

BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR RESILIENT RECOVERY

Project Background

Lao People's Democratic Republic is a land-linked country, located in the heart of the Indochina peninsula in Southeast Asia. The country is bordered by Myanmar and the People's Republic of China to the northwest, Vietnam to the east, Cambodia to the south and Thailand to the west. Lao PDR covers a total area of 236,800 sq km and has a population of 6.5 million spread across 18 provinces with approximately 67% of the population living in rural areas.

This Least Developed Country is regularly affected by typhoons (storms), floods, flash-floods, droughts, landslides, earthquakes, epidemics and UXO contamination which have negatively impacted its development growth. Flooding is the major cause of disasters in Lao PDR - both in terms of frequency and intensity. Floods in the central and southern parts of the country and flash floods in the northern part of the country occur on a yearly basis.



Villagers escaping to safety after a flood in Attapeu Province in 2018. Photo: Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism

Project Summary:

- **Duration:** June 2018 – September 2021
- **Geographic coverage:** Bolikhamxay Province and Saravan Province
- **Focus area:** Disaster recovery and resilience
- **Implementing partners:** Department of Social Welfare of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

In August 2008, the Mekong River exceeded historical levels and reached its highest peak in 100 years. Typhoon Ketsana in 2009 caused reported economic losses of USD 100 million and Typhoon Haima in 2011 losses of USD 663,095,594. A major drought event affected 730,000 people in 1988. In 2018, tropical storms Son-Tinh and Bebinca and an unprecedented flash flood due to a breaching of a saddle dam in Attapeu Province resulted in flooding and related impacts across most of the country. Annually, average expected losses from disasters are estimated at USD 30 million, which amounts to 0.7% GDP.

The country's reliance on extractive uses of natural resources exacerbates the country's vulnerability to climate disasters. Early warning systems and data management are weak and climate risks are not well integrated into rural and agricultural development policies. Resilience at the community level is low due to the prevalence of monoculture, lack of diversity in livelihoods and limited infrastructure. (UNDP Country Programme Document 2017-2021).

Main Objectives and Outcomes

Objective: Enhancing Lao PDR's preparedness for disaster recovery at the national and sub-national level by strengthening the already existing mechanisms and by introducing new mechanisms for disaster recovery and resilience.

Outcome 1: Strengthened policy, institutional and financial frameworks to plan and implement sustainable recovery processes.

Outcome 2: Enhanced capacity in recovery planning and implementation including conducting post-disaster needs assessments and developing recovery frameworks.

Outcome 3: Enhanced capacity to implement sustainable recovery at community-level.

Outcome 4: Systematized body of knowledge and technological innovation for recovery management.

Results and Achievements to Date

Provincial and district level government officials were sensitised on pilot testing of an SMS-based early warning system, which will be utilized to build resilience of vulnerable communities in the targeted provinces. UNDP successfully signed contract agreements with four private sector national telecommunication networks in Laos for the implementation of the early warning system. Through support from the project, UNDP and DSW-MLSW facilitated consultative meetings across the north, central and southern provinces to develop Lao PDR's Law on Disaster Prevention and Control. After a final round of provincial consultation covering provinces around the country, the Law is currently being translated to English from the initial draft developed in Lao language.

Contact Information

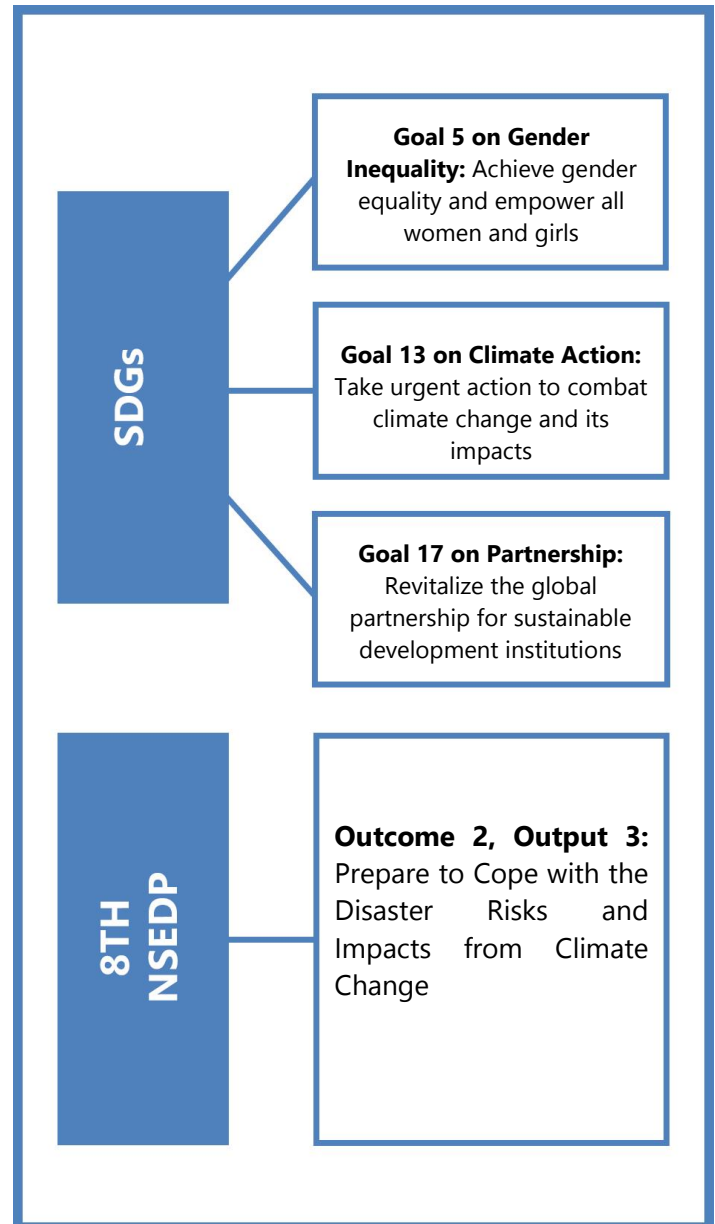
Mr. Justin J. Shone
Team Leader, Natural Resources Management, Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and UXO
Tel: (856 21) 267709
E-mail: justin.shone@undp.org

Ms. Aksonethip Somvorachit
Communications Analyst
Tel: (856 21) 267778
E-mail: aksonethip.somvorachit@undp.org

Funding:

- **Total project budget (2018-2021):** USD 955,964
- **Donor:** Luxembourg: USD 603,636
- **Co-financing:**
 - Government (In-kind):** USD 219,928
 - ADB (Parallel):** USD 122,000
 - IFRC (Parallel):** USD 25,268

[Link to Sustainable Development and the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan](#)



**Sustainable
Development
Goals**

