



TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Project brief



Last updated: September 30, 2024

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

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	August 2024 – August 2026
Relevant DRG	Anticipate; Alert
Key hazard(s)	
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.

Key Activities and Expected Results

COMPONENT 1

Enhancing risk and impact analytics to inform decision-making

This component aims to enhance the evidence base for decision-making on preparedness and resilience building, particularly the accessibility and usability of risk-related information. It will support 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 help enhance the capacity of institutional stakeholders to maintain and develop these systems.

COMPONENT 2

Strengthening capabilities for impact-based forecasting and early warning

This component 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 will support a comprehensive gap analysis of existing systems, processes and institutional frameworks for climate and disaster information, the development of a guidance note, and help enhance capacity of key stakeholders to improve impact-based forecasting and early warning.

COMPONENT 3

Community engagement and education on disaster preparedness and response

This component 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 will support the development of a briefing note on community engagement and awareness, support 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.

Government Counterpart(s)

Kosovo Emergency Management Agency (EMA), MOIA, Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute (KHMI).

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 will benefit from the knowledge being generated through collaborations between government actors, the World Bank, and the UCPM.

Contacts

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About TAFF

The **Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (TAFF)** is a partnership between the European Commission through its Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the World Bank, and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) to strengthen the disaster risk knowledge and management capabilities of countries participating in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). The TAFF provides technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of civil protection and other relevant competent authorities under the UCPM to scale up investments in disaster and climate resilience.

