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Final Technical Implementation Report

Reporting period
1 October 2020– 30 September 2024

Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made disasters in Eastern Partnership countries - phase 3 (PPRD East 3)

Preface

As we conclude the implementation of the PPRD East 3 programme, spanning from 2020 to 2024, I am immensely proud of the remarkable achievements, resilience, and partnerships that have marked this journey. This report encapsulates the full breadth of the programme's efforts, growth, and impact over the past four years, a period that tested our collective resilience and commitment in ways we could not have foreseen.

A standout accomplishment was the Regional Full-Scale Exercise on wildfires, TbiEx2023, held in Tbilisi, Georgia. This event showcased collaborative planning and provided hands-on training for managing forest fires—one of the region's most significant risks. TbiEx2023 integrated gender and human rights perspectives, conducted an environmental impact assessment (a first for EU-level exercises), and tested the activation of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, emphasizing international solidarity and coordination. It strengthened emergency preparedness, response planning, and interagency collaboration at both national and regional levels.

This final report encapsulates the cumulative efforts, results, and insights gained throughout the PPRD East 3 programme period, showcasing the significant strides we have made in strengthening disaster preparedness and response capacities in the region. Our work has not only brought immediate improvements but has also laid a foundation for sustainable impact. The programme's emphasis on sustainability is reflected in the comprehensive training sessions, strategic workshops, targeted support and advisory documentations to shift focus from response to prevention and preparedness in national civil protection frameworks.

As we conclude this phase, I am confident that the knowledge, skills, and structures established during these four years will endure, fostering a resilient approach to future challenges. The programme's legacy is not just in the actions taken but in the preparedness culture it has inspired. I hope this report provides an informative and inspiring look at our shared journey, emphasizing both the achievements and the collaborative spirit that defined our work. As we look ahead, the spirit of the programme endures—*together for a safer future*.

30/11/2024
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Date	**30 November 2024**
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Acronyms

Acronym	Full Form
AM	Armenia
AZ	Azerbaijan
AzRCS	Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society
CCIs	Cross Cutting Issues
CIMA	Centro Internazionale in Monitoraggio Ambientale
CRI	Italian Red Cross
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DG ECHO	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Commission
DLD	Disaster Loss Data
DRA	Disaster Risk Assessment
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECMWF	European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
EFAS	European Flood Awareness System
EFDRR	European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction
EFFIS	European Forest Fire Information System
EMS	Emergency Management Service of Georgia
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EoE	Exchange of Expert Program
ERCC	Emergency Response Coordination Center
EU	European Union
ESAF	Emergency Services Academy Finland
EWEA	Early Warning and Early Action
EWS	Early Warning System
FSX	Full-Scale Exercise
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GIS	Geographic Information Systems

GE	Georgia
HNS	Host Nation Support
IBF	Impact-Based Forecast
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
GIES	General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Moldova
JRC	Joint Research Centre
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MD	Moldova
MES	Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
MS	Member State
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
NDRA	National Disaster Risk Assessment
NEA	National Environmental Agency of Georgia
NFA	National Forestry Agency of Georgia
PC	Partner Country
PG	Practical Guidelines
SESU	State Emergency Service of Ukraine
SHS	State Hydrometeorological Service of Moldova
SKR MV	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – Presidium of the Fire and Rescue Corps
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TAM	Technical Advisory Mission
TOT	Training of Trainers
ToR	Terms of Reference
TTX	Table Top Exercise
UA	Ukraine
UCPM	Union Civil Protection Mechanism
UHMC	Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center
UNDRR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

URCS	Ukrainian Red Cross Society
UXOs	Unexploded Ordnances
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WP	Work Package
WG	Working Group

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Executive Summary

The programme of Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to natural and man-made disasters in Eastern Partnership countries – Phase 3 (PPRD East 3) marked a transformative milestone in disaster management across Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. Funded by the European Union and implemented over four years (2020–2024), this initiative significantly contributed to the ongoing transition of civil protection systems from reactive responses to proactive disaster risk reduction practices, enhancing resilience and preparedness in the face of evolving threats.

PPRD East 3 actively engaged all five Eastern Partnership countries through extensive capacity-building and coordination activities. More than 500 participants were trained in disaster risk management, civil protection, and emergency response across over 50 workshops and training sessions.

Integration of EWEA into Civil Protection Systems

A cornerstone achievement was the integration of Early Warning and Early Action mechanisms into emergency planning practices. Through comprehensive guidelines and targeted training, partner countries institutionalised risk-informed decision-making, utilizing scientific data to effectively prevent and mitigate crises. Early warning coverage increased substantially, marking significant progress towards the Sendai Framework targets and ensuring timely and effective crisis responses.

Contribution to European Disaster Resilience Goals

PPRD East 3 advanced the disaster resilience capabilities of Eastern Partnership countries by aligning their practices with European Disaster Resilience Goals, focusing on risk assessment, anticipatory action, preparedness, and response. The programme improved risk assessments with hazard maps and multi-hazard scenarios, enhanced early warning systems with forecasting tools and real-time applications, and refined risk management plans through cross-border and cross-sectoral cooperation. Scenario-based exercises like the Full-Scale exercise TbiEx2023 strengthened coordination and adaptive planning, while targeted training empowered civil protection agencies to adopt preventative measures. Community engagement, volunteer training, and public awareness campaigns fostered a culture of risk prevention and preparedness, supported by inclusive approaches such as gender-sensitive methodologies. Cross-border collaboration enabled effective data sharing and unified response strategies, while enhanced communication systems ensured clear and inclusive risk messaging. These efforts left a lasting impact by building resilient communities, improving civil protection systems, and contributing to the alignment of the region’s disaster management practices with European standards.

Strengthened Regional Cooperation

Regional cooperation was enhanced, exemplified by the TbiEx2023 Full-Scale exercise in Georgia. This large-scale event tested multi-agency responses to wildfires and activated the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, showcasing enhanced interoperability and mutual support. Notably, it was the first exercise at this level to integrate environmental assessments, setting a benchmark for future collaborative efforts.

Additional efforts in regional cooperation included facilitating collaborative platforms where countries convened to discuss transboundary initiatives. These discussions led to the development of emergency plan outlines and the establishment of technical committees focused on cross-border data sharing and joint emergency planning.

Enhanced Emergency Preparedness and Interagency Coordination

Emergency preparedness and civil protection capacities were assessed and developed through tailored table-top exercises conducted across partner countries. These exercises demonstrated measurable improvements in national response capabilities and were pivotal in the programme's implementation strategy. Table Top Exercises served as both assessment tools and on-the-job training for civil protection experts. By fostering a dynamic learning environment, the programme facilitated real-time problem-solving and collaboration, reinforcing advancements in operational coordination and comprehensive risk management. As a result, all partner countries successfully integrated recommendations from exercise evaluations into their national civil protection strategies, strengthening institutional resilience and preparedness for future emergencies.

