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Technical Assistance Financing Facility
for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

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2024 & 2025

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*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

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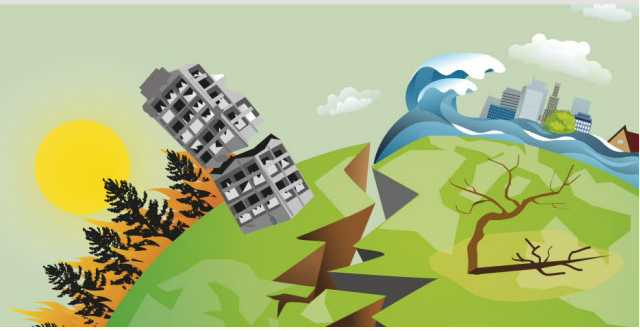
Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 2: Knowledge and capacity building



Last update: September 2025

Enhancing Policy and Investments for EU Disaster and Climate Resilience – Phase 2

Overview

Grant Size	€400,000
Duration	June 2025 – December 2026
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard
Key word(s)	Preparedness in early-childhood and primary education; Disability-inclusive emergency preparedness and response; emergency operators; persons with disabilities; preparedness curriculum and training materials and teaching resources, and Emergency Preparedness and Response

Context

Across the European Union, disaster risks are rising in frequency and complexity due to climate change, changing hazard landscapes, pandemics, and evolving geopolitical threats. In response, the European Commission launched the EU Preparedness Union Strategy (2025) to strengthen the Union's capacity to anticipate, prevent, and manage crises through enhanced coordination, capabilities, and an integrated all-hazards, whole-of-government, and whole-of-society approach.

Recent crises, from the COVID-19 pandemic to accelerating climate impacts, have exposed gaps in preparedness. EU instruments such as the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and rescEU which serve as a strategic reserve of European disaster response capabilities and stockpiles, fully funded by the EU, demonstrated added value. However, critical evidence and practice gaps persist, particularly in inclusive preparedness, embedding preparedness in education systems, and diagnosing systemic gaps in national preparedness and response. Given the diverse risk profiles, resources, and institutional arrangements across Member States and UCPM Participating States comparative analysis, cross-country learning, and cooperation are essential to guide policymaking, steer investment decisions, and the development of a coherent, evidence-based culture of preparedness in line with EU/UCPM legislation and frameworks.

Objective

Provide targeted technical assistance to the European Commission, as well as to EU Member States and UCPM Participating States

- Generate practical, actionable evidence to inform policy reform, program design, and investment decisions on prevention and preparedness.
- Support strengthening Europe's ability to anticipate, prevent, prepare, and respond to crises

Key Activities and Expected Results

The technical assistance is structured around three key areas.

Area 1 focuses on integrating preparedness in early-childhood and primary education by conducting a comparative baseline across EU Member States, selected UCPM Participating States, and global comparators on how preparedness is embedded in early childhood and primary education. A repository of effective resources for dissemination will be available through the UCP Knowledge Network.

Area 2 focuses on inclusive preparedness and response through the development of a set of actions aiming at supporting persons with disabilities and response operators in emergency contexts.

Area 3 identifies best practices in emergency preparedness and response arrangements through a focused case study to assess current emergency preparedness and response arrangements, identify gaps and opportunities across risk assessment, planning, capabilities, communications, and inclusion, and provide prioritized recommendations and investment options. The case serves as a practical model for other EU Member States and UCPM Participating States.

In terms of expected results, the findings and recommendations from each area of work provide the European Commission and relevant national authorities with a robust evidence base to inform policy choices, curriculum and training design, investment prioritization, and inclusive operational practice. The process fosters collaboration among education and civil protection stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities, build consensus around practical, scalable solutions, and facilitate knowledge transfer across EU Member States, UCPM Participating States, and global comparators. Ultimately, the technical assistance supports the development of EU-level guidance and tools, strengthen disability-inclusive preparedness and response, embed preparedness in early childhood and primary education, and equip countries with actionable diagnostics, contributing to a stronger culture of preparedness, improved disaster prevention and response, and enhanced resilience across the Union.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of this technical assistance will be disseminated among EU institutions, Member States, UCPM Participating States, and relevant international partners, deepening the collective knowledge base on disaster preparedness, inclusive response, and risk-informed education across Europe. This supports the ongoing efforts to strengthen national and EU strategies and facilitates the adoption of innovative, evidence-based practices in education, civil protection, and inclusion. By focusing on curriculum integration, inclusive operational guidance, training, and stakeholder engagement, the project improves the capacity of education systems, DRM and civil protection agencies, to respond to emergencies, ensuring that the benefits of the knowledge endure beyond its completion.

Given the alignment with EU and international standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this technical assistance are also relevant to other countries participating in the UCPM and the broader international community. Documented experiences and knowledge products can inform similar efforts in neighbouring countries and global comparators, contributing to the global DRM knowledge base and fostering improved coordination and resilience. In this way, the project's outputs will support the implementation of the EU Preparedness Union Strategy, the Disaster Resilience Goals, and international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals, strengthening preparedness and resilience at national, regional, and global levels.

Contacts

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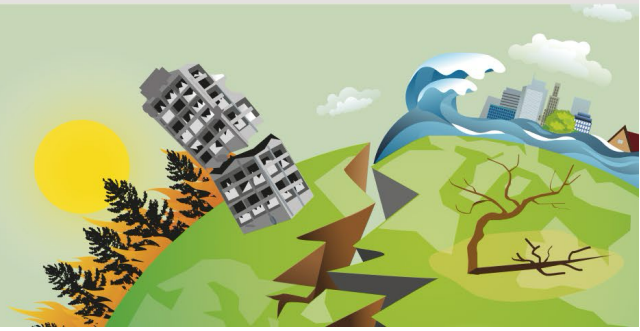
Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2025

Croatia:

Evidence for modernising the firefighting system in the Republic of Croatia

Overview

Grant Size	€550,000
Duration	June 2025 – June 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard; Wildfire
Key word(s)	Investment planning; Operational capacities; Public awareness activities; Training capacities

Context

Croatia faces significant disaster risks, including earthquakes, as well as floods, extreme heat, droughts, and wildfires, many of which are projected to be exacerbated by climate change. Over the past decade, disasters have resulted in significant physical, social, and financial impacts, affecting people's well-being. For example, the 2014 floods affected over 13000 people and caused over €300 million direct damage costs, while wildfires in 2017 burnt 86,576 ha (some 1.53 percent of the area of the Republic of Croatia) causing €109 million in losses.[1] Croatia also faces significant seismic risks due to its location and vulnerable infrastructure and buildings, much of which was built prior to modern building codes. The 2020 earthquakes in Zagreb and Petrinja, which struck during the COVID-19 pandemic, brought an estimated €16.1 billion in damage and economic losses.[2]

Firefighting services play a critical role for ensuring Croatia's resilience to disaster and climate risks. The Croatian Firefighting Association (HVZ) provide emergency response services in response to all hazards. Recent events and evolving risks highlight the need to strengthen preparedness and response capacities, including relevant policy and operational gaps, and prioritise actions and investments in firefighting services in line with data and analysis of the overarching gaps and opportunities as well as broader priorities for disaster and climate resilience.

Objective

The objective is to provide technical assistance to the HVZ to identify and plan future actions and investments to modernise the firefighting system in Croatia. The project aims at generating technical and practical information and evidence that can underpin future prevention and preparedness reforms, actions, and investment decisions. The project helps fill existing information and knowledge gaps related to (1) operational capability of firefighting organisations (equipment, infrastructure, guidelines) to respond to natural hazards and emergencies; (2) conditions for education and

[1] Posavec et al. 2023.

[2] The March 2020 earthquake (M5.5) damaged and destroyed €10.7 billion worth of assets in the city of Zagreb, Zagreb and Krapina-Zagorje counties (Government of Croatia. 2020. *Croatia Earthquake Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment 2020.* Link.) The December 2020 earthquake[2] (M6.2) damaged and destroyed €4.1 billion in physical assets in Sisak-Moslavina, Zagreb, Karlovac, and Krapina-Zagorje Counties and the City of Zagreb (Government of Croatia. 2021. Croatia December 2020 Earthquake *Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment*. Link.)

training of firefighters; (3) fire prevention and supervising the implementation of prescribed fire protection measures, among others through pre-defined priority actions on high risk (pilot) areas; (4) public awareness; and (5) advocacy.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The Activity is structured around five key areas. Area 1 focuses on a diagnostic review of the operational capabilities of firefighting organisations, generating information necessary to upgrade and modernise equipment, human resources, and strategic planning. Area 2 assesses the training capabilities of firefighting organisations, guiding improvements in education programs, facilities, and the recruitment of professional and volunteer forces. Area 3 evaluates fire prevention and preparedness measures, identifying opportunities to strengthen regulatory frameworks, spatial planning, and policy reforms. Area 4 includes public perception surveys, review of ongoing communication and public awareness efforts, with recommendations and select pilots to further raise public awareness to disasters. Area 5 centers on dissemination of knowledge and partnerships, ensuring that project outcomes and good practices are shared within Croatia as well as with other EU Member States, UCPM members, and the broader international community.

