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TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Kosovo:

Supporting Resilient Communities and Emergency Response Infrastructure[1]

Overview

Grant Size	€300,000
Duration	July 2026 – September 2028
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard (earthquake, flood, wildfire)
Key word(s)	Prioritisation of measures, risk preparedness, disaster risk financing, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, risk management planning

Context

Kosovo faces increasing risks due to various hazards, including floods, wildfires, and earthquakes, disproportionately impacting rural areas and vulnerable communities. In 2025, Kosovo was impacted by the worst fire season on record with 283 wildfires recorded, burning a staggering 18,467 hectares of land. Flood events in 2023 and 2026 have caused over €70 million in damage and affected hundreds of thousands of people. Also, landslides, mountainous flash floods, and droughts frequently compound these losses. With rapid urbanization and the impacts of climate change, the annual damages due to natural and climate disasters are projected to reach 4.2 percent of gross domestic product by 2050 in a medium climate scenario.

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. Management of disaster-related liabilities, risk response, and contingent emergency funding is managed by the Ministry of Finance.

Previous assessments have identified a range of needs and priorities for crisis preparedness and readiness improvements (WB Ready2Respond Assessment 2021, UCPM Peer Review 2026). Several of these priorities are addressed by ongoing technical assistance, including 'Improving Disaster Risk Understanding, Impact-Based Forecasting, and Early Warning in Kosovo' (TAFF 2024-2026) and 'Enhancing National Crisis Preparedness and Wildfire Risk Management in Kosovo' (TAFF 2025-2027). This TAFF project will address for example UCPM Peer Review recommendations related to governance – including with respect to the National Strategy for DRR and Action plan, disaster risk financing, and emergency management capacities. These areas are also 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).

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

Objective

The objective of the project is to support the Government of Kosovo in strengthening disaster preparedness planning and risk-informed investment planning. Focusing on three areas, grant activities will address some of the key challenges identified by: (i) informing investments for upgrading emergency response infrastructure; (ii) informing disaster risk financing; and (iii) analysing gaps in the implementation of the State Strategy for Reducing the Risk from Natural Disasters and Other Disasters 2023–2028.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprises three activities.

First, under activity 1 'Informing Integrated Resilience Upgrading of Emergency Response Infrastructure', recommendations will be provided to improve critical emergency response infrastructure assets (Emergency Operations Centers, fire stations, and designated emergency shelters, such as schools). Drawing on the Kosovo Country Climate and Development Report (WB 2024) and outputs generated under TAFF 2024–2026, and aligned with European Union standards, the grant will shift from focus on equipment needs toward the structural and functional resilience of physical assets critical in the country's emergency response network. Integrating existing data and diagnostic technologies, with localized data collection and technical assessments, a roadmap for integrated resilience upgrading of emergency response infrastructure will be developed.

Second, under activity 2 'Informing Disaster Risk Financing', a disaster risk finance diagnostic will be conducted. Considering international practice, the diagnostic will provide an overview of Kosovo's current financial resilience instruments (such as contingency funds, emergency reserves, etc.), and a set of recommendations to address existing gaps to set up scalable, shock-resistant financing approaches, and improve institutional arrangements.

Third, under activity 3 'Supporting Stocktaking of the Implementation of the State Strategy for Reducing the Risk from Natural Disasters and Other Disasters 2023–2028', assistance will be provided to the MIA Secretariat for Strategies and the EMA, by reviewing the initial Action Plan (2023–2028) and establishing a sustainable monitoring, reporting and evaluation framework to interpret performance indicators. A stocktake of multi-stakeholder actions will be conducted, identifying major gaps as well as milestones. Recommendations will be provided to integrate disaster risk reduction into local municipal planning. A training to improve monitoring and evaluation capacities of key stakeholders will be conducted.

In terms of expected results, outputs are intended to provide the Government of Kosovo with recommendations tailored to enhance their institutional, technical, and operational capacities, and to encourage future prioritized investments.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among stakeholders in Kosovo. Frameworks to guide the implementation of disaster risk reduction programs that align with national priorities and global practice will be provided. Competent authorities can utilize updated monitoring and evaluation frameworks and stocktaking matrices to shift from an ad-hoc progress tracking system to an evolving, continuous one. This can help the MIA and EMA to secure continued funding past the duration of this grant. The outputs are intended to build on previous assistance and initiatives, supported by the World Bank and development partners, to help guide comprehensive, investment-ready disaster risk frameworks.

Contacts

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