Integration of Cross-Cutting Issues

The programme placed a strong emphasis on integrating cross-cutting issues to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to disaster resilience. Gender-sensitive methodologies were implemented to make certain that disaster management strategies addressed the needs of all community members, promoting equality and inclusivity. By upholding human rights perspectives, the programme ensured that the rights and dignity of individuals were respected in all disaster preparedness and response activities. Environmental sustainability was also a key focus; efforts were made to reduce the ecological footprint of the programme while simultaneously addressing climate-related risks and vulnerabilities. This holistic approach not only enhanced the effectiveness of disaster resilience strategies but also promoted a balanced consideration of social and environmental factors.

Capacity Development and Knowledge Transfer

Capacity development and knowledge transfer were central to the success of PPRD East 3. Over 300 civil protection personnel participated in training aligned with the

Union Civil Protection Mechanism, focusing on risk scenarios, operational planning, and adherence to international standards such as those set by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group. Additionally, more than 200 volunteers were trained in emergency response and disaster preparedness, bolstering community-level resilience. The programme fully integrated over 20 civil society organizations into emergency planning, fostering collaboration between governmental and non-governmental entities. Strengthening connections with the EU's Civil Protection Knowledge Network facilitated a community dedicated to continuous improvement and knowledge sharing, ensuring that the expertise developed during the programme would have a lasting impact on disaster preparedness and response capabilities in the region.

Technical Advancements

Important technical advancements were achieved, enhancing the practical application of the programme's strategies. Hazard maps and wildfire propagation models were developed to improve predictive capabilities and support data-driven decision-making. These tools enabled authorities to anticipate potential disaster scenarios more accurately and plan accordingly. Emergency plans were meticulously drafted for pilot areas, tailored to address specific regional needs and vulnerabilities. Furthermore, wildfire bulletin applications were developed and are now operational in most of the partner countries. These applications provide critical real-time information, allowing for swift and informed responses to wildfire incidents, thereby minimizing potential damage and enhancing public safety.

Enhanced Mechanisms for Mutual Aid

The programme established and tested efficient Host Nation Support mechanisms, enhancing cross-border collaboration and aligning with the standards of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. This strengthened regional coordination and disaster management, improving collective resilience and operational synergy across Eastern Partnership countries.

Conclusion

PPRD East 3 has set a new benchmark for disaster resilience within the Eastern Partnership region. By fostering a culture of preparedness, integrating innovative tools, and strengthening institutional frameworks, the programme has ensured a lasting and positive impact. The legacy of this phase is evident in empowered civil protection agencies, resilient communities, and a region better equipped to collaboratively face future challenges. This comprehensive transformation underscores the European Union's unwavering commitment to building safer and more resilient societies globally.

1. Report Disposition

This report is structured to provide a thorough and complete understanding of the PPRD East 3 programme, comprising of two key components. The first component is a detailed review of the programme's final year, spanning from October 2023 to September 2024, which focuses on specific activities, achievements, and outcomes during this period. The second component offers a broader reflection on the cumulative progress achieved throughout the entire programme cycle, covering October 2020-September 2024. Together these components deliver both a focused annual perspective and a holistic evaluation of the programme's implementation, results, and long-term impacts.

Chapter two presents an overview of the programme, including its structure, target groups, and key stakeholders, in order to establish context. Chapter three provides a narrative summary of the implementation process specific to the 2024 reporting period. Chapter four details the technical results and deliverables achieved in the final year, organised by work package and by partner country.

Chapter five broadens the focus to cover the overall implementation process and progress from 2020 to 2024, including a detailed description of progress towards outcomes for each partner country while also providing an overview of cross-cutting issues and communication.

Chapter six examines the programme's results and impacts over the four-year period, by reviewing the programmes monitoring and evaluation process. Chapter seven concludes with recommendations that are both region-wide and country-specific to stakeholders, partners, and European Union (EU) institutions as well as suggestions for consolidating programme results.

2. Programme Overview

2.1 Programme Description

The EU-funded programme PPRD East was first initiated in 2010 under the Eastern Partnership initiative. The third phase of the programme PPRD East 3, which was officially launched on 1st October 2020, was built on the achievements of the two previous phases and was implemented during the years 2020–2024.

The overall objective of PPRD East 3 was to increase the resilience to natural and man-made disasters in the Eastern Neighbourhood countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.[1]

PPRD East 3 was divided into four programme phases; *the inception phase* (October 2020-February 2021) with focus on strategy, mobilization and partnership building; *the assessment phase* (March-November 2021) to assess the national civil protection systems of Partner Countries (PCs) in order to identify good practices to build on and areas for improvement; *the implementation phase* (December 2021-June 2024) with focus on execution of the activity plan for 2021-2024 (see Annex 2); and *the final closure phase* (July-2024-September 2024) with focus on the exit strategy and hand-over process to the PCs.

The implementing consortium was led by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and includes the Emergency Services Academy Finland (ESAF), the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – Presidium of the Fire and Rescue Corps (SKR), The International Center for Environmental Monitoring Research Foundation (CIMA) and the Italian Red Cross (CRI).

2.2 Programme Objectives

The specific objectives for PPRD East 3 were the following:

1. Build sustainable capabilities of PCs' respective civil protection institutions for disaster risk prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters.

2. Strengthen interlinkages between all relevant governmental actors and civil society stakeholders as well as the scientific community, promoting a national inclusive approach to prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters.

[1] Due to the Belarus involvement in the unprovoked and unjustified military aggression of Russia on Ukraine, the participation of Belarus was suspended as of 7 March 2022.

3. Enhance regional coordination, institutional and operational cooperation between the UCPM and the Eastern Neighbourhood countries and among Eastern Neighbourhood countries.

2.3 Target Group and Stakeholders

National Civil Protection authorities in the PCs were the main stakeholders in programme implementation. Other key ministries and public agencies, as well as the local stakeholders such as administrative regions, municipalities, local civil protection offices etc. were also crucial actors in the programme to ensure involvement on all levels. PPRD East 3 has an all of society inclusive approach to civil protection development and therefore representatives from the scientific community, civil society and the private sector involved in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Crises Management were important stakeholders in the programme.

2.4 Programme Approach

PPRD East 3 took a comprehensive approach towards capacity development. For a successful implementation, the programme was built on several corner stones which are presented below:

Table 1. Programme Approach

Programme approach
A. Build on, and adapt to PCs individual needs and priorities
B. Sustainability strategy
C. Enhancing European dimension
D. Ensuring capturing and communication of outcomes
E. Inclusion of stakeholders and focus on man-made disasters

The programme approach was there to guide and steer the programme implementation. During the first year of PPRD East 3 a special focus was on the first approach; *Build on, and adapt to PCs individual needs and priorities*, as both the inception phase and the following assessment phase had the purpose of setting the scene for the programme based on the PCs' current status. Building on existing structures was key to ensure continuity which is essential for sustainability of the programme results.

