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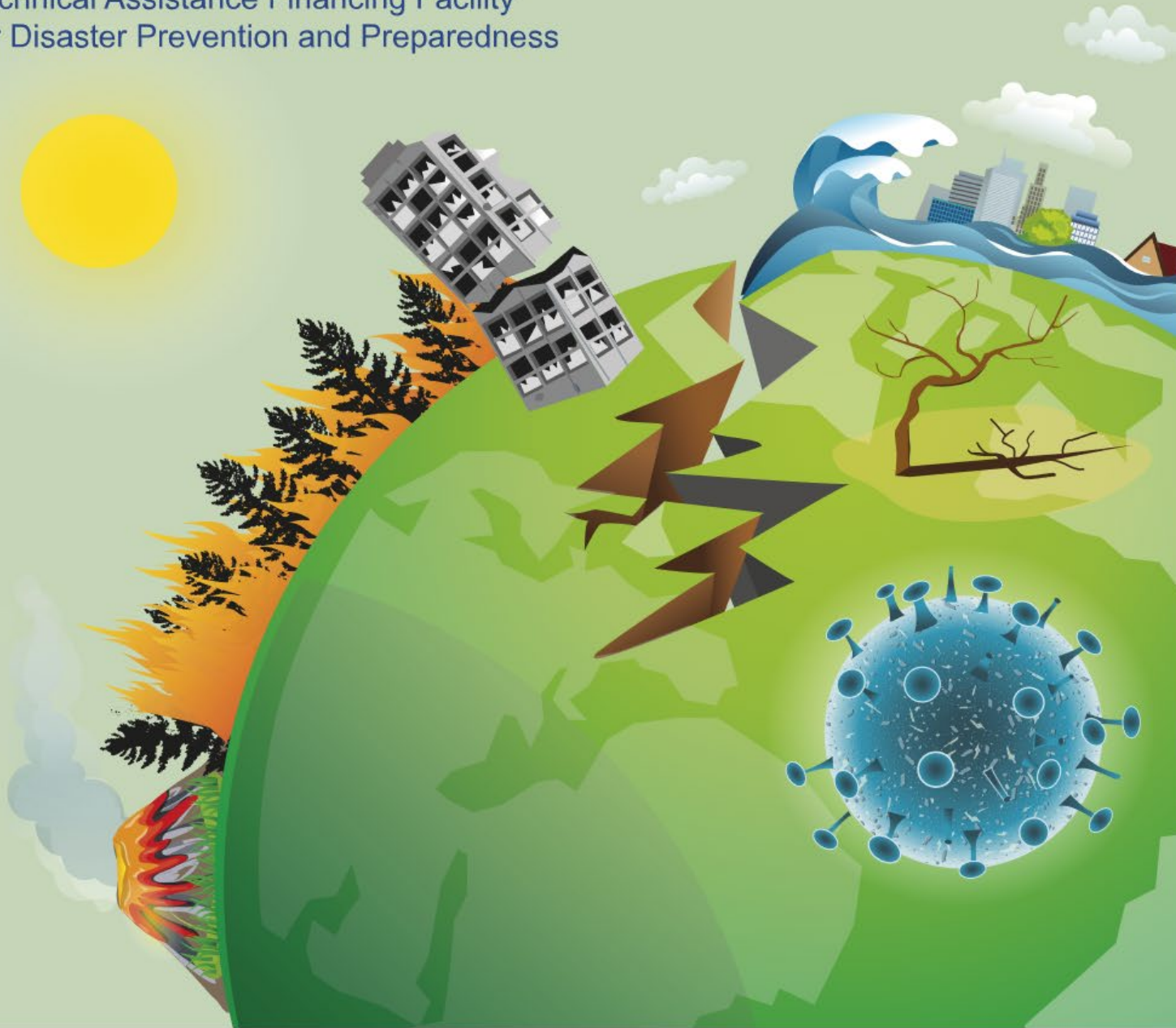
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TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility
for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness



Overview of 2024 Project Brief



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 **TAFF** 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).

