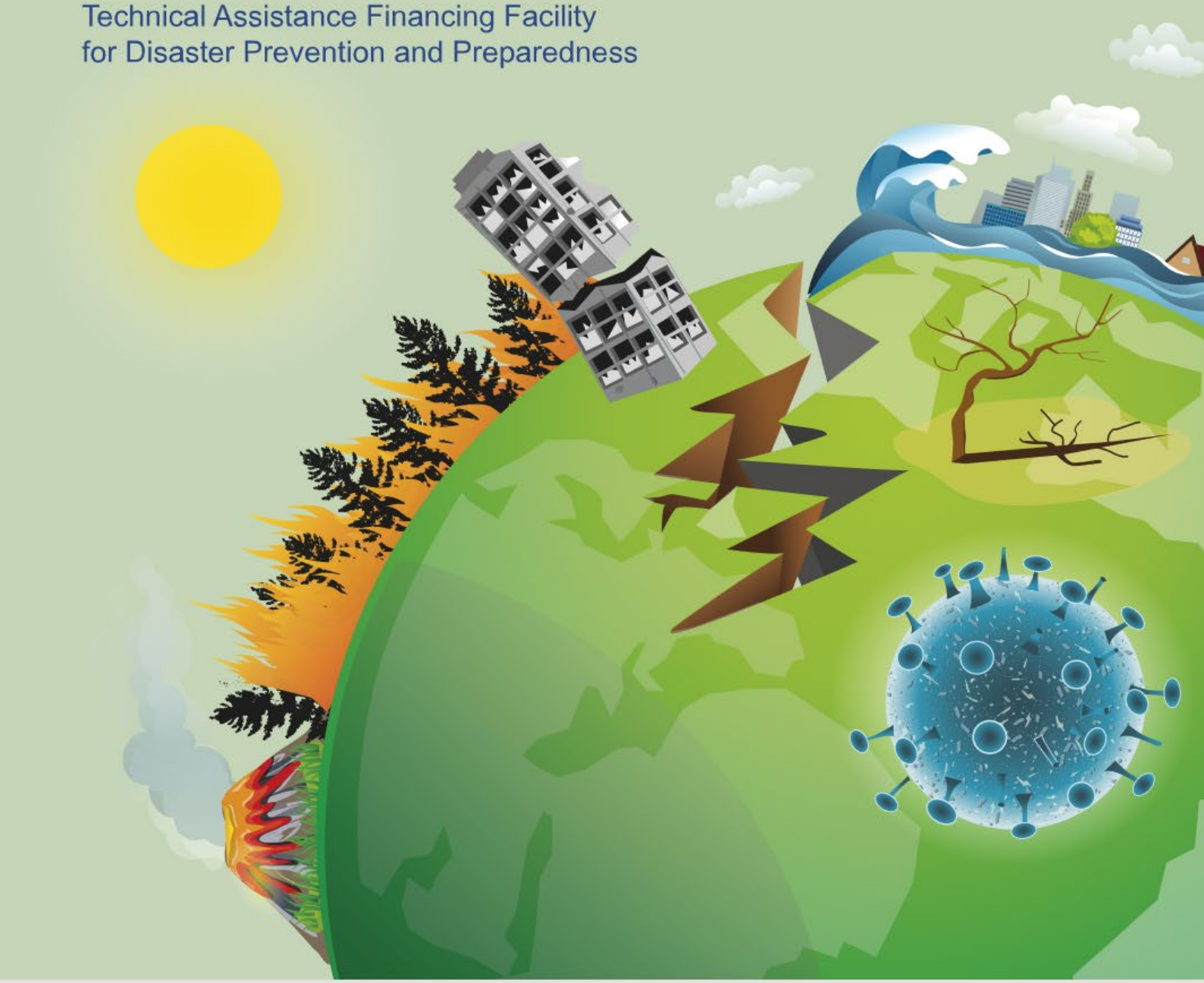
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TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility
for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness



Overview of TAFF

2024, 2025 & 2026



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TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness



Factsheet

Context

Strengthening financial resilience, making smart investments for disaster and climate resilience, and enhancing institutional capacity and preparedness makes economic sense. There are however recurring barriers, such as gaps in financial frameworks, limited institutional capacity, and difficulties in accessing EU funding, identified in the report Understanding the Needs of Civil Protection Agencies under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism *(UCPM),* conducted by the World Bank and DG ECHO. To be better prepared for disasters, there is a need to scale up investments to bolster disaster prevention and preparedness across the EU and through the UCPM. To address these needs, and in response to challenges identified in the report Economics for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness, the **Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (TAFF)** has been established to facilitate access to technical assistance and global knowledge on prevention and preparedness for national civil protection and disaster risk management authorities to support country and EU efforts on disaster risk management (DRM).

About

The overall objective of TAFF is to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of countries under the EU's UCPM for disaster and preparedness with a focus on:

1

Strengthening the capacity of civil protection and other relevant competent authorities in scaling up disaster and climate resilience in line with the Union Disaster Resilience Goals, the European Green Deal, the EU Preparedness Union Strategy, as well as the countries' national priorities.

2

Supporting investments in disaster prevention and preparedness through the development of a project pipeline and enhanced administrative capacity.

3

Improving the knowledge base on disaster risk management, and facilitate the sharing of knowledge, good practices and information.

TAFF has two components:

1. **Component 1 – Country-specific technical assistance** to strengthen the capacity of civil protection and other relevant competent authorities under the UCPM in scaling up investments contributing to disaster and climate resilience. Technical assistance includes various types of analytics, technical studies and recommendations for plans and strategies, piloting of activities, and capacity-building/training activities. Key areas of support include:
    - **Anticipate** – improving anticipation and disaster risk management planning to proactively address potential hazards;
    - **Prepare** – raising risk awareness and preparedness levels among the population to effectively respond to emergencies;
    - **Alert** – enhancing early warning and hydro-meteorological systems for timely and accurate information dissemination; and
    - **Secure** – strengthening national civil protection systems to prevent and prepare for disasters.

2. **Component 2 – Knowledge and capacity building** to facilitate the transfer and sharing of knowledge among countries on disaster risk management and facilitate the sharing of good practices across UCPM countries. Knowledge products and activities include for example studies, collection of best practices and lessons learned, practical guidance/knowledge notes, interactive workshops and technical deep dives/clinics, and training programs. **In 2025**, TAFF workshop brought together over 120 participants from the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), TAFF-supported projects, EU institutions, and partner organisations. Also, a series of reports was published providing an overview of the risk trends, key challenges, and key opportunities for strengthening resilience to wildfires and earthquakes.

How to Apply

***Implementation arrangements**:* The World Bank/GFDRR teams implement, working closely with the beneficiaries to ensure activities are aligned with their needs, and disseminate knowledge and lessons learned.

Eligible countries include EU Member States, Participating States of the UCPM, and Kosovo[1] in view of their ongoing efforts to join the UCPM.

Eligible entities include national level civil protection authorities or authorities with disaster risk management (DRM) responsibilities of eligible countries, with the agreement of the national civil protection authorities.

***Expressions of Interest and Shortlisting**:* Eligible entities can respond to a Call of Expressions of Interest (EoI) which will be published on DG ECHO and GFDRR websites, by submitting an EoI. The EoI will be accepted on annual basis within defined timeframes. EoIs outside this range, particularly due to emergency situations, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. It is recommended for EoIs to be developed in coordination with the World Bank/GFDRR teams.

Proposals and start of activities: Based on the shortlist of EoIs agreed with DG ECHO, the World Bank/GFDRR teams, in coordination with beneficiary country and entity, develop - the full project proposal, and World Bank/GFDRR teams start implementation in line with the agreed scope.

Project duration is expected between 18 and 24 months.

***2024 Call of Expressions of Interest**:* Eight country-specific activities are being implemented in Albania, Germany, Iceland, Kosovo, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, and Türkiye; as well as cross-cutting analytical activities (EU-wide).

2025 Call of Expressions of Interest: Seven country-specific activities are being implemented in Croatia, Ireland, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Sweden, and Türkiye; as well as cross-cutting analytical activities (EU-wide).

2026 Call of Expressions of Interest: Eight country-specific activities are being implemented in Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Montenegro, Malta, Slovakia, Kosovo, and Türkiye. The project summaries will be made available online (links below).

Partnership

The **TAFF for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness** is a partnership between the European Commission through its Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). TAFF is fully funded by the EU and managed by the GFDRR and implemented by the World Bank.

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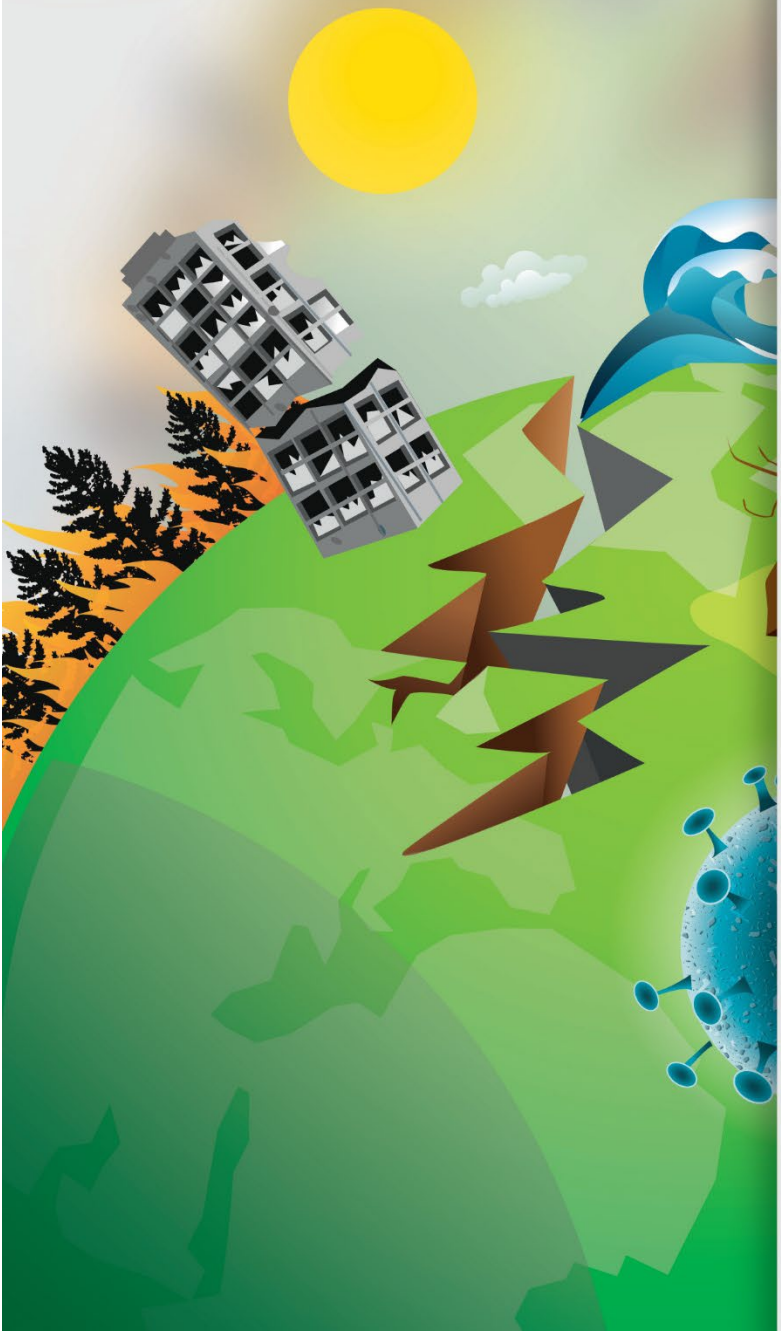
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https://www.gfdrr.org/en/taff
https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/technical-assistance-financing-facility-taff

[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.

2026



Albania:
Advancing Risk Informed Planning and Disaster Preparedness for Resilient Municipalities

Bulgaria:
Support to prevention, early detection and response to forest fires

Cyprus:
Strengthening emergency preparedness
Kosovo: Supporting resilient communities and emergency response networks

Malta:
Resilience, Early Warning, and Advancing Disaster Preparedness

Montenegro:
Strengthening Emergency Coordination and Unified Resilience Efforts

Slovakia:
Strengthening Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Policies in Slovakia

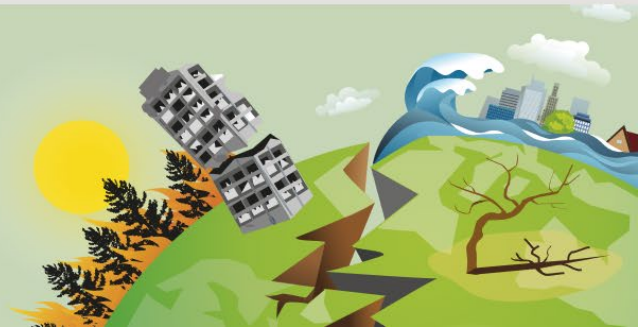
Türkiye:
Building Inclusive and Resilient Istanbul

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Technical Assistance Financing Facility
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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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Counterparts: National Civil Protection Agency, Ministry of Defence

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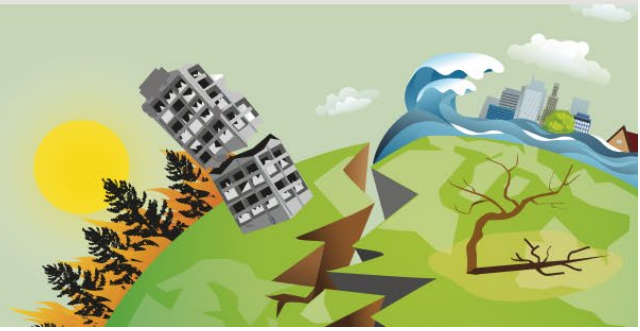
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Bulgaria:

Wildfire Prevention, Early Detection and Response, Investment Planning and Awareness

Overview

Grant Size	€600,000
Duration	July 2026 – July 2028
Key hazard(s)	Wildfires
Key word(s)	Risk prevention, prioritisation of measures, early detection and monitoring, risk preparedness, damage and loss assessment, community engagement, awareness and risk communication

Context

Bulgaria faces high forest fire risk and has seen longer fire seasons due to a combination of human related activities and climate change. On average, the country records about several hundred forest fires annually, affecting around 5,000 to 10,000 hectares, with extreme years affecting over 30,000 hectares (WWF 2025; EFFIS 2026). Although Bulgaria has established institutional responsibilities regarding prevention and response, the current system remains fragmented and there are gaps in the prioritization of coordinated investment, early detection coverage, and risk-based planning measures. It is estimated that around 90 percent of forest fires are the result of human activities, such as illegal practices, negligence, or agricultural burning, demonstrating an increased need for community engagement and education regarding fire risk preparedness.

This project will engage several lead agencies related to forest fire prevention, preparedness, and response, including the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Executive Forest Agency (EFA), and the Directorate-General for Fire Safety and Civil Protection (DG FSCP) under the Ministry of Interior. The DG FSCP functions as Bulgaria's primary agency for fire safety, emergency rescue, disaster risk reduction, civil protection coordination, and related training — operating at both the national and local levels. EFA is Bulgaria's primary state authority for the governance, protection, and sustainable management of the country's forests and nature parks. EFA operates through regional forest directorates, forest seed control stations, forest protection stations, and nature parks directorates across the country.

Objective

The objective of the project is to strengthen Bulgaria's capability for forest fire early detection, prevention, and preparedness, in line with international best practices. This project aims to address some of the key challenges identified by focusing on the following key areas: (i) fire early detection and monitoring systems; (ii) integrated investment frameworks; (iii) methodology for forest fire damage evaluation; (iv) public awareness approaches; and (v) capacity support and knowledge transfer. In this way, the project will provide analytical, institutional, and operational technical assistance to competent authorities to move from fragmented, project-based solutions toward a coherent, evidence-based and investment-ready national approach to forest fire risk management.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project includes five key elements.

First, under 'Optimization of Forest Fire Early Detection and Monitoring Systems', recommendations will be identified, in line with an analytical assessment of current systems, to improve the cost-effectiveness, efficiency, and coordination of forest fire early detection systems, as well as alignment with European Union (EU) and international good practices. For example, fire monitoring systems in EU Member States with similar geographic and climatic characteristics, will be reviewed. Assessments to optimize existing infrastructure, as well as options for greater integration with the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) will be conducted. Operational recommendations will be proposed to the competent authorities to improve national forest fire and prevention measures, as well as deepen collaboration with other EU Member States.

