



TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility
for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

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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