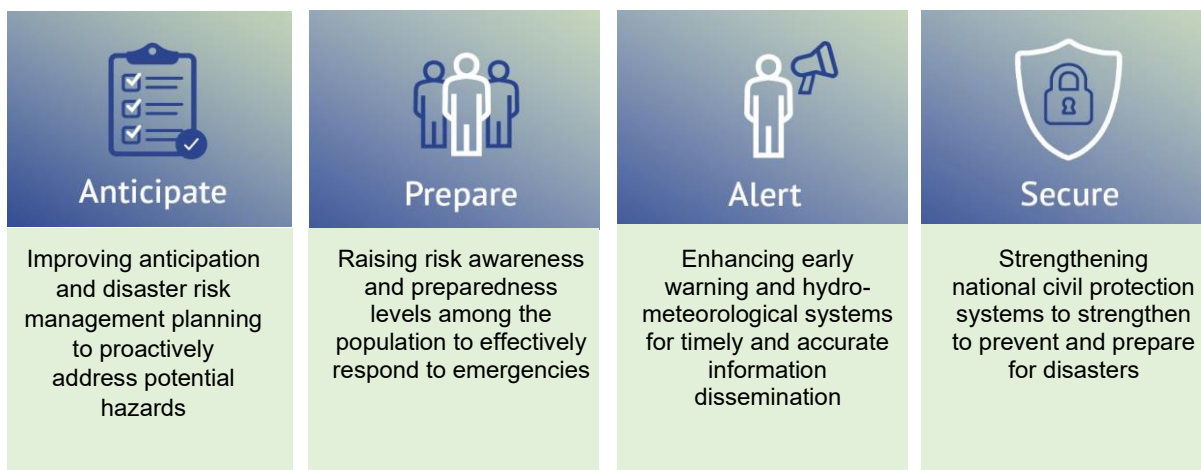
Its overall objective is to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of countries under the EU's UCPM for disaster and preparedness with a focus on:

<p>1</p> <p>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 and the European Green Deal, as well as the countries' national priorities.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Supporting investments in disaster prevention and preparedness through the development of a project pipeline and enhanced administrative capacity.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Improving the knowledge base on disaster risk management, and facilitate the sharing of knowledge, good practices and information.</p>
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TAFF has two components:

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:



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.

Partnership:

TAFF is fully funded by the EU and managed by the GFDRR and implemented by the World Bank.



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How it works:

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 Georgia and Kosovo¹ 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 one cross-cutting analytical activity (EU-wide).

2025 Call of Expressions of Interest: The 2025 call is expected to be launched in early 2025 with more information available on the DG ECHO and TAFF websites in due time.

Contact

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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

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Project brief



Last updated: September 30, 2024

Albania – Strengthening Albania’s Fire Risk Management and Search and Rescue Capacity

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2024 – August 2026
Relevant DRG	Anticipate; Alert; Secure
Key hazard(s)	
Key word(s)	Rescue capacity; Rescue services; Fire protection

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 2021 alone, 329 wildfires were recorded, burning a total of 31,275 ha of land. 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. 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 grant is 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 results of this technical assistance will inform a proposed investment project in Albania on fire risk management.

Key Activities and Expected Results

COMPONENT 1

Institutional and capacity review of fire protection and rescue services (FP&RS)

This component will review the existing FP&RS capacity in Albania against international best practices to identify potential capacity strengthening, policy, and investment needs to improve the delivery of firefighting services in the country.

COMPONENT 2

Road map for strengthening fire protection and rescue services

A road map will be developed based on Albanian demography, the geographic distribution of damage and loss risks due to fires, and a consultation process with municipalities. The road map will prioritise resources and interventions at the local level regarding infrastructure and equipment, and it will support the identification of needs for training in firefighting and search and rescue.

COMPONENT 3

Strengthening wildfire risk management

This component aims to strengthen wildfire fire risk management in Albania with activities covering forest fire risk assessment and mapping, analysis of current mechanisms to fight wildfires, a review of institutional coordination and community engagement mechanisms, and recommendations for increasing Albania's capacity to combat wildfires.

Government Counterpart(s)

Ministry of Interior; National Civil Protection Agency; Officials of national and local entities.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project is 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. The objective of the grant is to support the government in strengthening its fire risk management capacity. The grant will serve as a basis for the identification, prioritization, and preparation of activities under a proposed World Bank Investment Project Financing (IPF) on fire risk management with the Ministry of Interior. Overall, the activities will benefit from the knowledge being generated through collaborations between government actors, the World Bank, and the UCPM.

Contacts

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Counterparts: Ministry of Interior: Arben Cara, General Director for FPRS, Florenc Qosja, Advisor in the Cabinet of the Minister

About TAFF

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Project brief



Last update: September 17, 2024

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
Relevant DRG	Anticipate; Prepare
Key hazard(s)	
Key word(s)	Cost benefit analysis; Smart investments; Prioritisation

Context

Germany is vulnerable to disaster risks, particularly those exacerbated by climate change, such as floods, heatwaves, and droughts. 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.