Second, under 'Integrated Investment Planning for Forest Fire Prevention and Response in Agriculture and Forestry', a review of legally regulated prevention and response measures will be undertaken. Corresponding suggestions for an integrated investment plan and improvements to current forest fire risk assessment methodologies encourage the development of an investment-ready, integrated framework for prioritizing and financing forest fire measures.

Third, under 'Forest Fire Damage Assessment Toolkit', using a review and analytics of international methodologies for forest fire damage assessment, technical recommendations will be prepared for a damage assessment toolkit fitting Bulgaria's context. The development of a practical damage assessment toolkit could help align Bulgaria with international methodological best practices by shifting their national fire risk assessment and response approach from reactionary to proactive.

Fourth, under 'Public Awareness and Behavioural Change for Forest Fire Prevention', support will be provided to encourage a structured, empirically based approach to raising public awareness and addressing the human factor as the primary cause of forest fires. This will be done by review of examples of effective campaigns and assessing demographic data to improve engagement across various populations.

Fifth, under 'Validation, Capacity Support, and Knowledge Transfer', activities will be conducted to strengthen institutional coordination, ensure ownership of results, and support capacity building. These activities may include workshops, knowledge exchanges, consultations, as well as targeted knowledge and training.

In terms of expected results, they are intended to provide the Government of Bulgaria, DG FSCP, EFA, and relevant stakeholders with the institutional, analytical, and operational technical assistance necessary to strengthen the pre-existing forest fire prevention and response framework. Suggested implementation of an integrated investment plan would support long-term financing options for upgraded infrastructure. The implementation of community engagement pilot programs would aim to enhance citizenry awareness about forest fires and risk preparedness.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among stakeholders in Bulgaria. The dissemination of diagnostic reports, knowledge toolkits, and improved fire risk assessment methodologies to the competent authorities in Bulgaria is intended to support inter-agency communication and facilitate a systemic transition to an investment-ready, climate-informed national approach to fire prevention and preparedness.

Coordination between agencies and key stakeholders can be enhanced through increased knowledge transmission with other EU Member States and further aligning with EU-benchmarked best practices and organizations, such as EFFIS. The suggested incorporation of universal design standards in the development of a national awareness and communication framework can aim to contribute a fully accessible system to persons with disabilities. It is essential that all related agencies and government actors strengthen coordinative ties to maintain inter-agency cohesion.

Contacts

World Bank/GFDRR team: Eolina Milova, Sr. Environmental Specialist. UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org.

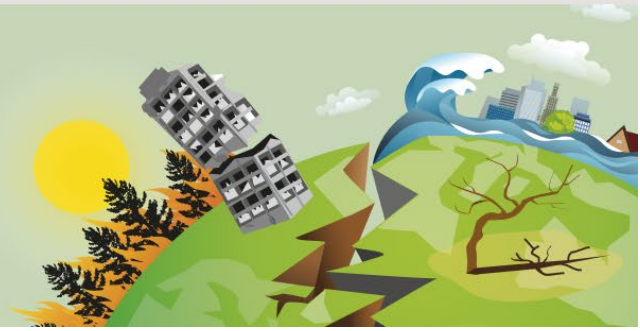
Counterparts: Executive Forest Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Fire Safety and Civil Protection Directorate General, Ministry of Interior.

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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

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



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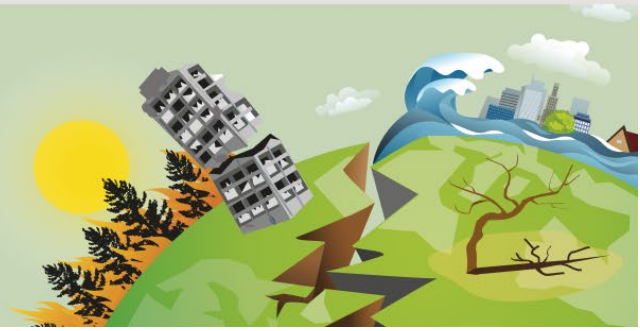
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

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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Counterparts: Emergency Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

Funded by the European Union

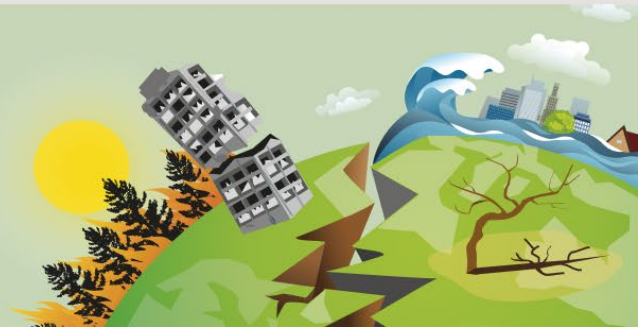
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Malta:

Resilience, Early Warning, and Advancing Disaster Preparedness (READY)

Overview

Grant Size	€550,000
Duration	August 2026 – February 2028
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard (floods, wildfire, earthquake, heatwave)
Key word(s)	Institutional framework, policy coherence, risk preparedness, response coordination, early warning systems, contingency planning, community engagement

Context

As a small island state located in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, the Republic of Malta is exposed to a diverse range of hazards, such as coastal inundation, flooding, earthquakes, wildfires, and extreme urban heat. Considering high population density and economic activities along its coastline, a comprehensive emergency preparedness and response (EP&R) framework is critical for Malta's population and the economy. Although Malta's current EP&R system is relatively robust, there are limitations, such as its reactionary nature and reliance on informal links between government ministries, departments, and agencies to conduct risk assessments and national coordination efforts. With improved institutional and statutory empowerment, community engagement, and contingency planning initiatives, Malta has the potential to reflect the modern standards that emphasizes a "whole-of-society" approach to emergency preparedness and resilience. Optimizing Malta's existing EP&R system and establishing a National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) can contribute to shifting current practice from focus on response towards anticipation and prevention.

The Civil Protection Department (CPD) within the Ministry for Home Affairs and Security leads disaster coordination, response, and rescue operations. Although the Civil Protection Act (1999) and the Emergency Powers Act (1964) provide the CPD with a mandate for emergency response and coordination, CPD lacks practical interagency autonomy to conduct contingency planning, including identifying risks and developing early warning systems (EWS) to support national readiness. Such legal gaps hinder the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs), and prevent uniform engagement across key stakeholders, including engagement with marginalized and vulnerable populations. These challenges correspond to the findings of the Ready2Respond assessment completed in 2026 (WB 2026).

Objective

The objective of this project is to improve community resilience and strengthen anticipatory emergency preparedness systems that would allow the CPD to modernize Malta's EP&R system, in alignment with good practice in the European Union and globally. This will be achieved by focusing on three key areas: (i) disaster risk reduction arrangements; (ii) EWS; and (iii) contingency planning and community preparedness. These efforts aim to contribute an anticipatory and holistic system to managing emergencies in line with international good practices, and to reducing the social and economic impacts of natural hazards.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprises three key elements.

First, under 'Upgrading legal, institutional and regulatory structures for preparedness and response', recommendations will be made to improve the existing legal framework to establish clear duties and responsibilities across all related ministries, departments, and agencies, and formalizing existing good practice. As part of this activity, recommendations for the overall EP&R Framework – including arrangements for a potential multi-agency NEOC – and associated SOPs will be developed.

Second, under 'Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems', the current system will be assessed, and in consultation with an early warning technical working group (EW-TWG), a roadmap for improving EWS will be developed to strengthen end-to-end impact-based warnings. This roadmap will cover elements such as digital dissemination platforms, hydrometeorological monitoring ability, and risk data accessibility. In line with EWS international standards and the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC Article 110), the EW-TWG would put forward recommendations for regulatory amendments and investments to modernize the EWS.

Third, under 'Strengthening Risk Assessment and Contingency Planning', technical support will be provided to identify gaps for developing high resolution multi-hazard risk assessments, develop an annual program of community risk awareness and preparedness to make communication and related activities more consistent, and provide recommendations to improve contingency and preparedness plans, as well as SOPs for high-risk areas and key hazards. Improved risk analytics can also guide post-disaster financing arrangements and instruments. The current building codes for fire and seismic safety, and the current safety review procedures for critical public buildings and infrastructure will be rapidly assessed and recommendations prepared.

In terms of expected results, the activities are intended to provide the Government of Malta and the CPD with a diagnostic and recommendations to guide future reforms at the institutional, legal, and technical levels to ensure a systemic transition from a reactive to a proactive EP&R framework. Diagnostic reports and corresponding investment roadmaps and technical recommendations can guide future efforts to increase preparedness, infrastructure resilience, and community safety engagements. Improved risk assessments can inform enhanced contingency planning and decrease disaster impacts while strengthening a systematic and "whole-of-society" approach.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among stakeholders in Malta. Diagnostics and technical recommendations aligning with EU legislation, including EEC Article 110, the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and good practice, are expected to contribute to improved multi-agency collaboration and communication, as well as consistency among existing protocols, toolkits and risk assessment methodologies. The development of an investment roadmap for multi-hazard EWS can guide designated authorities in their future investments and projects beyond the grant's duration. Overall, the grant will seek to help competent authorities move from fragmented and reactive approaches toward a coherent, preventive, and climate-resilient disaster risk management framework, strengthening institutional capacity to scale up disaster and climate resilience in line with EU and national priorities

Coordination between agencies and key stakeholders can be enhanced through improvements in the EP&R system, including the potential NEOC, and the legal framework for planning, preparedness, and response integration across sectors. Reinforcing inter-agency collaboration between civil protection and external actors is a critical element of effective EP&R and EWS.

Contacts

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Counterparts: Malta Civil Protection Department.

Funded by the European Union

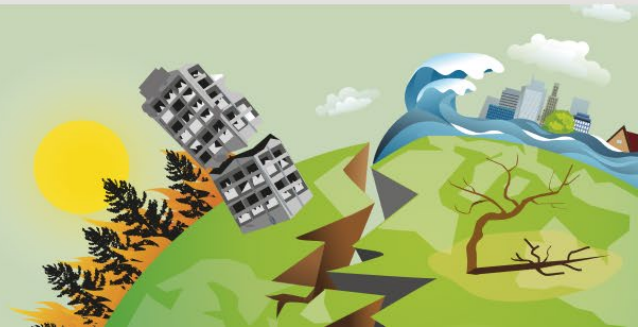
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Montenegro:

Strengthening Emergency Coordination and Unified Resilience Efforts (SECURE ME)

Overview

Grant Size	€450,000
Duration	July 2026 – January 2028
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard (earthquake, flood, wildfire)
Key word(s)	Institutional framework, policy coherence, prioritisation of measures, risk preparedness; recovery, build back better, disaster risk financing, institutional capacities

Context

Montenegro is exposed to a range of natural and climate-related hazards, including earthquakes, floods, wildfires, landslides, extreme weather events, and heatwaves, which pose significant risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, economic activity, and national resilience. Recent disasters and emergencies highlight the importance of strengthening disaster risk management (DRM) capacity and advancing a more coherent, risk-informed, and governance-driven approach to emergency management.

Montenegro has an established policy and legislative foundation for DRM and civil protection, including through the Law on Protection and Rescue and the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy. In the context of Montenegro's accession path to the European Union (EU), it is important to strengthen governance arrangements, disaster risk financing, interagency coordination, and operational readiness in line with EU requirements and practice of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). These efforts are consistent with broader national priorities related to risk reduction, climate adaptation, civil protection, and resilience, recognizing that increasingly complex and interconnected risks require strong institutional leadership, coordinated action across sectors, and a whole-of-society approach. While important progress has been made, opportunities remain to further strengthen institutional coordination, clarify operational roles and responsibilities, enhance disaster-related fiscal preparedness, and build operational capacities at different levels.

Objective

The objective of this grant is to support Montenegro's transition toward a more coherent, governance-driven, and risk-informed DRM system that is resilient to multi-hazard risks and aligned with EU standards and accession requirements. This will be done by focusing on three complementary areas: (i) DRM governance and EU alignment, (ii) financial preparedness and fiscal resilience, and (iii) operational capacity development on emergency management and knowledge exchange. Through targeted training, structured knowledge exchange, and peer learning with EU counterparts, the grant will support implementation-oriented reforms that strengthen coordination, promote interoperability, and enhance preparedness for future emergencies and disasters.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprises three key elements.

First, under 'DRM governance and EU alignment', activities will include rapid diagnostic assessment of Montenegro's emergency management governance architecture, including legal mandates, command arrangements, inter-institutional coordination mechanisms, as well as gaps in relation to EU accession requirements and UCPM practice. Based on desk research, stakeholder consultations, and international good practice, recommendations for a prioritized reform roadmap will be developed to clarify roles and responsibilities, formalize coordination arrangements, and identify priority areas for legal, institutional, and operational reform.

Second, under 'Financial Preparedness and Fiscal Resilience', activities will include a rapid review of Montenegro's macro-fiscal impacts due to disasters, its existing financial instruments, institutional arrangements, post-disaster financing practices, and fiscal preparedness gaps, with recommendations on financing options. Also, ongoing damage and loss assessment framework will be reviewed and recommendations for improvements provided.

Third, under 'Training, Capacity Building, and Knowledge Exchange', activities will strengthen operational capacity on emergency management through targeted training, workshops, study visits, and peer-learning exchanges with EU counterparts at national and municipal levels.

In terms of expected results, the project will provide Montenegro's Ministry of Interior, Directorate for Protection and Rescue, Ministry of Finance, and other key DRM stakeholders with a comprehensive evidence base to inform strategic investment decisions, regulatory reforms, and institutional strengthening. The process will help build consensus on reform priorities, strengthen coordination among national and local authorities, support alignment with EU resilience and civil protection standards, and enhance administrative capacity to plan, finance, and implement disaster prevention and preparedness measures. This project is also expected to contribute to efforts to improve fiscal preparedness by supporting more systematic approaches to disaster risk financing, damage and loss assessment, and access to relevant post-disaster financing mechanisms. In the long-term, the project can contribute to a more coherent, well-governed, fiscally prepared, and EU-aligned DRM system in Montenegro, strengthening national resilience and benefiting citizens, vulnerable communities, public institutions, and the broader region.

Sustainability and Coordination

The reform roadmap, disaster risk financing diagnostic, and capacity-building outputs developed under this project will be disseminated among stakeholders in Montenegro and shared more broadly with the regional DRM community. These knowledge products will provide a strategic basis for future investments, policy reforms, and institutional strengthening, anchoring Montenegro's DRM governance development within the longer-term framework of EU accession, EU Preparedness Union Strategy, and other resilience priorities. The project will also support alignment with relevant EU frameworks and instruments, including the UCPM and the EU Solidarity Fund. Expanding technical assistance toward broader DRM governance and systemic resilience priorities, this project activities will build on and complement the ongoing TAFF project (2024-2026) 'Montenegro: Enhancing Disaster Resilience and Continuity of IT Infrastructure and Services in the Operational Communication Center 112', which focuses more narrowly on functionality and business continuity of Montenegro's Operational Communication Centre 112.

Given alignment with EU and regional standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project can be relevant to other EU Member States and countries participating in the UCPM. Documented experiences and knowledge products can inform similar governance reform, fiscal preparedness, and capacity-building efforts in neighbouring countries and the broader UCPM community.

Contacts

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Counterparts: Directorate for Protection and Rescue, Ministry of Interior, Government of Montenegro.

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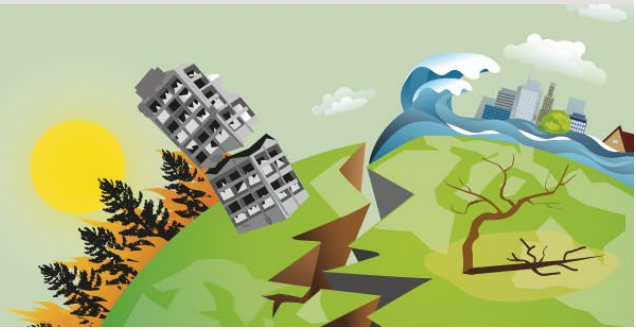
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Slovakia:

Strengthening Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Policies

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	July 2026 – June 2028
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard
Key word(s)	Institutional framework, systematic resilience, prioritisation of measures, risk preparedness, recovery, disaster risk financing, institutional capacities, awareness and risk communication

Context

Slovakia is exposed to various natural hazards including floods and extreme weather events, and, to a lesser extent, earthquakes. The country also faces technological, hybrid, and other types of multi-sectoral risks that point to the need for a more integrated and anticipatory approach to disaster risk management (DRM). While steps are being taken in line with European Union (EU) regulations, Slovakia's DRM system continues to face several challenges, including those related to strategic and evidence-based investment planning, post-disaster impact methodologies and financing arrangements, as well as institutional capacities and public awareness. These challenges have also been reflected in recent crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and other emergencies.

