

SUPPORT TO FLOOD RESPONSE EFFORT- EARLY RECOVERY PROGRAMMING (ATTAPEU 1+2)

Project Background

On 18 and 19 July, Tropical Storm Son-Tinh caused heavy rains and flooding in 55 districts of 13 provinces across northern, central and southern Lao PDR. An unprecedented flash flood occurred on the night of 23-24 July in Attapeu Province due to the breaching of a saddle dam of the Xe Pien -Xe Nam Noy hydropower dam. Over five billion cubic meters of water, equal to two million Olympic swimming pools, inundated an estimated 55,000 hectares of land covering it with mud and sludge. Initial air and ground assessment results led the Prime Minister of Lao PDR to declare Sanamxay district of Attapeu Province as a National Emergency Disaster Zone.

The Government led the response through an *ad hoc* National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and welcomed international support. Development partners and members of the Humanitarian Country Team augmented national response efforts and a Disaster Response Plan has been launched on August 07, 2018. In a Crisis Board Meeting held on July 26, 2018, a crisis of the highest level was declared, and UNDP Lao PDR was granted USD 200,000. These funds are being used to continue support for coordination and planning for early recovery; implementing damage and loss assessments; and implementing early recovery initiatives. These funds are also utilized as seed funding to leverage additional resources for recovery initiatives and build linkages for long term recovery. UNDP has also enhanced the capacity of its country office by deploying several disaster and emergency experts.

Main Objectives and Outcomes

Objective: The objective of the project is to support the government of Lao PDR in the immediate response to the devastating floods in Attapeu Province.

Project Summary:

- **Duration:** August 2018 – July 2019
- **Geographic coverage:** Attapeu Province and other provinces
- **Focus area:** Response and recovery
- **Implementing partner:** UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

implementation of early recovery activities and programmatic responses to the disaster.

Outcome 1: Effective coordination and planning for response.

Outcome 2: Post-Disaster Needs Assessment conducted in Sanamxay District and preparation of Early Recovery Framework.

Outcome 3: Implementation of the early recovery strategy for Sanamxay District.

Outcome 4: Administration and project management operations.

Outcome 5: Equipment and materials provided for emergency response.

Outcome 6: UXO Clearance conducted in the flood area.



An aid delivery vehicle stuck in the mud in Attapeu Province. Photo: UNICEF Lao PDR

Results and Achievements to Date

1. Support to the PDNA process: In the aftermath of the floods, the project provided critical support to the completion of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), which was requested and led by the Government in partnership with the World Bank, the EU and several UN agencies. To ensure the efficiency of the process, the project provided the newly-established PDNA secretariat with a PDNA specialist. After a timely and well-coordinated data collection period, the findings of the PDNA were presented at the end of 2018 and showed damages and losses amounting to USD 370 million and needs amounting to USD 520 million.

2. Victims assistance: With funds received from UNOCHA, the project provided kitchen kits to flood victims in Attapeu Province. A grant received from the Australian Embassy was used for UXO clearance and raising UXO risk awareness among flooded communities vulnerable to the hazards of UXO.

3. Capacity building for the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare: To strengthen the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare's capacity to respond to future natural disasters, the project purchased and donated multi-purpose rescue vehicles, IT equipment and other useful tools to its Emergency Operations Centre and renovated some of its facilities. Before the completion of the project, a training on utilizing satellite imagery during emergency response will also be conducted.

Contact Information

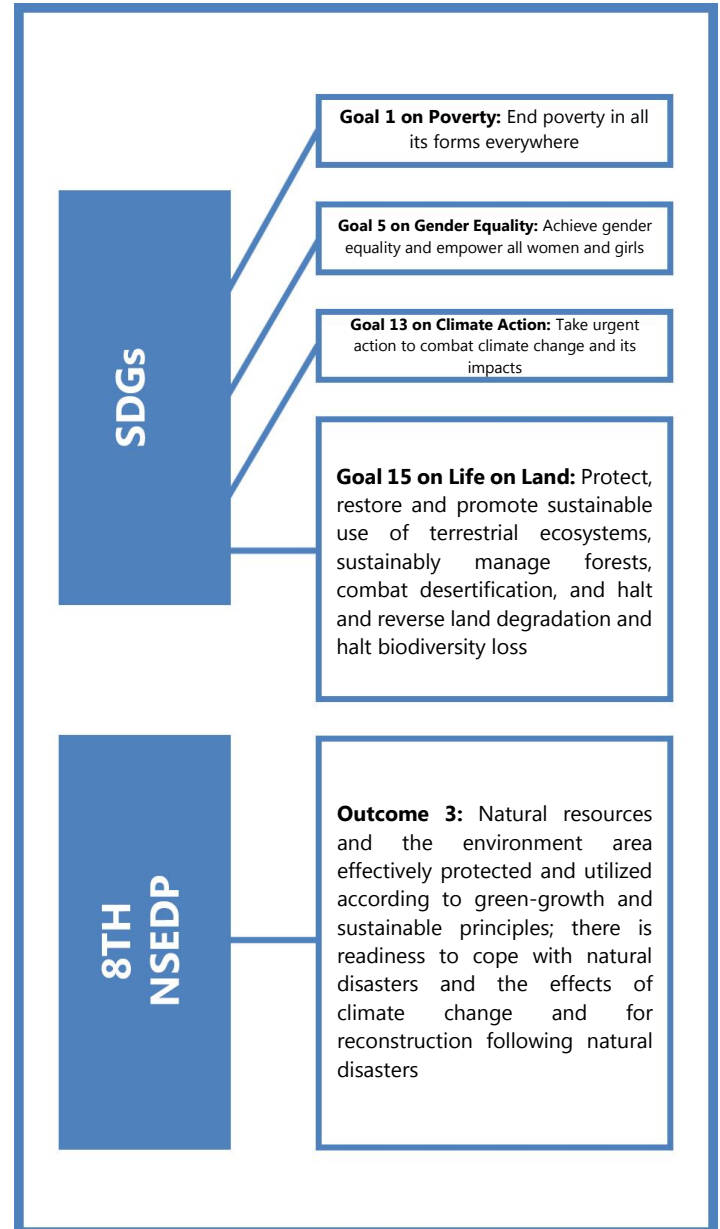
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Funding:

- **Total project budget (2019-2020):** USD 430,311.42
- **UNDP:** USD 200,000
- **Australia:** USD 145,666.42
- **Turkey:** USD 25,000
- **UNOCHA:** USD 59,645

Link to Sustainable Development and the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan



Sustainable
Development
Goals