Objective

The grant's objective is to support Germany strengthen the economic case for ex-ante disaster preparedness and prevention.

Key Activities and Expected Results

COMPONENT 1

Case studies of the socio-economic costs and benefits of disaster prevention measures

This component includes analytics to quantify the return of select investments in disaster prevention and preparedness measures, evaluating floods, heat waves, drought, and health emergencies, among others. The analysis can help inform dialogue and decisions related to public budgeting processes.

COMPONENT 2

Risk communication, learning, and dissemination

This component includes activities (such as presentations) 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.

Government Counterpart(s)

Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK).

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](#) (EDPP2) project. It aims 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. For example, project activities can 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 will also yield valuable insights for disaster resilience planning that are applicable to countries working towards Sendai Framework targets and the achievement of the Disaster Resilience Goals. The project's results will not only inform the BBK's efforts to promote a proactive preparedness approach within Germany's disaster resilience strategy but will 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 will benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Contacts

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Last updated: September 30, 2024

Iceland - Towards an Integrated Wildfire Risk Management

Overview

Grant Size	€300,000
Duration	September 2024 – November 2025
Relevant DRG	Anticipate; Prepare
Key hazard(s)	
Key word(s)	Integrated wildfire risk management; Smart governance; Smart policies and investments

Context

Considering the growing impact of wildfires across Europe and expected impacts of climate change, the adoption and implementation of an integrated approach to wildfire risk management is becoming an increasingly important priority across Europe, including in Iceland. 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. Wildfires are an increasing risk due to summer houses in forested areas. In the context of climate change, to effectively enhance Iceland's wildfire risk management capabilities necessitates a review of current arrangements and the identification of key gaps/challenges as well as opportunities to improve the framework for integrated wildfire risk management and to inform a future strategic framework and possible stakeholder-led actions.

Objective

The grant objective is to provide analytics and recommendations for adopting an integrated wildfire risk management (IWFRM) approach in Iceland.

Key Activities and Expected Results

COMPONENT 1

Developing a diagnostic analysis and roadmap of recommendations with short, medium, and long-term priorities

This component includes analytics to review and assess the current state of wildfire risk management in Iceland, and to identify key gaps and opportunities for future action. A set of recommendations will be included in a roadmap with short, medium, and long-term priorities to inform stakeholder dialogue and eventual implementation. Consistent with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) [Wildfire Peer Review Assessment Framework \(PRAF\)](#) and the goals of the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 \(SFDRR\)](#), and taking into account good practice across various initiatives and examples in Europe and beyond, the analysis will consider different facets of IWFRM. These will include understanding of wildfire risk, risk reduction, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery (including financial arrangements), as well as governance, coordination, and current initiatives and investments related to wildfire risk management. The results can inform policy dialogue and planning in Iceland and showcase to other countries practical way to diagnose and identify key areas for future action.

Government Counterpart(s)

Iceland Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management

Sustainability and Coordination

This project is aligned with priorities and ongoing disaster risk management related initiatives in Iceland, including the ongoing Host Nation project. The approach is fully aligned with the methodological approach of the UCPM Wildfire PRAF, as well as higher-level EU Disaster Resilience Goals, and the SFDRR. The project will consider 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 will 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 will benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government actors, the World Bank, and the UCPM.

Contacts

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Project brief



Last updated: September 30, 2024

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

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	August 2024 – August 2026
Relevant DRG	Anticipate; Alert
Key hazard(s)	
Key word(s)	Early warning; Impact-based forecasting; Community engagement

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. To support Kosovo in enhancing its resilience against disasters, the country's capacities on risk assessment, impact-based forecasting and early warning and community engagement require urgent strengthening.

Objective

The objective of the grant is 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.

Key Activities and Expected Results

COMPONENT 1

Enhancing risk and impact analytics to inform decision-making

This component aims to enhance the evidence base for decision-making on preparedness and resilience building, particularly the accessibility and usability of risk-related information. It will support the collection and digitisation of critical

infrastructure data to strengthen disaster exposure assessments, the development of a guidebook for integrating risk analytics into databases, and help enhance the capacity of institutional stakeholders to maintain and develop these systems.

