

## Workshop on the Understanding the Sendai Framework in coherence with the SDGs in Lao PDR: Towards the implementation of the national disaster risk reduction strategy and Sendai Framework Monitoring

...“the priority for the international community must be prevention ... prevention of natural disasters and a certain number of other forms and other threats that undermine the well-being of the population of our planet.”<sup>1</sup>

- UN Secretary-General António Guterres

### Background and Introduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is the global blueprint for disaster risk reduction (DRR). Adopted at the Third UN World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in March 2015, it was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven global targets and four priorities for actions. The Sendai Framework reinforces the shift from managing disasters to managing risk, and also establishes resilience-building as a shared vision of the 2030 Agenda.

Specifically, the Sendai Framework calls for strong political leadership, commitment, and involvement of all stakeholders at all levels from local to national and international to pursue a goal to:

*“prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience”.*

Pursuit of such a comprehensive goal, requires a strategic approach and a well-defined plan to ensure efforts are coordinated, while still being inclusive of whole-of-society, and to ensure resources are efficiently used across all sectors and by all stakeholders. Reflecting this foundational requirement, Target E of the Sendai Framework calls to “substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020”.<sup>2</sup> This precise target is shared with indicators of SDG 1 that calls for an end to poverty, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 13 on climate action.<sup>3</sup>

Within the guidance and spirit of the Sendai Framework, the UN member states have requested UNDRR to continue its mandate of facilitating the implementation, review and monitoring of the Framework. Accordingly, the UNDRR provides training on disaster risk reduction with affiliated organizations to countries and relevant stakeholders to improve understanding of the Sendai Framework, including planning for its implementation and use of relevant monitoring tools.

### Lao PDR Country Background

Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is a landlocked country located in Southeast Asia, bordering Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Myanmar and China in the North, the total land area covers approximately 236 800 km<sup>2</sup>,

<sup>1</sup> UN Secretary-General António Guterres' remarks at the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland, 19 January 2016

<sup>2</sup> Words Into Action Guidelines: “Developing a National DRR Strategy and Planning for Implementation”, Final Draft, Public Consultation Version to be released

<sup>3</sup> SDG Indicators: Official list of SDG indicators. See Sendai Framework target (e) as shared, repeated SDG indicators 1.5.3/11.b.2/13.1.1  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

comprising a wide range of ecosystems within varying levels of elevation. Due to the mountainous topography, only about 6.2 percent of the total land area classified as arable (CFE-DM, 2017). The western border largely follows along the Mekong river, which is also central for agricultural production due to the fertility of the river valleys. Administratively Lao PDR is divided three tiers, first level of which comprises 16 provinces and one municipality which hosts the capital city Vientiane, the provinces are further sub-divided into 142 districts, which comprise 11 390 villages (Government of Lao PDR, 2014).

Due to the tropical setting, the country is also exposed to a range of hazards, including droughts, floods and storms, costliest of which have taken place after 2009 (GFDRR, 2019). National risk profile of Lao PDR has identified seven major hazards which include the aforementioned, as well as epidemics, earthquakes and unexploded ordinances (UXOs) (NDMC, 2010). Of these, storms and flooding are most frequent occurrences during the monsoon season which runs from May to October, and most notable events include the Typhoon Ketsana in 2009 and Haima in 2011. Localized flooding has been reported in 2013, 2015, 2016 (UNDP, 2018) and most recently in 2018 during storm Son-Tinh. Major rivers such as the Mekong and Sekong flowing through the country contribute to these flood hazards as a significant number of settlements are located on the flood plains.

To tackle the emerging threats, the government has incorporated disaster and climate risk management into policies, institutions and national development plans to enhance resilience of various sectors, including in agriculture and environment, housing and transport (GFDRR, 2019), and has strived to mainstream elements of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities across national developments.

### Hazards and Risks

Lao PDR is susceptible to major hazards despite the relatively being low risks when compared to its neighbours. National risk profile of Lao PDR has identified seven major hazards which include storms, flooding droughts, as well as epidemics, earthquakes, landslides and unexploded ordinances (UXOs) (NDMC, 2010). One fourth of the area of Lao PDR is considered to be a high risk zone for earthquakes, and more than 30 percent of the country is located in a moderate earthquake hazard zone (NDMC, 2010). However, no significant earthquake-related disasters have been reported in the past (JICA, 2015).

