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# Reinforcing the capacities of meteorological and hydrological services and enhancing the early warning systems in Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic (CREWS Cambodia and Lao PDR)

## Fact Sheet

### At a glance

A multi-partner, subregional project that contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 by strengthening National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems, and enhancing the availability of and access to effective and inclusive risk-informed information to vulnerable populations.

### Goal

To reduce human and socioeconomic impact caused by disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides and severe weather, through increased access to early warnings and risk information.

### Duration

July 2021 - July 2025

### Funding

US\$ 5.5 million

### Beneficiary countries

Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR)



### Hazards Addressed

The Lower Mekong countries are extremely vulnerable to a host of disasters. Cambodia and Lao PDR have consistently figured among the most disaster-prone countries in the region and the world. Among the various hydrometeorological hazards, floods and droughts are ranked the highest, affecting both countries in addition to landslides and other severe weather.

### Donor



### Partners



## Background

The Southeast Asia (SeA) region is highly vulnerable to the impacts of natural hazards. Hydrometeorological hazards, such as strong winds, floods, or droughts, and subsidiary hazards such as landslides, pose a direct threat to lives and impact livelihoods by damaging and destroying infrastructure, assets and land. Underlying processes, including climate change impacts, population growth, land use change and urbanization patterns, are resulting in an increase in the number of people, infrastructure systems and services, livelihoods and assets in Cambodia and Lao PDR at risk from hydrometeorological hazards.

Although the governments of both Cambodia and Lao PDR continue to establish policies and mechanisms to help reduce and mitigate some of the impacts of extreme events and disasters, significant challenges remain. Thus, both countries require immediate preventative action to improve the resilience of vulnerable populations. The project will be jointly implemented by WMO, the World Bank (WB) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) along with the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) of Cambodia and Lao PDR, respectively, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders at the local, national and regional level.

## Objective

To enhance the capacities of national and regional stakeholders and institutions to provide hydromet, early action, and response services to ensure that vulnerable populations in Cambodia and Lao PDR are reached through effective and inclusive risk-informed early warning services.

## Approach

The project is structured around five major outcomes, which are designed to strengthen each of the four elements of people-centred national multi-hazard early warning systems within Cambodia and Lao PDR, namely: Disaster Risk Knowledge; Detection, Monitoring, Analysis and Forecasting; Warning Dissemination and Communication; and Preparedness and response capabilities.

### Outcome 1: Strengthened governance mechanism and enabling environment created for national and regional stakeholders

Review and develop new and/or update policies, strategic frameworks, institutional mechanisms and capacities

### Outcome 2 : Enhanced capacity of NMHSs to provide forecasts and warnings

Provide new and/or update forecasting tools/products to NMHSs Institutions, along with complementary technical training for forecasters

### Outcome 3: NMHS's Information and communication technology and capacities strengthened

Enhance NMHSs' IT capacity to access, exchange and deliver meteorological, hydrological, and associated environmental information and services.

### Outcome 4: Enhanced preparedness and response capability

Act upon warning and risk information to minimize impact of disasters on lives, livelihoods and socioeconomic systems

### Outcome 5: Improved integration of gender and vulnerable groups across the EW-EA value chain

Ensure gender and disability mainstreaming throughout the project Outcomes

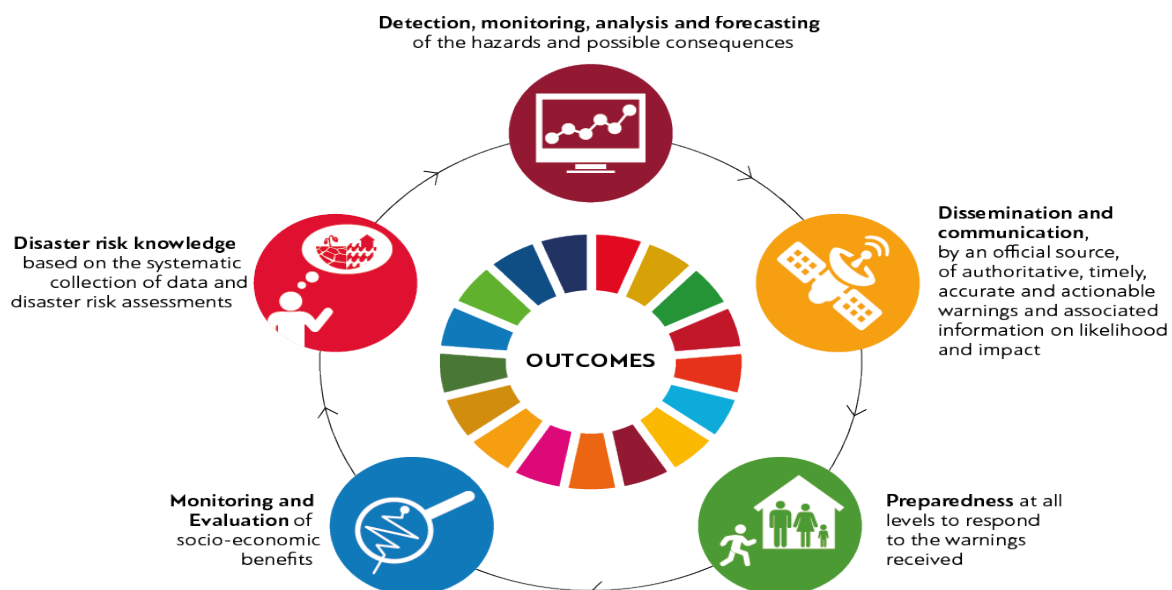


Figure 1: The five components of an end-to-end MHEWS value chain

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