COMPONENT 2

Strengthening capabilities for impact-based forecasting and early warning

This component aims to strengthen 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. It will support a comprehensive gap analysis of existing systems, processes and institutional frameworks for climate and disaster information, the development of a guidance note, and help enhance capacity of key stakeholders to improve impact-based forecasting and early warning.

COMPONENT 3

Community engagement and education on disaster preparedness and response

This component aims to strengthen 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. It will support the development of a briefing note on community engagement and awareness, support the training of officials in community outreach and emergency preparedness, as well as the development of educational programmes to raise public awareness about disaster risks.

Government Counterpart(s)

Kosovo Emergency Management Agency (EMA), MOIA, Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute (KHMI).

Sustainability and Coordination

The project supports 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. It is a joint initiative between the Kosovo Emergency Management Agency and the Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute, thereby supporting cross-institutional collaboration for disaster risk management. The project also 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. The project aimed to enhance capacities for disaster risk reduction and resulted in the publication of [Ready to Respond Reports](#) that analysed gaps in disaster risk management systems. The project is embedded in ongoing strategic dialogues with the World Bank such as the [Climate Change Development Reports country dialogues](#). Overall, the activities will benefit from the knowledge being generated through collaborations between government actors, the World Bank, and the UCPM.

Contacts

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About TAFF

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Last updated: September 30, 2024

Moldova – Strengthening Moldova’s Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Project Management

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2024 – September 2026
Relevant DRG	Anticipate; Alert
Key hazard(s)	
Key word(s)	Health emergencies; hydrometeorological services; Risk assessments

Context

Moldova faces significant challenges when managing natural hazards due to its limited resources and outdated infrastructure. The country has been particularly vulnerable to floods, droughts, and landslides, which have been exacerbated by climate change, as well as earthquakes. 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. This grant will address these gaps by developing detailed risk assessments, and by identifying opportunities to upgrade weather forecasting systems and strengthen the resilience of health infrastructure.

Objective

The grant’s objective is to enhance Moldova’s emergency preparedness and response capacities concerning natural hazards and climate-related shocks. Prevention will also be increased by better risk assessment analytics developed under the grant.

Key Activities and Expected Results

COMPONENT 1

Supporting the improvement of Moldova’s emergency preparedness and response capacity, including through the development of the methodology for the risk assessment process and disaster risk mapping

The planned activities under this component encompass a multi-tiered approach over 24 months, aiming to develop and pilot a DRM risk assessment methodology at community, district, and national levels, with the involvement of central and local authorities. This includes creating and executing training programmes for risk assessment, conducting training sessions for various authorities, and organising a study tour for knowledge exchange with a country that has a similar disaster risk profile and a record of successful DRM implementation.

COMPONENT 2

Supporting the improvement of Moldova's hydromet system

This component will support the implementation of the Strengthening Moldova's Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Project and conduct a review of Moldova's ICT Hydromet system to identify opportunities to enhance the collection and transfer of weather observations to the WMO Information System in Toulouse, establish efficient data transfer procedures, and upgrade the Chisinau weather radar for full functionality.

COMPONENT 3

Health system disaster preparedness assessment

This activity will provide a summary report with risk assessments and priority recommendations for strengthening disaster preparedness in the health sector. The report will present the findings of a hazard exposure analysis of health facilities and their supporting infrastructure, including an analysis of access times to health facilities. The report will also contain an opportunity assessment for preparedness measures in health system planning, including the roles of hydromet forecasting and DRM training for health sector professionals. Lastly, the report will highlight opportunities to better integrate health services into existing civil protection and emergency response frameworks.

Government Counterpart(s)

Ministry of Interior/General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES); Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Infrastructure; Ministry of the Environment; and Ministry of Health.

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 (DG ECHO), 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. Findings and outputs of this grant activity will inform the design and implementation of ongoing and future World Bank lending operations, including a recently approved World Bank operation to strengthen Moldova's Disaster Risk Management and Resilience capacities. It will also expand on recent analytical activities to assess gaps and opportunities in the face of climate change – including the Moldova Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR). Overall, the activities will benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between Government actors, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Contacts

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Last updated: September 30, 2024

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

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2024 – June 2026
Relevant DRG	Anticipate; Prepare; Alert; Secure
Key hazard(s)	
Key word(s)	Risk governance; Critical infrastructure; Resilient recovery

Context

North Macedonia faces significant challenges from natural and human-made hazards, with climate-related events occurring more frequently and intensely and earthquakes continuing to be a major concern. More recently, in 2024, the country experienced intense wildfires, highlighting the continuing need for enhanced mitigation and preparedness. To address this, North Macedonia is working to overcome barriers and fill knowledge gaps identified in past national disaster risk management and climate change adaptation assessments, aiming to scale up prevention measures and strengthen preparedness. Challenges remain in addressing vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure, improving recovery frameworks and enhancing coordination. 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.