While the mountainous regions separating Lao PDR and Viet Nam often protect the country from typhoon impacts, heavy rain, flooding and associated landslides still have the potential to result in losses of lives, property and production (Government of Lao PDR, 2014). Hydrometeorological hazards indeed form the greatest risk to the people, livelihoods, infrastructure and economy as flooding is common along the eight river basins across the country. Most vulnerable areas of the country are the low-lying flood plains along the Mekong River and its major tributaries in the central and southern parts of Lao PDR (Government of the Lao PDR, 2011). Also, and often correlating with high precipitation, landslides threaten approximately 5.24 percent of the country in the southeast and central part of the country due to steep topography and soil conditions (NDMC, 2010).

Droughts are also a significant risk in Lao PDR as they have the potential to impact hydrological cycles, and because they impact biodiversity, human health, hydroelectric power generation, and may lead to increased pollution, forced migration and increased prevalence of diseases (Miyam, 2015). Drastic reduction in rain-fed rice production in the Mekong lowlands has already been seen, and increasing numbers of people are at risk due to the adverse impacts of water scarcity and drought conditions (Miyam, 2015). However, the impacts of droughts are projected to significantly worse in the southern parts of the country (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment & WFP, 2016).

### Workshop Purpose

The overall purpose of this *Understanding the Sendai Framework in coherence with the SDGs in Lao PDR: Towards the implementation of the national disaster risk reduction strategy* and Sendai Framework Monitoring workshop is to strengthen understanding of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction requirements for

developing and adopting national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, in coherence with the SDGs, and to strengthen institutional mechanisms for implementation and monitoring mechanisms.

**Date:** Monday to Thursday (5 – 8 August 2019) - (3.5 Days)

**Venue:** The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR

**Organizers**

- Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee (Lao PDR)
- UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) - Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) and the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

**Target Audience**

Planning authorities and experts from national government across all offices and sectors responsible for understanding, implementing and monitoring disaster risk reduction, development, and climate change policy and programming. Members of the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee/National Platform<sup>4</sup> (multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination forum members (e.g. NGOs, CSOs, private sector, youth and other national actors within the country) and National Statistics Office; trainers from relevant academia and DRR training institutions.<sup>5</sup>

**Language Requirements:**

English-to-Lao simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://preventionweb.net/go/2964>

<sup>5</sup> See inter-sectoral recommended list of participants in UNDRR GETI Standard Operating Procedures

## Workshop Objectives and Expected Outcomes

### Objectives:

Overall, the training workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to:

- Refresh understanding of concepts and trends in disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation and sustainable development.
- Become familiar with the latest 'Words into Action' guidance and tools for DRR strategy development, implementation and monitoring at national and local level.
- Share their country's lessons and recommended approaches for developing and implementing national DRR strategies in coherence with development, climate change and sectoral plans and strategies.
- 'Review and re-align' current DRR strategies and implementation action plans.
- Learn from global disaster risk reduction case studies, including governance, finance and planning.
- Strengthen understanding of the institutional arrangements and partnerships needed for Sendai Framework implementation at national and/or regional level.
- Co-create and/or revise indicators for the national DRR strategy informed by "Sendai Framework Monitor custom (national) targets and indicators"
- Understand and use the Sendai Framework Monitor for global and national reporting, including coordination requirements for the collection of data
- Plan the way forward: scaling up for how to work together to reduce the risks and impacts of disasters.

### Expected Outcomes

After completing this workshop, the participants will be able to:

- 'Make the Case for DRR': share deepened understanding of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (goal, outcome, targets, priorities, principles) as an imperative for addressing climate change and sustainable development.
- Understand recommended approaches and requirements for developing, implementing and monitoring national and local DRR strategies in line with Sendai Framework Target E related to SDGs 1, 11 and 13.
- Use or adapt the workshop tools and approach to 'review and re-align' ongoing strategic planning, implementation and monitoring processes at various levels.
- Consider DRR case studies to highlight and inspire implementation mechanisms.
- Understand why and how continuous M&E, partnerships and strategic capacity development are necessary to achieve the Sendai Framework and the SDGs.
- Understand and use of the guidance and tools available for support and monitoring of Sendai Framework implementation
- Enhance understanding of the coordination requirements for data collection