In terms of expected results, the findings and recommendations from each focus areas provide the HVZ and relevant authorities with a comprehensive evidence base to inform strategic investment, training, regulatory reforms, and public engagement. The process fosters collaboration among stakeholders, builds consensus on modernisation priorities, and facilitates knowledge transfer within Croatia and across borders. Ultimately, the project contributes to the modernisation of Croatia's firefighting system, enhances disaster prevention and preparedness, and strengthens national and regional resilience.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among Croatian stakeholders and shared more broadly, deepening the knowledge base on firefighting modernisation and disaster risk management in Croatia. This supports the ongoing refinement of national strategies and facilitates the adoption of modern and innovative practices across the country. By focusing on operational capabilities, training, prevention, public awareness, and partnerships, the project helps embed sustainable improvements within the HVZ and relevant authorities, ensuring that the benefits of the project endure beyond its completion.

Given the alignment with EU and regional standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project are also relevant to other EU Member States and countries participating in the UCPM. Documented experiences and knowledge products can inform similar modernisation efforts in neighbouring countries such as Albania and North Macedonia, as well as the broader UCPM community. In this way, the project's outputs can contribute to the global knowledge base on disaster risk management and foster improved coordination and resilience in line with the national priorities as set out by the National DRM Strategy (2023) and its Action Plan, as well as the European Union's Disaster Resilience Goals and the EU Preparedness Strategy, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Contacts

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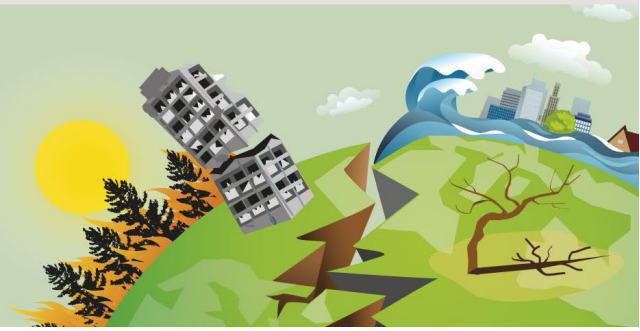
Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2025

Ireland:

Good Practice and Recommendations for Strengthening the National Strategic Policy Framework for Emergency Management

Overview

Grant Size	€250,000
Duration	June 2025 – June 2026
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard; Large-scale disasters
Key word(s)	Strategic Emergency Management, emergency preparedness, national risk framework, disaster response coordination, resilience planning.

Context

Ireland's Strategic Emergency Management (SEM) Policy, adopted in 2017, sets out the national structures and roles for managing emergencies, aligned with the lead government department principle.[1] It defines 50 emergency types, assigning lead government department responsibilities and outlines how these interact with broader government systems across risk assessment, preparedness, response coordination, and recovery. Since its adoption, the risk landscape has evolved, particularly in light of escalating climate-related threats such as flooding and severe storms. While Ireland has a well-established risk assessment model, recent events have highlighted the need to strengthen national preparedness for complex and cascading risks. Updating the SEM framework is now essential to reflect current and future challenges, resilience priorities, and addressing legislative or operational gaps or areas for improvement.

The Office of Emergency Planning (OEP) is the custodian of SEM policy in Ireland. The OEP manages and operates the National Emergency Coordination Centre and provides peer support to government departments and agencies in identifying capability gaps and informing capability development. The OEP's remit extends to the arrangement of training and education relating to emergency management and offering advice and assistance if requested to government departments in relation to their emergency management functions

Objective

The objective of the grant is to provide technical assistance to the OEP with respect to the national SEM policy and framework. This is done by (1) reviewing the existing National SEM structure and framework, and by (2) providing recommendations to inform and strengthen Ireland's SEM.

[1] Department of Defence; Office of Emergency Planning, 2017. *Strategic Emergency Management (SEM): National Structures and Framework*. Department of Defence. Link.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The Activity comprises several elements. This includes a structured diagnostic review of the current SEM doctrine; review of relevant good practices from other countries and international organisations; and the development of technical recommendations including a roadmap. The recommendations and the roadmap cover both policy and operational aspects, outlining key opportunities, timelines, and so on. The Activity also includes consultations and various knowledge-transfer activities, as well as dissemination of the results through relevant platforms and mechanisms.

In terms of expected results, the findings can inform Ireland's future actions, including legislative efforts, to enhance Ireland's national preparedness capacity and disaster resilience. The review and recommendations can provide a solid knowledge base to inform a modernised, comprehensive SEM that reflects current risk context as well as practice in the field. The process and consultations, and the results of the analysis, can contribute to enhancing collaboration among stakeholders, strengthening a common understanding of the challenges and priorities, as well as contribute to sharing of knowledge within and beyond Ireland.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings will be disseminated among stakeholders and beyond, deepening the knowledge base on SEM in Ireland. This can inform and refine its strategies and facilitate the uptake of modern/innovative practices across Ireland.

Focusing on emergency planning and emergency systems as a topic of high relevance also to other countries, relevant findings, knowledge and information, including documented lessons learnt and good practice, can be useful to other Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Member States and Participating States which seek to modernise their frameworks. In this way, the grant outputs can also contribute to the global knowledge base on disaster risk management (DRM) and improved coordination on disaster preparedness, in line with the European Union (EU) Disaster Resilience Goals (DRGs) and the EU's Preparedness Strategy.

Contacts

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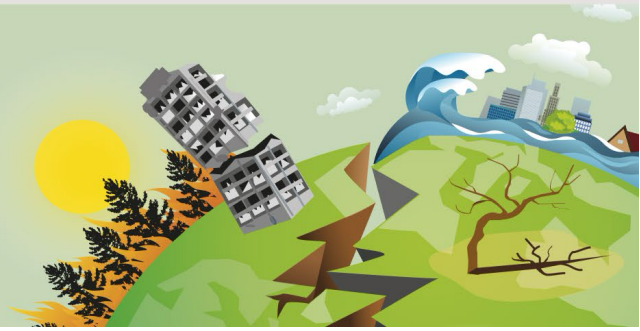

Last update: September 2025

Kosovo:*

Enhancing National Crisis Preparedness and Wildfire Risk Management in Kosovo:*

Overview

Grant Size	€350,000
Duration	September 2025 – June 2027
Key hazard(s)	Wildfires; Floods; Landslides; Earthquakes; Heatwaves; Droughts
Key word(s)	Financial preparedness; Wildfire preparedness; Resilient Recovery; National Crisis Preparedness Plan

Context

Kosovo's geographical position and climate expose it to a diverse array of hazards, including floods, heavy snowfall, drought, forest fires, and earthquakes. The country is particularly vulnerable to flash floods in mountainous regions and riverine floods in plains, with severe events in recent years causing significant economic and social disruption. Forest fires are an increasing concern, with 43 percent of Kosovo's territory covered by forests and nearly 8,000 hectares burned in 2021 alone. Extreme climate events frequently damage critical infrastructure, leading to cascading effects that heighten vulnerabilities in key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and water. While Kosovo has made progress in strengthening its legal and institutional frameworks for disaster risk management and climate adaptation, most notably through the 2023 Law on Climate Change and the updated National Response Plan, implementation capacity remains limited, especially at the municipal level. Gaps persist in local hazard mapping, early warning systems, and the integration of climate and disaster risks into financial planning, and coordination between national and local governments is still evolving.

The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) under the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) is the main counterpart responsible for disaster risk management and emergency preparedness in Kosovo, working in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI), which leads on climate policy. Despite a clear strategic direction, Kosovo's emergency preparedness and response (EP&R) system remains primarily response-oriented, with limited professional capacity and fragmented mandates. A 2021 diagnostic under the World Bank's Ready2Respond framework highlighted the need for strategic investments in legislation, financing, equipment, and personnel to build a more robust and coordinated EP&R architecture.

Objective

The objective of the grant is to support the Government of Kosovo in strengthening national crisis preparedness and wildfire resilience. This is achieved through: (i) developing recommendations for a National Crisis Preparedness Plan, including post-disaster financing mechanisms; and (ii) evaluating and improving frameworks for wildfire preparedness and forecasting.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The Activity comprises two interlinked activities. The first focuses on a structured diagnostic review of Kosovo's national crisis preparedness and emergency response systems. This includes a rapid assessment of existing legal and institutional frameworks, operational and financial readiness, and coordination mechanisms, conducted in close collaboration with the EMA and other key stakeholders. The process involves desk-based diagnostics, targeted consultations with government institutions, and a scenario-based tabletop simulation exercise to test real-time decision-making and resource mobilisation during emergencies such as wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and landslides. The findings are consolidated into a Preparedness Diagnostic Brief and an updated Readiness Scorecard, and inform the development of technical recommendations, including a National Crisis Preparedness Plan (CPP) and a prioritised emergency investment list. The recommendations and roadmap address both policy and operational aspects, outlining key opportunities for strengthening institutional, financial, and operational systems for rapid emergency response.

In terms of expected results, the Activity provides Kosovo's authorities with a robust evidence base to inform future actions and investments in crisis preparedness and disaster resilience. The review and recommendations support the modernisation of national emergency management, enhance clarity around institutional mandates and coordination protocols, and facilitate the rapid mobilisation of resources in times of crisis. The process, including consultations and simulation exercises, fosters collaboration among stakeholders, strengthens a shared understanding of challenges and priorities, and contributes to knowledge transfer within Kosovo and with international partners. The second element, focused on wildfire preparedness, delivers a technical needs assessment and a roadmap for impact-based wildfire forecasting, complemented by capacity-building workshops. These outputs enable government agencies, emergency responders, and local authorities to improve wildfire response, integrate advanced forecasting tools, and position Kosovo to benefit from future investments in disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among stakeholders in Kosovo and shared more broadly, deepening the national knowledge base on DRM. This supports the ongoing refinement of Kosovo's State Strategy for Reducing the Risk from Natural Disasters and other Disaster 2023-2028, as well as the strengthening of the Integrated Emergency Management System and the National Response Plan. By focusing on institutional capacity building, the development of a National Crisis Preparedness Plan (CPP), and improved system integration, the project helps embed sustainable improvements within relevant authorities, ensuring that the benefits of the project endure beyond its completion. The technical assistance supports the institutionalisation of DRR and the effective use of disaster risk information for emergency preparedness and response.