The Crisis Management Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic acts the national civil protection authority. The Ministry cooperates with other actors at different levels and across public sectors in line with the Act on Civil Protection. Response is carried out by first responders, coordinated through the Integrated Rescue System. Slovakia has a strategic framework for DRM and civil protection, including the Concept of the Organization and Development of Civil Protection and Crisis Management until 2027, the National Strategy for Managing the Risks of Security Threats of the Slovak Republic until 2030, and the accompanying Action Plan until 2028. This policy framework is aligned with EU and regional priorities on preparedness, continuity of critical services, and societal resilience, including the EU Preparedness Union Strategy and NATO's objectives on civil preparedness and resilience.

Objective

The objective of the project is to provide technical assistance to the Slovak National Civil Protection Authority to support the transformation of Slovakia's crisis management system from a reactive "crisis response" model to a framework built on proactive preparedness and systemic resilience. This will be done through three strategic objectives: (i) strengthening evidence-based decision-making through anticipatory risk governance and investment prioritization; (ii) establishing a more structured recovery methodology and financing framework; and (iii) fostering a whole-of-society culture of preparedness through institutional capacity building and public awareness. The proposed activity responds to gaps identified by supporting a transition toward a more anticipatory, evidence-based, and resilience-oriented approach to crisis management. An overarching goal is to improve the continuity of critical government services and reduce societal vulnerability to future disasters through the application of international good practice and recommendations.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprises three complementary elements.

First, under 'Anticipatory Risk Governance and Enhanced Preparedness', activities will include desk research, diagnostics, and consultations to identify gaps in emergency resources, infrastructure, systems, and human capacities. These will inform the development of Recommendations for a Strategic Investment Roadmap for resilient investments and preparedness improvements.

Second, under 'Establishing a Resilient Recovery Framework', the current governance and financing arrangements for recovery will be reviewed, bottlenecks and gaps will be identified, and recommendations will be developed for a standardized recovery methodology, including damage and loss assessment, cost calculation, and possible recovery financing arrangements in line with international examples and good practice.

Third, under 'Changing Mindset from "React" to "Be Prepared', activities will support a shift in preparedness culture across public institutions and society. This will be done through diagnostic work and the identification of recommendations for training modules, a Public Awareness Roadmap, and a Toolkit, through the delivery of pilot activities such as training, e-learning, training of trainers, and knowledge-transfer and exchange activities.

In terms of expected results, outputs produced across project activities are intended to guide future budgeting and investment decisions, strengthen recovery governance, improve institutional capacity, and enhance public preparedness in Slovakia. By embedding outputs within institutional practices, policy frameworks, and training systems, the project is expected to contribute to a sustained shift towards a proactive, preparedness-oriented DRM system in Slovakia. Dissemination of results is expected to take place through institutional and professional channels, digital communication, and broader societal outreach, including cooperation with media and other institutions to raise awareness of preparedness.

Sustainability and Coordination

The project builds on existing national initiatives and ongoing reforms under the Ministry of the Interior, ensuring alignment with current policy processes and enhancing uptake and implementation. At the national level, the project aligns with key strategic documents, including the approved Concept of the Organization and Development of Civil Protection and Crisis Management until 2027 and the National Strategy for Managing the Risks of Security Threats of the Slovak Republic until 2030, and the accompanying Action Plan until 2028. At the EU and regional level, the project aligns with the EU Preparedness Union Strategy and NATO Article 3 objectives on civil preparedness and resilience.

Project sustainability is linked to expected institutional uptake and continued use of the outputs after project completion. The Recommendations for a Strategic Investment Roadmap are intended to inform future state budgeting and infrastructure modernization decisions, while the proposed recovery methodology is expected to support future legislative and institutional discussions on improving cross-sectoral recovery governance and financing. Training modules are intended to be incorporated into the education system for crisis management and civil protection professionals, and public awareness outputs are expected to remain accessible to stakeholders and the wider public through digital platforms and communication materials.

Contacts

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Counterparts: Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Crisis Management Section.

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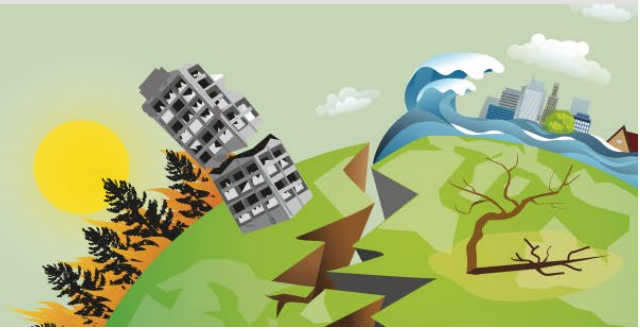
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Türkiye:

Building Inclusive and Resilient Istanbul

Overview

Key word(s)	Gender-based violence, risk prevention, risk preparedness, shelter management; inclusive

Context

Türkiye's largest city, Istanbul, is highly exposed to natural and human-made hazards, including earthquakes, hydrometeorological events, landslides, industrial accidents, and climate-related risks. Its location near major seismic fault lines creates a high urban seismic risk, with potential impacts on the population, critical infrastructure, and the national economy. These risks are further increased by vulnerable building stock, aging infrastructure, and more frequent climate-related hazards. Recent disasters, including the 2023 earthquakes, have also highlighted the need to strengthen emergency response capacity, improve the resilience of response infrastructure and facilities, and enhance emergency sheltering arrangements.

The Istanbul Governorship, Istanbul Project Coordination Unit (IPCU) and the Istanbul Provincial Directorate of Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (Istanbul AFAD) are leading efforts to strengthen Istanbul's, disaster resilience while contributing to Türkiye's national disaster risk management (DRM) system. The Istanbul Resilience Project (WB 2025), financing by World Bank, seeks to enhance the capacity of the emergency preparedness and response system and increase resilience to disaster and climate risks in Istanbul Province. TAFF technical assistance will build on lessons from the RESMAR Project (2024), funded by the European Union (EU), and addresses gaps in shelter management, gender-responsive protocols, trained personnel, institutional coordination, and business continuity planning (BCP) in industrial zones. This will be done in alignment with the Sendai Framework, the Sendai Gender Action Plan, relevant EU frameworks, Türkiye's National Disaster Risk Reduction Plan and Disaster Response Plan, as well as Istanbul's Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Plan. At the national level, AFAD is positioned to mainstream the GBV Protocol across Türkiye's shelter management operations, while policy recommendations will support efforts to mainstream BCP as a common practice across industrial zones, ensuring that project results endure well beyond completion.

Objective

The objective of the project is to strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience in Istanbul against earthquake and multi-hazard risks by building institutional capacity in three areas: gender-responsive shelter management, inclusive emergency preparedness for vulnerable populations, and BCP for industrial zones. This will be achieved through diagnostic assessments, guideline development, and targeted capacity-building activities. The grant will support the development and piloting of a gender-based violence (GBV) Prevention and Response Guideline for disaster shelters, strengthen AFAD's capacity, improve first responders' ability to support vulnerable populations, and enhance community-level preparedness in targeted districts. It will also strengthen the resilience of Organized Industrial Zones by expanding business continuity planning approaches. The resulting tools, guidelines, and trained personnel will improve preparedness, coordination, and economic resilience in Istanbul, while providing replicable models for Türkiye's national DRM system.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project is structured around three complementary elements.

First, under 'Gender-Responsive Shelter Management', activities will include the development and institutionalization of a GBV Prevention and Response Guideline for temporary disaster shelters. This includes institutional mapping, a needs and gap analysis of existing shelter procedures, development of the guideline, training of shelter management personnel, and an international knowledge exchange to draw on established good practices.

Second, under 'Inclusive Emergency Preparedness and First Responder Capacity Building', activities will include needs assessments, tailored training programs, community preparedness workshops, and international knowledge exchange. These will contribute to strengthening the capacity of first responders to effectively support vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, older people, and displaced communities.

Third, under 'Business Continuity Planning for Organized Industrial Zones', activities will include multi-hazard risk assessments, BCP training, awareness-raising activities, and the adaptation of good international practices. Building on lessons learned from the EU-funded RESMAR Project, the component will expand tested approaches to a broader set of organized industrial zones in Istanbul.

In terms of expected results, the Activity will provide IPCU, Istanbul AFAD, local authorities, private sector stakeholders, and civil society organizations with practical tools, guidelines, trained personnel, and evidence-based recommendations to strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience. The process will foster collaboration among public institutions, communities, and industry while enhancing institutional capacity in shelter management, inclusive emergency response, and business continuity planning. Ultimately, the project will improve preparedness, coordination, and resilience in Istanbul while generating scalable models and good practices that can be replicated across Türkiye to support the strengthening of the national DRM system.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs will be disseminated among stakeholders in Istanbul and shared more broadly across Türkiye, deepening the national knowledge base on DRM, GBV prevention, and inclusive emergency management. Activities will inform the Istanbul Resilience Project, private sector and industrial zones for a more comprehensive approach to disaster resilience. By focusing on institutional capacity building, evidence-based tool development, and targeted training for first responders and shelter management personnel, the project embeds sustainable improvements within IPCU and Istanbul AFAD from the outset. The validated GBV Prevention and Response Guideline, piloted in Istanbul and serving as a model for Türkiye, will be formally integrated into Istanbul AFAD's operational procedures as possible, with the Train-the-Trainer program leaving behind a certified internal cadre enabling continued training delivery without external dependence. Findings from the gap analysis will inform future investment planning for gender-responsive shelter infrastructure across Istanbul's 39 districts, and the BCP Toolkit will remain publicly available, allowing industrial zones across Türkiye to adopt it independently. Through targeted technical outputs, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement, the project will generate scalable tools and models that can be replicated by other institutions across Türkiye.

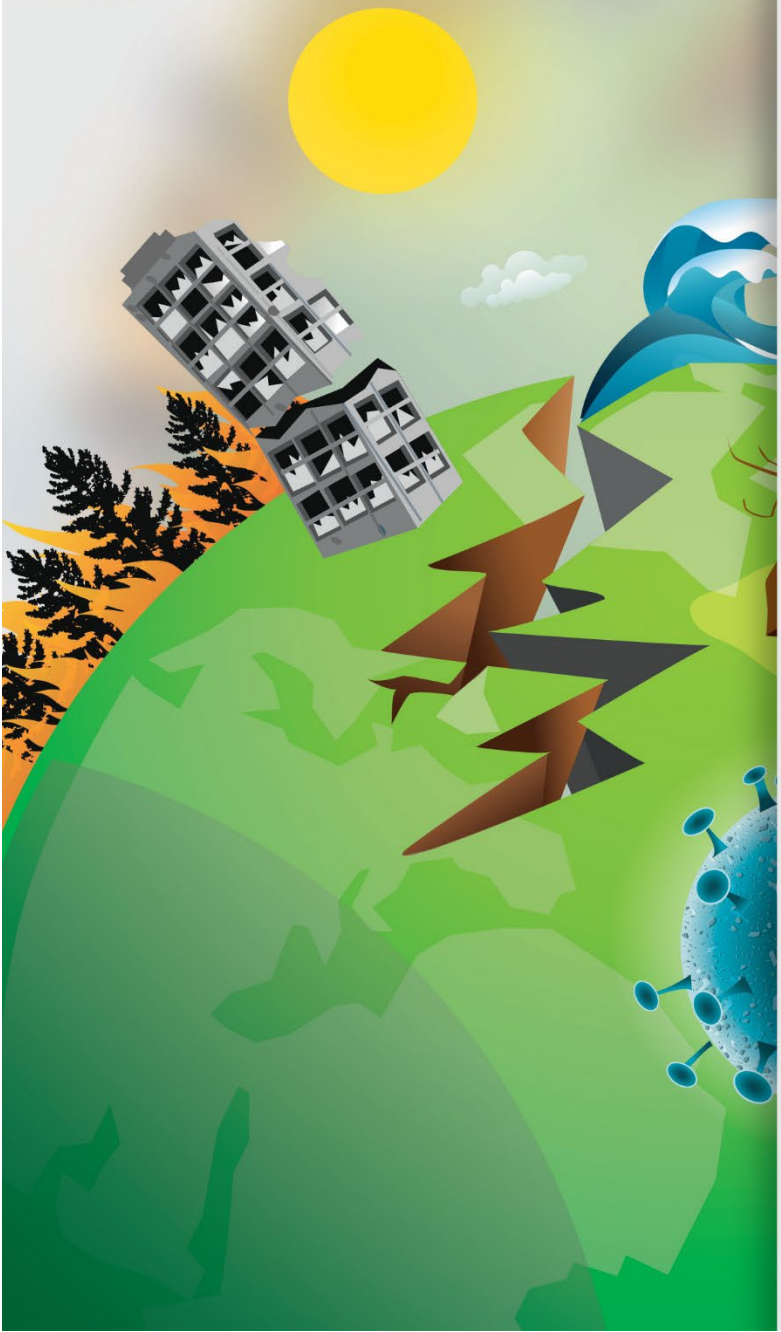
Aligned with EU and international standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project can be useful for other countries part of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and the broader region. Documented experiences and knowledge products from Istanbul, particularly on inclusive, gender-responsive shelter management and community-level preparedness, can inform similar efforts to strengthen institutional frameworks and coordination in neighbouring countries and across the UCPM. In this way, the project's outputs contribute to the global knowledge base on DRM and foster improved coordination and resilience, supporting the EU's Preparedness Union Strategy and advancing regional and international cooperation on disaster and climate resilience. The project's focus on inclusive, evidence-based planning and cross-sectoral collaboration helps ensure that the lessons learned in Istanbul can be adapted and scaled to benefit other high-risk urban areas in Türkiye and beyond.

Contacts

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Counterpart: Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, Government of Türkiye.

2025



Croatia:
Evidence for Modernising the Firefighting System in the Republic of Croatia

Ireland:
Good Practice and Recommendations for Strengthening the National Strategic Policy Framework for Emergency Management

Kosovo:
Enhancing National Crisis Preparedness and Wildfire Risk Management

Montenegro:
Enhancing Disaster Resilience and Continuity of IT Infrastructure and Services in the Operational Communication Center

Serbia:
Strengthening Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness

Sweden:
Review of the State of Art of National Disaster Loss Databases

Türkiye:
Resilient İzmir: A Strategic and Inclusive Initiative for Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Risk Reduction

UCPM:
Enhancing Policy and Investments for EU Disaster and Climate Resilience – Phase 2

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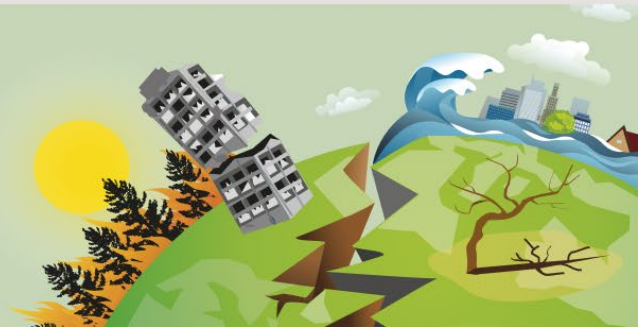
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Croatia:

Evidence for modernising the firefighting system in the Republic of Croatia

Overview

Grant Size	€550,000
Duration	June 2025 – June 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard, wildfire
Key word(s)	Prioritisation of measures, risk prevention, preparedness, response capacities, awareness and risk communication, capacity building

Context

Croatia faces significant disaster risks, including earthquakes, as well as floods, extreme heat, droughts, and wildfires, many of which are projected to be exacerbated by climate change. Over the past decade, disasters have resulted in significant physical, social, and financial impacts, affecting people's well-being. For example, the 2014 floods affected over 13000 people and caused over €300 million direct damage costs, while wildfires in 2017 burnt 86,576 ha (some 1.53 percent of the area of the Republic of Croatia) causing €109 million in losses.[1] Croatia also faces significant seismic risks due to its location and vulnerable infrastructure and buildings, much of which was built prior to modern building codes. The 2020 earthquakes in Zagreb and Petrinja, which struck during the COVID-19 pandemic, brought an estimated €16.1 billion in damage and economic losses.[2]

Firefighting services play a critical role for ensuring Croatia's resilience to disaster and climate risks. The Croatian Firefighting Association (HVZ) provide emergency response services in response to all hazards. Recent events and evolving risks highlight the need to strengthen preparedness and response capacities, including relevant policy and operational gaps, and prioritise actions and investments in firefighting services in line with data and analysis of the overarching gaps and opportunities as well as broader priorities for disaster and climate resilience.

