



Albanian National Civil
Protection Agency
(NCPA)



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID
OPERATIONS (ECHO)
Strategy and Policy
Prevention and Preparedness Capacity Building

“Boosting Disaster Risk Management Financing”

12-13 November 2024

*“Building a strategic approach to disaster risk management
investments - experience from -LOCAL DRM- project”*



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Project Presentation

- Project Name: **Strengthening Disaster Risk Management Capability at Local Level**
- Project Topic: **UCPM-2023-TRACK1-IBA - Technical Assistance for Disaster Risk Management**
- Start Date: **01 January 2024**
- Project Duration: **18 Months (June 2025)**
- Total Cost: **747,930 euro**
- Grant value: **710,534** (funding rate: 95%)
- Implementing Directorate: **Directorate of Disaster Risk Reduction and Prevention (NCPA)**



Project Rationale and Objectives

The **Local Government** has an essential role in **identifying and categorizing risks**, in the distribution of resources and funding, and other elements as the basis for actions and steps to prevent and address disasters.

Urgent need to increase capacities of local government staff to strengthen disaster risk management capabilities.

“Support civil protection structures in county and municipal level to improve and strengthen their capacities in terms of anticipating hazards, risk assessment, prevention, and planning.”

- Increase capacities for disaster risk assessments;
- Establish an advanced local framework of disaster risk management;
- Increase capacities of financial preparedness, improve planning of municipal budgets and prevention capacities;
- Increase the knowledge and awareness of the role and importance of the municipalities in this process.



Project Working Packages

WP1 - Project Management & Reporting

“This work package focuses on the overall management, technical coordination, financial and administrative management, and monitoring of the project.”

WP2 - Making Disaster Risk Management Local

“This work package involves conducting a comprehensive needs assessment on disaster risk assessment and management practices, followed by capacity building activities through workshops and training sessions for local government staff.”

WP3 - Strengthen Financial Preparedness

“This work package entails reviewing current financial management practices in the municipalities and developing recommendations for integrating disaster risk reduction into the financial planning process; Followed by training municipal finance and disaster management staff on financial preparedness planning, budgeting, and resource mobilization for disaster risk reduction.”

WP4 - Project Dissemination Activities

“This work package focuses on developing and implementing public awareness and education campaigns on disaster risk reduction, producing awareness products and organizing a disaster risk management conference to share knowledge and best practices.”

Key findings from the Need Assessments

Underfunded Delegated Functions

- Local governments continue to rely heavily on central government funding.
- Stagnant budget expenditures that do not adequately support disaster risk management activities.
- The current framework allocates funds based on municipal budget size rather than disaster risk severity, potentially disadvantaging higher-risk municipalities.

Lack of Civil Emergency Sectors:

- NOT established sectors to cover civil emergencies, indicating a significant gap in preparedness and response capabilities.
- Lack of comprehensive risk planning and focus primarily on post-disaster response, increasing loss and damage.

Initial Stage of Disaster Risk Assessment:

- 60% of municipalities are still in the early stages of disaster risk assessment, highlighting the need for targeted training and capacity-building efforts.
- Lack of accurate financial reporting on past disasters and often rely on rough damage estimates.
- MUST integrate disaster risk management into their budgets and work closely with central institutions to mitigate disaster impacts, especially given Albania's rising disaster frequency and associated costs.

Insufficient Funding and Training:

- 80% of municipalities lack trained staff.
- 40% lack expertise in the legal and regulatory framework.
- 79% of municipalities expressed a need for training in legislation, policy-making, and disaster risk assessment methodologies.
- 85% of participants report having an insufficient planned annual budget for disaster risk prevention.



Communication Materials for Public Awareness

KEY ACTIVITIES




Awareness Campaigns: Designed to build resilient communities by sensitizing local populations to disaster preparedness, management, and recovery strategies.



Knowledge Sharing Events: Includes a Disaster Risk Management Conference to present best practices and foster local collaboration.

Visibility & Outreach:

- **Kick-off Conference:** *Launched to introduce the project goals and engage stakeholders.*
- **Online Presence:** *Maintained through social media and NCPA webpage.*
 [\[facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561482182586\]](https://facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561482182586)
- **Awareness Materials:** *Mini Videos, Educational Guides, Informative Leaflets*



Outcome: Empowered communities that actively cooperate with local structures to enhance disaster preparedness and response.

KEY COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

Awareness-Raising Videos

- Five themed videos on common natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, fires, landslides/avalanches).
- Practical guidance with real scenarios from Albania.

Risk Management Guides

- **Home:** Family emergency plans and home safety steps.
- **School:** Drills and emergency planning for students and staff.
- **Workplace:** Preparedness measures for employees and employers.

Informative Leaflets

- Six leaflets with quick information on disaster preparedness, available in physical and digital formats.

1

The **Local Government Bodies** are **better prepared** and have **improved capacity** to respond to and recover from disasters, due to the **local governments'** improved capacity for disaster risk management.

2

The **Local Government Bodies** are able to **respond effectively to disasters** due to their **enhanced financial preparedness**, as they can **quickly mobilize resources** for prevention and emergency operations.

3

Communities are **better informed** about disaster risks and are more **actively involved in local disaster risk management**, leading to **greater community resilience and empowerment**.



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