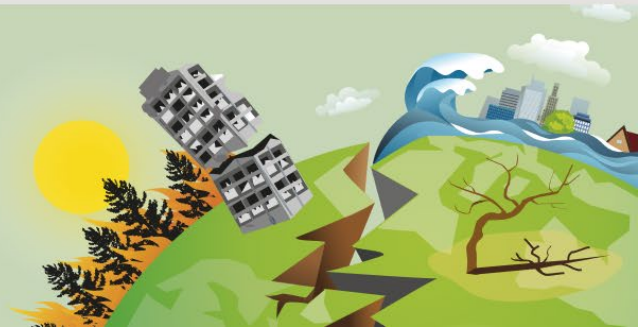
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TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility
for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Albania:

Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance, Investment Readiness, and Assessment Frameworks

Overview

Grant Size	€400,000
Duration	July 2026 – February 2028
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard, wildfires, earthquakes, floods
Key word(s)	Institutional framework, administrative, financial and technical capacities, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, risk management planning, prioritisation of measures, damage loss assessment

Context

Albania is vulnerable to a range of natural disasters including earthquakes, floods, landslides, wildfires and droughts. Affecting the country's population, infrastructure, and the economy, the increasing severity and frequency of events, create significant pressures on the country's civil protection system. For example, in 2025 alone, Albania recorded 2,743 fires affecting about 62,943 hectares, while in the same year, heavy rains and floods resulted in agricultural losses and infrastructure damages.

The National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) within the Ministry of Defence of Albania leads disaster preparedness and coordinates municipal disaster risk management (DRM) investment readiness in Albania. Albania has established relevant legal, strategic, and institutional foundations for DRM and flood risk management, including the Civil Protection Law, the National Disaster Risk Assessment, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (NDRRS), the National Civil Emergency Plan, and national disaster loss data systems. However, existing frameworks are not consistently implemented as authorities lack capacities, practical methodologies, analytical tools, and operational guidance. Particularly, there is a need to strengthen evidence-based monitoring of disaster risk reduction priorities, improve the quality and readiness of municipal resilience investments, and establish more consistent methodologies for disaster damage and loss assessment and reporting.

Objective

The objective of this project is to strengthen Albania's risk governance, municipal DRM investment readiness, and disaster damage and loss assessment ability. Accordingly, activities will focus in the following three areas and include: (i) an evidence-based stocktake of the implementation of Albania's NDRRS 2023-2030 and its current Action Plan 2023-2027; (ii) development of a transparent, risk-based approach for municipal DRM investment prioritization and readiness; and (iii) preparation of a national methodological and operational framework for disaster damage assessment and loss data quality. In this way, this project will offer technical assistance to develop consistent methodologies, guide operational shifts, and strengthen institutional capacity.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprises three key elements.

First, under 'Stocktake of the NDRRS 2023–2030 and the Action Plan 2023–2027 Implementation', an inventory across projects and thematic areas under the Action Plan 2023-2027 will be carried out. Analysis will be undertaken to identify lessons learned, funding gaps, and implementation bottlenecks and opportunities. Based on this, recommendations will be made to improve coordination and implementation, and develop technical recommendations to inform the preparation of the upcoming NDRRS Action Plan 2028–2030.

Second, under 'Municipal DRM Investment Proposal Readiness and Prioritization', a review of the existing DRM investment proposals and overall investment planning process at municipal level will be conducted to identify recurring obstacles throughout the operational process. The review will cover all municipal DRM investment applications submitted through the NCPA financing mechanism during 2024-2026, including both approved and non-approved proposals. The analysis will draw on the findings and tools developed under the "Toolbox for Integrating Disaster Risk Management into Albanian Municipal Planning and Budgeting" (WB 2022), and consider investments in prevention, preparedness, emergency response, rehabilitation and resilience investments. The review will also consider international practice and existing investment planning frameworks, such as requirements of the European Union Floods Directive. This will help identify recommendations for a municipal DRM investment readiness and prioritization framework, with practical guidance and an indicative readiness pipeline.

Third, under 'Strengthening Disaster Damage and Loss Assessment and Disaster Loss Data Quality', a review of current Albanian disaster damage and loss assessment systems and practices will be conducted covering the legal, institutional and operational framework, including methodologies, templates, procedures and operational practices used by municipalities, prefectures, line ministries and national institutions. The review will consider the findings and recommendations of a previous study on Improving Disaster Risk and Loss Information in Albania (WB 2022). International practice with damage and loss assessments will inform the preparation of technical recommendations for improving the national operational framework.

In terms of expected results, outputs are intended to provide the NCPA, Ministry of Defence, relevant line ministries, technical institutions, prefectures, municipalities, and development partners with a practical evidence base for enhancing current DRM and investment capabilities. Updated methodologies and frameworks relating to DRM and preparedness would support long-term project sustainability.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among stakeholders in Albania and beyond. Technical recommendations and diagnostic materials dissemination are intended to institutionally anchor sustainability and foster collaboration between relevant stakeholders. The activities are aligned with activities by partners, including the EU and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism in Albania, to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication. The outputs are intended to build on previous and coexisting projects–such as TAFF 2024 'Strengthening Albania's Fire Risk Management and Search and Rescue Capacity'–to encourage disaster risk governance, improve coordination and monitoring, and enhance evidence-based investment decisions, as well as DG ECHO financed Local DRM2, FloodNorthALB, DG ECHO multi-country and other technical assistance, including flood and forest-fire preparedness programmes, selected cross-border initiatives and relevant flood risk management workstreams supported by European investment partners. Relevant findings and tools developed under the TAFF 2024 grant on risk-based municipal capacity assessments, investment planning, and fire risk management will be used as inputs to the NDRRS stocktake and municipal DRM investment-readiness work, as relevant. The grant will use relevant diagnostics, tools, datasets, and lessons from these initiatives. Lessons learnt and relevant findings will also be shared internationally with partners. Coordination between agencies and key stakeholders can be enhanced through improved strategic planning, nationally applied methodologies and frameworks, and institutional preparedness. The application of suggested frameworks, methodologies, and toolkits encourages synchronicity in execution between appropriate government entities and external actors.

Contacts

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