Funded by the European Union

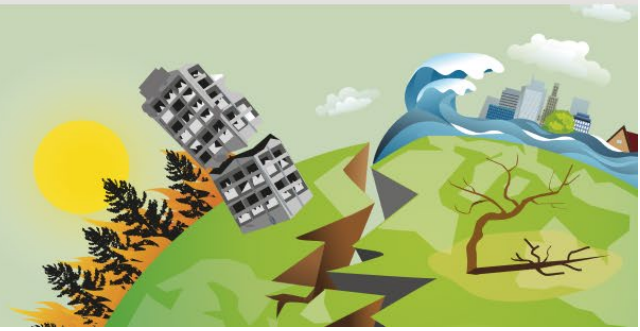
GFDRR Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

Administered by THE WORLD BANK IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

# TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

# Kosovo:

## Enhancing National Crisis Preparedness and Wildfire Risk Management[1]

## Overview

| | |
|---|---|
| Grant Size | €350,000 |
| Duration | September 2025 – June 2027 |
| Key hazard(s) | Multi-hazard (wildfires, floods, landslides, earthquakes, heatwaves, droughts) |
| Key word(s) | Risk preparedness, recovery, build back better, emergency response |

## Context

**Kosovo's geographical position and climate expose it to a diverse array of hazards, including floods, heavy snowfall, drought, forest fires, and earthquakes. T**he 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 project 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.

[1] 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

**This project comprises two interlinked activities.**

**The first** set 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.

In **the second** part, 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 project 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.

## Contacts

**World Bank/GFDRR team:** Anita Ellmauer-Klambauer, Urban Development Specialist, Henrike Brecht, Sr. Disaster Risk Management Specialist. UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org, www.gfdrr.org/en/taff.

**Counterpart:** Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) and the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI), Government of Kosovo.