

People-centred approach in integrated flood risk management in Lower Mekong Basin

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Abstract The countries in the Lower Mekong River Basin (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam) are home to approximately 60 million people. Floods along the Mekong every year have the potential to directly endanger life; cause millions of dollars worth of damage to property; and put people at increased risk of poverty, malnutrition and disease. At the same time, they are an important and essential natural process, bringing water, nutrients and other benefits to flood plains, wetlands and ecosystems. The people-centred approach taken under the Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP) of Mekong River Commission (MRC) shows how the increased capacity of the key officials of the Provincial, District and Commune Committee for Disaster Management (DM) in the lower Mekong Basin has helped the country overcome the losses due to annual Mekong flooding.

Key words flood preparedness; Lower Mekong Basin; ADPC; MRCS; emergency management