The sustainability strategy has been integral to the programme and focused on establishing strong coordination and effective working methods with PCs to achieve long-term results. This approach was embedded in the design of activities and played

a key role throughout the programme's implementation. The aim was to provide clear examples and guidance to encourage buy-in from the PCs, ensuring that actions could be replicated nationwide. To this end, the pilot areas were carefully chosen to concentrate efforts and test, assess and evaluate replicability possibilities of diverse actions. Additionally, the programme's phased approach—starting with Table Top Exercises (TTXs), moving into need-driven implementation, testing in a regional Full-Scale Exercise (FSX), followed by a year of adjustments and final TTXs—was essential in delivering the results following a scientific approach (hypothesis, test, adjust). Finally, Advisory Documents have been provided at the end of the programme providing the basis for the design of national short- to mid-term roadmaps focusing on sustainability and replicability of the actions delivered so far.

The European dimension of the PPRD East 3 programme was not only an approach but an operational priority. Significant efforts have been dedicated to bringing stakeholders together and facilitating networking at national, sub-regional, regional, and international levels. This aimed to strengthen ties between the Eastern Partnership countries, the EU, and, more specifically, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM).

The programme was fully shaped by a holistic EU approach to civil protection, grounded in the following pillars:

1. **Transition to Prevention and Preparedness:**
   The PPRD East 3 programme primarily aimed to guide PCs in transitioning from a response-oriented civil protection system to one focused on prevention and preparedness. By providing examples and sharing lessons learned, the programme sought to enhance the overall resilience of civil protection systems in the PCs.

2. **Alignment with European and International Frameworks:**
   The programme followed key European and international frameworks, such as the European Disaster Resilience Goals and the Sendai Framework. These frameworks were used to raise the standards of civil protection in the Eastern Partnership countries to EU levels, facilitating their eventual integration into the UCPM.

3. **Tools for UCPM Compliance:**
   PCs were provided with the necessary tools to meet UCPM requirements, including those outlined in the comprehensive peer review assessment framework. This framework encompasses all phases of risk governance, including risk assessment, risk management planning, risk prevention, preparedness, emergency response, recovery, and lessons learned.

4. **Tailored Training and Exercises:**
   To deepen understanding of the UCPM across PCs, a series of tailored trainings and exercises were conducted. These included specific training for duty officers and simulations on the activation of the mechanism, ensuring readiness and familiarity with UCPM protocols.

5. **Support for Ukraine's Humanitarian Response:**
   In Ukraine, the programme operationalised its capacity development approach to support ongoing humanitarian interventions. Within the programme framework, it also experimented with bridging humanitarian and civil protection actions. By utilizing Early Warning and Early Action (EWEA) and situational awareness tools, the programme helped mainstream risk-informed decision-making in Ukraine's civil protection and humanitarian responses.

6. **Mainstreaming of Operational Tools:**
   Throughout the programme, operational tools such as the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) and the European Flood Awareness System (EFAS) were mainstreamed across participating countries. In some states, these tools are now being used operationally, further strengthening their capacity for early warning and disaster management.

Storytelling played a crucial role in outreach efforts, ensuring the outcomes of these activities were effectively communicated. The film produced during the first year on learnings from the digital TTXs[2] and the video from the FSX, TbiEx2023[3], along with continuous social media updates, showcased the programme's efforts to connect and inform stakeholders.[4]

Through its inclusive approach, PPRD East 3 created a platform for civil society, the scientific community, and the private sector to contribute to effective Disaster Risk Management (DRM). This stakeholder engagement remains essential to achieving sustainable results across all levels of cooperation.

2.5 Organization and Implementation Structure

The PPRD East 3 programme presented a complex environment with many different stakeholders, which demanded a clear organisation and implementing structure. The different layers of strategic and operational decision-making are presented in the figure below.

[2] PPRD East 3 hybrid method for Table Top Exercises: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81OYYYoTgc8
[3] TbiEx2023, PPRD East 3 FSX on forest fires: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUEBab0-LIY
[4] For social media updates, see PPRD East 3 Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pprdeast3/

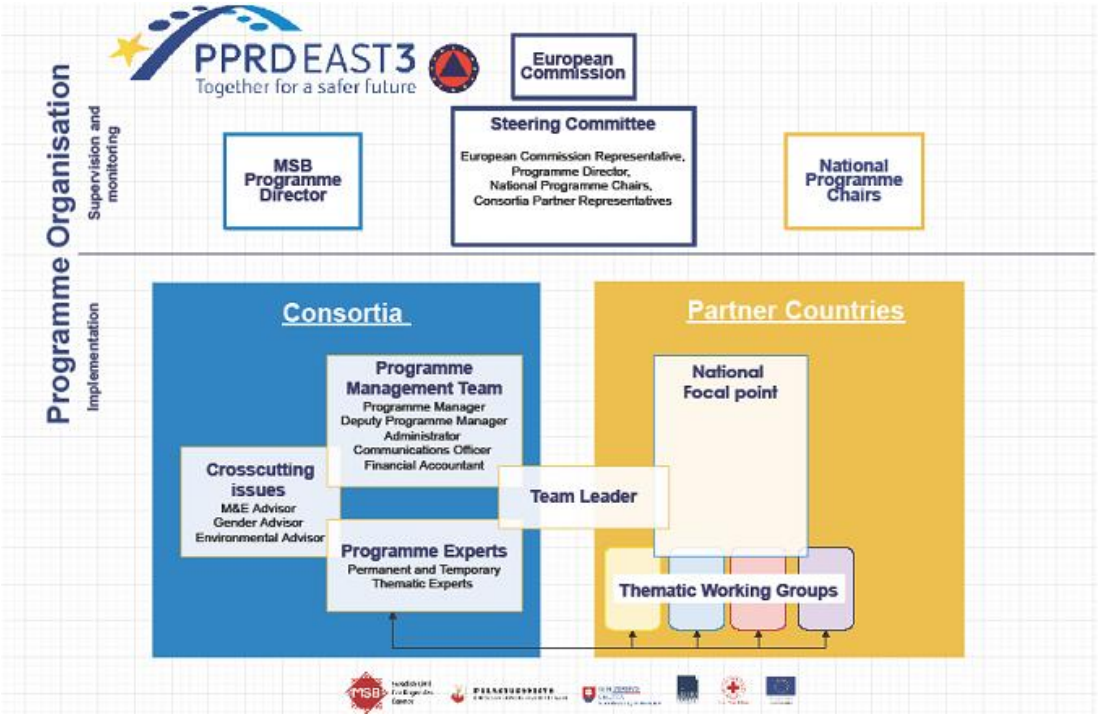


Figure 2. Programme management scheme

2.6 Work Packages Overview

The programme was designed to maximise impact in each PC. This was done by responding to the national needs and capacities and promote mutual learning, sharing of experiences and good practices among the PCs and with EU Member States as well as UCPM Member and Participating States. Thematically the programme focused on eight tightly linked and mutually reinforcing working areas, the so-called Work Packages (WPs), which were led by experts from the consortium partners.