Objective

The objective is to provide technical assistance to the HVZ to identify and plan future actions and investments to modernise the firefighting system in Croatia. The project aims at generating technical and practical information and evidence that can underpin future prevention and preparedness reforms, actions, and investment decisions. The project helps fill existing information and knowledge gaps related to (1) operational capability of firefighting organisations (equipment, infrastructure, guidelines) to respond to natural hazards and emergencies; (2) conditions for education and

[1] Posavec et al. 2023.

[2] The March 2020 earthquake (M5.5) damaged and destroyed €10.7 billion worth of assets in the city of Zagreb, Zagreb and Krapina-Zagorje counties (Government of Croatia. 2020. *Croatia Earthquake Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment 2020.* Link.) The December 2020 earthquake[2] (M6.2) damaged and destroyed €4.1 billion in physical assets in Sisak-Moslavina, Zagreb, Karlovac, and Krapina-Zagorje Counties and the City of Zagreb (Government of Croatia. 2021. Croatia December 2020 Earthquake *Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment*. Link.)

training of firefighters; (3) fire prevention and supervising the implementation of prescribed fire protection measures, among others through pre-defined priority actions on high risk (pilot) areas; (4) public awareness; and (5) advocacy.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The Activity is structured around five key areas.

First focuses on a diagnostic review of the operational capabilities of firefighting organisations, generating information to inform future guidelines, as well as actions and investments to upgrade and modernise facilities, equipment, vehicles, human resources, and strategic investment planning.

Second assesses the training capabilities of firefighting organisations, guiding improvements in education programs, facilities, and the recruitment of professional and volunteer forces.

Third evaluates fire prevention and preparedness measures, identifying opportunities to strengthen regulatory frameworks, spatial planning, and policy reforms. This will be conducted through the lens of a pilot area.

Fourth includes public perception surveys, review of ongoing communication and public awareness efforts, with recommendations and select pilots to further raise public awareness to forest fires.

Fifth focuses on dissemination of knowledge and partnerships, ensuring that project outcomes and good practices are shared within Croatia as well as with other EU Member States, UCPM members, and the broader international community of firefighters.

In terms of expected results, the findings and recommendations from each focus areas provide the HVZ and relevant authorities with a comprehensive evidence base to inform strategic investment, training, regulatory reforms, and public engagement. The process fosters collaboration among stakeholders, builds consensus on modernisation priorities, and facilitates knowledge transfer within Croatia and across borders. Ultimately, the project contributes to the modernisation of Croatia's firefighting system, enhances disaster prevention and preparedness, and strengthens national and local resilience.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among Croatian stakeholders and shared more broadly, deepening the knowledge base on firefighting modernisation and disaster risk management in Croatia. This supports the ongoing refinement of national strategies and facilitates the adoption of modern and innovative practices across the country. By focusing on operational capabilities, training, prevention, public awareness, and partnerships, the project helps embed sustainable improvements within the HVZ and relevant authorities, ensuring that the benefits of the project endure beyond its completion.

Given the alignment with EU and regional standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project are also relevant to other EU Member States and countries participating in the UCPM. Documented experiences and knowledge products can inform similar modernisation efforts in neighbouring countries such as Albania and North Macedonia, as well as the broader UCPM community. In this way, the project's outputs can contribute to the global knowledge base on disaster risk management and foster improved coordination and resilience in line with the national priorities as set out by the National DRM Strategy (2023) and its Action Plan, as well as the European Union's Disaster Resilience Goals and the EU Preparedness Strategy, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Contacts

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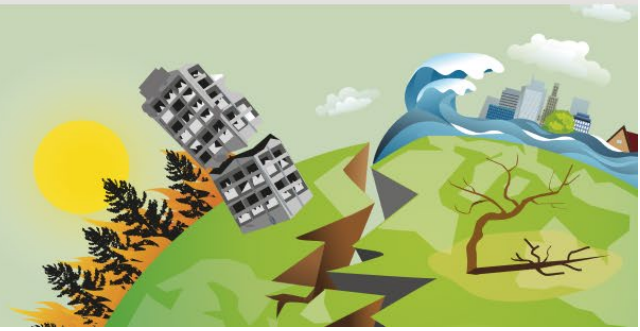
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Ireland:

Good Practice and Recommendations for Strengthening the National Strategic Policy Framework for Emergency Management

Overview

Grant Size	€250,000
Duration	June 2025 – December 2026
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard; Large-scale disasters
Key word(s)	Governance of disaster risk management, institutional framework, preparedness, emergency response, prioritisation of measures

Context

The risk landscape in Ireland is changing—risk is increasing. Ireland's risk profile is shaped by the broader effects of climate change and a changing security context, with increasing complexity in emergency events, including hybrid and prolonged emergencies. These risks are common to many European countries; however, there are also country-specific factors that increase the overall vulnerability and exposure of the population, assets, and the environment to hazards.

Ireland's Strategic Emergency Management (SEM) Policy, adopted in 2017, sets out the national structures and roles for managing emergencies, aligned with the lead government department principle.[1] It defines 50 emergency types, assigning lead government department responsibilities and outlines how these interact with broader government systems across risk assessment, preparedness, response coordination, and recovery. While Ireland has a well-established risk assessment model, recent events, such as severe storms and floods, notably Storm Éowyn in 2025, have highlighted the need to further strengthen national preparedness for complex and cascading risks. Updating the SEM framework is essential to reflect current and future challenges, resilience priorities, and addressing gaps or areas for improvement.

The Office of Emergency Planning (OEP) is the custodian of SEM policy in Ireland. The OEP manages and operates the National Emergency Coordination Centre and provides peer support to government departments and agencies in identifying capability gaps and informing capability development. The OEP also provides emergency management training, advice and assistance if requested to government departments in relation to their emergency management functions.

Objective

The objective of the project is to provide technical assistance to the OEP with respect to the national SEM policy and framework. This is done by (1) reviewing the existing National SEM structure and framework, and by (2) providing recommendations to inform and strengthen Ireland's SEM. This is done through desk research, expert analysis, in country consultations, and review of international knowledge.

[1] Department of Defence; Office of Emergency Planning, 2017. *Strategic Emergency Management (SEM): National Structures and Framework*. Department of Defence. Link.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprises several elements. Activities focus primarily on a structured diagnostic review of the current SEM doctrine; review of relevant good practices from other countries and international organisations; and the development of technical recommendations including a roadmap. The recommendations and the roadmap cover both policy and operational aspects, outlining key opportunities, timelines, and so on. The project also includes stakeholder engagement, consultations with representatives of government departments, agencies, local authorities, civil society organisations (CSOs), and the private sector, and knowledge-transfer activities, as well as dissemination of the results through relevant platforms and mechanisms.

In terms of expected results, the findings can inform Ireland's future actions, including legislative efforts, to enhance Ireland's national preparedness capacity and disaster resilience. The review and recommendations can provide a solid knowledge base to inform a modernised, comprehensive SEM that reflects current risk context as well as practice in the field. The process and consultations, and the results of the analysis, can contribute to enhancing collaboration among stakeholders, strengthening a common understanding of the challenges and priorities, as well as contribute to sharing of knowledge within and beyond Ireland.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings will be disseminated among stakeholders and beyond, deepening the knowledge base on SEM in Ireland. This can inform and refine its strategies and facilitate the uptake of modern/innovative practices across Ireland. Focusing on emergency planning and emergency systems as a topic of high relevance also to other countries, relevant findings, knowledge and information, including documented lessons learnt and good practice, can be useful to other Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Member States and Participating States which seek to modernise their frameworks. In this way, the grant outputs can also contribute to the global knowledge base on disaster risk management (DRM) and improved coordination on disaster preparedness, in line with the European Union (EU) Disaster Resilience Goals (DRGs) and the EU's Preparedness Union Strategy.

Contacts

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Counterpart: Office of Emergency Planning (OEP), Government of Ireland.



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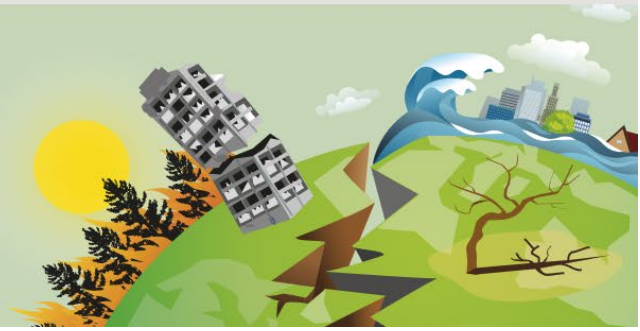
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Kosovo:

Enhancing National Crisis Preparedness and Wildfire Risk Management[1]

Overview

Grant Size	€350,000
Duration	September 2025 – June 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard (wildfires, floods, landslides, earthquakes, heatwaves, droughts)
Key word(s)	Risk preparedness, recovery, build back better, emergency response

Context

Kosovo's geographical position and climate expose it to a diverse array of hazards, including floods, heavy snowfall, drought, forest fires, and earthquakes. The country is particularly vulnerable to flash floods in mountainous regions and riverine floods in plains, with severe events in recent years causing significant economic and social disruption. Forest fires are an increasing concern, with 43 percent of Kosovo's territory covered by forests and nearly 8,000 hectares burned in 2021 alone. Extreme climate events frequently damage critical infrastructure, leading to cascading effects that heighten vulnerabilities in key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and water. While Kosovo has made progress in strengthening its legal and institutional frameworks for disaster risk management and climate adaptation, most notably through the 2023 Law on Climate Change and the updated National Response Plan, implementation capacity remains limited, especially at the municipal level. Gaps persist in local hazard mapping, early warning systems, and the integration of climate and disaster risks into financial planning, and coordination between national and local governments is still evolving.

The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) under the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) is the main counterpart responsible for disaster risk management and emergency preparedness in Kosovo, working in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI), which leads on climate policy. Despite a clear strategic direction, Kosovo's emergency preparedness and response (EP&R) system remains primarily response-oriented, with limited professional capacity and fragmented mandates. A 2021 diagnostic under the World Bank's Ready2Respond framework highlighted the need for strategic investments in legislation, financing, equipment, and personnel to build a more robust and coordinated EP&R architecture.

Objective

The objective of the project is to support the Government of Kosovo in strengthening national crisis preparedness and wildfire resilience. This is achieved through: (i) developing recommendations for a National Crisis Preparedness Plan, including post-disaster financing mechanisms; and (ii) evaluating and improving frameworks for wildfire preparedness and forecasting.

[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.

Key Activities and Expected Results

This project comprises two interlinked activities.

The first set focuses on a structured diagnostic review of Kosovo's national crisis preparedness and emergency response systems. This includes a rapid assessment of existing legal and institutional frameworks, operational and financial readiness, and coordination mechanisms, conducted in close collaboration with the EMA and other key stakeholders. The process involves desk-based diagnostics, targeted consultations with government institutions, and a scenario-based tabletop simulation exercise to test real-time decision-making and resource mobilisation during emergencies such as wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and landslides.

In **the second** part, the findings are consolidated into a Preparedness Diagnostic Brief and an updated Readiness Scorecard, and inform the development of technical recommendations, including a National Crisis Preparedness Plan (CPP) and a prioritised emergency investment list. The recommendations and roadmap address both policy and operational aspects, outlining key opportunities for strengthening institutional, financial, and operational systems for rapid emergency response.

In terms of expected results, the project provides Kosovo's authorities with a robust evidence base to inform future actions and investments in crisis preparedness and disaster resilience. The review and recommendations support the modernisation of national emergency management, enhance clarity around institutional mandates and coordination protocols, and facilitate the rapid mobilisation of resources in times of crisis. The process, including consultations and simulation exercises, fosters collaboration among stakeholders, strengthens a shared understanding of challenges and priorities, and contributes to knowledge transfer within Kosovo and with international partners. The second element, focused on wildfire preparedness, delivers a technical needs assessment and a roadmap for impact-based wildfire forecasting, complemented by capacity-building workshops. These outputs enable government agencies, emergency responders, and local authorities to improve wildfire response, integrate advanced forecasting tools, and position Kosovo to benefit from future investments in disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among stakeholders in Kosovo and shared more broadly, deepening the national knowledge base on DRM. This supports the ongoing refinement of Kosovo's State Strategy for Reducing the Risk from Natural Disasters and other Disaster 2023-2028, as well as the strengthening of the Integrated Emergency Management System and the National Response Plan. By focusing on institutional capacity building, the development of a National Crisis Preparedness Plan (CPP), and improved system integration, the project helps embed sustainable improvements within relevant authorities, ensuring that the benefits of the project endure beyond its completion. The technical assistance supports the institutionalisation of DRR and the effective use of disaster risk information for emergency preparedness and response.

Given the alignment with EU and regional standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project are also relevant to other countries participating in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and the broader region. Documented experiences and knowledge products can inform similar efforts to strengthen institutional frameworks and coordination in neighbouring countries and the UCPM community. In this way, the project's outputs contribute to the global DRM knowledge base and foster improved coordination and resilience, supporting the EU's Preparedness Strategy and advancing regional cooperation on disaster and climate resilience.

Contacts

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Counterpart: Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) and the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI), Government of Kosovo.

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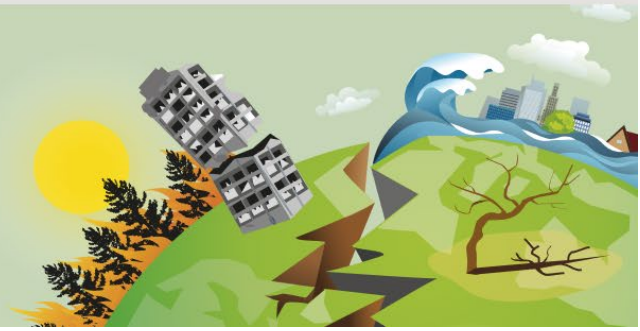
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Montenegro:

Enhancing Disaster Resilience and Continuity of IT Infrastructure and Services in the Operational Communication Center 112

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2025 – September 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard (earthquakes, floods, wildfires)
Key word(s)	Disaster risk reduction, risk management planning, awareness and risk communication, risk preparedness; emergency response, prioritisation of measures, contingency planning

Context

Montenegro's National Disaster Risk Assessment (2021) highlights the country's significant vulnerability to natural hazards, particularly earthquakes, floods, and wildfires, which threaten public safety, critical infrastructure, and societal resilience. The coastal and central regions are especially at risk from seismic activity, as evidenced by the devastating 1979 earthquake, while frequent floods and recurring wildfires further challenge the country's emergency response capacity. A scenario developed for the National Disaster Risk Assessment underscores the high vulnerability of electronic communications and information technology (IT) infrastructure, especially the Operational Communication Centre 112 (OCC 112), to both natural and man-made hazards. The assessment, together with the Law on Designation and Protection of Critical Infrastructure, the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, and the Law on Electronic Communications, defines the roles and responsibilities for disaster risk management and critical infrastructure protection. The evolving risk landscape, highlighted by recent stress tests and operational experience, has underscored the need to strengthen the resilience and continuity of the 112 system, particularly in the face of complex and cascading hazards.

The Directorate for Emergency Management is the custodian of the 112 system in Montenegro. It is responsible for the operation and modernisation of the OCC 112, as well as for ensuring compliance with national and European Union (EU) requirements for critical infrastructure protection and emergency communications. The Directorate leads efforts to identify capability gaps, inform strategic investments, and coordinate with other government agencies and stakeholders. The 112 Department supports the government's vision to establish a robust public warning system by 2027 and facilitate the transition to Next Generation 112 (NG112), ensuring the continuous functioning of emergency services and enhancing national preparedness and response.

Objective

The objective of this project is to ensure disaster and climate resilience, functionality, and continuity of IT infrastructure and services in the OCC 112 in Montenegro. This is achieved by focusing on three key activities: (1) a diagnostic analysis of the 112 system through a gap and needs assessment; (2) knowledge sharing through study visits to established 112 centres, and training; and (3) based on the diagnostic analysis, recommendations in the form of a roadmap with short/medium-long term priorities for stakeholders to consider for the development of a roadmap for modernization of the OCC 112 and a Business Continuity Plan (BCP).

