**Disaster Law Overview – Lao PDR**

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| Legal Framework for Disaster Management and Response | There are no disaster management acts with legal effect to date (to the knowledge of the IFRC). |
| Operational DM Frameworks (e.g. SOPS and other non-binding instruments) | 1. Roles and responsibilities of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and each member of National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) are defined in the internal Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) [**Decree No. 097/MLSW**](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15958_ministryofsocialwelfaredecreeonndmc.pdf)   (LRCS is included as a member) |
| National Disaster Management Agency (or other lead Government Agency for disaster management or disaster law) | **National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC)** established by the [Prime Minister’s Decree No. 158/PM](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/22033_15958ndmcpmdecree1.pdf)  **Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MoNRE)** has the Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change (DDMCC) which is tasked with developing the new national disaster risk management and climate change law. |
| Other relevant lead agencies | 1. **Ministry of Defence** –Evacuation and rescue, essential medical assistance 2. **Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare** – Responsible for the management of the National Disaster Management Office for organizing and coordinating preparedness, prevention, mitigation and recovery activities, acting as the centre for disaster management information, assessments, collection and production of reports on an annual basis; and coordination of organizing of relief supplies, shelter and other resources following a disaster episode; supports all activities in the National Disaster Management Plan linked to the NDMC, NDMO and the MLSW. 3. **Water Resources and Environment Administration (WREA)** 4. **Ministry of Public Security** –responsible for coordinating the direct involvement of medical teams in emergency operations offering first aid and health care in addition to preparing death certificates of disaster victims, responsible for hygiene and disease vector control. 5. **Ministry of Foreign Affairs –** Responsible of seeking international assistance following permission from the Lao PDR government, liaison with the NDMC in order to ensure collaborative efforts for disaster risk reduction and preparedness, develop operating procedures to fast track the requests for aid, facilitate deployment of international response teams, and receipt of relief in case of an emergency; develop and maintain inventory of Embassy focal points for disaster preparedness and other aid giving organizations in order to quickly organize requests for assistance in case of disaster; Coordinate with foreign countries to receive aid in the case of a major catastrophe; Coordinate withinternational technical organizations and relevant UN agencies to receive technical and financial assistance for disaster risk reduction and preparedness. 6. **Ministry of Public Health** – Prepare and implement hospital disaster preparedness plan for such facilities to be able to deal with emergency situations; Prepare plans and SOPs for tracking and evacuations of mass casualties as a result of a major disaster, establish Emergency Medical Cells to ensure better coordination in disaster situations, set-up medical camps and organise Medical Mobile Teams (MMTs) to be sent to the scene of disaster with minimum delay, ensure communication links between hospitals and the scene of disaster 7. **Ministry of Public Works and Transport** – Work alongside several other first responder government agencies to effectively and efficiently deal with the effects of disasters 8. **Ministry of Education** –Responsible for the evacuation of students and general population to emergency shelters in schools in the event of a disaster. 9. **Lao Red Cross** – Responsible for initiating rapid assessments and producing disaster information following a disaster event; responsible for joint emergency operations in rescue and relief provision for disaster affected persons. 10. **Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC)** 11. **District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC)** 12. **Village Disaster Protection Unit (VDPU)** |
| Role of **Lao Red Cross Society (LRCS)** in national disaster management arrangements | As provided for in Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) [**Decree No. 097/MLSW**](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15958_ministryofsocialwelfaredecreeonndmc.pdf)   1. Establishment of focal point within LRCS and provincial branches. 2. Supervision of data collection and damage assessment. 3. Supervision the participation of LR voluntary teams on rescue and emergency relief. 4. Mobilization of assistance from Internal and External source for relief. 5. Cooperation on training , workshop and public awareness and education on DM. |
| Red Cross Law | **Prime Minister’s decree No. 188/1993**  **Prime Minister’s decree No. 36/1999** |