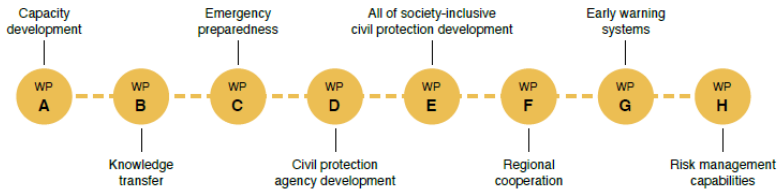


Figure 3. PPRD East 3 Work Packages

The WPs operated in an interconnected manner, ensuring effective information exchange and coordinated planning. Each WP contributed with specific outputs that informed others, creating a dynamic system where activities were mutually reinforcing. This integration allowed the programme to respond efficiently to evolving needs, ensuring that activities were aligned across thematic areas.

2.7 Cross-Cutting Issues: Environment, Gender & Human Rights

To achieve the PPRD East 3 outcomes and results, the integration of gender, human rights and environmental perspectives, the Cross-Cutting Issues (CCIs) in the programme were crucial. This ensured that the programme contributed to strengthening capacities within the DRM systems in the PCs in a way that enhanced the resilience of society as a whole, leaving no one behind. It also ensured that DRM systems and actors account for the importance of the environmental, gender and human rights perspective throughout the different stages of the DRM cycle.

The PPRD East 3 aimed to integrate CCIs throughout the programme through a *systematic application* of environment, gender and human rights perspectives in all phases of the programme, including planning, implementation, and follow-up of programme activities.

The work was guided by *international normative frameworks*, such as the Sendai Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, the EU Green Deal and the EU Gender Equality Strategy as well as by *national* legislation, policies and operational priorities.

Figure 4. Illustration of intersectional factors

The programme involved an *Environmental Advisor* and a *Gender Advisor* (CCI Advisors) whose main task was to support the expert team but also give guidance directly to focal points in PCs when needed. To support the experts and PCs, various materials have been developed, such as the PPRD East 3 *Practical guideline for integrating gender, human rights and environmental issues in disaster risk management* and the e-learning on Gender and Human Rights.[5]

Based on the initial assessment and consultations with the expert team and the PCs, programme priorities for the CCIs have been identified. The priorities sought to

[5] For more information on this, see Prevention Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made disasters | UCP Knowledge Network

capitalise on current windows of opportunities that have been identified in the programme and the expressed needs and interests in the PCs. More information on CCI's, the material and the priorities are further presented under chapter *5.2.7 Cross-Cutting Issues*.

2.8 Monitoring and Evaluation

The main purpose of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system for the PPRD East 3 programme was continuous learning for programme's *adaptability, steering and risk management*. It also aimed to promote results accountability and support communication.

2.8.1 Guiding principles

Planning, monitoring, and evaluation are not separated events but are designed to be cyclic with one feeding into the other. Thus, the programme M&E was regarded as an integrated part of the programme management and implementation. The ultimate responsibility for M&E of the programme laid with the programme management and the consortium coordination group, as part of its responsibility to implement the programme.

The M&E plan was guided by the principle of participation, which implied that M&E activities were implemented in a participatory way. In practice the national stakeholders from the PCs, regional stakeholders, consortium members, the EU representatives and the programme expert team we involved to the extent possible in the programme.

2.8.2 M&E framework

The M&E framework guided the programme's monitoring, evaluation, and learning processes. Throughout the programme, two complementary methods were used to monitor outputs, immediate outcomes, and their contribution to higher-level outcomes. The Logical Framework Approach was the foundation of the M&E system, with outputs tracked and measured through predefined indicators. In addition, the programme engaged in periodic and systematic reflection exercises. These exercises aimed at monitoring changes (both intended and unintended, positive and negative, direct and indirect), assessing the programme's contribution to these changes, and identifying risks and opportunities.

M&E experts supported the implementation of activities through the consortium's flexible approach to planning. The first round of TTXs served as a baseline, providing essential information in designing the first set of activities. These activities were tailored specifically for each PC based on the identified challenges and good practices.

Frequent reflection meetings within the consortium and with PC allowed for continuous monitoring and adjustment of activities when needed. The FSX offered a key opportunity to test activities in the field and further refine the remaining planning.

Finally, the endline TTXs provided an overview of the overall impact of the programme. M&E experts collaborated closely with the assessment team to define evaluation points and measure the overall impact in a qualitative and quantitative manner. The results of TTXs evaluation are presented in detail further in the report. For more information on the M&E Framework, see Annex 3.

3. Summary of Programme Implementation Process (October 2023 - September 2024)

3.1 Overview of Implementation Timeline

In its final year, the PPRD East 3 programme (October 2023 – September 2024) followed a structured timeline to enhance civil protection systems across Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. From October 2023 to May 2024, the programme focused on implementing key activities, including training sessions and refining emergency plans, alongside cross-border advisory missions to integrate Early Warning Systems (EWS). Between May and July 2024, TTXs tested and assessed each country's preparedness and response capabilities through simulated scenarios, such as floods and wildfires, promoting both national and regional collaboration. The programme's final phase, from August to September 2024, involved comprehensive evaluations of each PC's civil protection systems and the creation of Advisory Documents to ensure sustainability after the programme. Findings and recommendations were presented at the Final Planning Conference in September 2024 in Chisinau, Moldova, concluding the programme with a reinforced framework for DRM and fostering regional cooperation.

Throughout the implementation period, PPRD East 3 continued to make synergies with projects and initiatives funded and implemented by the EU and international organisations operating in partner countries. It is worth mentioning PPRD East 3 experts' participation in the EU-funded full-scale exercise in Armenia in October 2023 (HOPE project), as well as the continuous synergy with the SAILOR project between Azerbaijan and Georgia, which is a spinoff of PPRD East 3. In addition, PPRD East 3 supported the execution of the UN initiatives in Georgia providing material and support to training and synergies on the development of emergency planning guidelines. Lastly, the Impact-Based Forecast (IBF) developed for Ukraine continues to receive outputs of models developed under the regional projects implemented by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).

3.2 PPRD East 3 Meetings

During the reporting period, the programme team held regular meetings to plan and adapt activities and methods in response to the region's contextual and geopolitical

situation. In February 2024, the PPRD East 3 programme convened its 5th Steering Committee Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, which coincided with an Interagency Coordination workshop. Following the workshop, consortium members, WP-leads, and the management team remained in Stockholm for a two-day TTX planning session held at the MSB premises.

In September 2024, the PPRD East 3 programme hosted two final events to conclude four years of active implementation of the programme: a Final Conference and a Final Consortium Meeting, held consecutively in Chisinau, Moldova, in September 2024. The Final Conference aimed to reflect on the overall programme implementation, review achievements, share lessons learned, and discuss future strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and emergency management collaboration between the EU and Eastern Partnership countries. Similarly, the Final Consortium Meeting provided the consortium an opportunity to internally review programme implementation, results, challenges, and lessons learned while also evaluating the consortium's performance and discuss ways forward. See meeting dates and form below:

- Steering Committee Meeting. Held in Stockholm, Sweden and hybrid, 20 February 2024.
- TTX planning meeting. Held in Stockholm, Sweden and hybrid, 22-23 February 2024.
- Final Conference. Held in Chisinau, Moldova on 10-11 September 2024.
- Final Consortium Meeting. Held in Chisinau, Moldova on 12 September 2024.