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project is structured around three key elements to strengthen the disaster and climate resilience, functionality, and continuity of IT infrastructure and services in Montenegro's OCC 112. The first part focuses on a comprehensive diagnostic analysis of the OCC 112 system, including stakeholder mapping, desk research, and a structured gap and needs assessment of current IT infrastructure and emergency operations. This analysis, informed by global best practices and a review of the regulatory framework, identifies vulnerabilities to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, and wildfires. Citizen engagement activities further assess access barriers and communication preferences, particularly for vulnerable groups. The activity also centres on knowledge sharing, with study visits to advanced 112 centres, workshops, and training sessions to exchange best practices in IT resilience and business continuity. Thematic roundtables and participation in EU and regional platforms will support the dissemination of findings and encourage replication. Building on these efforts, a technical roadmap will be developed for the phased modernisation of OCC 112, including recommendations for a BCP and future interoperability with the Public Warning System and Next Generation 112 (NG112). The roadmap outlines short-, medium-, and long-term priorities and implementation strategies aligned with EU directives and best practices**.**

In terms of expected results, the findings and recommendations from each element of this activity provide Montenegro's Ministry of Interior, Directorate for Emergency Management, and other stakeholders with a comprehensive evidence base to inform strategic investment, regulatory reforms, and public engagement. The process fosters collaboration among government agencies, private sector partners, telecom operators, and organisations of persons with disabilities, building consensus on modernisation priorities and facilitating knowledge transfer. Ultimately, the Activity contributes to the modernisation and resilience of Montenegro's emergency communications system, enhances disaster prevention and preparedness, and strengthens national and regional resilience, benefiting over citizens and tourists alike.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among Montenegrin stakeholders and shared more broadly, deepening the national knowledge base on emergency communications modernisation and disaster risk management. This supports the ongoing refinement of Montenegro's disaster risk reduction strategies and facilitates the adoption of modern, innovative, and inclusive practices across the country. The development of a Business Continuity Plan and a modernisation roadmap provide- a strategic framework for future investments, aligning Montenegro's emergency communications infrastructure with EU Disaster Resilience Goals and the European Green Deal's climate adaptation priorities. It also ensures alignment with key EU legislation, including the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC), NIS2 Directive, UCPM legislation, and the Accessibility Act.

Given the alignment with EU and regional standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project are also relevant to other EU Member States and countries participating in the UCPM. Documented experiences and knowledge products can inform similar modernisation efforts in neighbouring countries and the broader UCPM community. In this way, the project's outputs contribute to the global knowledge base on disaster risk management and foster improved coordination and resilience, supporting the European Union's Preparedness Strategy and advancing regional cooperation on disaster and climate resilience.

Contacts

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Counterparts: Directorate for Protection and Rescue – Department 112, Ministry of Interior, Government of Montenegro.



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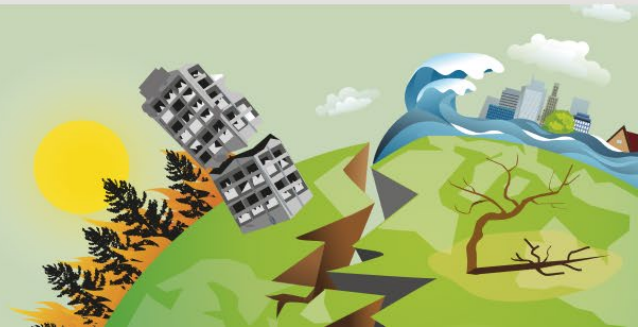
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Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Serbia:

Strengthening Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness

Overview

Grant Size	€450,000
Duration	September 2025 – September 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard (earthquakes, landslides, heavy rainfall, floods, heat waves, droughts, wildfires)
Key word(s)	Risk assessment, risk management planning, risk prevention, risk preparedness, emergency response, prioritisation of measures, capacity building

Context

Serbia's disaster risk management framework has undergone significant evolution in recent years, particularly following the adoption of the "Guidelines and Methodology for Vulnerability (Risk) Assessment and Protection and Rescue Plans in Emergency Situations" in 2017, updated in 2019. This Methodology, mandated by the Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management, applies across all levels of government — national, provincial, and local — and is coordinated by the Sector for Emergency Management (SEM) within the Ministry of the Interior. The experience gained from implementing the Methodology has highlighted the need for refinement and simplification, especially to facilitate its practical application at the local self-government level. In response, the Government of Serbia is undertaking an update of the Methodology to enhance the quality and operational relevance of disaster risk assessments and protection and rescue planning. This update aims to strengthen the overall disaster risk management system, inform future investment planning, and serve as a foundation for risk-informed decision making, thereby improving preparedness and resilience at both local and national levels. The revised approach will also address financial preparedness, ensuring that Serbia is better equipped to respond to and recover from disasters and crises, and will align with the principles of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The SEM within the Ministry of the Interior is the central institution responsible for disaster risk management policy and operations in Serbia. As the custodian of the national Methodology, SEM leads the coordination, development, and monitoring of disaster risk assessment and protection and rescue planning across all levels of government. Building on lessons learned from recent disasters and an evolving risk landscape, SEM is committed to modernising and refining the Methodology to better address current and emerging hazards, including those driven by climate change.

Objective

The objective of the project is to enhance the overall disaster preparedness and community resilience in the Republic of Serbia through improvement of existing frameworks and resilience-building measures. The proposed activities and outputs under the grant are designed to enhance the Disaster Risk Assessments and Protection and Rescue plans, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of preventive measures and preparedness activities. Additionally, these documents address financial aspects within the protection and rescue system, further strengthening the community's ability to withstand and recover from disasters.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project is structured around two main elements.

The first set of activities puts the focus on the review and updating of the Methodology for Disaster Risk Assessment and Protection and Rescue Plans in the Republic of Serbia. This involves a comprehensive diagnostic analysis of the existing methodology, identification of gaps, and the drafting of updated instructions to ensure alignment with current best practices and international standards.

The second part comprises an assessment of national disaster risk management capabilities and response capacities, identifying gaps, and providing targeted recommendations for capability and capacity enhancement. Both components will include consultations with key stakeholders, knowledge-transfer activities, and dissemination of results through relevant platforms and mechanisms including expert seminars, workshops, and trainings.

In terms of expected results, the findings and recommendations from each component provide Serbian authorities with a robust evidence base to inform future policy, planning, and investment decisions in disaster risk management and emergency preparedness. The process fosters collaboration among stakeholders, builds consensus on priorities for strengthening Serbia's disaster risk management system, and facilitates knowledge sharing within Serbia and with international partners. Ultimately, the Activity contributes to the modernisation of Serbia's disaster risk assessment and emergency preparedness frameworks, enhancing national resilience and alignment with European and international standards.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among Serbian stakeholders and shared more broadly, deepening the knowledge base on disaster risk management and emergency preparedness in Serbia. This supports the ongoing refinement of national strategies, including the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management, and facilitates the adoption of modern and harmonised practices across the country. By focusing on legal and institutional reform, risk assessment, and capacity building, the project helps embed sustainable improvements within relevant authorities, ensuring that the benefits of the project endure beyond its completion. The technical assistance provided also supports the operationalisation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Program and the National Strategy for Environmental Protection, aligning Serbia's disaster risk management framework with the EU Green Agenda and other key national priorities.

Given Serbia's membership in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and its commitment to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project are also relevant to other EU Member States and countries participating in the UCPM. Documented experiences and knowledge products can inform similar legal and institutional modernisation efforts in neighbouring countries and the broader UCPM community. In this way, the project's outputs contribute to the global knowledge base on disaster risk management and foster improved coordination and resilience, supporting the European Union's Preparedness Strategy and advancing regional cooperation on disaster and climate resilience.

Contacts

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Counterpart: Sector for Emergency Management (SEM), Ministry of Interior, Republic of Serbia.

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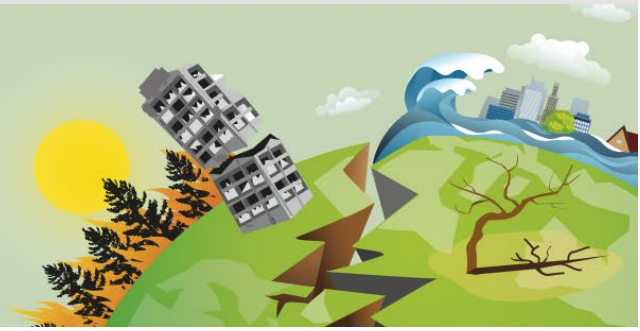
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Sweden:

Review of the state of the art of national disaster loss databases

Overview

Grant Size	€250,000
Duration	July 2025 – March 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard; Large-scale disasters
Key word(s)	Disaster loss database; DRM and Artificial intelligence; Standardisation of disaster data; Legal and institutional frameworks of risk data; Risk-informed and evidence-based decision-making

Context

Sweden, like many European countries, faces a growing array of natural hazards, including floods, storms, wildfires, landslides, and climate-related events, as well as their potential cascading effects. Recent disasters such as Storm Hans and the Stenungsund Landslide in 2023 have underscored the urgent need for robust systems to record, analyse, and share disaster loss data to inform preparedness and response measures. In line with the European Union (EU) Preparedness Union Strategy and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), Sweden is seeking to modernise its disaster data management by developing a national disaster loss database. Disaster damage and loss databases are a critical component of scientific knowledge on disaster impacts, supporting the identification of urgent and cost-effective resilience investments. These databases, which can include both historical and forward-looking data, are essential for assessing the geographic extent of events, calibrating hazard maps and early warnings, and conducting cost-benefit analyses of damages to lives, property, economic activity, social equity, health, the environment, and cultural heritage. They also enable continuous monitoring of progress in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, with novel technologies such as AI and machine learning enhancing their effectiveness. Within broader disaster risk management frameworks like the SFDRR, such databases are directly relevant for EU policies and directives, including national risk assessments and the Floods and Seveso Directives.

The Swedish Civil Defense and Resilience Agency (MCF) is responsible for strengthening Sweden's ability to prevent and manage major accidents and crises, safeguarding lives, social functions, and core societal values. The MCF, as the key agency for civil protection and emergency management, has systematically collected data from municipal emergency services for over 30 years and manages more data on extensive technological and natural events, supporting Sweden's compliance with both national and EU requirements. As needs and technological solutions evolve continuously, the MCF is looking to review the state of the art in damage and loss data management.

Objective

The objective of this project is to provide technical assistance to MCF with respect to the development of a national disaster loss database. This is achieved by (1) reviewing current good practice on establishing and maintaining disaster damage and loss data systems across EU Member States and beyond for natural hazards and other large-scale disasters, and (2) providing recommendations of relevance for Sweden.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project is structured around two parts.

First, it entails a review of international best practices in establishing and operating disaster damage and loss databases, with a focus on efficient reporting, integration of climate change considerations, and the use of innovative data management approaches.

Second, it also involves an assessment of Sweden's existing disaster damage and loss data collection systems, led by MCF, and the identification of technical options for improvement based on insights from the first component. The project also includes consultations and knowledge exchange activities, with opportunities for participation from other countries across Europe through workshops to facilitate the exchange of experience and good practices.

In terms of expected results, the project provides MCF and relevant Swedish authorities with actionable recommendations to strengthen disaster loss data infrastructure and modernise existing systems. The findings support Sweden's ability to meet EU and international reporting requirements, enhance risk management and preparedness, and foster collaboration and knowledge exchange both within Sweden and with international partners. Findings will be relevant to other countries looking to strengthen their disaster damage and loss data systems. Ultimately, the project contributes to improved disaster resilience in Sweden and benefits the broader EU community.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among stakeholders in Sweden and shared more broadly, deepening the national knowledge base on DRM. This study is closely aligned with national needs to improve the damage and loss database. By focusing on good practices and forward-looking recommendations, and through planned dissemination and exchange activities, the study is expected to inform future efforts in Sweden and potentially serve as a model for other countries in the EU and beyond. The project also fosters opportunities for collaboration with other countries engaged in building and managing comprehensive disaster loss databases. From a technical perspective, the study adopts a forward-looking approach that considers future needs related to climate change, modern data collection, and advanced analysis. The results contribute to broader objectives such as contingency planning, climate change adaptation, the green transition, and the improved use of data and innovative analytical tools for DRM. These efforts ensure that the benefits of the project endure beyond its completion, supporting the institutionalisation of DRR and the effective use of disaster risk information for emergency preparedness and response.

Given the alignment with EU and global standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project are also relevant to other countries participating in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and the broader international community. Documented experiences and knowledge products from Sweden can inform similar efforts to strengthen institutional frameworks and coordination in neighbouring countries and across the UCPM network. In this way, the project's outputs contribute to the global knowledge base on disaster risk management and foster improved coordination and resilience, supporting the European Union's Preparedness Strategy and advancing regional and international cooperation on disaster and climate resilience.

Contacts

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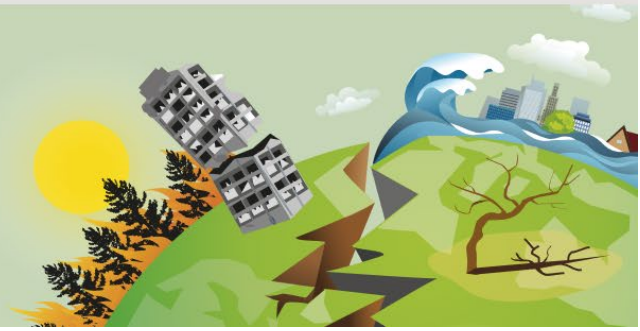
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Türkiye:

Resilient İzmir: A Strategic and Inclusive Initiative for Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Risk Reduction

Overview

Grant Size	€650,000
Duration	September 2025 – September 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard (earthquakes, hydrometeorological disasters, landslides, industrial accidents)
Key word(s)	Risk assessment, risk preparedness, awareness and risk communication, capacity building, training, emergency response; systemic resilience, inclusive approaches, community-based approaches; risk management planning, prioritisation of measures

Context

Türkiye's third-largest city, İzmir, is highly exposed to a range of natural and human-made hazards, including earthquakes, tsunami, flooding, landslides, rockfalls, and industrial accidents. The city's location along active fault lines, its vulnerable coastline, and the presence of major industrial zones such as Aliağa and Torbalı, heighten the risk of disasters with potentially cascading effects. Recent events, such as the 2020 Samos Island earthquake, have underscored the city's vulnerability and the urgent need to strengthen disaster resilience. The increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related hazards, including heavy rainfall and sea level rise, further compound these risks. Despite ongoing efforts, challenges remain in prioritising and financing resilience investments, coordinating among institutions, and ensuring that disaster risk management strategies are inclusive and evidence based.

The Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) leads disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts at the national level, coordinating with local authorities, first responders, and specialised teams such as the national medical rescue team (UMKE) and firefighters. Local governments, particularly the İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, the State Hydraulic Works (DSİ), and the Provincial Directorates of Environment, Urbanisation, and Climate Change, play a critical role in implementing risk-reduction measures, operating and maintaining critical infrastructure, and engaging with communities, working alongside specialised first responder teams. However, the city's rapid urbanisation, the presence of informal settlements, and the proximity of industrial facilities to residential areas create additional layers of vulnerability. Coordination among agencies, integration of risk data into planning, and the inclusion of vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, remain ongoing challenges. Furthermore, public awareness of disaster risks and preparedness measures is uneven, and there are gaps in the dissemination of timely, accessible information before, during, and after emergencies. These factors underscore the need for a holistic, multi-sectoral approach to resilience in İzmir, grounded in robust risk assessment, institutional collaboration, and community engagement.

Objective

The objective of the project is to enhance İzmir's resilience against a wide range of hazards including natural and human-made disasters and strengthen the capacity of disaster response personnel through training programs focused on risk-informed decision-making, crisis communication, psychological resilience, and raise public awareness of especially on vulnerable individuals (children, elderly, people with disabilities, etc.). This objective is achieved by developing a comprehensive assessment and conducting capacity building activities through tailored activities

for enhanced communication skills and crisis management measures focusing on vulnerable people. The analysis, findings, can inform national-level approaches on those key topics.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project is structured around two interlinked elements. This includes a comprehensive diagnostic of İzmir's disaster risk profile, including multi-hazard risk analysis, stakeholder mapping, and technical and economic feasibility studies. It also develops a strategic roadmap for disaster risk reduction, institutional coordination, and investment prioritisation, informed by international knowledge exchange and stakeholder consultations. This also centres on capacity building, communication, and public awareness, with activities including training needs assessments, certified training programs for disaster response teams, trauma-informed communication modules, psychosocial resilience seminars, and the development of public education materials. Special emphasis is placed on engaging and protecting vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, through inclusive outreach and simulation exercises. The project also includes dissemination of findings and lessons learned at local, national, and international levels.

