TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance

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.

Contacts

World Bank/GFDRR team: Salih Buğra Erdurmus, Senior DRM Specialist, Tugkan Tanir, DRM Analyst; UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org

Counterpart: Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, Government of Türkiye

www.gfdrr.org/en/taff

TAFF
Technical Assistance Financing Facility
for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Funded by
the European Union

GFDRR

Official Use Only
THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP