate resilient.

**Outcome 2:** Health Information Systems are improved to include climate and weather data and used to track, prepare for, and reduce climate-related risks to health.

**Outcome 3:** Health service delivery in rural provinces is improved and able to manage climate-related disease burden and determinants of health.

**Outcome 4:** Communities respond to early warnings, manage and mitigate risk, and seek care appropriately.



The project will be implemented in 7 provinces, 25 districts, 100 Health Care Facilities and 250 villages.



**Main partner:**  
Ministry of Health  
• Department of Health and Hygiene Promotion



**Donor:**  
Green Climate Fund

## Project Target

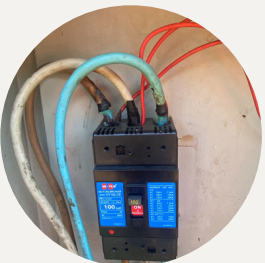
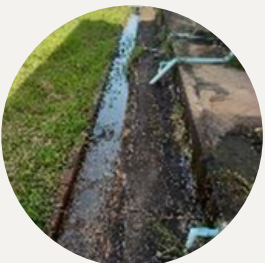
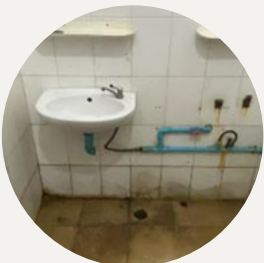
Geographic Coverage	Estimated Reach	Duration of Project	Total Allocation
25 Climate vulnerable district under 7 provinces across 3 regions	1.85 million individuals	5 Years (2024- 2029)	28.2 million GCF – 25 million Match – 3.2 million

## An Opportunity for Parallel Financing:

From a climate perspective, the health sector in Lao PDR is highly vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change. The country is expected to experience future climate-related changes including increases in mean temperatures, higher incidence of hot days, decreased incidence in the number of rainy days, higher incidence of unpredictable and intense precipitation, sea level rise and extreme weather events.

Though this project takes a comprehensive replicable approach, working at national and subnational levels using four interconnected approaches with a strong focus on the infrastructure needs of rural healthcare facilities but there are still gaps in approach and making a holistic change to the overall system to establish a robust climate resilience system in Lao PDR.

Current  
condition  
of  
healthcare  
facilities



## Proposed Activities for Financing:

Strengthen the WASH interventions of healthcare facilities by ensuring clean water, hygiene promotion and waste management which has been a significant gap in Lao PDR. This proposed initiative will look into advanced handling of medical wastes and provide resilience to climate related health issues through a robust monitoring and management lens. This will include:

- Installing bio-filters to treat the surface water and supply to healthcare facilities.
- Improving the sanitation system by strengthening WASH interventions of the rural healthcare facilities.
- Medical waste management and creation of landfill site/treatment plant to process wastes which will support in reducing greenhouse gas.
- Introduction of renewable energy sources to maintain uninterrupted services to the health facilities.

Children consultation in mitigating the health impacts due to climate change as children are the most vulnerable to the phenomenon and has less information about their role during such incidents. Under this proposal we are aiming to provide:

- School level awareness on climate change and vulnerability which has significant health impacts and capacity strengthening of the students on mitigating risks at the community level.
- Parent-Teacher group creation and training on climate related health impacts for community awareness.

Strengthen the existing rural and urban healthcare facilities of Lao PDR with climate responsive materials which will support in reducing the impact of GHG and transforming into a robust facility to support during climate related disasters.

Strengthen community resilience through testing and scale-up of solutions to prevent climate-related diseases, we will leverage climate early warning systems, developed with GCF support, to introduce climate-resilient solutions for communities that will reduce climate-related health risks, such as:

- Testing and scaling strategies to manage water resource and protect crop yields.
- Scaling up evidence-based caregiver practices to prevent malnutrition, dengue fever and diarrheal disease among infants and young children.
- Generating nature-based solutions to mitigate flood and drought risks.

Support national efforts to quantify and reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the Lao PDR health system, we will complete the first ever GHG emissions assessment within the Lao PDR health system. Assessment results will inform the development of GHG emissions reduction and energy saving targets for health facilities and will contribute to the Government of Lao PDR's development of a National Carbon Mitigation Plan, in line with their COP26 commitment to develop a sustainable, low-carbon health system by 2030.

Build the capacity of frontline health care workers to improve climate-related health services for marginalized, rural populations. we will enhance the capacity of 1,000 frontline health care workers across Lao PDR to prevent, diagnose and treat climate-related diseases (dengue, diarrhea, malnutrition, heat illness) within the marginalized, rural communities that have been hardest hit by climate change. This funding will support policy and strategy development within the Ministry of Health as well as the development and implementation of training and coaching models for frontline health care workers stationed throughout climate-vulnerable locations in Lao PDR.