In terms of expected results, the project will provide AFAD, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, and other stakeholders with actionable recommendations and tools to strengthen disaster and climate resilience. The findings support evidence-based investment decisions, improved risk anticipation, and enhanced preparedness and response capacities, particularly for vulnerable populations. The process will foster collaboration among institutions, build consensus on priorities, and facilitate knowledge transfer within Türkiye and with international partners. Ultimately, the Activity contributes to a more resilient İzmir, minimising loss of life and property, and serve as a model for disaster risk management and climate adaptation in other high-risk urban areas.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of the project will be disseminated among stakeholders in İzmir and shared more broadly across Türkiye, deepening the national knowledge base on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency management. This directly supports the ongoing refinement of İzmir's disaster resilience strategy and the strengthening of local and national disaster management systems, including the integration of multi-hazard risk assessments and inclusive preparedness planning. By focusing on institutional capacity building, technical and economic feasibility studies, and targeted training for crisis managers and first responders, the project helps embed sustainable improvements within relevant authorities. These efforts ensure that the benefits of the project endure beyond its completion, supporting the institutionalisation of DRR and the effective use of disaster risk information for emergency preparedness and response, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The technical assistance also addresses gaps identified in recent disaster events and diagnostics, supporting the development of coordinated, data-driven approaches to increase disaster resilience at the city and national levels.

Given the alignment with EU and international standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this project are also relevant to other countries participating in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and the broader region. Documented experiences and knowledge products from İzmir can inform similar efforts to strengthen institutional frameworks and coordination in neighbouring countries and across the UCPM network. In this way, the project's outputs contribute to the global knowledge base on disaster risk management and foster improved coordination and resilience, supporting the European Union's Preparedness Strategy and advancing regional and international cooperation on disaster and climate resilience. The project's focus on inclusive, evidence-based planning and cross-sectoral collaboration helps ensure that the lessons learned in İzmir can be adapted and scaled to benefit other high-risk urban areas in Türkiye and beyond.

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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 2: Knowledge and capacity building



Last update: September 2026

Enhancing Policy and Investments for EU Disaster and Climate Resilience – Phase 2

Overview

Grant Size	€400,000
Duration	June 2025 – December 2026
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard
Key word(s)	Risk preparedness, preparedness education, emergency response, disability-inclusive approaches, awareness and risk communication, guidelines, training, educational bodies incl. schools, persons with disability, prioritisation of measures, risk tolerance, recovery, build-back better

Context

Across the European Union, disaster risks are rising in frequency and complexity due to climate change, changing hazard landscapes, pandemics, and evolving geopolitical threats. In 2025, the European Commission launched the European Union (EU) Preparedness Union Strategy to strengthen the capacity to anticipate, prevent, and manage crises through enhanced coordination, capabilities, and an integrated all-hazards, whole-of-government, and whole-of-society approach. Building on the findings of the Niinistö Report, the Strategy includes 30 key actions to advance the Preparedness Union's objectives, as well as developing a 'preparedness by design culture' across all EU policies.

Recent crises, from the COVID-19 pandemic to accelerating climate impacts, have exposed gaps in preparedness. EU instruments such as the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and rescEU which serve as a strategic reserve of European disaster response capabilities and stockpiles, fully funded by the EU, demonstrated added value. However, critical evidence and practice gaps persist, including inclusive preparedness, embedding preparedness in education systems, and diagnosing systemic preparedness and response gaps at national level. Given the diverse risk profiles, resources, and institutional arrangements across EU Member States and UCPM Participating States, robust comparative analysis, cross-country learning, and cooperation are needed to inform EU and national policymaking, steer investment decisions, and foster a coherent, inclusive, evidence-based culture of preparedness consistent with EU/UCPM legislation and frameworks.

Objective

The objective of this project is to provide targeted technical assistance to the European Commission, as well as to EU Member States and UCPM Participating States. The project combines technical analysis, consultations, and review of international practice to generate practical, actionable evidence to inform policy reform, program design, and investment decisions on prevention and preparedness. With respect to the EU Preparedness Union Strategy, the project includes analytics related to two key actions: Action 29, which seeks to develop guidelines for embedding preparedness concepts into early childhood and primary education curricula and to equip educators with the skills and tools needed to teach preparedness effectively; and Action 33, which requires the development of guidelines on how to act in emergencies adapted to all types of disability. In parallel, the project will also generate case studies focusing on two topics relevant across several EU Member States and UCPM Participating States, namely, rapid assessments of emergency preparedness and response capacity and planning for resilient recovery.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project is structured around three key areas.

First focuses on integrating preparedness in early-childhood and primary education by conducting a comparative baseline across EU Member States, selected UCPM Participating States, and global comparators on how preparedness is embedded in early childhood and primary education, including curricula, teaching resources, and teacher education, aligned with Action 29 of the Preparedness Union Strategy. This area identifies good practices, institutional enablers, and barriers; develop recommendations to inform EU-level guidelines on curriculum design and teacher support; and compile a repository of effective resources for dissemination through the UCP Knowledge Network. Key deliverables include an action-oriented Roadmap to mainstream preparedness education into early childhood and primary schooling across the EU. Structured across three stages - curriculum preparation, implementation, and quality assurance, the roadmap translates policy intent into concrete, adaptable steps that countries can apply within their own systems and contexts.

Second focuses on inclusive preparedness and response through the development of guidance and training in alignment with Action 33 of the EU Preparedness Union Strategy. Activities under this area include developing (a) a diagnostic report and a stakeholder map to facilitate consultation and engagement with relevant actors; (b) practical, user-cantered guidelines for first responders (including 112 operators), and guidelines on how to act in crisis for persons with disabilities, and their carers; and (c) training curricula for first responders to recognize disability types and tailor appropriate actions.

Third provides a case study on assessing emergency preparedness and response arrangements, identifying gaps and opportunities across legal and institutional framework, information management systems, facilities, equipment, and personnel, with prioritized recommendations and investment options. A second case study focuses on resilient recovery planning, including risk communication and awareness in the case of prolonged crises or high uncertainty, while discussing the concept of risk tolerance.

In terms of expected results, the findings and recommendations from each area of work provide the European Commission and relevant national authorities with a robust evidence base to inform policy choices, curriculum and training design, investment prioritization, and inclusive operational practice. The process fosters collaboration among education and civil protection stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities, build consensus around practical, scalable solutions, and facilitate knowledge transfer across EU Member States, UCPM Participating States, and global comparators. Ultimately, the technical assistance supports the development of EU-level guidance and tools, strengthen disability-inclusive preparedness and response, embed preparedness in early childhood and primary education, and equip countries with actionable diagnostics, contributing to a stronger culture of preparedness, improved disaster prevention and response, and enhanced resilience across the Union. The developed case studies related to emergency preparedness, resilient recovery, and risk tolerance can serve as a practical model for other EU Member States and UCPM Participating States. Together, they aim to help Member States move from isolated initiatives to a systemic and scalable approach to civil protection.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of this technical assistance will be disseminated among EU institutions, Member States, UCPM Participating States, and relevant international partners, deepening the collective knowledge base on disaster preparedness, inclusive response, and risk-informed education across Europe. This supports the ongoing efforts to strengthen national and EU strategies and facilitates the adoption of innovative, evidence-based practices in education, civil protection, and inclusion. By focusing on curriculum integration, inclusive operational guidance, training, and stakeholder engagement, the project improves the capacity of education systems, DRM and civil protection agencies, to respond to emergencies, ensuring that the benefits of the knowledge endure beyond its completion. Given the alignment with EU and international standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this technical assistance are also relevant to other countries participating in the UCPM and the broader international community. Documented experiences and knowledge products can inform similar efforts in neighbouring countries and global comparators, contributing to the global DRM knowledge base and fostering improved coordination and resilience. In this way, the project's outputs will support the implementation of the EU Preparedness Union Strategy, the Disaster Resilience Goals, and international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals, strengthening preparedness and resilience at national, regional, and global levels.

Contacts

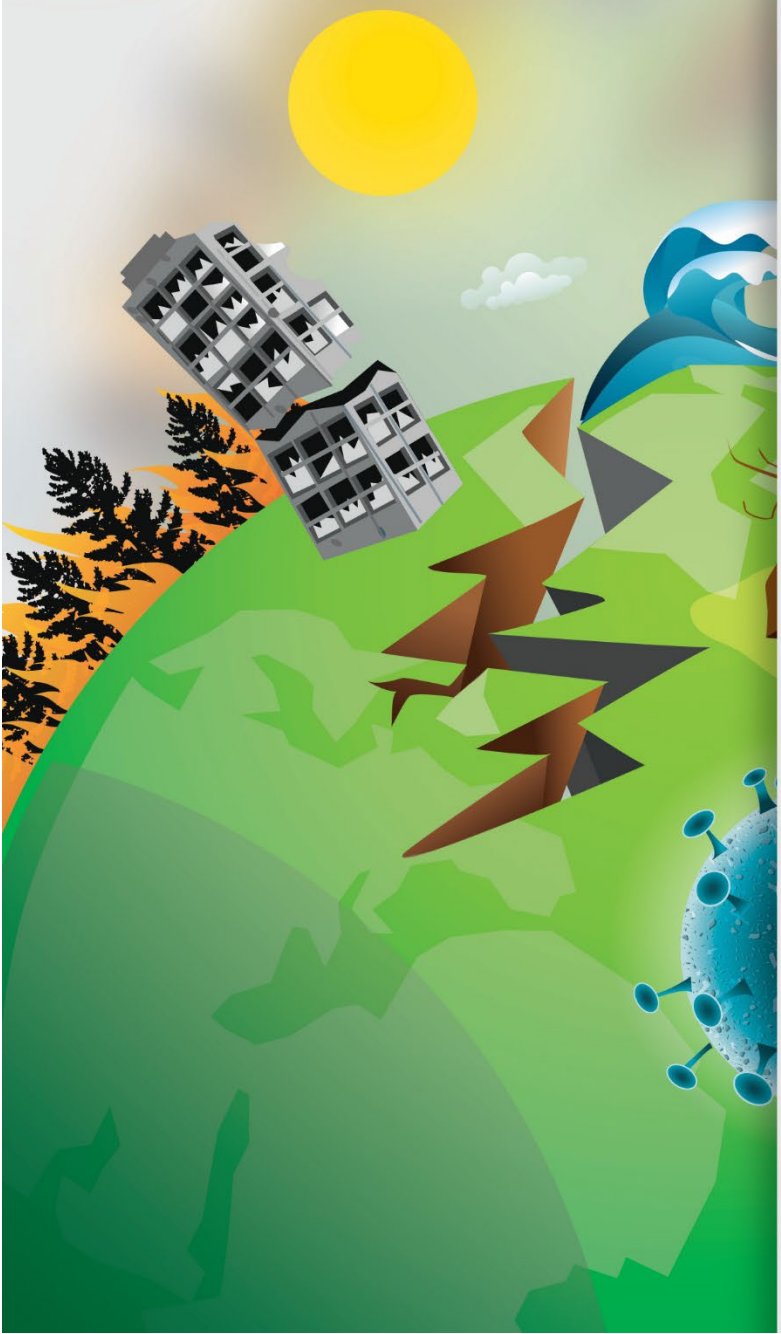
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2024

Albania:
Strengthening Fire Risk Management and Search and Rescue Capacity

Germany:
Return of Investments in Disaster Resilience Measures: Identifying measures & generating evidence to inform decision-making

Iceland:
Towards an Integrated Wildfire Risk Management

Kosovo:
Improving Disaster Risk Understanding, Impact-Based Forecasting, and Early Warning

Moldova:
Strengthening Moldova's Preparedness to Natural Hazards, Climate-related Shocks, and Health Emergencies

North Macedonia:
Resilience Investments, Governance and Recovery for Disaster Risk Reduction in North Macedonia

Romania:
Assistance for Post-Disaster Improvement and Development

Türkiye:
Enhancement of the Flood Early Warning System in Samsun and Communication Strategy

UCPM:
Enhancing Policy and Investments for EU Disaster and Climate Resilience

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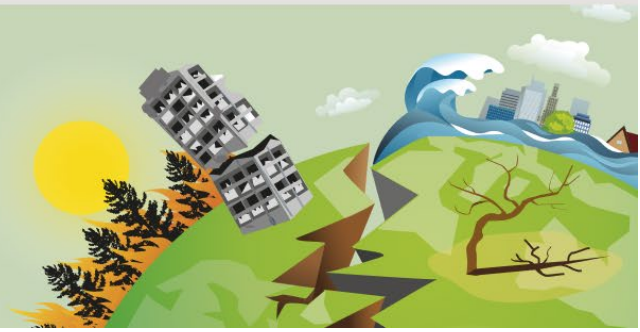
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-Specific technical assistance



Last updated: September 2026

Albania:

Strengthening Albania's Fire Risk Management and Search and Rescue Capacity

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2024 – December 2026
Key hazard(s)	Wildfires
Key word(s)	Rescue capacity; rescue services; fire protection, prioritisation of measures

Context

Wildfire and general fire risk is a growing concern in Albania with heat stress increasing due to climate change. Albania is at high and continuous risk of forest fires, especially in the dry summer season June-September. According to World Bank estimates, 23 per cent of crop area in the country is already under medium to high wildfire risk with 10 municipalities having the highest level of exposure. In 2024 alone, wildfires burned a total of 49,189 ha of land (EU Joint Research Center) and the National Civil Protection Agency in Albania reports 62,943 hectares of burnt land in 2025. Data from Global Forest Watch shows that fires in Albania are the second leading cause of forest area loss in the country. From 2001 to 2023, the country lost 19.8 kha of tree cover from fires and 26.7 kha from all other drivers of loss.

In Albania firefighting and rescue services are the responsibility of municipalities, which carry the mandate of first responders on all incidents posing a danger to the population or environment. Albania's fire and rescue system is operating in an environment that has changed more quickly than the system itself**.** For example, while equipment at local levels has been upgraded over the past years, municipalities still lack the capacity and institutional structures to effectively fulfil their mandate to prevent and mitigate incidents. This leads to the need for intervention by the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) for even small and medium incidents. To address Albania's limited capabilities in extinguishing fires, the country's fire response capacity, infrastructure (e.g., fire stations), technology, and equipment for tracking and extinguishing fires require urgent strengthening.

Objective

The objective of the project was to support the government of Albania in strengthening its fire risk management and search and rescue capacity, thereby improving its ability to respond effectively and efficiently to general fires, wildfires, and emergencies. The project combined technical analysis, institutional engagement, and knowledge sharing to support evidence-based decision-making. The results of this technical assistance were intended to inform future investments in Albania to support the Government of Albania in building a more modern, risk-informed, and coordinated fire protection system.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprised three activities:

First, under 'Institutional and capacity review of fire protection and rescue services (FP&RS)', existing capacities were reviewed against international best practices to identify potential capacity strengthening, policy, and investment needs to improve the delivery of firefighting services in the country

Second, under 'Road map for strengthening fire protection and rescue services', a summary of recommendations was developed based on Albanian demography, the geographic distribution of damage and loss risks due to fires, and a consultation process with municipalities. The roadmap prioritises resources and interventions at the local level regarding infrastructure and equipment, and it supports the identification of needs for training in firefighting and search and rescue. The proposed methodology was piloted for select municipalities.

Third, under 'Strengthening wildfire risk management', activities including review of forest fire risk assessment and mapping, analysis of current mechanisms to fight wildfires, a review of institutional coordination and community engagement mechanisms, and development of recommendations for increasing Albania's capacity to combat wildfires.

Outputs: Key outputs include a comprehensive institutional and capacity review of Albania's Fire Protection and Rescue Service, a national roadmap for strengthening fire protection and rescue capacities, a risk-informed resource planning methodology, technical guidance for infrastructure and equipment standardization, and recommendations to strengthen wildfire preparedness and operational readiness.

- World Bank. 2026. *Summary report. Link.*
- World Bank. 2026. *Validation workshop (May 2026) – Summary report*. Link.
- UCPM Knowledge Network article (August 13, 2026): 'Building a more resilient fire and rescue service in Albania.' Link.
- World Bank. 2026. *Technical report of a national baseline assessment and investment roadmap for the fire protection and rescue sector*.
- World Bank. 2026. *Technical report a municipal risk-based Fire Resource Planning Methodology*.
- World Bank. 2026. *Technical report on wildfire analysis and action plan.*
- World Bank. 2026. *Technical report on standards for fire stations and equipment.*

In terms of results, the project provided an evidence and knowledge base for the identification, prioritisation, and preparation of modernizing the Albania's fire and rescue system. Beyond producing technical studies, the project helped to establish a common framework for institutional reform, investment prioritization, and long-term capacity development. By bringing together national authorities, municipalities, development partners, and technical experts, the project supports a shared vision for strengthening Albania's resilience to fires and other emergencies while contributing to future World Bank investment planning in the sector. The recommendations for standards for fire stations and equipment support more consistent service delivery across municipalities in Albania and potentially across the Western Balkans region. In short, the project will support more coordinated investment and enable Albania to build a safer, more reliable, and financially sustainable fire and rescue capability that can respond effectively to wildfires and other emergencies.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project was part of a broader collaboration between the World Bank, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), and the government of Albania to strengthen the country's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge being generated through collaborations between government actors, the World Bank, and the UCPM.