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**Agenda**

<b>Day One</b>	<b>Learning Outcome: Participants understand the Sendai Framework-SDG interlinkages, status of disaster risk reduction and SDG planning, implementation and monitoring in country, and have identified gaps in current strategy(ies) towards DRR implementation and monitoring</b>
8:00 - 8:45	<b><u>Arrival and registration</u></b>
9:00 – 09:45	<p><b><u>Opening Session</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Welcome Speech: UNRC (Lao PDR)</u></li> <li>- <u>Key Note Speech: Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Chairman of National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee, Government of Lao PDR</u></li> <li>- <u>Introductory Remarks: UNDRR</u></li> </ul>
<b>09:45 - 10:00</b>	<b>Tea/coffee break and group photo</b>
10:00 – 11:15	<p><b><u>Session 1: Making the Case for Disaster Risk Reduction: Understanding Concepts and Trends</u></b>  <u>Presentation: Concepts, Global and Regional Trends in Disaster Risk Reduction – UNDRR ROAP</u>  <u>Q&amp;A</u></p> <p><b><u>Understanding Disaster Risk Management in Lao PDR</u></b>  <u>Presentation: Current Trends, DRR Strategy and DRR Implementation and Monitoring Progress – Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Social Welfare Department, Secretariat of NDPCC</u>  <u>Q&amp;A</u></p>
11:15 – 12:00	<p><b><u>Session 2: Frameworks in Coherence: Reducing Risk for Sustainable Development</u></b></p> <p><u>Presentation: Building Coherence between the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Coherence with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement – UNDRR GETI</u>  <u>Q&amp;A</u></p>
<b>12:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
13:00 – 14:00	<p><b><u>Session 2 continued: Frameworks in Coherence: Reducing Risk for Sustainable Development at the national level</u></b></p> <p><u>Presentation: Climate Change Policy Implementation Progress in Lao PDR – Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment</u>  <u>Presentation: Development Policy Implementation Progress in Lao PDR – Ministry of Planning and Investment, Planning Department</u></p> <p><u>Group Discussion: On long-term resilience and establishing a DRR governance system</u></p>

14:00 – 15:30	<p><b>Session 3: Getting to Know and Applying the Tools: Using the Sendai Framework Monitor National Custom Indicators</b></p> <p><u>Presentation:</u> <b>Overview of overarching goal, targets and indicators in current strategy and plans in Lao PDR</b></p> <p><u>Working Group Discussion:</u> <b>Identifying DRR/DRM implementation gaps in current DRR strategy and plans in Lao PDR</b> (Based on pre-workshop exercise using Sendai Framework national custom indicators)</p>
15:00-15:30	<b>In-room tea/coffee</b>
15:30 – 16:30	<p><u>Plenary Discussion:</u> <b>Presenting group work outputs of Session 4</b></p> <p><u>Q&amp;A</u></p>
16:30	<b>Closing the day: What to expect tomorrow</b>

<b>Day Two</b>	<b>Learning Outcome: Participants understand current national challenges, international approaches, and Sendai Framework Monitor custom indicators to support refinement or validation of the national strategy and/or plan.</b>
9:00 – 09:05	<b>Day 1 Recap and Day 2 Overview –UNDRR</b>
	<b>In-room tea/coffee</b>
9:05 – 10:30	<p><b>Session 4: Planning and Implementation of the Sendai Framework: Case studies</b></p> <p><b>Priority 1 Understanding Disaster Risk</b></p> <p><b>Priority 2: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk</b></p> <p><b>Priority 3: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience</b></p> <p><b>Priority 4: Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response, and to “Build Back Better” in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction</b></p> <p><b>Links to SDGs #1: No Poverty, SDG #11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG #13: Climate Change</b></p> <p><u>Presentations:</u> <b>Mainstreaming DRR and CCA into Sectoral Programmes for Social Economic Development with Case Studies) – UNDRR and Development partners</b> <u>Q&amp;A and Lao PDR experience sharing</u></p>
10:30 – 10:45	<b>In-room tea/coffee</b>
10:45 – 12:00	<p><b>Special Session: Partnership Support to Lao PDR for Disaster Risk Reduction</b></p> <p><u>Presentation:</u> <b>Roadmap of activities from partners to support Lao PDR in implementing DRR and the National Strategy - UNDRR and Development partners</b> <u>Q&amp;A</u></p> <p><u>Plenary Group Exercise:</u> <b>Drafting a roadmap of support</b></p>
12.00 – 13:00	<b>Lunch</b>