Given the alignment with EU and regional standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project are also relevant to other countries participating in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and the broader region. Documented experiences and knowledge products can inform similar efforts to strengthen institutional frameworks and coordination in neighbouring countries and the UCPM community. In this way, the project's outputs contribute to the global DRM knowledge base and foster improved coordination and resilience, supporting the EU's Preparedness Strategy and advancing regional cooperation on disaster and climate resilience.

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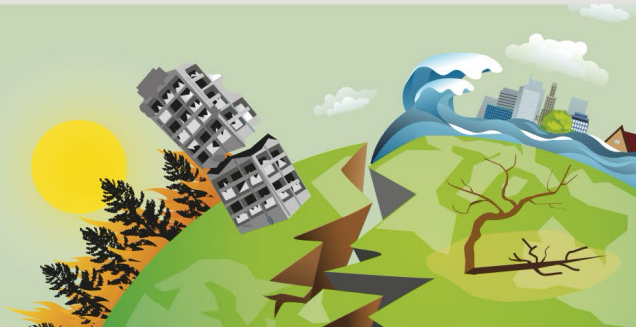

Last update: September 2025

Montenegro:

Enhancing Disaster Resilience and Continuity of IT Infrastructure and Services in the Operational Communication Center 112

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2025 – September 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard; Earthquakes; Floods; Wildfires
Key word(s)	Reducing risk and mainstreaming; DRM Risk-Informed Decision Making; Disaster Preparedness; Resilient Recovery; Risk-informed decisions making

Context

Montenegro's National Disaster Risk Assessment (2021) highlights the country's significant vulnerability to natural hazards, particularly earthquakes, floods, and wildfires, which threaten public safety, critical infrastructure, and societal resilience. The coastal and central regions are especially at risk from seismic activity, as evidenced by the devastating 1979 earthquake, while frequent floods and recurring wildfires further challenge the country's emergency response capacity. A scenario developed for the National Disaster Risk Assessment underscores the high vulnerability of electronic communications and IT infrastructure, especially the Operational Communication Centre 112 (OCC 112), to both natural and man-made hazards. The assessment, together with the Law on Designation and Protection of Critical Infrastructure, the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, and the Law on Electronic Communications, defines the roles and responsibilities for disaster risk management and critical infrastructure protection. The evolving risk landscape, highlighted by recent stress tests and operational experience, has underscored the need to strengthen the resilience and continuity of the 112 system, particularly in the face of complex and cascading hazards.

The Directorate for Emergency Management is the custodian of the 112 system in Montenegro. It is responsible for the operation and modernisation of the Operational Communication Centre 112 (OCC 112), as well as for ensuring compliance with national and EU requirements for critical infrastructure protection and emergency communications. The Directorate leads efforts to identify capability gaps, inform strategic investments, and coordinate with other government agencies and stakeholders. The 112 Department supports the government's vision to establish a robust public warning system by 2027 and facilitate the transition to Next Generation 112 (NG112), ensuring the continuous functioning of emergency services and enhancing national preparedness and response.

Objective

The objective of this grant is to ensure disaster and climate resilience, functionality, and continuity of IT infrastructure and services in the Operational Communication Centre 112 (OCC 112) in Montenegro. This is achieved by focusing on three key activities: (1) a diagnostic analysis of the 112 system through a gap and needs assessment; (2) knowledge sharing through study visits to established 112 centres, and training; and (3) based on the diagnostic analysis, recommendations in the form of a roadmap with short/medium-long term priorities for stakeholders to

consider for the development of a roadmap for modernization of the operational communication centre (OCC) 112 and a Business Continuity Plan (BCP).

Key Activities and Expected Results

The Activity is structured around three key elements to strengthen the disaster and climate resilience, functionality, and continuity of IT infrastructure and services in Montenegro's Operational Communication Centre 112 (OCC 112). The first component focuses on a comprehensive diagnostic analysis of the OCC 112 system, including stakeholder mapping, desk research, and a structured gap and needs assessment of current IT infrastructure and emergency operations. This analysis, informed by global best practices and a review of the regulatory framework, identifies vulnerabilities to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, and wildfires. Citizen engagement activities further assess access barriers and communication preferences, particularly for vulnerable groups. The activity also centres on knowledge sharing, with study visits to advanced 112 centres, workshops, and training sessions to exchange best practices in IT resilience and business continuity. Thematic roundtables and participation in EU and regional platforms will support the dissemination of findings and encourage replication. Building on these efforts, a technical roadmap will be developed for the phased modernisation of OCC 112, including recommendations for a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and future interoperability with the Public Warning System and Next Generation 112 (NG112). The roadmap outlines short-, medium-, and long-term priorities and implementation strategies aligned with EU directives and best practices**.**

In terms of expected results, the findings and recommendations from each element of this activity provide Montenegro's Ministry of Interior, Directorate for Emergency Management, and other stakeholders with a comprehensive evidence base to inform strategic investment, regulatory reforms, and public engagement. The process fosters collaboration among government agencies, private sector partners, telecom operators, and organisations of persons with disabilities, building consensus on modernisation priorities and facilitating knowledge transfer. Ultimately, the Activity contributes to the modernisation and resilience of Montenegro's emergency communications system, enhances disaster prevention and preparedness, and strengthens national and regional resilience, benefiting over citizens and tourists alike.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among Montenegrin stakeholders and shared more broadly, deepening the national knowledge base on emergency communications modernisation and disaster risk management. This supports the ongoing refinement of Montenegro's disaster risk reduction strategies and facilitates the adoption of modern, innovative, and inclusive practices across the country. The development of a Business Continuity Plan and a modernisation roadmap provide- a strategic framework for future investments, aligning Montenegro's emergency communications infrastructure with EU Disaster Resilience Goals (DRGs) and the European Green Deal's climate adaptation priorities. It also ensures alignment with key EU legislation, including the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC), NIS2 Directive, EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM), and the Accessibility Act.

Given the alignment with EU and regional standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project are also relevant to other EU Member States and countries participating in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). Documented experiences and knowledge products can inform similar modernisation efforts in neighbouring countries and the broader UCPM community. In this way, the project's outputs contribute to the global knowledge base on disaster risk management and foster improved coordination and resilience, supporting the European Union's Preparedness Strategy and advancing regional cooperation on disaster and climate resilience.

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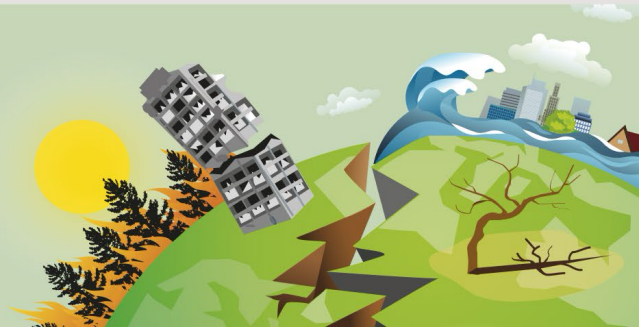

Last update: September 2025

Serbia:

Strengthening Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness in Serbia

Overview

Grant Size	€450,000
Duration	September 2025 – September 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard; Earthquakes; Landslides; Heavy rainfall; Floods; Heat waves; Droughts; Wildfires
Key word(s)	Updating disaster risk assessment methodology; Strengthening protection and rescue planning at all government levels; Enhancing emergency preparedness and response capacity

Context

Serbia's disaster risk management framework has undergone significant evolution in recent years, particularly following the adoption of the "Guidelines and Methodology for Vulnerability (Risk) Assessment and Protection and Rescue Plans in Emergency Situations" in 2017, updated in 2019. This Methodology, mandated by the Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management, applies across all levels of government — national, provincial, and local — and is coordinated by the Sector for Emergency Management (SEM) within the Ministry of the Interior. The experience gained from implementing the Methodology has highlighted the need for refinement and simplification, especially to facilitate its practical application at the local self-government level. In response, the Government of Serbia is undertaking an update of the Methodology to enhance the quality and operational relevance of disaster risk assessments and protection and rescue planning. This update aims to strengthen the overall disaster risk management system, inform future investment planning, and serve as a foundation for risk-informed decision making, thereby improving preparedness and resilience at both local and national levels. The revised approach will also address financial preparedness, ensuring that Serbia is better equipped to respond to and recover from disasters and crises, and will align with the principles of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The SEM within the Ministry of the Interior is the central institution responsible for disaster risk management policy and operations in Serbia. As the custodian of the national Methodology, SEM leads the coordination, development, and monitoring of disaster risk assessment and protection and rescue planning across all levels of government. Building on lessons learned from recent disasters and an evolving risk landscape, SEM is committed to modernising and refining the Methodology to better address current and emerging hazards, including those driven by climate change.

