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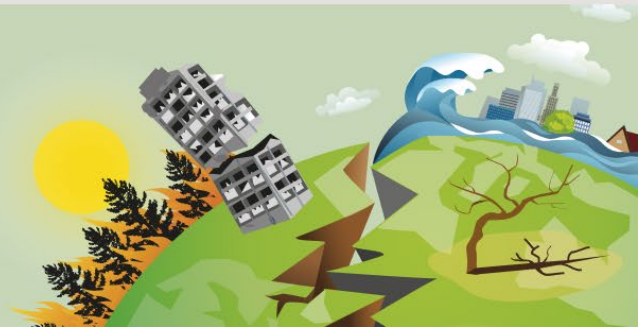
GFDRR Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

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TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Cyprus:

Strengthening Emergency Preparedness

Overview

Grant Size	€450,000
Duration	July 2026 – February 2028
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard (wildfire, earthquake, heatwave, drought, and tsunami)
Key word(s)	Institutional framework, role of stakeholders, risk preparedness, awareness and risk communication, training, critical entities resilience

Context

Cyprus is confronted with increasingly more complex, multi-sectoral crises, while its civil protection system is moving from focusing primarily on emergency response towards a more prevention- and preparedness- oriented model. Despite strong response capacities, the civil defence system faces challenges in adapting governance and ensuring readiness to operationalise the European Union (EU) Critical Entities Resilience (CER) Directive, adopting a whole-of-society preparedness with broad public awareness and participation across society and civil protection stakeholders, and ensuring systematic and even institutional capacity for training of emergency preparedness personnel and stakeholders.

This technical assistance project builds on national initiatives and strong entry points for collaboration with the Cyprus Civil Defence (CCD). It draws on EU-financed analytics on wildfires (WB 2025) and earthquakes (WB 2025), results from Technical Support Instrument project implemented (TSI 2024-2026), as well as the learnings and outcomes from the Cyprus' 2026 EU Council Presidency with respect to societal safety and resilience, and other relevant initiatives.

Objective

The objective of this project is to strengthen emergency preparedness in Cyprus by supporting the CCD to improve resilience of critical services, public awareness, and capacity-building and training capacities. This will be done by focusing on the following areas: (i) strengthening continuity of services by improving coordination and resilience planning for critical entities; (ii) cultivating whole-of-society preparedness by understanding the needs and contributions of different groups and pursuing a more strategic approach to public awareness; and (iii) advancing civil protection system capacities by defining options for a national training centre and more systematic training pathways. In this way, the grant activities respond to gaps identified in Cyprus's civil protection system, including related to implementation of the EU CER Directive; coordinated and strategic public awareness and stakeholder participation, and training and learning to ensure consistent capacities across emergency preparedness personnel and stakeholders. The project adopts a multi-hazard approach, with particular focus on forest fires, extreme heat, and earthquakes, with an overarching goal to support transition toward a prevention- and preparedness-oriented approach to crisis management.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprises three complementary elements.

First, under 'Critical Entities Resilience – Knowledge and Coordination', activities will support CCD in operationalizing its coordination and preparedness role under the CER Directive through diagnostic and gap analysis, operational recommendations, standardized templates, assessment guides, checklists, a monitoring framework, resilience and investment planning recommendations, and capacity building.

Second, under 'Public Awareness and Preparedness', activities will review current awareness-raising practices, consult target groups and stakeholders, develop a public awareness and preparedness strategy/roadmap, and deliver training and small pilot activities.

Third, under 'Enhancing National Civil Protection Training Capacities', activities will propose recommendations to define the mandate, scope, governance, operating model, training pathways, certification/refresher mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation, and sustainability arrangements that can inform the activities of a future National Civil Protection Training Centre.

In terms of expected results, outputs are intended to help CCD and stakeholders to operationalize CER-related reforms, improve continuity planning and resilience of critical services, strengthen public awareness and outreach to different groups, and establish a more systematic learning framework for civil protection professionals and other actors. Together, the activities are expected to contribute to improved public awareness, reduced disruption to critical services, and stronger institutional capacity.

Sustainability and Coordination

The project will build on the momentum of national initiatives and ongoing initiatives led by CCD, ensuring alignment with current policy processes and enhancing uptake and collaboration. At the national level, Cyprus has already adopted the CER Directive. The grant activities align with Cyprus' National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2023–2030, National Risk Assessment, National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, and hazard-specific response plans. At the regional level, the project aligns with the EU Preparedness Union Strategy and NATO Article 3 resilience goals.

Project sustainability is linked to institutional uptake by CCD and broader civil protection stakeholders. The diagnostic, gap analysis, and operational recommendations on critical entities resilience are intended to inform future operational, regulatory, and investment decisions for critical entities resilience. A public awareness and preparedness roadmap can lay the foundation for a medium- and long-term pipeline of public awareness activities and budgeting. Training pathways and modules are intended to support renewal of the learning system for civil protection professionals and stakeholders.

Contacts

World Bank/GFDRR team: Jun Rentschler, Sr. Economist; Hiromi Akiyama, Urban Specialist; Zuzana Stanton-Geddes, Sr. DRM Specialist. UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org.

Counterparts: Cyprus Civil Defence (CCD) – Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus.



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