13:00 – 14:45	<p><b><u>Session 5: Aligning Current Strategy and Plans: Understanding How to Develop a National DRR Strategy and Action Plan</u></b></p> <p>Presentation: <b>Methodology and Tools for Developing a National DRR Strategy and Action Plan</b></p> <p>Working Group Exercise: <b>Reviewing the National Strategy, Revising the Action Plan to align with Sendai Framework (All Priorities)</b></p>
<b>14:45-15:00</b>	<b>In-room tea/coffee</b>
15:00 – 16:00	Plenary Discussion: <b>Presenting group work outputs</b>
16:00 – 16:30	<p><b><u>Session 6: Strategy and Action Plan Monitoring, Evaluation and Follow-Up</u></b></p> <p>Presentation: <b>Setting Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation of Action Plan</b></p> <p>Q&amp;A and Lao PDR experience sharing</p>
16:30	<b><u>Closing the day: What to expect tomorrow</u></b>

<b>Day Three</b>	<p><b>Learning Outcomes: Participants understand and strengthen coordination for development/refinement of national indicators in line with SF and other relevant policy indicators and co-create a way forward; Participants understand how to access and use the Sendai Framework Monitor System and guidance</b></p>
9:00 – 9:05	<b><u>Day 2 Recap and Day 3 Overview</u></b> – UNDRR
	<b>In-room tea/coffee</b>
9:05 – 10:30	<p><b><u>Session 7: Developing and Refining Indicators, Completing the Plan</u></b></p> <p>Working Group Exercise: <b>Developing/Refining Indicators for the Action Plan (All Priorities)</b></p>
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>In-room tea/coffee</b>
11:00 - 12:00	<p><b><u>Session 7: Developing and Refining Indicators, Completing the Plan (Continued)</u></b></p> <p>Working Group Exercise (continued): <b>Developing/Refining Indicators for the Action Plan (All Priorities)</b></p> <p>Plenary Discussion: <b>Presenting group work outputs</b></p>
<b>12:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
13:00 – 14:00	<p><b><u>Session 8: The Online Sendai Framework Monitor: Monitoring Progress</u></b></p> <p>Presentations: <b>Introduction to the Sendai Framework Monitor: Global Indicators</b></p>
14:00 – 15:00	<b><u>Session 9: Setting up the Sendai Framework Monitor System and understanding the different roles</u></b>
<b>15:00-15:15</b>	<b>In-room tea/coffee</b>
15:15 -16:30	<p><b><u>Session 10: Reporting on Sendai Targets</u></b></p> <p>Presentations: <b>Technical Guidance Notes and Step-by-Step Targets A-E Entry</b></p> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
17:00	<b><u>Closing the day: What to expect tomorrow</u></b>

<b>Day Four</b>	<b>Learning Outcome: Participants understand how to enter data into the Sendai Framework Monitor System.</b>
9:00 – 9:05	<u><a href="#">Day 3 Recap and Day 4 Overview</a></u> – UNDRR Q&A
	<b>In-room tea/coffee</b>
9:05 – 10:30	<u><a href="#">Session 11: Hands-on Experience</a></u> <u>Group Work 2: <i>Collecting Data</i></u> <u>Exercise: <i>Entering data, practicing roles</i></u> Q&A
<b>10:30 – 10:45</b>	<b>In-room tea/coffee</b>
10:45 - 12:15	<u><a href="#">Session 12: National and Local Data Collection and Reporting</a></u> <u>Group Exercise: <i>Exploring institutional arrangements, roles and responsibilities for Sendai Framework Monitor</i></u> <u>Plenary Discussion - Summary on Next Steps for National Data Input and Reporting Discussions – Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and UNDRR</u>
12:15 – 13:00	<u><a href="#">Planning the Way Forward: Scaling up Partnerships and Capacity Development on Sendai Framework implementation</a></u> <u>Presentation and Discussion: <b>The Strategic Approach to Capacity Development Strategy to Support Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – UNDRR</b></u> <u>Facilitated Plenary Discussion <b>Implementation the DRR strategy: Roles, Responsibilities and Partnerships</b> – Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare</u>
13:00 – 13:15	<u><a href="#">Closing</a></u> Workshop Evaluation, Closing Remarks and Presentation of Certificates – <i>Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and UNDRR</i>