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.

Key Activities and Expected Results

COMPONENT 1

Transformative and anticipatory risk governance and enhanced preparedness

To improve resilience building and enhance overall disaster preparedness in the country, this component establishes the foundation of transformative and anticipatory risk governance in protection and rescue. It will support a functional analysis of the existing DRM system to strengthen national strategies, deepen the understanding of risk and methodologies for hazard assessments to strengthen DRM and risk governance/planning, and build capacity of stakeholders for enhanced preparedness from national to community level.

COMPONENT 2

Scaling up prioritised prevention investments in critical infrastructure

This component focuses on significantly enhancing the resilience-building of critical infrastructure against climate and disaster risks, to be accomplished through strategic and prioritised investments in preventive measures with a focus on seismic resilience and energy efficiency. It will support analytics to enhance the understanding of the vulnerability of critical infrastructure assets, develop methodologies and tools to support disaster risk screening and develop proofing interventions, identify pilot interventions at local level for critical infrastructure upgrading, and help enhance technical capacity of institutional stakeholders in this field.

COMPONENT 3

Establishing a resilient recovery framework

This component aims to develop a comprehensive framework that ensures communities can effectively recover and rebuild in the aftermath of disasters, focusing on long-term resilience and sustainability. It will support analytics to enhance the understanding of the vulnerability and needs of the population related to effective disaster recovery, identify gaps in the policy and regulatory framework to inform the development of a robust post-disaster recovery framework, and help build the capacity of DRM stakeholders to conduct PDNAs and resilient and inclusive disaster recovery.

Government Counterpart(s)

Protection and Rescue Directorate (PRD), the Crisis Management Centre (CMC), the Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (IZIIS), the Red Cross (RC), key ministries and local governments.

Sustainability and Coordination

The project builds on previous and on-going national and donor-supported technical assistance and investment programmes, ensuring continuity and maximising collective efforts towards common goals. The project will strengthen DRM systems in line with global and regional frameworks and key 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 Sustainability and Resilience DPO](#), [Climate Change Development Reports country dialogues](#)). Analytics under this project will align with established methodologies, including UNDP Guidance Notes and European Commission [studies](#) and guidance notes for critical infrastructure resilience. The project will also coordinate with various ongoing EU-funded studies and research under Track 1 '[Technical assistance for disaster risk management](#)' (single-country) at both national and regional levels leveraging knowledge, good practices and lessons learned on DRM. The project promotes collaboration with a people-centred, inclusive, gender-sensitive and climate-risk informed holistic approach and, to foster ownership, supports community and stakeholder involvement. Overall, the activities will benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Contacts

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About TAFF

The **Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (TAFF)** 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) to strengthen the disaster risk knowledge and management capabilities of countries participating in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). The TAFF provides technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of civil protection and other relevant competent authorities under the UCPM to scale up investments in disaster and climate resilience.

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Technical Assistance Financing Facility
for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness



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Technical Assistance Financing Facility
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Project brief



Last update: September 17, 2024

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

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	August 2024 – June 2026
Relevant DRG	Secure; Anticipate; Alert
Key hazard(s)	
Key word(s)	Post-disaster recovery; build back better; inclusive disaster recovery; disaster response and recovery

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.

Objective

The objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of civil protection institutions to ensure an effective and inclusive disaster response and recovery, and to improve existing recovery frameworks.

Key Activities and Expected Results

COMPONENT 1

Identifying gaps

This component will include a diagnostic assessment of Romania's current disaster recovery framework, particularly concerning seismic and climate-related hazards. The assessment will help 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.

COMPONENT 2

Strengthening recovery framework

Based on the diagnostic analysis, this component will focus on identifying technical recommendations in line with Build Back Better principles. Recommendations will be supported by international good practice and examples related to post-disaster recovery. These activities can inform the development of a robust post-disaster recovery framework for Romania, aiming for resilience, sustainability, and alignment with international standards to mitigate future seismic and climate-related vulnerabilities.

COMPONENT 3

Capacity building

This component will include knowledge exchange events, training sessions for government officials and first responders, and institutional capacity building to improve recovery planning and execution and inclusiveness of response. The capacity building activities will help facilitate inter-ministerial coordination and support the establishment of an overview of the requirements for critical disaster response and recovery resources.

