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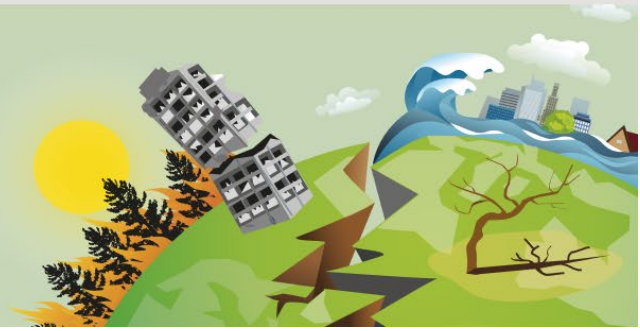
GFDRR Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

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TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Serbia:

Strengthening Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness

Overview

Grant Size	€450,000
Duration	September 2025 – September 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard (earthquakes, landslides, heavy rainfall, floods, heat waves, droughts, wildfires)
Key word(s)	Risk assessment, risk management planning, risk prevention, risk preparedness, emergency response, prioritisation of measures, capacity building

Context

Serbia's disaster risk management framework has undergone significant evolution in recent years, particularly following the adoption of the "Guidelines and Methodology for Vulnerability (Risk) Assessment and Protection and Rescue Plans in Emergency Situations" in 2017, updated in 2019. This Methodology, mandated by the Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management, applies across all levels of government — national, provincial, and local — and is coordinated by the Sector for Emergency Management (SEM) within the Ministry of the Interior. The experience gained from implementing the Methodology has highlighted the need for refinement and simplification, especially to facilitate its practical application at the local self-government level. In response, the Government of Serbia is undertaking an update of the Methodology to enhance the quality and operational relevance of disaster risk assessments and protection and rescue planning. This update aims to strengthen the overall disaster risk management system, inform future investment planning, and serve as a foundation for risk-informed decision making, thereby improving preparedness and resilience at both local and national levels. The revised approach will also address financial preparedness, ensuring that Serbia is better equipped to respond to and recover from disasters and crises, and will align with the principles of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The SEM within the Ministry of the Interior is the central institution responsible for disaster risk management policy and operations in Serbia. As the custodian of the national Methodology, SEM leads the coordination, development, and monitoring of disaster risk assessment and protection and rescue planning across all levels of government. Building on lessons learned from recent disasters and an evolving risk landscape, SEM is committed to modernising and refining the Methodology to better address current and emerging hazards, including those driven by climate change.

Objective

The objective of the project is to enhance the overall disaster preparedness and community resilience in the Republic of Serbia through improvement of existing frameworks and resilience-building measures. The proposed activities and outputs under the grant are designed to enhance the Disaster Risk Assessments and Protection and Rescue plans, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of preventive measures and preparedness activities. Additionally, these documents address financial aspects within the protection and rescue system, further strengthening the community's ability to withstand and recover from disasters.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project is structured around two main elements.

The first set of activities puts the focus on the review and updating of the Methodology for Disaster Risk Assessment and Protection and Rescue Plans in the Republic of Serbia. This involves a comprehensive diagnostic analysis of the existing methodology, identification of gaps, and the drafting of updated instructions to ensure alignment with current best practices and international standards.

The second part comprises an assessment of national disaster risk management capabilities and response capacities, identifying gaps, and providing targeted recommendations for capability and capacity enhancement. Both components will include consultations with key stakeholders, knowledge-transfer activities, and dissemination of results through relevant platforms and mechanisms including expert seminars, workshops, and trainings.

In terms of expected results, the findings and recommendations from each component provide Serbian authorities with a robust evidence base to inform future policy, planning, and investment decisions in disaster risk management and emergency preparedness. The process fosters collaboration among stakeholders, builds consensus on priorities for strengthening Serbia's disaster risk management system, and facilitates knowledge sharing within Serbia and with international partners. Ultimately, the Activity contributes to the modernisation of Serbia's disaster risk assessment and emergency preparedness frameworks, enhancing national resilience and alignment with European and international standards.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among Serbian stakeholders and shared more broadly, deepening the knowledge base on disaster risk management and emergency preparedness in Serbia. This supports the ongoing refinement of national strategies, including the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management, and facilitates the adoption of modern and harmonised practices across the country. By focusing on legal and institutional reform, risk assessment, and capacity building, the project helps embed sustainable improvements within relevant authorities, ensuring that the benefits of the project endure beyond its completion. The technical assistance provided also supports the operationalisation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Program and the National Strategy for Environmental Protection, aligning Serbia's disaster risk management framework with the EU Green Agenda and other key national priorities.

Given Serbia's membership in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and its commitment to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project are also relevant to other EU Member States and countries participating in the UCPM. Documented experiences and knowledge products can inform similar legal and institutional modernisation efforts in neighbouring countries and the broader UCPM community. 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 cooperation on disaster and climate resilience.

Contacts

World Bank/GFDRR Team: Guillermo Siercke, Sr. DRM Specialist, Hiromi Akiyama, Urban Specialist. UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org, www.gfdrr.org/en/taff.

Counterpart: Sector for Emergency Management (SEM), Ministry of Interior, Republic of Serbia.