3.3 October 2023 – May 2024: Implementation of Activities

Between October 2023 and May 2024, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine endorsed the implementation of national strategies to strengthen their civil protection systems. According to the agreed activity plan, the final year focused on absorbing lessons learned from the FSX, finalizing and consolidating plans, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and scenarios, and incorporating civil society organisations (CSOs) into DRM strategies. These elements were then tested in the TTXs to produce Advisory Documents. As customary, the WPs collaborated closely to ensure cross-fertilization across different areas. This period also included an intensive phase of training and planning, during which over 17 Training of Trainers (ToTs), Exchange of Experts Programs (EoEs), Technical Advisory Missions (TAMs), workshops, and webinars were conducted.

From October to December 2023, comprehensive training initiatives were conducted across the participating countries. Training programs such as the ToTs and Basic UCPM Training Sessions equipped participants with advanced methodologies and a deeper understanding of the UCPM. The High-Level Course (comparable to the UCPM Introduction Course) held in November 2023 facilitated the alignment of domestic and international emergency response activities.

Simultaneously, from November 2023 to March 2024, PCs focused on developing and refining emergency plans. Collaborations between ministries, local authorities, and organizations such as the Red Cross led to the drafting and revising of emergency plans that incorporated elements from the Emergency Planning Guidelines. In December 2023, initial revisions of emergency plans were completed in Armenia, Moldova and Georgia. These efforts were complemented by initiatives to improve interagency coordination and public awareness.

TAMs on transboundary plans occurring in February and March 2024 played a crucial role in supporting the fostering of EWEA protocols and the integration of cross-border emergency elements enhanced transboundary response capabilities. Noticeable is the work done between Armenia and Georgia which have initiated high level discussion on the creation of a transboundary technical committee with the task of working on data and knowledge sharing to better face transboundary threats, in particular wildfires and floods.

Several workshops and EoEs facilitated sharing of practices between EU countries and PCs on Sheltering (held in Finland), Volunteerism in civil protection planning (Italy), Training Grounds (Finland) and High-Capacity Pumping (Latvia). During these EoEs, participants from PCs were introduced to systems outside the initial scope of the programme, hence enlarging the array of examples that the programme was able to provide as reference to PCs.

Between February and April 2024, TAMs provided guidance on incorporating stakeholders into the National Disaster Risk Assessment (NDRA). This activity not only reviewed ongoing processes but also created a platform for diverse stakeholders to coordinate and align their efforts in developing a fundamental civil protection document, essential for adhering to the UCPM. To foster interagency collaboration, workshops and seminars held in March and April 2024 focused on building crisis communication skills and delivering public awareness campaigns, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to civil protection.

While developing local and national capacities, the programme also strengthened cooperation with the UCPM. In November 2023, simulation exercises were conducted during the High-Level Course in Brussels to examine the roles of duty officer functions

and 24/7 response centres. Additionally, guidelines were developed and shared with PCs, and in July 2024, a set of online digital workshops were held to test and support the further establishment of SOPs. This activity was developed with support from the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), which provided contextualization and offered participants a realistic, hands-on experience in coordinating with EU institutions during support request procedures. Despite the ongoing Russian war of aggression, Ukraine managed to focus on developing guidelines for international assistance and strengthening institutional foundations for duty officer functions. Within this framework, further exchanges of expertise were encouraged. For example, in February 2024, the Türkiye Earthquake Lessons Learned Workshop provided a platform for shared learning from real-life emergency responses, where participants exchanged best practices in civil protection planning and volunteerism, thereby enhancing their knowledge and preparedness.

Efforts to enhance EWS included updating applications such as the Wildfire Bulletin, the propagation model, and validating RI.SI.CO (the wildfire model used in the programme) for Armenia and Georgia, improving the availability of these tools. These updates were implemented between October 2023 and March 2024. In April 2024, online training sessions were conducted to address user queries and introduce new data layers, ensuring operational readiness during critical periods. Within this framework and with the programme's support, Armenia has developed and updated a well-structured fire danger bulletin for respective agencies after two years of design, testing, and customization.

Overall, this period was marked by a unified approach across multiple fronts to strengthen civil protection mechanisms, enhance preparedness, and foster both national and cross-border collaboration.

3.4 May - July 2024: Table Top Exercises

The TTXs held from May to July 2024 were essential in assessing preparedness and response mechanisms across the Eastern Partnership countries. These exercises evaluated national capacities, fostered regional cooperation, and were essential in measuring the programme's impact after four years of implementation. They also provided participants with the chance to enhance their skills in a dynamic, multi-stakeholder setting, offering practical, hands-on training in a realistic crisis simulation.

In **Armenia**, the TTX was held from May 28 to 30, 2024, simulating a wildfire in the northern Lori Province near the Georgian border. The exercise focused on multi-agency coordination, evacuating 2,000 people, and managing secondary impacts, such as international aid requests. The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), along with eight

other institutions and 19 experts, ensured alignment with national legal frameworks and procedures.

Unfortunately, flash floods struck the pilot region during the exercise, limiting it to a national scope but providing a unique opportunity to assess both the fictional TTX and real-time emergency management. An Italian Red Cross team, part of an International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) mission, was deployed to the affected area. The team who consisted of PPRD East 3 experts therefore allowed the programme to evaluate the country's real crisis management capabilities alongside the wildfire scenario. This included planning, interagency coordination, crisis communication, civil society involvement, and the use of EWS and disaster risk tools. Despite the challenges, the situation offered valuable insights into Armenia's capacity to handle both the TTX scenario and the real flood crisis, including UCPM activation and designing proposal for Disaster Response Emergency Fund.

In **Azerbaijan**, the TTX took place from June 24 to 27, 2024, in the Gabala region, simulating a large-scale wildfire affecting over 1,000 hectares of forest and threatening nearby towns, leading to the evacuation of 2,000 people. The exercise tested coordination between institutions, including civil protection agencies, emergency services, and the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (AzRCS).

Although the exercise was limited to the local level, it provided a valuable opportunity to assess the capabilities of institutions in the pilot area and strengthen local-level cooperation. For many participants, it was their first experience working together in such a coordinated manner.

After the exercise, part of the CRI and MSB team moved to Baku to conduct a training session at the Academy of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan (MES). This training, requested by MES, focused on upgrading the volunteer training curriculum and included a demonstration exercise for young volunteers to expose them to real-life disaster response scenarios, enhancing the preparedness of civil protection volunteers of Azerbaijan.

In **Georgia**, the TTX took place from June 17 to 20, 2024, simulating a wildfire in the Borjomi region and requiring the evacuation of 15,000 people. The exercise, conducted at both national and local levels, involved participants from the Telavi municipality, Georgia's second pilot area. It featured field operations and drone use, allowing experts to observe the full activation process—from issuing early warning bulletins to deploying emergency plans, field teams, and gathering data for situational awareness.

