

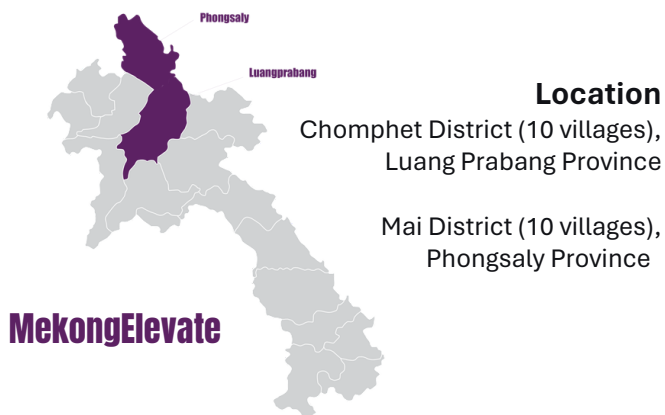
MekongElevate: Ethnic Communities Leading Inclusive Climate Action Project in Luang Prabang and Phongsaly Province



BACKGROUND

MekongElevate aims to strengthen the climate resilience of upland communities in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The project focuses on supporting ethnic groups, including women, youth, and people with disability from ethnic backgrounds across six border provinces of the three countries. The project addresses critical challenges in remote upland communities of Lao PDR, where populations rely heavily on agriculture and face severe impacts from climate change. High-altitude ethnic communities—including Hmong, Khmu, and Akha groups—are highly vulnerable to changing climate conditions, which threaten food security and livelihoods, and can lead to a continuous cycle of environmental degradation.

In Lao PDR, implementation will take place across 20 villages in two districts of Luang Prabang and Phongsaly Provinces. These communities represent a diverse population of nearly 7,000 individuals, primarily female farmers, who will benefit from improved adaptive capacities and socio-economic stability. CARE works globally to end poverty and achieve social justice. In Lao PDR, CARE partners with communities, government agencies, and civil society to empower vulnerable populations—especially women and girls—through inclusive development and resilience-building.



Location

Chomphet District (10 villages),
Luang Prabang Province

Mai District (10 villages),
Phongsaly Province

MekongElevate

TimeFrame: April 23, 2026 until 31 May 2029

Beneficiaries:

- **LuangPrabang Province:** totaling 4,713 persons (2,222 females)
- **Phongsaly Province:** totaling 2,209 persons (1,119 females)

Partners

LuangPrabang & Phongsaly Provincial Agriculture and Environment Office



OBJECTIVES

To build the capacity of mountainous communities, especially women, youth, and people with disabilities, in coping with the impacts of the climate crisis in the lower Mekong region, which is economically and environmentally interconnected.

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OUTCOMES

- **Activities 1.1:** Conducting joined research aimed at selecting market-aligned, environmentally friendly agricultural production practices.
- Activities 1.2:** Establish Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA)
- Activities 1.3:** Establish agricultural production groups by promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) techniques.
- Activities 1.4:** Organize exchange visits to build a network for agricultural production groups, allowing them to exchange knowledge and learn from one another, in order to support the adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) techniques.
- Activities 1.5:** Promote the use of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) techniques by private sector companies in their supply chains.
- Activities 1.6:** Provide seeds and equipment to women, youth, and people with disabilities who are members of agricultural production groups, to encourage the use of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) techniques in improving livelihoods.
- Activities 1.7:** Promote opportunities for government partners and community representatives to participate in regional learning exchanges regarding Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA).

- **Activity 2.1:** Promote the use of Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA) for disaster relief.
- Activity 2.2:** Collaborate with government partners to integrate access to safety nets for responding to loss and damage from disasters into emergency response plans.
- Activity 2.3:** Conduct an assessment of the effectiveness and gaps in the safety nets and plans for responding to disaster-related loss and damage for communities.
- Activity 2.4:** Collaborate with the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute and an Australian research institute to conduct research on methods for coping with disaster loss and damage.
- Activity 2.5:** Support the development of policies on responding to loss and damage and informal safety nets, based on research findings and assessments that align with regional adaptation plans, social protection policies, and disaster risk reduction plans.

- **Activity 3.1:** Conduct training with an emphasis on leadership skills for women, youth, and people with disabilities participating in project activities. This activity will provide leadership training related to climate change response for district and provincial partners, including women, youth, and people with disabilities in the project's target villages.
- Activity 3.2:** Support ethnic women, youth, and people with disabilities to develop articles or stories reflecting their needs and proposals for sustainable climate change adaptation.
- Activity 3.3:** Promote the leadership of ethnic women, youth, and people with disabilities so they can overcome challenges arising from traditional practices that are obstacles to development.
- Activity 3.4:** Organize a regional platform in Cambodia or in Vietnam for ethnic women, youth, and people with disabilities to exchange experiences and practices on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) techniques and the utilization of strategies for responding to Loss and Damage from disasters.
- Activity 3.5:** Support women, youth, and people with disabilities, government partners at provincial and district levels to participate in policy dialogues, meetings, and forums to ensure their involvement in climate change adaptation decision-making processes at various levels.

IMPACTS

- **Outcome 1:** Increased adoption of proven Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) strategies and innovations that strengthen livelihood resilience among ethnic minorities (EM) communities.
- Outcome 2:** Enhanced safety net for EM communities to cope with unavoidable loss and damage from extreme weather events
- Outcome 3:** Amplified voices of ethnic minority women, youth, and people with disabilities in sub-national, national, and regional climate-related decision-making processes.

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