Objective

The objective of the grant is to enhance the overall disaster preparedness and community resilience in the Republic of Serbia through improvement of existing frameworks and resilience-building measures. The proposed activities and outputs under the grant are designed to enhance the Disaster Risk Assessments and Protection and Rescue plans, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of preventive measures and preparedness activities. Additionally, these

documents address financial aspects within the protection and rescue system, further strengthening the community's ability to withstand and recover from disasters.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The Activity is structured around two main elements. The first puts the focus on the review and updating of the Methodology for Disaster Risk Assessment and Protection and Rescue Plans in the Republic of Serbia. This involves a comprehensive diagnostic analysis of the existing methodology, identification of gaps, and the drafting of updated instructions to ensure alignment with current best practices and international standards. The second element centers on an assessment of national disaster risk management capabilities and response capacities, identifying gaps, and providing targeted recommendations for capability and capacity enhancement. Both components will include consultations with key stakeholders, knowledge-transfer activities, and dissemination of results through relevant platforms and mechanisms including expert seminars, workshops, and trainings.

In terms of expected results, the findings and recommendations from each component provide Serbian authorities with a robust evidence base to inform future policy, planning, and investment decisions in disaster risk management and emergency preparedness. The process fosters collaboration among stakeholders, builds consensus on priorities for strengthening Serbia's disaster risk management system, and facilitates knowledge sharing within Serbia and with international partners. Ultimately, the Activity contributes to the modernisation of Serbia's disaster risk assessment and emergency preparedness frameworks, enhancing national resilience and alignment with European and international standards.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among Serbian stakeholders and shared more broadly, deepening the knowledge base on disaster risk management and emergency preparedness in Serbia. This supports the ongoing refinement of national strategies, including the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management, and facilitates the adoption of modern and harmonised practices across the country. By focusing on legal and institutional reform, risk assessment, and capacity building, the project helps embed sustainable improvements within relevant authorities, ensuring that the benefits of the project endure beyond its completion. The technical assistance provided also supports the operationalisation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Program and the National Strategy for Environmental Protection, aligning Serbia's disaster risk management framework with the EU Green Agenda and other key national priorities.

Given Serbia's membership in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and its commitment to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project are also relevant to other EU Member States and countries participating in the UCPM. Documented experiences and knowledge products can inform similar legal and institutional modernisation efforts in neighbouring countries and the broader UCPM community. In this way, the project's outputs contribute to the global knowledge base on disaster risk management and foster improved coordination and resilience, supporting the European Union's Preparedness Strategy and advancing regional cooperation on disaster and climate resilience.

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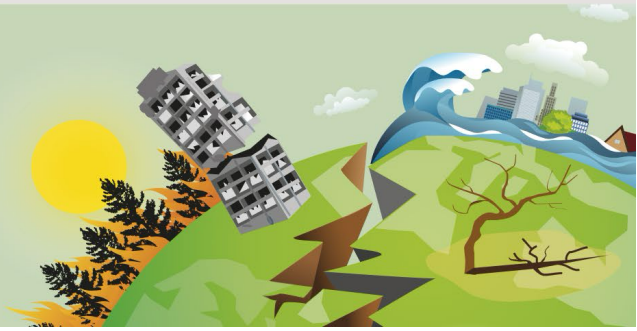
Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2025

Sweden:

Review of the state of the art of national disaster loss databases

Overview

Grant Size	€250,000
Duration	July 2025 – October 2026
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard; Large-scale disasters
Key word(s)	Disaster loss database; DRM and Artificial intelligence; Standardisation of disaster data; Legal and institutional frameworks of risk data; Risk-informed and evidence-based decision-making

Context

Sweden, like many European countries, faces a growing array of natural hazards, including floods, storms, wildfires, landslides, and climate-related events, as well as their potential cascading effects. Recent disasters such as Storm Hans and the Stenungsund Landslide in 2023 have underscored the urgent need for robust systems to record, analyse, and share disaster loss data to inform preparedness and response measures. In line with the European Union (EU) Preparedness Union Strategy and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), Sweden is seeking to modernise its disaster data management by developing a national disaster loss database. Disaster damage and loss databases are a critical component of scientific knowledge on disaster impacts, supporting the identification of urgent and cost-effective resilience investments. These databases, which can include both historical and forward-looking data, are essential for assessing the geographic extent of events, calibrating hazard maps and early warnings, and conducting cost-benefit analyses of damages to lives, property, economic activity, social equity, health, the environment, and cultural heritage. They also enable continuous monitoring of progress in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, with novel technologies such as AI and machine learning enhancing their effectiveness. Within broader disaster risk management frameworks like the SFDRR, such databases are directly relevant for EU policies and directives, including national risk assessments and the Floods and Seveso Directives.

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) is responsible for strengthening Sweden's ability to prevent and manage major accidents and crises, safeguarding lives, social functions, and core societal values. The MSB, as the key agency for civil protection and emergency management, has systematically collected data from municipal emergency services for over 30 years and manages more data on extensive technological and natural events, supporting Sweden's compliance with both national and EU requirements. As needs and technological solutions evolve continuously, the MSB is looking to review the state of the art in damage and loss data management.

Objective

The objective of this project is to provide technical assistance to MSB with respect to the development of a national disaster loss database. This is achieved by (1) reviewing current good practice on establishing and maintaining disaster damage and loss data systems across EU member states (MS) and beyond for natural hazards and other large-scale disasters, and (2) providing recommendations of relevance for Sweden.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The Activity is structured around two parts. First, it entails a review of international best practices in establishing and operating disaster damage and loss databases, with a focus on efficient reporting, integration of climate change considerations, and the use of innovative data management approaches. Second, it also involves an assessment of Sweden's existing disaster damage and loss data collection systems, led by MSB, and the identification of technical options for improvement based on insights from the first component. The Activity also includes consultations and knowledge-sharing activities, with opportunities for participation from other countries through workshops to facilitate the exchange of experience and good practices.

In terms of expected results, the Activity provides MSB and relevant Swedish authorities with actionable recommendations to strengthen disaster loss data infrastructure and modernise existing systems. The findings support Sweden's ability to meet EU and international reporting requirements, enhance risk management and preparedness, and foster collaboration and knowledge exchange both within Sweden and with international partners. Findings will be relevant to other countries looking to strengthen their disaster damage and loss data systems. Ultimately, the Activity contributes to improved disaster resilience in Sweden and benefits the broader EU community.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among stakeholders in Sweden and shared more broadly, deepening the national knowledge base on DRM. This study is closely aligned with national needs to improve the damage and loss database. By focusing on good practices and forward-looking recommendations, and through planned dissemination and exchange activities, the study is expected to inform future efforts in Sweden and potentially serve as a model for other countries in the EU and beyond. The project also fosters opportunities for collaboration with other countries engaged in building and managing comprehensive disaster loss databases. From a technical perspective, the study adopts a forward-looking approach that considers future needs related to climate change, modern data collection, and advanced analysis. The results contribute to broader objectives such as contingency planning, climate change adaptation, the green transition, and the improved use of data and innovative analytical tools for DRM. These efforts ensure that the benefits of the project endure beyond its completion, supporting the institutionalisation of DRR and the effective use of disaster risk information for emergency preparedness and response.

Given the alignment with EU and global standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project are also relevant to other countries participating in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and the broader international community. Documented experiences and knowledge products from Sweden can inform similar efforts to strengthen institutional frameworks and coordination in neighbouring countries and across the UCPM network. In this way, the project's outputs contribute to the global knowledge base on disaster risk management and foster improved coordination and resilience, supporting the European Union's Preparedness Strategy and advancing regional and international cooperation on disaster and climate resilience.

Contacts

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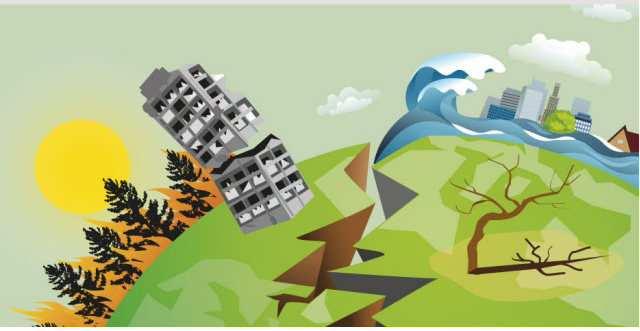

Last update: September 2025

Türkiye:

Resilient İzmir: A Strategic and Inclusive Initiative for Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Risk Reduction

Overview

Grant Size	€650,000
Duration	September 2025 – September 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard; Earthquakes; Hydrometeorological disasters; Landslides; Industrial accidents
Key word(s)	Multi-hazard risk assessment; Earthquake preparedness; Capacity building and crisis communication training; Vulnerable groups disaster response; Public awareness disaster risk; Urban resilience; Community-based disaster preparedness; Risk-informed decision-making

Context

Türkiye's third-largest city, İzmir, is highly exposed to a range of natural and human-made hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding, landslides, rockfalls, and industrial accidents. The city's location along active fault lines, its vulnerable coastline, and the presence of major industrial zones such as Aliağa and Torbalı, heighten the risk of disasters with potentially cascading effects. Recent events, such as the 2020 Samos Island earthquake, have underscored the city's vulnerability and the urgent need to strengthen disaster resilience. The increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related hazards, including heavy rainfall and sea level rise, further compound these risks. Despite ongoing efforts, challenges remain in prioritising and financing resilience investments, coordinating among institutions, and ensuring that disaster management strategies are inclusive and data-driven.

The Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) leads disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts at the national level, coordinating with local authorities, first responders, and specialised teams such as the national medical rescue team (UMKE) and firefighters. Local governments, particularly the İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, the State Hydraulic Works (DSİ), and the Provincial Directorates of Environment, Urbanisation, and Climate Change, play a critical role in implementing risk-reduction measures, operating and maintaining critical infrastructure, and engaging with communities, working alongside specialised first responder teams. However, the city's rapid urbanisation, the presence of informal settlements, and the proximity of industrial facilities to residential areas create additional layers of vulnerability. Coordination among agencies, integration of risk data into planning, and the inclusion of vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, remain ongoing challenges. Furthermore, public awareness of disaster risks and preparedness measures is uneven, and there are gaps in the dissemination of timely, accessible information before, during, and after emergencies. These factors collectively underscore the need for a holistic, multi-sectoral approach to disaster and climate resilience in İzmir, grounded in robust risk assessment, institutional collaboration, and community engagement.

Objective

The objective of the grant is to enhance İzmir's resilience against a wide range of hazards including natural and human-made disasters and strengthen the capacity of disaster response personnel through training programs focused on risk-informed decision-making, crisis communication, psychological resilience, and raise public

awareness of especially on vulnerable individuals (children, elderly, people with disabilities, etc.). This objective is achieved by developing a comprehensive assessment and conducting capacity building activities through tailored activities for enhanced communication skills and crisis management measures focusing on vulnerable people. The analysis, findings, can inform national-level approaches on those key topics.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The Activity is structured around two interlinked elements. This includes a comprehensive diagnostic of İzmir's disaster risk profile, including multi-hazard risk analysis, stakeholder mapping, and technical and economic feasibility studies. It also develops a strategic roadmap for disaster risk reduction, institutional coordination, and investment prioritisation, informed by international knowledge exchange and stakeholder consultations. This also centers on capacity building, communication, and public awareness, with activities including training needs assessments, certified training programs for disaster response teams, trauma-informed communication modules, psychosocial resilience seminars, and the development of public education materials. Special emphasis is placed on engaging and protecting vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, through inclusive outreach and simulation exercises. The Activity also includes dissemination of findings and lessons learned at local, national, and international levels.

In terms of expected results, the Activity will provide AFAD, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, and other stakeholders with actionable recommendations and tools to strengthen disaster and climate resilience. The findings support evidence-based investment decisions, improved risk anticipation, and enhanced preparedness and response capacities, particularly for vulnerable populations. The process will foster collaboration among institutions, build consensus on priorities, and facilitate knowledge transfer within Türkiye and with international partners. Ultimately, the Activity contributes to a more resilient İzmir, minimising loss of life and property, and serve as a model for disaster risk management and climate adaptation in other high-risk urban areas.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among stakeholders in İzmir and shared more broadly across Türkiye, deepening the national knowledge base on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency management. This directly supports the ongoing refinement of İzmir's disaster resilience strategy and the strengthening of local and national disaster management systems, including the integration of multi-hazard risk assessments and inclusive preparedness planning. By focusing on institutional capacity building, technical and economic feasibility studies, and targeted training for crisis managers and first responders, the project helps embed sustainable improvements within relevant authorities. These efforts ensure that the benefits of the project endure beyond its completion, supporting the institutionalisation of DRR and the effective use of disaster risk information for emergency preparedness and response, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The technical assistance also addresses gaps identified in recent disaster events and diagnostics, supporting the development of coordinated, data-driven approaches to increase disaster resilience at the city and national levels.

Given the alignment with EU and international standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project are also relevant to other countries participating in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and the broader region. Documented experiences and knowledge products from İzmir can inform similar efforts to strengthen institutional frameworks and coordination in neighbouring countries and across the UCPM network. In this way, the project's outputs contribute to the global knowledge base on disaster risk management and foster improved coordination and resilience, supporting the European Union's Preparedness Strategy and advancing regional and international cooperation on disaster and climate resilience. The project's focus on inclusive, evidence-based planning and cross-sectoral collaboration helps ensure that the lessons learned in İzmir can be adapted and scaled to benefit other high-risk urban areas in Türkiye and beyond.

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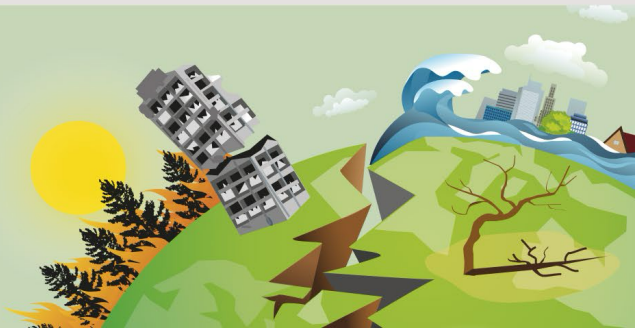
Component 2: Knowledge and capacity building



Last updated: September 2025

Enhancing Policy and Investments for EU Disaster and Climate Resilience

Overview

Grant Size	€250,000
Duration	September 2024 – November 2025
Key hazard(s)	Earthquakes; Wildfires
Key word(s)	Smart governance; Smart policies and investments; Resilient Infrastructure; Disaster Resilience; Climate Resilience

Context

Europe faces escalating losses from climate-related disasters as the continent warms faster than any other region in the world, translating into potentially more frequent and more impactful events. For example, in 2023, Europe experienced one of its worst wildfire seasons with over 500,000 ha burnt, 96,000 of which were in Greece alone. Alongside climate-sensitive threats, large parts of Europe also face earthquake risks, risks exacerbated by ageing infrastructure that predates modern building codes. Countries in the EU have been taking major steps to enhance their disaster and climate resilience, guided and supported by EU policy, funding, and technical assistance instruments. With the current EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF 2021-2027) at its midpoint and preparations for the next MFF (2028-2034) intensifying, there is the opportunity to further strengthen disaster risk management and resilience efforts across the EU. This is the moment to reflect on how to refine EU policy and funding frameworks to better promote strategic, risk-informed, performance-oriented, and sustainable investments that deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits. It is also worth exploring ways to incentivise reforms that address key bottlenecks for effective risk management and investment.

Objectives

- Share good practices and provide recommendations for incentivising effective investments in disaster and climate resilience through the right framework conditions.
- Provide evidence to support a risk-informed approach to investments, particularly in wildfire and earthquake risk management, and offer guidance on potential investments.

Key Activities and Expected Results

Incentivising impactful investments in disaster resilience – setting the right framework

This Activity includes EU-wide analytics which supports discussions related to existing and future policies and instruments that can foster disaster and climate resilience. These efforts consider conditions and incentives, as well as ways to track progress towards strengthened disaster and climate resilience.

Investing in disaster resilience in the EU: identifying needs and priorities

This Activity includes EU-wide and country case study analytics. The results include a high-level overview of wildfire and earthquake risks and their management at the EU-level, complemented by a series of brief case studies on wildfire and earthquake risk management in selected EU Member States.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project seeks to provide evidence, good practice examples, and recommendations to inform ongoing and future efforts to strengthen disaster and climate resilience in the EU. The findings aim to provide insights that can guide the refinement of policies and tools at both the EU and Member State levels in the current and forthcoming MFFs. With Component 2 focusing on earthquake and wildfire risks, the project considers and coordinates with other ongoing academic research, technical assistance (including other TAFF projects or other EU-funded grants), as well as initiatives led by the European Commission that could be leveraged to deepen understanding of the EU's earthquake and wildfire risk profile and risk management capabilities. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

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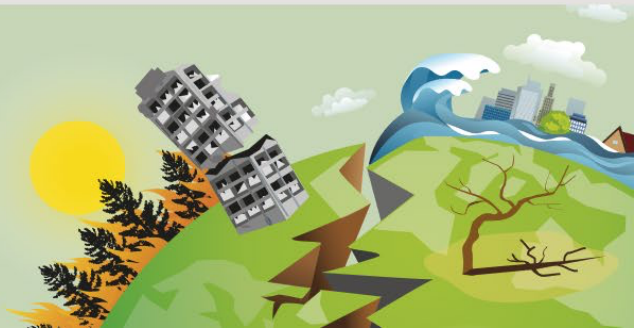
Component 1: Country-Specific technical assistance



Last updated: September 2025

Albania:

Strengthening Albania's Fire Risk Management and Search and Rescue Capacity

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2024 – August 2026
Key hazard(s)	Wildfires
Key word(s)	Rescue capacity; Rescue services; Fire protection

Context

Wildfire and general fire risk is a growing concern in Albania with heat stress increasing due to climate change. Albania is at high and continuous risk of forest fires, especially in the dry summer season June-September. According to World Bank estimates, 23 per cent of crop area in the country is already under medium to high wildfire risk with 10 municipalities having the highest level of exposure. In 2021 alone, 329 wildfires were recorded, burning a total of 31,275 ha of land. Data from Global Forest Watch shows that fires in Albania are the second leading cause of forest area loss in the country. From 2001 to 2023, the country lost 19.8 kha of tree cover from fires and 26.7 kha from all other drivers of loss. In Albania firefighting and rescue services are the responsibility of municipalities, which carry the mandate of first responders on all incidents posing a danger to the population or environment. While equipment at local levels has been upgraded over the past years, municipalities still lack the capacity and institutional structures to effectively fulfil their mandate to prevent and mitigate incidents. This leads to the need for intervention by the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) for even small and medium incidents. To address Albania's limited capabilities in extinguishing fires, the country's fire response capacity, infrastructure (e.g., fire stations), technology, and equipment for tracking and extinguishing fires require urgent strengthening.

