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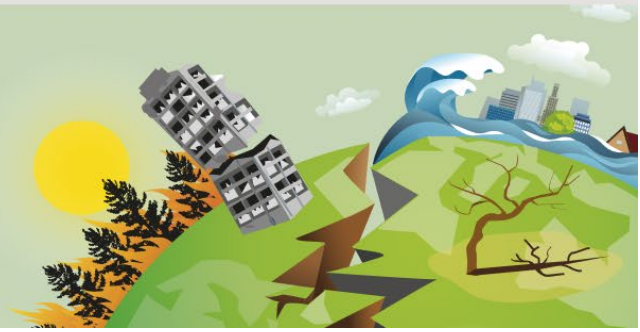
GFDRR Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

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TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last updated: September 2026

Kosovo:

Improving Disaster Risk Understanding, Impact-Based Forecasting, and Early Warning[1]

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	August 2024 – April 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard (earthquake, floods, heatwave, landslide, wildfire)
Key word(s)	Early warning systems, impact-based forecasting, community engagement, prioritisation of measures

Context

Kosovo is prone to several geological and hydrometeorological hazards such as floods, heavy snowfall, droughts, forest fires, and earthquakes. These hazards affect Kosovo's varied geography in different ways. Particularly in mountainous areas, Kosovo suffers from riverine and flash floods, and rural areas are often hit by landslides and drought; heat stress is increasing due to climate change with forest fires becoming more frequent and, as 43 per cent of the country is covered with forests, this is becoming a growing concern. In 2021 alone, 92 wildfires were recorded, burning 7,580 ha of land.

The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) under the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) leads Kosovo's risk reduction agenda, disaster response, and rescue operations alongside local municipalities. The Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute (KHMI) oversees monitoring of hazards as part of a multi-hazard early warning system (EWS). Previous assessments have identified a range of needs and priorities for crisis preparedness and readiness improvements (WB Ready2Respond Assessment 2021), including related to impact-based forecasting and early warning, institutional capacity for preparedness and response, and community engagement. These priorities identified are aligned with national strategic documents, including the State Strategy for Reducing the Risk from Natural Disasters and Other Disasters 2023 – 2028 (Republic of Kosovo 2022).

Objective

The objective of the project was to support the government of Kosovo in strengthening its capacity to analyse disaster risks, its capabilities for impact-based forecasting and early warning, as well as efforts in community engagement and education, thereby improving its ability to respond effectively and efficiently to floods, wildfires, and other natural disasters. With a multi-hazard approach, the project combined technical analysis, institutional engagement, and knowledge-sharing to support evidence-based decision-making. The results of this project are intended to inform future actions and investments to strengthen disaster preparedness in Kosovo.

[1] This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprised three activities:

First, activities focused enhancing the evidence base for decision-making on preparedness and resilience building, particularly the accessibility and usability of risk-related information. This included collection and digitisation of critical infrastructure data to strengthen disaster exposure assessments, the development of a guidebook for integrating risk analytics into databases, and capacity-building for institutional stakeholders to maintain and develop these systems.

Second, activities focused on strengthening capabilities for impact-based forecasting and multi-hazard early warning systems for more effective preparedness systems, with a focus on enhancing the integration and interoperability of technical systems and support last mile communication to reach the most vulnerable. Activities included a comprehensive gap analysis of existing systems (including materials gaps), processes and institutional frameworks for climate and disaster information, the development of a guidance note, and capacity-building for key stakeholders to improve impact-based forecasting and early warning.

Third, activities focused on strengthening the government's capacity to engage communities and raise public awareness to support community disaster preparedness and response, with a particular emphasis on flood and wildfire risks. This included the development of a briefing note on community engagement and awareness, training of officials in community outreach and emergency preparedness, as well as the development of educational programmes to raise public awareness about disaster risks.

Outputs: Key outputs include data collection and database development for selected assets under an integrated Disaster Impacts and Exposure Database; a technical report on data collection, review, and geodatabase development; a report "Gap Analysis and Guidance Note for Improving Impact-based Forecasting and Early Warning in Kosovo"; and community engagement and education activities for disaster preparedness and response, with a gap analysis and a summary report as well as capacity building activities such as technical workshops.

In terms of results, the project supported data collection and analysis, technical reviews, and capacity-building and community engagement. For example, 10 technical workshops, capacity-building sessions, and community drills were conducted between December 2025 and June 2026 to strengthen preparedness and response for disasters. Guided by disaster risk analytics, community drills in the municipalities of Skenderaj and Vushtrri, and a specialized three-day multi-hazard EWS seminar. The intensive engagement brought together a total of 449 participants, including emergency managers, municipal officials, first responders, and civil society actors. These activities provided an important contribution towards strengthening of response capabilities of communities in Kosovo. It is expected that the technical recommendations for data collection related to EWS can directly inform future investments in these areas. Finally, as a joint initiative between the Kosovo Emergency Management Agency and the Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute, the project has also supported cross-institutional collaboration for disaster risk management.

Sustainability and Coordination

The project supported the achievement of national strategies for emergency preparedness and response, including the State Strategy for Reducing the Risk from Natural Disasters and other Disaster 2023-2028. The project builds on previous and on-going donor-supported analytical and technical assistance programmes, ensuring continuity and complementarity. This includes the EU Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)-financed technical assistance "Western Balkans Disaster Risk Management Programme", implemented by the World Bank 2018-2021, and the resulting 2021 report Ready2Respond Assessment for Kosovo that analysed gaps in disaster risk management systems. The project is embedded in ongoing strategic dialogues with the World Bank such as the 2024 Kosovo Climate Change Development Report. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge being generated through collaborations between government actors, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Contacts

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