Contacts

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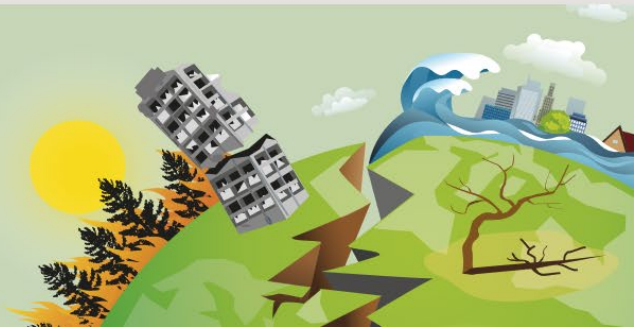
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Germany:

Return of Investments in Disaster Resilience Measures: Identifying potential measures and generating evidence to inform decision-making

Overview

Grant Size	€250,000
Duration	September 2024 – December 2025
Key hazard(s)	Floods, droughts, heatwaves, pandemics and epidemics
Key word(s)	Risk analysis, cost benefit analysis, smart investments, prioritisation of measures

Context

In a rapidly evolving risk landscape, Germany faces the need to enhance its disaster and emergency preparedness capabilities. The country faces rapidly evolving natural hazards. Extreme climate events are already inflicting massive damage, with economic losses estimated to exceed €80 billion in the period from 2018 to 2022 alone. Climate hazards are projected to further intensify, estimated at €280–900 billion by 2050. Yet natural shocks rarely occur in isolation, as technological, public health, economic, and geopolitical factors amplify complex, compound and cascading risks. As global risks—from conflicts and cyber disruptions to extreme weather and resource shocks— increasingly intersect, Germany is confronted with the need to strengthen multi-hazard disaster risk management (DRM) and civil protection systems to manage complex, cascading crises.

To strengthen disaster resilience, the country has implemented various measures, including the Federal Government's German Strategy for Strengthening Resilience to Disasters. As one of the world's leading economies, Germany's recent experiences with devastating floods underscore the growing pressure on its disaster preparedness systems due to evolving climate risks. As part of the effort to scale up disaster and climate resilience, it is critical to evaluate and prioritise smart investments. Understanding the costs and benefits of such investments, including reduced losses, stimulated economic activities, and socioeconomic and environmental co-benefits, is critical to inform policy dialogue and planning. In this context, the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK), as Germany's lead federal institution for civil protection and disaster risk management, plays a central role in strengthening preparedness, informing resilience investments, and supporting evidence-based decision-making across levels of government.

Objective

The project's objective was to support Germany strengthen the economic case for ex-ante disaster preparedness and prevention. The project combined technical analysis, institutional engagement, and knowledge sharing to inform evidence-based decision making. The project sought to articulate a stronger economic case for ex-ante disaster preparedness measures and raise awareness of the critical role of civil protection capabilities in a context of intensifying and inter-dependent risks.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprised three activities:

First, under 'Case studies of the socio-economic costs and benefits of disaster prevention measures', analytics were conducted to quantify the return of select investments in disaster prevention and preparedness measures, evaluating floods, heat waves, drought, and health emergencies, among others.

Second, under 'Risk communication, learning, and dissemination', activities (such as presentations) sought to contribute to increasing the awareness of decision makers within Germany of the crucial role and range of benefits of ex-ante preparedness and prevention measures, as well as to capture and transfer lessons learned from Germany to peers in the European Union and beyond.

Outputs: summary and technical report, accompanied by dissemination materials.

- World Bank. 2026. *Germany: The Economic Case for Investing in Disaster Preparedness and Resilience: Summary Report*. Link.
- World Bank, Climate Analytics. 2026. *Extreme Heat Risks in Germany: Priorities for Adaptation and Preparedness*. Link.
- Rentschler, J., C. Klaiber, M. Zhu. 2026. *Germany: Urban Expansion and Protection Gaps amid Evolving Flood Exposure*. Link.

In terms of results, the project presents a strong economic case for investing in Germany's disaster and emergency preparedness. Results from the literature and the new analysis presented in this report show that, in Germany, every €1 invested in disaster preparedness and prevention yields a median economic return of €2–6, with some individual estimates being as high as €500. The report emphasizes the high benefit-cost ratios and multiple benefits of resilience investments that can arise regardless of whether a disaster hits.

The report shows that as risks in the country evolve, so too must the solutions, thus requiring continuous efforts to monitor risks and strengthen civil protection capabilities. The findings can help policymakers identify and prioritize the most urgent and cost-effective opportunities to bolster the country's resilience, thereby improving preparedness not only for climate-related disasters, but for a wide range of future shocks. The generated knowledge is expected to inform government efforts related to the implementation of the German Strategy for Strengthening Resilience to Disasters. By providing key insights into the costs and benefits of resilience measures, the project also yields valuable insights for disaster resilience planning that are applicable to countries and sub-national authorities working towards Sendai Framework targets and the achievement of the Disaster Resilience Goals and of the Preparedness Union Strategy.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project builds upon the insights and outcomes of preceding initiatives, notably integrating and operationalising the research from the Economics for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness project, funded by the EU. It helps to enrich the existing body of knowledge on smart investments in disaster prevention and preparedness by showcasing new case studies and examples from diverse interventions. The project's results not only inform the BBK's efforts to promote a proactive preparedness approach within Germany's disaster resilience strategy but also serve as a resource for other national ministries and international stakeholders. These insights will be crucial for informing smart investments in resilience and will contribute to a global understanding of effective disaster prevention and preparedness, especially considering climate change and extreme weather events. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

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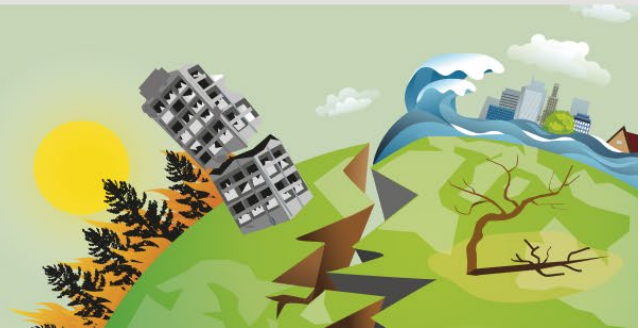
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility
for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last updated: September 2026

Iceland:

Towards an Integrated Wildfire Risk Management

Overview

Grant Size	€300,000
Duration	September 2024 – December 2025
Key hazard(s)	Wildfires
Key word(s)	Integrated wildfire risk management, governance, coordination, prioritisation of measures

Context

The risk of wildfires in Iceland is rising significantly. Although volcanic eruptions remain Iceland's predominant hazard, recent years have seen occasional wildfires in the southern, eastern, and western regions due to dry summer conditions. This risk is linked to climate change, evolving land use patterns, and expanding vegetation. Afforestation areas, recreational zones, and areas near vegetation are particularly vulnerable. For example, in 2021, a wildfire in the Heiðmörk conservation area near Reykjavík--critical for the capital's water supply--burned 56.5 ha, prompting authorities to issue Iceland's first-ever wildfire danger alert. In 2023–2024, moss fields in the Grindavík area caught fire, triggered by volcanic activity in the Reykjanes Peninsula.

At the national level, Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management (DCPEM) is in charge of daily activities related to prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery from emergencies. The DCPEM coordinates the civil protection system and provides support and coordination when local levels are overwhelmed, in line with Iceland's decentralized governance system. There is strong interest and momentum among various stakeholders in Iceland to strengthen Iceland's capacity across the wildfire risk management. Authorities, institutions, scientists, and the public are starting to recognize wildfire risk as a significant threat at both national and local levels, particularly in areas that have experienced fires already.

Objective

The project objective was to provide support to the DCPEM in Iceland by providing analytics and recommendations for adopting an integrated wildfire risk management (IWFRM) approach in Iceland. Analytics focused on reviewing current arrangements, achievements, and initiatives, identification of key gaps and challenges, as well as short-, medium-, and long-term opportunities to improve the framework for IWFRM and to inform a future strategic framework and possible stakeholder-led actions. The technical assistance comprised desk research, expert diagnostic review, two rounds of in-country stakeholder consultations and site visits, as well as facilitating knowledge-exchange within and outside of Iceland.

Key Activities, Outputs, and Expected Results

The project comprised two activities: (1) a diagnostic analysis and identification of recommendations roadmap with short/medium-long term priorities for stakeholders to consider, and (2) knowledge-exchange and dissemination of findings.

First, a team of experts from the World Bank Group, Prepared International, and the European Forestry Institute / FoRISK team, working with Icelandic counterparts, conducted desk research, a diagnostic review, and two rounds of in-country stakeholder consultations. The review assessed the current state of wildfire risk management in Iceland and identified key gaps and opportunities for future action. The review was conducted in line with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Wildfire Peer Review Assessment Framework (PRAF), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR), as well as international practice on IWFRM including various initiatives and examples in Europe and beyond. A set of recommendations was included in a roadmap with short, medium, and long-term priorities.

Second, a series of knowledge-transfer activities were conducted including facilitated participation of several fire chiefs at the Fire Camp in Poland in May 2025, and in country training with support from experts from the European Forestry Institute/ FoRISK team to deliver technical training in Iceland in October 2025.

Outputs: Technical report, a knowledge note, technical trainings/presentations, a summary brief, a feature article, and a blogpost with videos.

- World Bank. 2025. *Towards an Integrated Wildfire Risk Management in Iceland - Diagnostic and Recommendations*. Link.
- World Bank. 2026. *Knowledge note on Integrated Wildfire Risk Management in Europe: Understanding the Approach and Examples*. Link.
- UCPM Knowledge Network article (March 3, 2026): 'Advancing integrated wildfire risk management in Iceland'. Link.
- FoRISK blog (October 21, 2025) 'When Fire Meets Ice: Iceland's Unexpected Wildfire Challenge', Link.

In terms of results, outputs are intended to inform policy dialogue and planning in Iceland and showcase to other countries practical way to diagnose and identify key areas for future actions. The analysis and dissemination activities conducted equipped key stakeholders with knowledge, new ideas, as well as new connections relevant for wildfire risk management and emergency preparedness in general. Some of the recommendations are being taken on board by relevant actors, and there is renewed focus on inter-institutional cooperation through a dedicated working group, on the importance of capacity-building, as well as adequate capabilities for firefighters and emergency management actors.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project was aligned with priorities and ongoing disaster risk management related initiatives in Iceland, including Host Nation-related projects. The approach was aligned with the methodological approach of the UCPM Wildfire PRAF, as well as higher-level EU Disaster Resilience Goals, and the SFDRR. The project considered knowledge generated under previous wildfire PRAF and existing country wildfire risk management practice assessments, as well as EU/country-funded projects and initiatives such as FIRE-RES for fire resilient territories in Europe, and the SAFERS PROJECT. The findings of the project can contribute to the broader knowledge base on IWFRM to further inform and refine its strategies and facilitate the uptake of such practices across UCPM countries. Overall, the activities benefited from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government actors, the World Bank, and the UCPM.

Contacts

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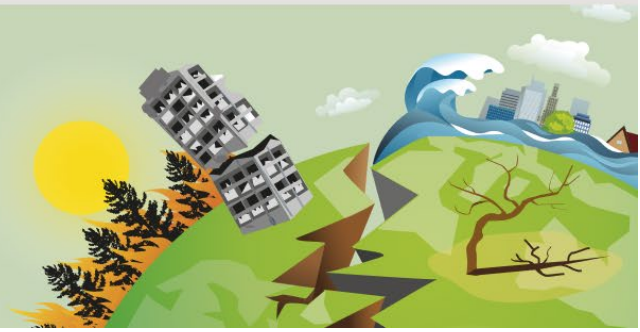
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

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.

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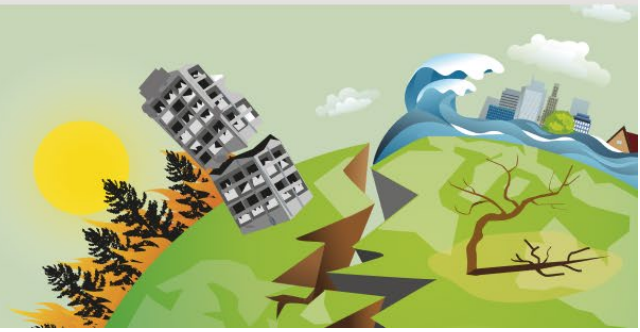
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last updated: September 2026

Moldova:

Strengthening Moldova's Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Project

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2024 – March 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard (earthquake, floods, droughts, landslide, pandemics and epidemics)
Key word(s)	Hydrometeorological services early warning systems, risk assessments, emergency response, prioritisation of measures

Context

Moldova is exposed to floods, droughts, and other severe weather events, as well as earthquakes. Localized, rapid, and intense events include torrential rains, hail, and heavy winds, sometimes separately and sometimes in combination. Over the past decade alone, floods and droughts caused US$1.2 billion in damage (World Bank-GFDRR 2020). Major recent hydromet-related disasters have been the 2000 and 2007 drought events and the 2008 floods, which cost the country about US$120 million.

Moldova faces significant challenges when managing natural hazards due to limited resources and outdated infrastructure. Moldova's disaster risk management efforts have been hampered by inadequate data for risk assessments, outdated hydrometeorological services, and insufficient preparedness within the health sector to handle large-scale emergencies. For example, timely and effective hydromet and early warning services play a crucial role in building the resilience of key sectors such as food and agriculture and water resources management against climate- and weather-related hazards in Moldova. The Ministry of Internal Affairs in Moldova is the key agency overseeing emergency response. The Meteorological and Environmental Monitoring Authority (Autoritatea de Meteorologie și Monitoring de Mediu (AMM)) of Moldova is responsible for providing weather, hydrological, and climate services, including forecasts and warning. The Ministry of Health is responsible for management of emergency health services.

Objective

The project objective is to enhance Moldova's emergency preparedness and response capacities concerning natural hazards and climate-related shocks. Addressing a range of challenges identified, the project combined technical analysis, institutional engagement, and knowledge sharing to support evidence-based decision-making, particularly related to improved risk assessments, upgrading weather forecasting systems, and strengthening the resilience of health infrastructure.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprised three activities.

First, the project will focus on Moldova's emergency preparedness and response capacity, including methodology for the risk assessment process and disaster risk mapping. Activities will help to develop recommendations for disaster risk assessment methodology at community, district, and national levels, with the involvement of central and local authorities in the north, centre, and south of the country. This will be accompanied by developing training programmes for risk assessment, and conducting training sessions for various authorities, as well as knowledge exchange activities.

Second, the project will focus on Moldova's hydromet system. A review of Moldova's hydrogeological system will be conducted to identify opportunities to enhance the collection and transfer of weather observations to the World Meteorological Organization Information system, establish efficient data transfer procedures, and upgrade the national weather radar for full functionality. The findings will inform investments that can be financed under the ongoing, Strengthening Moldova's Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Project.

Third, the project will focus on the health system's disaster preparedness. This will include a rapid exposure analysis and identification of priority recommendations for strengthening disaster preparedness in the health sector. The exposure analysis will consider natural hazards such as floods, earthquakes, and landslides, and cover health facilities as well as supporting infrastructure, and the recommendations will also consider opportunities to better integrate health services into existing civil protection and emergency response frameworks.

Outputs: Key outputs include summary and technical reports, training activities and knowledge exchange, and accompanying dissemination materials.

