National statistical agencies and census bureaus in each Lower Mekong country have been collecting general census data periodically, but specific data on the contribution of water resources to livelihoods and local economies are still largely lacking, due to the complexity of measuring and monitoring changes in livelihood strategies, and lack of recognition of their economic and social significance. Data on livelihood strategies, adaptation capacity and resilience is generally not collected, analyzed and organized systematically, particularly at national and regional scales. While many other national and regional programs and initiatives have been trying to develop such an understanding, efforts are still fragmented.

With the rapid emergence of large-scale water-related infrastructure projects and imminent threats of climate and land use changes, improving socioeconomic data collection, analysis, and application has become even more critical for water resources planning and decision-making. There is a growing need to better understand the impacts of such projects on livelihoods and populations.
In response to these needs, SIP manages a capacity-building program on Mekong Water-related Socioeconomic Data Development in cooperation with key partners, to build collective capacity among regional organizations, Lower Mekong agencies, research institutes, and related stakeholders. The program is designed as a long-term approach which complements and strengthens the capacity of responsible agencies and existing initiatives. Engagement with local community stakeholders and an open data platform are foundations of the program.

**Products and activities to be delivered by the program include:**

- Stakeholder dialogues and training events on Mekong water-related socioeconomic data development
- Extensive review and analysis of existing methodologies and socioeconomic data, resulting in recommendations on how to complement existing initiatives
- Creation of a consortium of water scientists, social scientists, economists and data experts to explore potential approaches to simplify and develop sound local monitoring and surveying methodologies
- Testing and pilots of field surveys in different sub-basins in the Lower Mekong
- Online open platform and user-friendly Mekong water-related socioeconomic data portal

**RESOURCES**


**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SIP AND CONTACT DETAILS, VISIT:**

- SIP Official Program Website: www.LMI-SIP.MekongWater.org
- SIP Program Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LowerMekongInitiativeSIP

This activity is one of several that operate under SIP to strengthen Lower Mekong regional and national capacity to manage and monitor environmental, social and economic resources.