Objective

The objective of the grant is to support the government of Albania in strengthening its fire risk management and search and rescue capacity, thereby improving its ability to respond effectively and efficiently to general fires, wildfires, and emergencies. The results of this technical assistance will inform a proposed investment project in Albania on fire risk management.

Key Activities and Expected Results

Institutional and capacity review of fire protection and rescue services (FP&RS)

This activity reviews the existing FP&RS capacity in Albania against international best practices to identify potential capacity strengthening, policy, and investment needs to improve the delivery of firefighting services in the country.

Road map for strengthening fire protection and rescue services

A road map is developed based on Albanian demography, the geographic distribution of damage and loss risks due to fires, and a consultation process with municipalities. The road map prioritises resources and interventions at the local level regarding infrastructure and equipment, and it supports the identification of needs for training in firefighting and search and rescue.

Strengthening wildfire risk management

This activity aims to strengthen wildfire fire risk management in Albania with activities covering forest fire risk assessment and mapping, analysis of current mechanisms to fight wildfires, a review of institutional coordination and community engagement mechanisms, and recommendations for increasing Albania's capacity to combat wildfires.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project is part of a broader collaboration between the World Bank, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), and the government of Albania to strengthen the country's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. The objective of the grant is to support the government in strengthening its fire risk management capacity. The grant serves as a basis for the identification, prioritisation, and preparation of activities under a proposed World Bank Investment Project Financing (IPF) on fire risk management with the Ministry of Interior. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge being generated through collaborations between government actors, the World Bank, and the UCPM.

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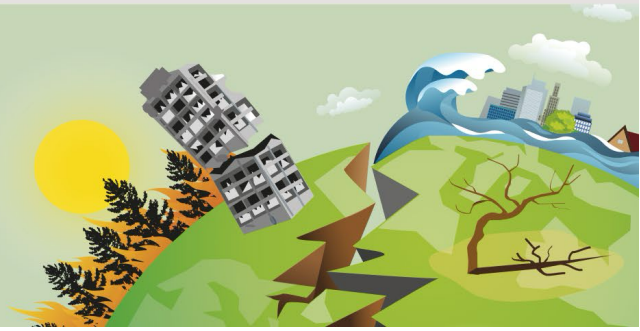

Last update: September 2025

Germany:

Return of Investments in Disaster Resilience Measures: Identifying potential measures and generating evidence to inform decision-making

Overview

Grant Size	€250,000
Duration	September 2024 – December 2025
Key hazard(s)	Droughts; Floods; Health Emergencies; Heatwaves
Key word(s)	Cost benefit analysis; Smart investments; Prioritisation

Context

Germany is vulnerable to a series of disaster risks, particularly those exacerbated by climate change, such as floods, heatwaves, and droughts. To strengthen disaster resilience, the country has implemented various measures, including the Federal Government's German Strategy for Strengthening Resilience to Disasters. As one of the world's leading economies, Germany's recent experiences with devastating floods underscore the growing pressure on its disaster preparedness systems due to evolving climate risks. As part of the effort to scale up disaster and climate resilience, it is critical to evaluate and prioritise smart investments. Understanding the costs and benefits of such investments, including reduced losses, stimulated economic activities, and socioeconomic and environmental co-benefits, is critical to inform policy dialogue and planning.

Objective

The grant's objective is to support Germany strengthen the economic case for ex-ante disaster preparedness and prevention.

Key Activities and Expected Results

Case studies of the socio-economic costs and benefits of disaster prevention measures

This Activity includes analytics to quantify the return of select investments in disaster prevention and preparedness measures, evaluating floods, heat waves, drought, and health emergencies, among others. The analysis can help inform dialogue and decisions related to public budgeting processes.

Risk communication, learning, and dissemination

This includes activities (such as presentations) to contribute to increasing the awareness of decision makers within Germany of the crucial role and range of benefits of ex-ante preparedness and prevention measures, as well as to capture and transfer lessons learned from Germany to peers in the European Union and beyond.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project builds upon the insights and outcomes of preceding initiatives, notably integrating and operationalising the research from the Economics for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (EDPP2) project. It aims to enrich the existing body of knowledge on smart investments in disaster prevention and preparedness by showcasing new case studies and examples from diverse interventions. For example, project activities can inform government efforts related to the implementation of the German Strategy for Strengthening Resilience to Disasters.

By providing key insights into the costs and benefits of resilience measures, the project also yields valuable insights for disaster resilience planning that are applicable to countries working towards Sendai Framework targets and the achievement of the Disaster Resilience Goals. The project's results not only inform the BBK's efforts to promote a proactive preparedness approach within Germany's disaster resilience strategy but also serve as a resource for other national ministries and international stakeholders. These insights will be crucial for informing smart investments in resilience and will contribute to a global understanding of effective disaster prevention and preparedness, especially considering climate change and extreme weather events. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

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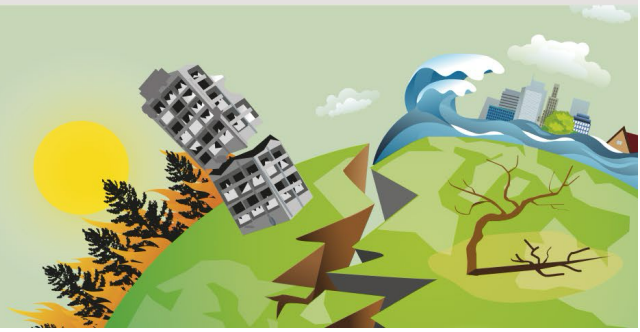

Last updated: September 2025

Iceland:

Towards an Integrated Wildfire Risk Management

Overview

Grant Size	€300,000
Duration	September 2024 – November 2025
Key hazard(s)	Wildfires
Key word(s)	Integrated wildfire risk management; Smart governance; Smart policies and investments

Context

Considering the growing impact of wildfires across Europe and expected impacts of climate change, the adoption and implementation of an integrated approach to wildfire risk management is becoming an increasingly important priority across Europe, including in Iceland. Although volcanic eruptions remain Iceland's predominant hazard, recent years have seen occasional wildfires in the southern, eastern, and western regions due to dry summer conditions. Wildfires are an increasing risk due to summer houses in forested areas. In the context of climate change, to effectively enhance Iceland's wildfire risk management capabilities necessitates a review of current arrangements and the identification of key gaps/challenges as well as opportunities to improve the framework for integrated wildfire risk management and to inform a future strategic framework and possible stakeholder-led actions.

Objective

The grant objective is to provide analytics and recommendations for adopting an integrated wildfire risk management (IWFRM) approach in Iceland.

Key Activities and Expected Results

Developing a diagnostic analysis and roadmap of recommendations with short, medium, and long-term priorities

This Activity includes analytics to review and assess the current state of wildfire risk management in Iceland, and to identify key gaps and opportunities for future action. A set of recommendations will be included in a roadmap with short, medium, and long-term priorities to inform stakeholder dialogue and eventual implementation. Consistent with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Wildfire Peer Review Assessment Framework (PRAF) and the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR), and taking into account good practice across various initiatives and examples in Europe and beyond, the analysis will consider different facets of IWFRM. These include understanding of wildfire risk, risk reduction, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery (including financial arrangements), as well as governance, coordination, and current initiatives and investments related to wildfire risk management. The results can inform policy dialogue and planning in Iceland and showcase to other countries practical way to diagnose and identify key areas for future action.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project is aligned with priorities and ongoing disaster risk management related initiatives in Iceland, including the ongoing Host Nation project. The approach is fully aligned with the methodological approach of the UCPM Wildfire PRAF, as well as higher-level EU Disaster Resilience Goals, and the SFDRR. The project considers knowledge generated under previous wildfire PRAF and existing country wildfire risk management practice assessments, as well as EU/country-funded projects and initiatives such as FIRE-RES for fire resilient territories in Europe, and the SAFERS PROJECT. The findings of the project will contribute to the broader knowledge base on IWFRM to further inform and refine its strategies and facilitate the uptake of such practices across UCPM countries. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government actors, the World Bank, and the UCPM.

Contacts

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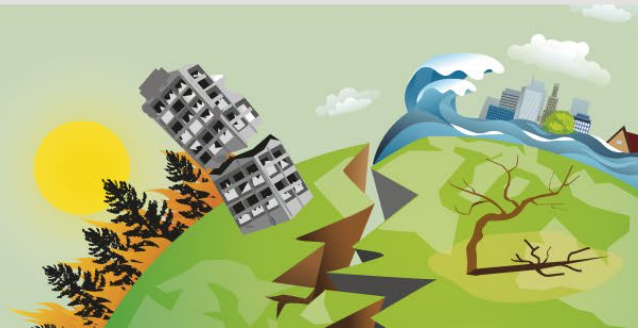

Last updated: September 2025

Kosovo:*

Improving Disaster Risk Understanding, Impact-Based Forecasting, and Early Warning in Kosovo*

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	August 2024 – August 2026
Key hazard(s)	Earthquake; Floods; Heatwaves; Landslides; Wildfires
Key word(s)	Early warning; Impact-based forecasting; Community engagement

Context

Kosovo is prone to several geological and hydrometeorological hazards such as floods, heavy snowfall, droughts, forest fires, and earthquakes. These hazards affect Kosovo's varied geography in different ways. Particularly in mountainous areas, Kosovo suffers from riverine and flash floods, and rural areas are often hit by landslides and drought; heat stress is increasing due to climate change with forest fires becoming more frequent and, as 43 per cent of the country is covered with forests, this is becoming a growing concern. In 2021 alone, 92 wildfires were recorded, burning 7,580 ha of land. To support Kosovo in enhancing its resilience against disasters, the country's capacities on risk assessment, impact-based forecasting and early warning and community engagement require urgent strengthening.

