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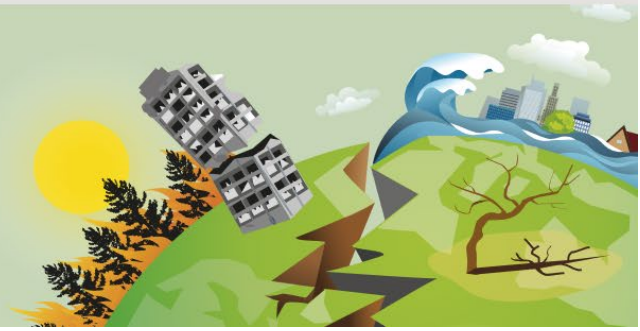
GFDRR Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

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TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Ireland:

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

Overview

Grant Size	€250,000
Duration	June 2025 – December 2026
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard; Large-scale disasters
Key word(s)	Governance of disaster risk management, institutional framework, preparedness, emergency response, prioritisation of measures

Context

The risk landscape in Ireland is changing—risk is increasing. Ireland's risk profile is shaped by the broader effects of climate change and a changing security context, with increasing complexity in emergency events, including hybrid and prolonged emergencies. These risks are common to many European countries; however, there are also country-specific factors that increase the overall vulnerability and exposure of the population, assets, and the environment to hazards.

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. While Ireland has a well-established risk assessment model, recent events, such as severe storms and floods, notably Storm Éowyn in 2025, have highlighted the need to further strengthen national preparedness for complex and cascading risks. Updating the SEM framework is essential to reflect current and future challenges, resilience priorities, and addressing 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 also provides emergency management training, advice and assistance if requested to government departments in relation to their emergency management functions.

Objective

The objective of the project 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. This is done through desk research, expert analysis, in country consultations, and review of international knowledge.

[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 project comprises several elements. Activities focus primarily on 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 project also includes stakeholder engagement, consultations with representatives of government departments, agencies, local authorities, civil society organisations (CSOs), and the private sector, and 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 Union Strategy.

Contacts

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