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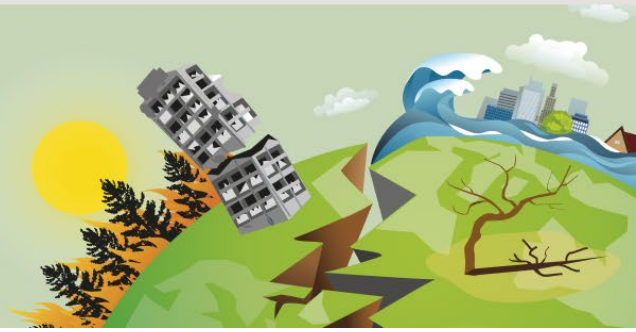
GFDRR Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

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TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last updated: September 2026

North Macedonia:

Resilience Investments, Governance and Recovery for Disaster Risk Reduction

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2024 – December 2026
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard (earthquake, floods, heatwaves, wildfire)
Key word(s)	Governance for disaster risk management, risk analysis, prioritisation of measures, critical infrastructure, recovery, build back better

Context

North Macedonia is exposed to a range of natural hazards, with many of them being sensitive to the impacts of climate change. Past floods, landslides, but also wildfires – including in 2024 - highlight the continuing need for enhanced governance and planning, as well as disaster prevention and preparedness. Beyond climate-related hazards, earthquakes pose a major concern with annual modelled losses of hundreds of millions of euros, and severe earthquakes potentially causing billions in direct and indirect damage and losses, including in major cities such as Skopje.

North Macedonia is working to overcome barriers and fill knowledge gaps identified in past national disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation assessments, aiming to scale up prevention measures and strengthen preparedness. The country is committed to building a proactive risk management framework at national and local levels, including clarifying stakeholder roles, improving operational planning and supporting cross-institutional coordination, enhancing preparedness and climate resilience, and aligning with EU standards. Yet challenges remain in analysing disaster risk, identifying and addressing vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure, as well as taking institutional steps toward developing resilient recovery frameworks. The national DRM system defines the roles of key institutions, including the Protection and Rescue Directorate (PRD) and the Crisis Management Center (CMC), yet the coordination is weak and responsibilities are overlapping. Being aware of this critical area of improvement, the government has been exploring the institutional reform toward more effective national DRM system including the option to merge PRD and CMC toward establishing a single DRM coordination agency.

Objective

The objective of the project is to enhance societal and community resilience in North Macedonia by addressing seismic and climate-related risks through foundational and transformational risk reduction and resilience-building measures. The project combined technical analysis, institutional capacity-building, and knowledge-sharing to support future actions and investments in North Macedonia to continue strengthen its national civil protection system and through this the country's resilience to disasters.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprised three activities:

First, activities included a technical review of the existing DRM system, earlier draft Protection and Rescue (P&R) strategy developed through multi-agency efforts, as well as available risk assessment methodologies and data. These reviews and technical facilitation of working groups for the development of P&R strategy led to the development of P&R strategy draft by the PRD. In addition, the technical note was developed to inform improvements in the national risk assessment methodologies and practices. Further, strategic recommendations were developed in one of the most urgent and significant risk – wildfires – on how to develop practical action plans for wildfire awareness activities, as a part of overall efforts to strengthen institutional capacities of key stakeholders.

Second, analysis was conducted to enhance the understanding of the vulnerability of critical infrastructure assets, using scalable methodologies and tools that can guide rapid risk screening and identification of possible interventions. A national level rapid review focusing on fire stations, PRD offices, and primary and secondary schools was supplemented by pilot analysis for two pilot municipalities, Gazi Baba and Bitola. Data collected and summary of methodologies developed was shared as part of technical capacity-building activities of institutional stakeholders in this field.

Third, gaps in the country's policy and regulatory framework were assessed and recommendations were identified on how to develop the country's post-disaster recovery framework, in line with build back better approaches. These recommendations were informed by a review of good practice, and training activities related to resilient recovery.

Outputs: Key outputs include technical and summary reports, workshops and trainings, and dissemination materials.

- World Bank. 2026. *Technical Handbook for Risk and Hazard Assessment and Protection and Rescue Planning in North Macedonia.* Link.
- World Bank. 2026. *Prioritizing Smart Investments in Critical Infrastructure Resilience in North Macedonia. Policy Report and Technical Handbook*. Link.
- World Bank. 2026. *Technical Handbook for development of Resilient Recovery Framework for North Macedonia.* Link.
- World Bank. 2026. 'From Analysis to Action: Building a Resilient and Risk-informed Future for Disaster Management in North Macedonia', Feature article, Link.

In terms of results, the project provided evidence and new analysis, technical and strategic recommendations across several critical DRM topics. The generated outputs are expected to strengthen the understanding of risk and of utilization of risk information for protection and rescue planning. The project generated knowledge for improved planning, specifically prioritisation of future measures and investments to strengthen the resilience of critical emergency management infrastructure. Guidance at the strategic level can inform the practical steps the government and stakeholders can take to start developing resilient recovery framework and advance ongoing reforms in institutional arrangement for more effective DRM governance. Finally, practical outputs, including the guide on how to develop effective wildfire awareness campaigns, coupled with various trainings, can help to staff and professionals continue to develop their technical skills in prevention and preparedness.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project has built on previous and ongoing national and donor-supported technical assistance and investment programmes, ensuring continuity and maximising collective efforts towards common goals. The project strengthens DRM systems in line with global and regional frameworks and national strategic priorities. It aligns with the EU's IPA CARE Programme, incorporates lessons from past projects (IPA Floods and Fires, CRISIS, ROSES etc.) and complements ongoing projects with the World Bank (Sustainable Municipal Development Project, North Macedonia Climate Change Development Report). Analytics align with established methodologies, including UNDP Guidance Notes and guidance notes for critical infrastructure resilience, as well as studies under EU-funded Track 1 'Technical assistance for disaster risk management', and prioritisation approaches developed under the Economics for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness project. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Contacts

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