A total of 35 participants from 16 institutions, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Georgian Red Cross, contributed to the execution of the

scenario. The exercise tested the renewed coordination among actors, including a defined role for the Armenian Red Cross Society in Borjomi's disaster management plan. The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle expert team followed up the week after, in collaboration with the EU-funded SAILOR programme, further refining Georgia's situational awareness and response capabilities.

Moldova hosted its TTX from May 14 to 17, 2024, simulating a flood scenario along the Dniester River and was chosen by the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES) to align with national activities. The exercise, involving the evacuation of 15,000 residents, tested the country's response to a major hydrometeorological hazard. GIES coordinated 35 participants from 15 institutions, with the exercise taking place at the local level, in Soroca at the national level in Chisinau. It activated Host Nation Support (HNS) guidelines and EWS, providing valuable insights into the country's DRM. Notably, the lead meteorologist from the State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS) participated for the first time in a civil protection exercise, marking an important step in strengthening collaboration. The TTX also tested Soroca's new emergency plan and the updated Dniester River flood management plan, both revised using guidelines from the PPRD East 3 programme, enhancing Moldova's overall disaster preparedness.

Ukraine conducted its TTX from July 1 to 3, 2024, focusing on a flood scenario along the Dniester River. The exercise tested Ukraine's capacity to manage evacuations, coordinate international assistance, and use EWS. Key agencies, including the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) and the Ministry of Health, were involved, revealing strengths in response coordination and areas for improvement.

Although the official PPRD East 3 exercise was cancelled due to security reasons, an FSX was organised in July 2024 by the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) and SESU. A team of CRI experts supported the FSX by providing training and conducting a comprehensive programme assessment, identifying challenges and best practices in disaster preparedness.

The exercise highlighted the strengthened collaboration between URCS and SESU, a noteworthy achievement of the PPRD East 3 programme, marking progress in Ukraine's disaster management and response capabilities.

3.5 August - September 2024: Finalization of Program

The final phase of the PPRD East 3 programme, carried out between August and September 2024, focused on consolidating the outcomes of the TTXs and delivering final assessments to each PC. These assessments provided a comprehensive overview

of their civil protection systems, with a combination of qualitative and quantitative analysis covering areas such as preparedness, response coordination, interagency cooperation, and the integration of EWS.

TTX assessment reports were drafted for each country, offering insights into the effectiveness of their disaster management capacities. The reports evaluated how national and local institutions performed during the exercises, identifying both strengths and areas needing improvement. These assessments allowed countries to better understand their current civil protection systems and align them with international standards.

As part of this final phase, a series of reflection meetings with PCs and Key Experts took place. These discussions informed the drafting of Advisory Documents, which combined targeted recommendations with detailed advice on their implementation. The main aim of the Advisory Documents was the consolidation and replicability of results achieved under PPRD East 3. By providing tailored roadmaps, these documents helped ensure that programme achievements could be sustained and scaled up. They also suggested synergies with ongoing national and regional initiatives, fostering long-term disaster resilience.

The key findings and recommendations from the TTX assessments and Advisory Documents were presented and discussed at the Final Planning Conference in September. The conference provided an opportunity to review the programme's impact and explore future venues for cooperation.

Lastly, this period also served for final programme reporting and the closure of administrative processes. The final reports documented the overall progress of PPRD East 3, ensuring a solid conclusion of both operational and administrative tasks.

3.6 Local Presence

Throughout the implementation period, maintaining a strong local presence was crucial for effective coordination and engagement with national stakeholders. The programme leveraged on both the full-time presence of local coordinators and the Team Leader to coordinate the work which covered the entirety of the year with in presence actions. Experts collaborated closely with national civil protection agencies, ministries, and CSOs. Regular meetings and consultations were held with national authorities to align programme activities with country-specific priorities and processes allowing to shape TTXs and to finalise guidelines, trainings and emergency plans in pilot areas.

Experts provided on-the-ground support during TAMs, trainings and TTXs assisting in developing emergency plans, SOPs, and EWS procedures, ensuring full adherence to the local context.

Lastly, active engagement with local CSOs, including national Red Cross societies, strengthened volunteer capacities and promoted community involvement in disaster preparedness and response.

3.7 Delimitations and challenges

During the final year of implementation, several delimitations and challenges were encountered:

- Conflicts: Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine affected the implementation of certain activities. Security concerns led to the cancellation or adaptation of planned events, such as the TTX in Ukraine and limited participation of SESU in programme activities.
- Institutional changes and legal frameworks: Governance restructuring and gaps in legal frameworks in countries posed challenges to fully integrating new processes like the NDRA and EWS into national systems.
- Data accessibility: Limitations in accessing classified information and challenges in data sharing among institutions hindered the development of comprehensive risk assessments and plans in some countries.
- Interagency and intra-agency coordination gaps: While progress was made, gaps in interagency coordination and communication were identified, necessitating further efforts to formalise SOPs and improve information flow among stakeholders.
- Sustainability concerns: Ensuring the sustainability of programme results required attention, particularly in institutionalizing new procedures, integrating them into national legal frameworks, and securing ongoing commitment from national authorities.

Despite these known challenges, the programme was able to achieve its results and significantly enhanced disaster preparedness and civil protection capacities across the PCs. The collaborative efforts exerted, laid a solid foundation for continued development and resilience building in the region.

4. Presentation of the Technical Results and Deliverables (2023-2024)

4.1 Work Package activities

The following table outlines key activities under WP A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H as part of the PPRD East 3 programme. These activities, led by consortium partners, were designed to enhance disaster resilience in the Eastern Partnership countries. They encompassed a combination of high-level courses, training events, and workshops organised in PCs and other places as well.

The table below presents activities implemented during the reporting period October 2023 to September 2024. All Activity Reports referenced in the table can be found in Annex 4.

Table 2. Implemented activities during the fourth reporting period including deviations from the activity plan mentioned in the comments

Work Package A activities - MSB				
Activities	Y/Q	Country/countries	Comments	Activity report
A.4 Gender and human rights mainstreaming analysis and technical support	2020-2024	All		1
A.5 Environmental integration analysis and technical support	2020-2024	All		2
A.6 TTX implementation endline (1 TTX/PC)	2024	All	Held in all PCs but adapted for UA.	See TTX Activity Report per PC (Annex 8).
A.7 Final Conference	2024	All	Final conference held in Chisinau, Moldova.	See Final conference meeting minutes (Annex 28)
Work Package B Activities - ESAF				
	Y/Q	Country/Countries	Comments	Activity report
B.1.1.3 Training of Trainers #2	2024/Q1	AM, GE, MD	Organised in Yerevan, AM.	3
B.2.1 Basic UCPM training #3	2024/Q1	All	Organised in Chisinau, MD.	4a