Objective

The objective of the grant is to support the government of Kosovo in strengthening its capacity to analyse disaster risks, its capabilities for impact-based forecasting and early warning, as well as efforts in community engagement and education, thereby improving its ability to respond effectively and efficiently to floods, wildfires, and other natural disasters.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Key Activities and Expected Results

Enhancing risk and impact analytics to inform decision-making

This Activity aims to enhance the evidence base for decision-making on preparedness and resilience building, particularly the accessibility and usability of risk-related information. It supports the collection and digitisation of critical infrastructure data to strengthen disaster exposure assessments, the development of a guidebook for integrating risk analytics into databases and helps enhance the capacity of institutional stakeholders to maintain and develop these systems.

Strengthening capabilities for impact-based forecasting and early warning

This Activity aims to strengthen capabilities for impact-based forecasting and multi-hazard early warning systems for more effective preparedness systems, with a focus on enhancing the integration and interoperability of technical systems and support last mile communication to reach the most vulnerable. It supports a comprehensive gap analysis of existing systems, processes and institutional frameworks for climate and disaster information, the development of a guidance note, and helps enhance capacity of key stakeholders to improve impact-based forecasting and early warning.

Community engagement and education on disaster preparedness and response

This Activity aims to strengthen the government's capacity to engage communities and raise public awareness to support community disaster preparedness and response, with a particular emphasis on flood and wildfire risks. It supports the development of a briefing note on community engagement and awareness, supports the training of officials in community outreach and emergency preparedness, as well as the development of educational programmes to raise public awareness about disaster risks.

Sustainability and Coordination

The project supports the achievement of national strategies for emergency preparedness and response, including the State Strategy for Reducing the Risk from Natural Disasters and other Disaster 2023-2028. It is a joint initiative between the Kosovo Emergency Management Agency and the Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute, thereby supporting cross-institutional collaboration for disaster risk management. The project also builds on previous and on-going donor-supported analytical and technical assistance programmes, ensuring continuity and complementarity. This includes the EU Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)-financed technical assistance "Western Balkans Disaster Risk Management Programme", implemented by the World Bank 2018-2021. The project aimed to enhance capacities for disaster risk reduction and resulted in the publication of Ready to Respond Reports that analysed gaps in disaster risk management systems. The project is embedded in ongoing strategic dialogues with the World Bank such as the Climate Change Development Reports country dialogues. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge being generated through collaborations between government actors, the World Bank, and the UCPM.

Contacts

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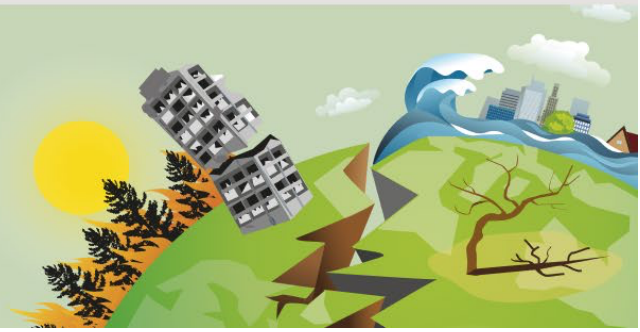

Last updated: September 2025

Moldova:

Strengthening Moldova's Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Project Management

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2024 – September 2026
Key hazard(s)	Earthquakes; Floods; Health Emergencies; Landslides
Key word(s)	Health emergencies; hydrometeorological services; Risk assessments

Context

Moldova faces significant challenges when managing natural hazards due to its limited resources and outdated infrastructure. The country has been particularly vulnerable to floods, droughts, and landslides, which have been exacerbated by climate change, as well as earthquakes. Moldova's disaster risk management efforts have been hampered by inadequate data for risk assessments, outdated hydrometeorological services, and insufficient preparedness within the health sector to handle large-scale emergencies. This grant addresses these gaps by developing detailed risk assessments, and by identifying opportunities to upgrade weather forecasting systems and strengthen the resilience of health infrastructure.

Objective

The grant's objective is to enhance Moldova's emergency preparedness and response capacities concerning natural hazards and climate-related shocks. Prevention will also be increased by better risk assessment analytics developed under the grant.

Key Activities and Expected Results

Supporting the improvement of Moldova's emergency preparedness and response capacity, including through the development of the methodology for the risk assessment process and disaster risk mapping

The activities encompass a multi-tiered approach over 24 months, aiming to develop and pilot a DRM risk assessment methodology at community, district, and national levels, with the involvement of central and local authorities. This includes creating and executing training programmes for risk assessment, conducting training sessions for various authorities, and organising a study tour for knowledge exchange with a country that has a similar disaster risk profile and a record of successful DRM implementation.

Supporting the improvement of Moldova's hydromet system

This Activity supports the implementation of the Strengthening Moldova's Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Project and conducts a review of Moldova's ICT Hydromet system to identify opportunities to enhance the collection and transfer of weather observations to the WMO Information System in Toulouse, establish efficient data transfer procedures, and upgrade the Chisinau weather radar for full functionality.

Health system disaster preparedness assessment

This activity will provide a summary report with risk assessments and priority recommendations for strengthening disaster preparedness in the health sector. The report will present the findings of a hazard exposure analysis of health facilities and their supporting infrastructure, including an analysis of access times to health facilities. The report will also contain an opportunity assessment for preparedness measures in health system planning, including the roles of hydro-met forecasting and DRM training for health sector professionals. Lastly, the report will highlight opportunities to better integrate health services into existing civil protection and emergency response frameworks.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project is part of a broader collaboration between the government of Moldova, the World Bank, the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), and the EU's Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) to strengthen the country's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. This project complements ongoing projects and initiatives led by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its subordinate units, as well as other line ministries to strengthen the resilience of critical emergency response infrastructure and systems. Findings and outputs of this grant activity will inform the design and implementation of ongoing and future World Bank lending operations, including a recently approved World Bank operation to strengthen Moldova's Disaster Risk Management and Resilience capacities. It also expands on recent analytical activities to assess gaps and opportunities in the face of climate change – including the Moldova Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR). Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between Government actors, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Contacts

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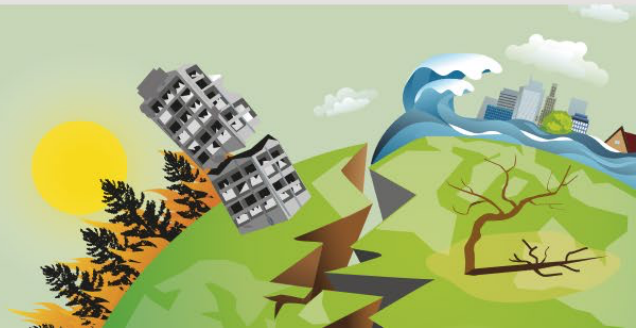

Last updated: September 2025

North Macedonia:

Resilience Investments, Governance and Recovery for Disaster Risk Reduction

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2024 – June 2026
Key hazard(s)	Earthquakes; Floods; Heatwaves; Wildfires
Key word(s)	Risk governance; Critical infrastructure; Resilient recovery

Context

North Macedonia faces significant challenges from natural and human-made hazards, with climate-related events occurring more frequently and intensely and earthquakes continuing to be a major concern. More recently, in 2024, the country experienced intense wildfires, highlighting the continuing need for enhanced mitigation and preparedness. To address this, North Macedonia is working to overcome barriers and fill knowledge gaps identified in past national disaster risk management and climate change adaptation assessments, aiming to scale up prevention measures and strengthen preparedness. Challenges remain in addressing vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure, improving recovery frameworks and enhancing coordination. The country is committed to building a proactive risk management framework at national and local levels, including clarifying stakeholder roles, improving operational planning and supporting cross-institutional coordination, enhancing preparedness and climate resilience, and aligning with EU standards.

Objective

The objective of the project is to enhance societal and community resilience in North Macedonia by addressing seismic and climate-related risks through foundational and transformational risk reduction and resilience-building measures.

Key Activities and Expected Results

Transformative and anticipatory risk governance and enhanced preparedness
To improve resilience building and enhance overall disaster preparedness in the country, this Activity establishes the foundation of transformative and anticipatory risk governance in protection and rescue. It supports a functional analysis of the existing DRM system to strengthen national strategies, deepens the understanding of risk and methodologies for hazard assessments to strengthen DRM and risk governance/planning, and builds capacity of stakeholders for enhanced preparedness from national to community level.

Scaling up prioritised prevention investments in critical infrastructure

This Activity focuses on significantly enhancing the resilience-building of critical infrastructure against climate and disaster risks, to be accomplished through strategic and prioritised investments in preventive measures with a focus on seismic resilience and energy efficiency. It supports analytics to enhance the understanding of the vulnerability of critical infrastructure assets, develops methodologies and tools to support disaster risk screening and develops proofing interventions, identifies pilot interventions at local level for critical infrastructure upgrading, and helps enhance technical capacity of institutional stakeholders in this field.