- World Bank. 2026. *Strengthened and Fit-for-Purpose State Hydromet Service in Moldova: The Roadmap.* Link.
- World Bank. 2026. *Moldova: Managing Disaster Risk in the Health Sector. Review and recommendations.* Forthcoming.
- World Bank 2026. Technical Report: *Review and Analysis of the Diagnostic and Assessment Report of the Chisinau Weather Radar.*
  World Bank 2026. Technical Report: *Recommendations on Restoring the Chisinau Weather Radar to Its Full Functionality.*

In terms of results, the project provided an evidence and knowledge base for the identification, prioritisation, and preparation of future investments in Moldova across key areas of its civil protection system. Findings and outputs of this activity inform ongoing or future investments, including the Strengthening Moldova's Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Project. Technical reports also demonstrate the value of using risk-informed and evidence-based approaches for prioritisation of measures, paving the way for future reforms and investments. Training, capacity-building, and knowledge activities provided also a valuable experience to professional staff and stakeholders to improve their skills and learn from the lessons learnt from other countries.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project is part of a broader collaboration between the government of Moldova, the World Bank, the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, and the EU's Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) to strengthen the country's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. This project complements ongoing projects and initiatives led by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its subordinate units, as well as other line ministries to strengthen the resilience of critical emergency response infrastructure and systems. The Project also expands on recent analytical activities to assess gaps and opportunities in the face of climate change – including the Moldova Country Climate and Development Report. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between Government actors, the World Bank, and the UCPM.

Contacts

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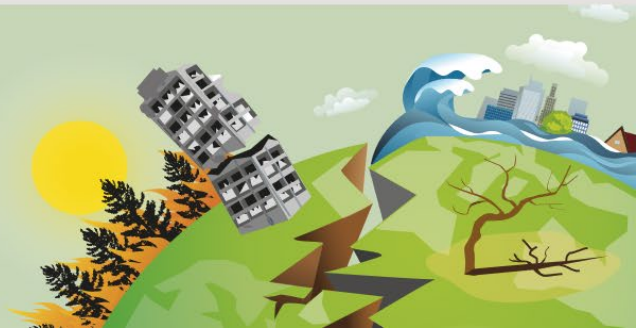
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

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.

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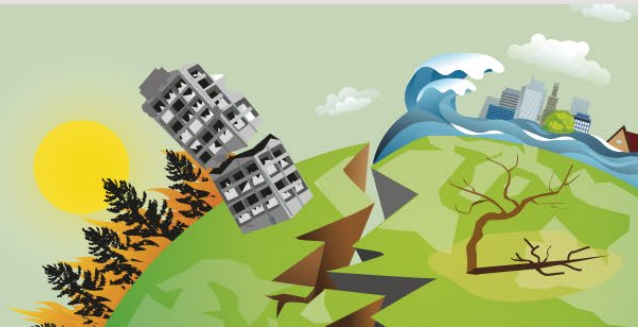
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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Romania:

Romanian Assistance for Post-Disaster Improvement and Development (RAPID)

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	August 2024 – February 2027
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard, earthquakes, floods, droughts, heatwaves, landslides
Key word(s)	Governance of disaster risk management, recovery, build-back better, inclusive approaches

Context

Romania is exposed to various natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, forest fires, droughts, landslides, storms, and extreme temperature events. Aging infrastructure, particularly in cities and throughout transport systems, increases the country's vulnerability, as witnessed by the number of buildings impacted by the 1977 earthquake. Climate change is expected to intensify these risks, making multi-hazard prevention, preparedness, and response readiness a key focus of government reform and investments.

In recent decades, Romania has taken major steps to improve its disaster risk management framework and system. Through the adoption of key strategic documents – including the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2024-2035), the National Strategy for Seismic Risk Reduction (2022-2050), and the National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation (2024-2030) – the government is seeking to further strengthen its disaster and climate resilience, including improving the capacity of the national civil protection system and relevant institutions to manage disaster response and recovery in an effective and inclusive manner. In Romania, the Ministry of Internal Affairs oversees overall coordination and management of emergencies, several stakeholders have specific roles and responsibilities for specific hazards across the whole disaster risk management cycle, which is why clarity of mandates and coordination across different actors is critical for a well-functioning system.

Objective

The objective of this project was to strengthen the capacity of civil protection institutions to ensure an effective and inclusive disaster response and recovery, and to improve existing recovery frameworks. The project combined technical analysis, institutional engagement, and knowledge sharing to support future efforts to strengthen the overarching framework and clarify roles and responsibilities during response and recovery, and in this way strengthen preparedness in Romania to future emergencies.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprised three main areas of activities:

First, under 'Identifying gaps in Romania's current disaster recovery framework', a diagnostic assessment was conducted for the current disaster recovery framework, particularly concerning seismic and climate-related hazards. This helped to identify and propose ways to address gaps in Romania's post-disaster recovery framework, such as those related to governance and coordination, or different technical elements.

Second, activities under 'Strengthening the disaster recovery framework' draw on the diagnostic and helped to identify technical recommendations in line with Build Back Better principles. Recommendations were supported by international good practice and examples related to disaster recovery to inform the development of a robust disaster recovery framework for Romania, aiming for resilience, sustainability, and alignment with international standards to mitigate future seismic and climate-related vulnerabilities.

Third, under 'Capacity building to improve recovery planning and execution', activities include knowledge exchange events and training sessions for government officials and first responders, contributing to institutional capacity building to improve recovery planning and execution, as well as inclusiveness of response.

Outputs: Key outputs include technical diagnostic report, knowledge note, and report with recommendations. This is complemented by several dissemination outputs.

- World Bank. 2026. *Diagnostic Report on Romania's Disaster Recovery framework.*
- World Bank. *2026. Report with recommendations on strengthening Romania's disaster recovery framework based on BBB standards*
- World Bank. *2026. Knowledge Note on Disaster Recovery Good Case Practices.*
- UCPM Knowledge Network article (April 26, 2026) 'From Rubble to Recovery, One Brick at a Time: The BRICK 2026 event; Link.
- World Bank. 2026. From Rubble to Recovery, One Brick at a Time: The BRICK 2026 Event – video. Link.
- World Bank. 2026. From Rubble to Recovery, One Brick at a Time: The BRICK 2026 Event Proceedings. Link.

In terms of results, the grant generated knowledge base for strengthening build back better and resilient recovery in Romania, with lessons learnt and knowledge being relevant to also other countries. The capacity building activities help facilitate inter-ministerial coordination in Romania and support the establishment of an overview of the requirements for critical disaster response and recovery resources.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project forms part of broader World Bank DRM engagement in Romania, which encompasses a range of activities aimed at strengthening the country's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. This project complements ongoing projects and initiatives led by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its subordinate units, and other line ministries, to strengthen the resilience of critical emergency response infrastructure and systems. This included investment financing through the Strengthening Disaster Risk Management Project, the Improving Resilience and Emergency Response Project, the Strengthening Preparedness and Critical Emergency Infrastructure Project, and the Romania Safer, Inclusive and Sustainable Schools Project. The results of this project also complement the reforms and expected results tracked under the Second Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Loan with a Catastrophe Draw Down Option (Cat DDO). In parallel, this project complements efforts led under a GFDRR grant through the Japan-World Bank Program for Mainstreaming DRM in developing countries, that is supporting Romania in addressing existing gaps in DRM policy development and emergency preparedness efforts, as well as in promoting and advancing investments in resilient public infrastructure. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last update: September 2026

Türkiye:

Enhancement of the Flood Early Warning System in Samsun and Communication Strategy

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2024 – December 2026
Key hazard(s)	Floods
Key word(s)	Risk management planning, early warning systems, awareness and risk communication, preparedness, capacity building

Context

Floods are among the most frequent and damaging natural hazards in Türkiye, accounting for nearly 30 percent of all recorded natural disasters nationally. Climate change, rapid urbanization, and increasing exposure significantly amplifying flood risk across many regions of the country. The Black Sea Region, including Samsun Province, is particularly vulnerable due to its steep topography, high-intensity rainfall, and rapidly responding river basins. Samsun City is located within the boundaries of the Kızılırmak (Bafra) and Yeşilırmak (Çarşamba) river basins and both rivers, along with other local streams, present a significant risk of flooding.

Strengthening flood forecasting and early warning capabilities is essential for reducing disaster impacts, protecting lives, and enhancing national resilience. Enhanced accuracy and reliability of flood predictions through early warning systems (EWS) facilitate timely warnings and improved safety for at risk populations. At the same time, an effective communication strategy ensures the swift and efficient dissemination of risk information from EWS to decision-makers, as well as the broader public, enabling them to promptly initiate actions to mitigate the loss of life and property. To minimise losses, the government is implementing a range of measures to improve flood predictions and reduce flood risk in Samsun Province. A series of investments is planned in Samson area to manage flood risk, including the Flood and Drought Management Project (FDMP), and to serve as an example for other areas in Türkiye. These efforts and investments are being led by several authorities including the Directorate General of Water Management (DGWM), the Turkish State Meteorological Service (MGM), the State Hydraulic Works (DSİ), Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), operating under the Ministry of Interior, and local authorities.

Objective

The objective of the project is to improve the EWS for floods in Samsun and to develop an effective communication strategy for disseminating information to the public at the city level, which will also serve as an example for other cities and at national level. The project combined technical analysis, institutional engagement, and knowledge sharing to inform evidence-based decision making and investment planning.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprised two activities:

First, under 'Technical evaluation of the current EWS and recommendations for improvement on the EWS-produced information', analysis was conducted of the current EWS to identify key gaps and recommendations for its improvement. The analysis directly supports enhancements to the EWS in Samsun, improving the region's early warning capabilities and responsiveness to potential flood events. The recommendations consider good practice related to EWS as well as to broader disaster response measures, as part of a comprehensive DRM approach and multi-level framework.

Second, under 'Evaluation of information dissemination methods for EWS and recommendations for an effective communication strategy for EWS-generated information', analysis was conducted to optimise the delivery and impact of EWS-generated warnings, ensuring that critical information reaches the relevant stakeholders in a timely, clear, and actionable manner. The analysis provides a set of technical recommendations for stakeholders to consider and be supplemented by capacity building.

Outputs: summary and technical reports, training and dissemination materials.

- World Bank. 2026. *Diagnostic of Türkiye's Flood Forecasting and Warning System for Pilot Scale: National Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System.*
- World Bank. 2026. *Building Better Flood Early Warning Systems: Türkiye's Learning in Japan*. Video.

In terms of results, the project has supported the evaluation of the national flood forecasting and EWS with practical recommendations to strengthen the country's capacity to anticipate, monitor, and respond to flood events. These include adopting a more integrated data infrastructure with standardized data-sharing arrangements, enhancing the accuracy and reliability of flood forecasting, incorporating ensemble prediction systems, and placing greater emphasis on impact-based flood forecasting. The assessment highlights Türkiye's progress in developing a model-based forecasting platform that integrates meteorological forecasts, hydrological modelling, flood hazard mapping, and spatial risk information and identifies priorities to enhance the system's operational performance, including stronger integration of real-time hydrological data, improved interoperability with the observation-based live-monitoring flood detection network system, continuous hydrological modelling, better representation of reservoir operations, and more effective warning dissemination. The assessment supports Türkiye's broader efforts to advance data-driven flood risk management and build resilience to increasingly frequent and severe flood hazards, as well as efforts to improve flood early warning capabilities in Samsun Province and develop an effective city-level communication strategy for disseminating timely, clear, and actionable warning information to the public, with the potential to serve as a model for other cities and national-level improvements. The project findings have informed the identification of the locations and technical specifications for additional measurement equipment financed under the FDMP and flood EWS investments.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project complements government efforts to strengthen EWS capacity, and DRM more broadly, with a focus on flood resilience. Samsun is considered a potential model for the nation's other flood-prone areas, offering insights that could also be applicable to other hazards that Türkiye faces. This technical assistance also aligns with the World Bank-financed Flood and Drought Management Project (FDMP), which seeks to improve flood control measures for communities in targeted regions and enhance the country's overall capacity to manage flood and drought risks. A critical aspect of the FDMP is the strengthening of flood monitoring and forecasting systems, a task undertaken by the State Hydraulic Works and Directorate General for Water Management. The FDMP includes evaluation and refinement of the existing flood forecasting and EWS to improve their optimization. This concerted effort is designed to meet Türkiye's broader disaster resilience goals, as well as the FDMP's goals, and set the standard for flood risk management practices. This technical assistance project supports these efforts by focusing on the existing EWS in Samsun, with the goal of refining the information produced, enhancing its dissemination, and establishing a communication strategy that could serve as a benchmark for other cities and at the national level. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

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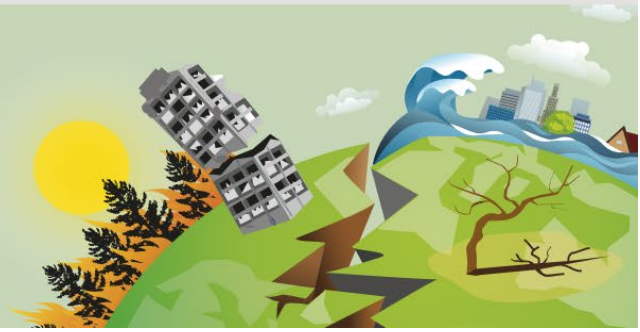
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TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 2: Knowledge and capacity building



Last updated: September 2026

Enhancing Policy and Investments for EU Disaster and Climate Resilience

Overview

Grant Size	€250,000
Duration	September 2024 – December 2025
Key hazard(s)	Earthquakes, wildfires
Key word(s)	Governance of disaster risk management; policy coherence, systematic resilience, resilient infrastructure, prioritisation of measures

Context

Europe faces escalating risks from natural hazards. The continent warms faster than any other region in the world, translating into potentially more frequent and more impactful events. Wildfires are growing more frequent, intense, and widespread, while earthquakes, though less visible in public debate, remain a persistent threat. Together, they expose critical vulnerabilities in Europe's infrastructure, economies, and communities, underscoring the need for stronger, long-term investment in disaster preparedness.

Countries in the EU have been taking steps to enhance their disaster and climate resilience, guided and supported by European Union's policy, funding, and technical assistance instruments. However, preparedness across Europe remains uneven. Building resilience requires sustained investments in climate- and seismic-resilient infrastructure, robust early-warning and response systems, and stronger public awareness. This is the moment to reflect on how to refine policy and funding frameworks to better promote strategic, risk-informed, performance-oriented, and sustainable investments that deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits. It is also worth exploring ways to incentivise reforms that address key bottlenecks for effective risk management and investments.

Objectives

The objective of the project was to summarize and generate knowledge to enhancing policy and investments for disaster and climate resilience. This was done by focusing on two elements: first, sharing good practices and provide recommendations for incentivising effective investments in disaster and climate resilience through the right framework conditions, and second, providing evidence to support a risk-informed approach to investments, particularly in wildfire and earthquake risk management, offering guidance on potential actions and investments.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprised two activities:

First, under 'Incentivising impactful investments in disaster resilience – setting the right framework', research was conducted to support discussions related to existing and future policies and instruments that can foster disaster and climate resilience, such as specific conditions and incentives, along with methods to track progress towards strengthened disaster and climate resilience.

Second, under' Investing in disaster resilience in the EU: identifying needs and priorities', a series of EU-wide and country case study analytics was developed focusing on wildfire and earthquake risks, with relevant examples and recommendations going forward.

Outputs: A series of eight reports, complemented by dissemination materials, sets out practical measures to strengthen Europe's preparedness for wildfires and earthquakes.

- *World Bank. 2025. Management of Wildfire Risk in the European Union,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Croatia - Management of Wildfire Risk,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Cyprus - Management of Wildfire Risk,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Romania - Management of Wildfire Risk,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Management of Earthquake Risk in the European Union,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Croatia - Management of Earthquake Risk,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Cyprus - Management of Earthquake Risk,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Romania - Management of Earthquake Risk,* Link.
- World Bank. 2025. 'From Risk to Resilience: Strengthening Preparedness for Wildfires and Earthquakes in Europe', Article, Link.

In terms of results, this project provided evidence, good practice examples, and recommendations to inform ongoing and future efforts to strengthen disaster and climate resilience in the EU. The findings aim to provide insights that can guide the refinement of policies and tools at both the EU and Member State levels in the current and forthcoming multi-annual financial framework. Drawing on case studies from Croatia, Cyprus, and Romania, the findings offer insights for governments worldwide on how to allocate resources more effectively and build disaster resilience in the decades ahead. Opportunities are clear: integrated governance can link wildfire prevention to land-use with land-use and natural resource management, while seismic retrofitting can be paired with energy-efficiency and other multi-hazard upgrades. Better data and predictive tools can sharpen decision-making. Community engagement—from evacuation drills to public campaigns—can help foster a culture of preparedness. Improved post-disaster planning and innovative financing, including improved contingency funds and insurance, can ensure resources are quickly available after disasters strike.

Sustainability and Coordination

The project considered and coordinated with other ongoing academic research, technical assistance (including other TAFF projects or other EU-funded grants), as well as initiatives led by the European Commission that could be leveraged to deepen understanding of the EU's earthquake and wildfire risk profile and risk management capabilities. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

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