B.2.1 Basic UCPM training #4	2024/Q1	All	Organised in Chisinau, MD.	4a
B.2.4 High level course	2023/Q2	All	Organised in Brussels, Belgium Q4/2023	6
B.2.6 Training grounds development workshop	2024/Q1	AM, AZ, GE, MD	Organised in Kuopio, Finland Activity was conducted 2024/Q2	7
B.3.2 Innovative methods webinar	2023/Q3	AM, AZ	The “Innovative methods in fire-fighting -webinar” was an event conducted as a synchronous online seminar over two days in late September 2023.	4c
B.3.4.Training development seminar	2023/Q4	AM, AZ, GE, MD	2-day online seminar	4b
B.4 UCPM Knowledge Network			This activity was mainstreamed in UCPM courses, EoEs and linkages were made through PCs' participation at the Civil Protection Forum.	Mainstreamed in several WP B, D and F activities.
Work Package B activities – implemented under CIMA				
Activities	Y/Q	Country/countries	Comments	Activity report
B.5.1 E-learning platform (Moodle) Installation cost and IT-support (#3 years)	2024	All	Including H.1.1	8
Work Package C activities				
Activities	Y/Q	Country/countries	Comments	Activity report
C.2.3 Support to the development of 1 Plan per Country	2023/Q3 2024/Q1	AM, AZ, MD, GE, UA		9, 10, 11, 12, 13
C.3.1 Development of Transboundary Planning & Preparedness Guidelines	2024/Q2	AM, AZ, MD, GE	The activity was developed through the Final Regional Preparedness Training Event in Tbilisi, Georgia.	14
C.3.2 Regional Online Workshop on Transboundary Plans and National Plans	2023/Q3	All	Activity conducted in person in Jan 2024, Milan, Italy	15
C.3.3 Regional Online Workshop on International Disaster Law	2023/Q3	AM, AZ, MD, GE	Activity conducted in October 2023.	16
C.3.4 Technical Advisory Mission on	2024/Q1	MD, AM, GE		17, 18, 19

transboundary plans				
C.3.5 Development of one Transboundary Plan	2024/Q1-Q2	GE, AM, MD, UA	Activity developed in synergy with C.3.4.	17, 18, 19
Training on Volunteering in Emergency	2024/Q3	AZ	It substitutes the planned TAM on Transboundary (C.3.4 and C.3.5).	20
Work Package D activities				
Activities	Y/Q	Country/countries	Comments	Activity report
D.1.2 Technical Advisory Missions (TAM)	2023/Q1	AM	TAM conducted back-to-back with WPH1.4	37b
D.1.3 TTX on interagency coordination, and duty officer function/crisis communication			Integrated in the final TTX, see TTX Assessment Reports in Annex 7.	Component integrated in final TTX (see TTX Activity Reports in Annex 8)
D.2.1 Support to development of national stakeholder analysis	2023/Q1 2023/Q3	AM, AZ, GE, MD	Held together with WP C and WP E.	9, 11, 12, 13
D.2.2 Support to development of SOP for interagency coordination	2023/Q1 2023/Q4	AM, AZ, GE, MD	Held together with WP C and WP E.	9, 10, 11, 12, 13
D.3.1 Support to development of SOP, guideline or checklist for duty/executive officers	2023/Q3 2024/Q2	All	All countries have received guidelines. AZ did not participate in the workshop.	21, 22
D.3.2 Support the establishment of network for sharing of early warning information between different stakeholders			Was done together with WP C, H, G.	Integrated in several WP C, H and G activities.
D.3.3 Support in standardizing the minimum requirements of 24/7 centres	2023/Q3 2024/Q2	AM, GE, MD, UA		21, 22
D.4.2 Support to development/ finalising communication strategy	2023/Q3 2024/Q1	AM, GE, MD	Work initiated but due to lack of capacity no workshop has been organised for Ukraine	23, 24, 25

D.4.3 Support to gap analysis (survey) in risk understanding among population	2023/Q3 2024/Q1	AM, GE, MD	Activity conducted between Jan 2023 and May 2024.	26
D.4.4 Support to development of a draft Public Awareness campaign	2023/Q3 2024/Q1/ Q2	AM, GE, MD	Activity conducted between Jan 2023 and Jul 2024.	26
Work Package E activities				
Activities	Y/Q	Country/countries	Comments	Activity report
E.1.2 WS on roles and responsibilities	2023/Q4	AM, AZ, MD		9, 10, 13
E.1.3 WS The community comes together for a stronger CP System	2023/Q4	AM, AZ, MD		9, 10, 13
E.2.1 WS on coordination mechanism	2023/Q4	AM, AZ, MD		9, 10, 13
E.2.2. WS Sharing good practices of volunteer management during emergency settings	2023/Q4 2024/Q1	AM, AZ		10, 17
E.2.3 Guidance for effective volunteer management	2024/Q1 - 2024/Q2	AM, AZ, GE, MD, UA		11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 27
E.2.4 Sharing results among PCs	2024/Q1	AM, AZ, GE, MD, UA	Activity was developed through the Final Regional Preparedness Training Event in Tbilisi, Georgia.	11, 12, 14, 27
Work Package F activities				
Activities	Y/Q	Country/countries	Comments	Activity report
F.1.1. Exchange of Experts Mine rescue	2024/Q1	AZ, GE, MD	Held in Austria.	28
F.1.1. Exchange of Experts Civil Sheltering	2024/Q1	GE, MD	Held in Finland. Activity conducted in 2024/Q2.	29
F.1.1. Exchange of experts Civil Protection Planning and Volunteerism	2024/Q1	All	Held in Italy. Activity conducted in 2024/Q2.	30
F.1.1 Exchange of Experts HCP module	2024/Q1	MD	Held in Estonia. Activity conducted in 2024/Q2.	31

Work Package G activities				
Activities	Y/Q	Country/countries	Comments	Activity report
G.2.3. Improvement of emergency planning	2024/Q4	MD	Final Advisory document with comments for improving emergency planning.	See Advisory document for MD Annex 14
G.3.1 Support to interoperability of different data sources	2023/Q4	All	This activity comprised of 3 sub activities: - New fire layers on MyDEWETRA and new changes implemented - Validation Risico over the past fire season - Weather station provided to AM The activities were finalised in 2024 Q2.	32, 33, 34
G.3.2 Support operationalization of EWS procedures - Final TAM	2024/Q1-Q2	AM, GE, MD	TAM: - AM, GE, MD: TAM reports (with WPH, WPC, WPE, WPF) - AZ: TAM was cancelled by MES - UA: TAM was cancelled due to the worsening conflict condition. Additional activities conducted under WP: - Online training for the use of the wildfire tools for Early Warnings before the TTX - Update of guidelines	17, 18, 19
G.3.3 Tailoring of emergency plans incl. develop IBF	2023-2024	UA, MD, AM, AZ, GE	Continuous support to humanitarian operations in UA and MD and synergies with other projects: After receiving official requests from UA and MD, CIMA has agreed to support the issuance of the IBF up to 1 year after the end of the programme synergies with ongoing projects in UA on demining. Support in the development of emergency plans and introduction of EWEA	35