Establishing a resilient recovery framework

This Activity aims to develop a comprehensive framework that ensures communities can effectively recover and rebuild in the aftermath of disasters, focusing on long-term resilience and sustainability. It supports analytics to enhance the understanding of the vulnerability and needs of the population related to effective disaster recovery, identifies gaps in the policy and regulatory framework to inform the development of a robust post-disaster recovery framework, and helps build the capacity of DRM stakeholders to conduct PDNAs and resilient and inclusive disaster recovery.

Sustainability and Coordination

The project builds on previous and on-going national and donor-supported technical assistance and investment programmes, ensuring continuity and maximising collective efforts towards common goals. The project strengthens DRM systems in line with global and regional frameworks and key national strategic priorities. It aligns with the EU's IPA CARE Programme, incorporates lessons from past projects (IPA Floods and Fires, CRISIS, ROSES etc.) and complements ongoing projects with the World Bank (Sustainable Municipal Development Project, North Macedonia Sustainability and Resilience DPO, Climate Change Development Reports country dialogues). Analytics under this project align with established methodologies, including UNDP Guidance Notes and European Commission studies and guidance notes for critical infrastructure resilience. The project also coordinate with various ongoing EU-funded studies and research under Track 1 'Technical assistance for disaster risk management' (single-country) at both national and regional levels leveraging knowledge, good practices and lessons learned on DRM. The project promotes collaboration with a people-centred, inclusive, gender-sensitive and climate-risk informed holistic approach and, to foster ownership, supports community and stakeholder involvement. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

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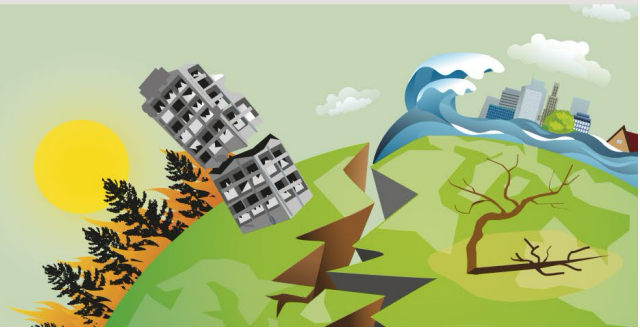

Last update: September 2025

Romania:

Romanian Assistance for Post-Disaster Improvement and Development (RAPID)

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	August 2024 – June 2026
Key hazard(s)	Droughts; Earthquakes; Floods; Heatwaves; Landslides
Key word(s)	Post-disaster recovery; build back better; inclusive disaster recovery; disaster response and recovery

Context

Romania is exposed to various natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, forest fires, droughts, landslides, storms, and extreme temperature events. Aging infrastructure, particularly in cities and throughout transport systems, increases the country's vulnerability, as witnessed by the number of buildings impacted by the 1977 earthquake. Climate change is expected to intensify these risks, making multi-hazard prevention, preparedness, and response readiness a key focus of government reform and investments. In recent decades, Romania has taken major steps to improve its disaster risk management framework and system. Through the adoption of key strategic documents – including the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2024-2035), the National Strategy for Seismic Risk Reduction (2022-2050), and the National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation (2024-2030) – the government is seeking to further strengthen its disaster and climate resilience, including improving the capacity of the national civil protection system and relevant institutions to manage disaster response and recovery in an effective and inclusive manner.

Objective

The objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of civil protection institutions to ensure an effective and inclusive disaster response and recovery, and to improve existing recovery frameworks.

Key Activities and Expected Results

Identifying gaps in Romania's current disaster recovery framework
This Activity includes a diagnostic assessment of Romania's current disaster recovery framework, particularly concerning seismic and climate-related hazards. The assessment helps identify and proposes ways to address gaps in Romania's post-disaster recovery framework, such as those related to governance and coordination, or different technical elements.

Strengthening the disaster recovery framework

Based on the diagnostic analysis, this Activity focuses on identifying technical recommendations in line with Build Back Better principles. Recommendations are supported by international good practice and examples related to post-disaster recovery. These activities can inform the development of a robust post-disaster recovery framework for Romania, aiming for resilience, sustainability, and alignment with international standards to mitigate future seismic and climate-related vulnerabilities.

Capacity building to improve recovery planning and execution

This component includes knowledge exchange events, training sessions for government officials and first responders, and institutional capacity building to improve recovery planning and execution and inclusiveness of response. The capacity building activities help facilitate inter-ministerial coordination and support the establishment of an overview of the requirements for critical disaster response and recovery resources.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project forms part of broader World Bank DRM engagement in Romania, which encompasses a range of activities aimed at strengthening the country's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. This project also complements ongoing projects and initiatives led by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its subordinate units, and other line ministries, to strengthen the resilience of critical emergency response infrastructure and systems. This includes investment financing through the Strengthening Disaster Risk Management Project, the Improving Resilience and Emergency Response Project, the Strengthening Preparedness and Critical Emergency Infrastructure Project, and the Romania Safer, Inclusive and Sustainable Schools Project. In addition, the results of this project also complement the reforms and expected results tracked under the Second Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Loan with a Catastrophe Draw Down Option (Cat DDO). In parallel, this project complements efforts led under a GFDRR grant through the Japan-World Bank Program for Mainstreaming DRM in developing countries, that is supporting Romania in addressing existing gaps in DRM policy development and emergency preparedness efforts, as well as in promoting and advancing investments in resilient public infrastructure. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Contacts

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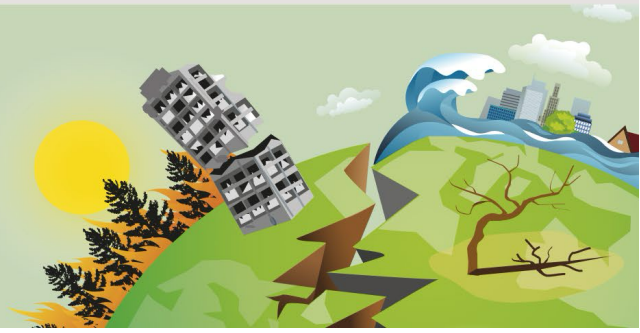

Last update: September 2025

Türkiye:

Enhancement of the Flood Early Warning System in Samsun and Communication Strategy

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2024 – September 2025
Key hazard(s)	Floods
Key word(s)	Flood Risk Management; Early Warning System; Communication strategies; Public awareness and preparedness; Capacity Building

Context

Enhanced accuracy and reliability of flood predictions through early warning systems (EWS) facilitate timely warnings and improved safety for at risk populations. At the same time, an effective communication strategy ensures the swift and efficient dissemination of risk information from EWS to decision-makers, as well as the broader public, enabling them to promptly initiate actions to mitigate the loss of life and property. In the context of climate change and increased flood risk, it is critical for countries, including Türkiye, to continue improving their EWS and related communications strategies. To minimise losses, the government is implementing a range of measures to improve flood predictions and reduce flood risk in Samsun Province. Samsun City is located within the boundaries of the Kızılırmak (Bafra) and Yeşilırmak (Çarşamba) river basins and both rivers, along with other local streams, present a significant risk of flooding. A series of investments is planned in this area to manage flood risk and serve as an example for other areas in Türkiye.

Objective

The objective of the project is to improve the EWS for floods in Samsun and to develop an effective communication strategy for disseminating information to the public at the city level, which will also serve as an example for other cities and at national level.

Key Activities and Expected Results

Technical evaluation of the current EWS and recommendations for improvement on the EWS-produced information

This Activity supports analysis of the current EWS and identify key recommendations for its improvement. It supports enhancements to the EWS in Samsun, improving the region's early warning capabilities and responsiveness to potential flood events. The analysis will also generate recommendations based on a good practice review that will inform and strengthen wider disaster response measures, thereby contributing to a more robust disaster risk management framework at the national level.

Evaluation of information dissemination methods for EWS and recommendations for an effective communication strategy for EWS-generated information

This Activity supports analysis to optimise the delivery and impact of EWS-generated warnings, ensuring that critical information reaches the relevant stakeholders in a timely, clear, and actionable manner. The analysis provides a set of technical recommendations for stakeholders to consider and be supplemented by capacity building.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project complements government efforts to strengthen EWS capacity, and DRM more broadly, with a focus on flood resilience. Samsun is considered a potential model for the nation's other flood-prone areas, offering insights that could also be applicable to other hazards that Türkiye faces. This technical assistance also aligns with the World Bank-financed Flood and Drought Management Project (FDMP), which seeks to improve flood control measures for communities in targeted regions and enhance the country's overall capacity to manage flood and drought risks. A critical aspect of the FDMP is the strengthening of flood monitoring and forecasting systems, a task undertaken by the State Hydraulic Works and Directorate General for Water Management. The FDMP includes a thorough evaluation and refinement of existing flood forecasting and early warning systems, aiming to improve their optimization. This concerted effort is designed to meet Türkiye's broader disaster resilience goals, as well as the FDMP's goals, and set the standard for flood risk management practices. This technical assistance grant supports these efforts by focusing on the existing EWS in Samsun, with the goal of refining the information produced, enhancing its dissemination, and establishing a communication strategy that could serve as a benchmark for other cities and at the national level. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

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