Government Counterpart(s)

Department of Emergency Situations under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania.

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 also 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 includes 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](#). In addition, the results of this project will 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 will complement 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 will benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

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Project brief



Last update: September 17, 2024

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

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2024 – September 2025
Relevant DRG	Alert
Key hazard(s)	
Key word(s)	Flood Risk Management; Early Warning System; Communication strategies; Public awareness and preparedness; Capacity Building

Context

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. In the context of climate change and increased flood risk, it is critical for countries, including Türkiye, to continue improving their EWS and related communications strategies. To minimise losses, the government is implementing a range of measures to improve flood predictions and reduce flood risk in Samsun Province. Samsun City is located within the boundaries of the Kızılırmak (Bafra) and Yeşilirmak (Çarşamba) river basins and both rivers, along with other local streams, present a significant risk of flooding. A series of investments is planned in this area to manage flood risk and serve as an example for other areas in Türkiye.

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.

Key Activities and Expected Results

COMPONENT 1

Technical evaluation of the current EWS and recommendations for improvement on the EWS-produced information

This component will support analysis of the current EWS and identify key recommendations for its improvement. This will support enhancements to the EWS in Samsun, improving the region's early warning capabilities and responsiveness to potential flood events. The analysis will also generate recommendations based on a good practice review that will inform and strengthen wider disaster response measures, thereby contributing to a more robust disaster risk management framework at the national level.

COMPONENT 2

Evaluation of information dissemination methods for EWS and recommendations for an effective communication strategy for EWS-generated information

This component will support analysis 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 will provide a set of technical recommendations for stakeholders to consider and be supplemented by capacity building.

Government Counterpart(s)

General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works Türkiye; Regional Directorate of State Hydraulic Works of Samsun; Disaster and Emergency Management Center (AFAD); MOAF (DG Water Management); Governorships; Municipalities; Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change; the Ministry of National Education; Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in the field of disaster response (UMKE, AKUT, etc.).

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 a thorough evaluation and refinement of existing flood forecasting and early warning systems, aiming 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 grant will support 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 will benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

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Project brief



Last updated: September 30, 2024

Enhancing Policy and Investments for EU Disaster and Climate Resilience

Overview

Grant Size	€250,000
Duration	September 2024 – November 2025
Relevant DRG	Anticipate
Key hazard(s)	  
Key word(s)	Smart governance; Smart policies and investments; Resilient Infrastructure; Disaster Resilience; Climate Resilience

Context

Europe faces escalating losses from climate-related disasters as the continent warms faster than any other region in the world, translating into potentially more frequent and more impactful events. For example, in 2023, Europe experienced one of its worst wildfire seasons with over [500,000 ha burnt](#), 96,000 of which were in Greece alone. Alongside climate-sensitive threats, large parts of Europe also face earthquake risks, risks exacerbated by ageing infrastructure that predates modern building codes. Countries in the EU have been taking major steps to enhance their disaster and climate resilience, guided and supported by EU policy, funding, and technical assistance instruments. With the current EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF 2021-2027) at its midpoint and preparations for the next MFF (2028-2034) intensifying, there is the opportunity to further strengthen disaster risk management and resilience efforts across the EU. This is the moment to reflect on how to refine EU 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 investment.

Objectives

- Share good practices and provide recommendations for incentivising effective investments in disaster and climate resilience through the right framework conditions.
- Provide evidence to support a risk-informed approach to investments, particularly in wildfire and earthquake risk management, and offer guidance on potential investments.

Key Activities and Expected Results

COMPONENT 1

Incentivising impactful investments in disaster resilience – setting the right framework

This component includes EU-wide analytics which will support discussions related to existing and future policies and instruments that can foster disaster and climate resilience. These efforts consider conditions and incentives, as well as ways to track progress towards strengthened disaster and climate resilience.

COMPONENT 2

Investing in disaster resilience in the EU: identifying needs and priorities

This component includes EU-wide and country case study analytics. The results will include a high-level overview of wildfire and earthquake risks and their management at the EU-level, complemented by a series of brief case studies on wildfire and earthquake risk management in selected EU Member States.

Government Counterpart(s)

European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO); Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO); Member States of the European Union; civil protection authorities in countries selected for case studies.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project seeks to provide 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 MFFs. With Component 2 focusing on earthquake and wildfire risks, the project will consider and coordinate 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 will benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

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