			elements in pilot areas for: AM, AZ, GE and MD	
G.2.3 Improvement of emergency planning	2024/Q1	MD, GE, AM, AZ	Activity concluded in Q2 2024	36
Work Package H activities				
Activities	Y/Q	Country/countries	Comments	Activity report
H.1.1 Introductory trainings on national disaster risk assessment and policy brief	2024/Q3	All	Policy brief is a part of the Advisory Document. E-learning on NDRA integrated into B.5.1 (Moodle platform).	For policy document see Advisory Documents (Annex 6, 10, 12, 14, 17) For training, see activity report 8
H.1.2 Technical Advisory Mission and remote support for the development of DRA methodology	2024/Q1	GE, AM, AZ	TAM carried out at local level in the pilot area Borjomi	17, 18, 20
H.1.3.1 Development of NDRA scenario development, risk evaluations & NDRA report	2023/2024	GE, AM, AZ, UA	Pilot scenario for wildfire risk in Borjomi area	40
H.1.3.2 Development of risk scenarios, risk evaluation, support of Humanitarian Crises Management	2024	UA	In collaboration with the National Meteorological Service of the Republic of Moldova (SHS) and Ukraine Hydrometeorological Service of Ukraine, the working group supported in assessing vulnerability and exposed elements relating it with forecasted hazards. This iteration was fundamental for the release of the IBF	39
H.1.4 ToT on DRA Methodology from national to local level	2024/Q1	GE, UA		37a
H.1.5 Remote advisory on the development of methodologies and the implementation of tools for DLD	2023/Q4, 2024/Q1	AM	One webinar on Disaster Loss Data accounting in collaboration with UNDRR provided in November 2023 and a 2-days ToT in March 2024.	38a, 38b

4.2 Deviations from original plan

The implementation of activities planned for Year 4 proceeded according to the original schedule. However, a few modifications were necessary across various WPs to accommodate real-time challenges and emerging opportunities. Below is a detailed description of these modifications:

Work Package A: Capacity Development

TTXs were conducted in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Georgia. However, slight modifications were required:

- **Armenia**: The TTX was organised back-to-back with a workshop on the UCPM, led by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO). Due to a real emergency—a flash flood in Lori Region—the TTX had to be adapted one day before the event. The local and regional levels were fully engaged in response operations, hence the exercise took place only at the national level. Despite this, the presence of high-level experts facilitated the involvement of the IFRC, which requested an assessment team to support response activities. PPRD East 3 provided risk assessment and data analysis, and CRI personnel assisted in drafting the DREF. These real-response activities were integrated into the TTX, offering a combined evaluation of both a real emergency and a simulation.

- **Azerbaijan**: The TTX proceeded at the local level with participation from national-level experts. It focused on risk assessment and multi-hazard scenario management, highlighting areas for procedural improvement.

- **Georgia and Armenia**: Both TTXs included bilateral dimension to assess transboundary coordination in emergency responses between the countries.

- **Ukraine**: The TTX was cancelled due to security situation, but the URCS and SESU invited CRI to join as trainers and observers in a FSX organised by them, allowing for the assessment of programme components.

Work Package B: Knowledge Transfer

The planned ToTs and EoEs were successfully conducted. Notably:

- The e-learning platform was launched, hosted on CIMA's Moodle, and remains available for participants even after the end of the programme.

- WP.B.3.1: The SESU training session, originally scheduled for Ukraine, was relocated to Moldova for security reasons, hosted by the GIES.

Work Package C: Emergency Preparedness

Several updates were made:

- WP C.3.2:An online regional workshop was initially planned, but savings allowed this to be conducted as an in-person event. The five-day workshop included participation from all other WPs, making it a crucial event to finalise technical activities, update plans, and prepare participants for upcoming TTXs

- TAM in Azerbaijan: This was postponed until after the local TTX due to scheduling challenges.

- TAMs in Ukraine: Conducted live only by CRI due to logistical constraints, while other partners participated through videoconferencing.

- Data on the positioning of Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs) was obtained towards the end of the year, verified, and aligned with ongoing initiatives.

Work Package D: Civil Protection Agency Development

The following key workshops and trainings were implemented:

- WP D.3.2: Conducted back-to-back with WP G and WP C, effectively integrating EWEA plans into emergency frameworks in Moldova, Georgia, and Armenia.

- WP D.3.3: Workshops supporting the standardization of 24/7 duty centres occurred in three phases. A guideline for duty officers was drafted by MSB's experts, followed by high-level training in Brussels, and finally, an online exercise involving ERCC staff to support simulations.

- WP D.4.3: Originally planned for Georgia and Moldova, this was extended to Armenia. The programme conducted gap analyses and organised local awareness-raising campaigns using Red Cross volunteers, aligned with TTXs to ensure coherence and effectiveness.

Work Package E: All-of-Society Inclusive Civil Protection Development

Activities under this work package proceeded as planned.

Work Package F: Regional Cooperation

Activities under this work package proceeded as planned.

Work Package G: Early Warning Systems

- The final TAM in Azerbaijan was cancelled.

- The IBF system was updated twice during the last year of the programme.

Work Package H: Risk Management Capabilities

- Multi-hazard mapping was upgraded to better support decision-makers in defining preparedness actions. Data on UXOs was integrated into this process, improving the risk analysis framework.

4.3 Partner countries' progress

The final year of the programme focused on refining and consolidating results, with an emphasis on developing replicable models to ensure the sustainability of actions. The implementation strategy during this phase remained consistent across all countries. It involved reviewing the outcomes from the previous three years, observing and evaluating the results of the FSX, and completing the delivery of activities while adjusting country-specific implementation plans based on identified skills, capacities, and challenges.

This final phase had three main objectives:

1. Consolidate programme results.
2. Design a comprehensive TTX framework that would test all delivered activities and assess each country's coping capacity.
3. Draft detailed Advisory Documents based on TTX results and the overall four years of implementation.

The following section summarises the key activities and findings, evaluating the progress made on the different identified priorities.

4.3.1 Armenia

In the final year of the PPRD East 3 programme in Armenia, important progress was made in disaster preparedness and civil protection. Key priorities included enhancing risk assessment, improving emergency planning, and strengthening coordination, all aligned with the UCPM standards. The programme led to advancements in NDRA, EWS, and volunteer management, while fostering collaboration across agencies and with CSOs. Targeted training and regional cooperation helped further build Armenia's capacity to respond to future disasters.

National Priorities

Table 3. Armenian National priorities and achievement levels throughout the programme

IDENTIFIED COUNTRY PRIORITY	ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL	NOTES
NDRA, with a focus on DRA methodology	Significant Progress	The MIA has made great advancements in developing technical capacities for risk scenarios, particularly in wildfire-prone areas like Stepanavan. However, gaps in the legal framework and limited institutional involvement hinder the full integration and completion of NDRA processes. Clearer legal mandates are needed to improve coordination between institutions.

Interagency coordination, enhancing the existing inter-institutional coordination	Good Progress	The development of SOPs has improved interagency coordination, particularly between the MIA and key stakeholders. The programme facilitated the first meeting on EWEA between national and regional levels. However, gaps remain, and formalization of SOPs is still needed across various levels.
EWEA, support the integration of early warning information into emergency planning and procedures	Strong Progress	The EWS was enhanced with advanced fire danger indices, daily bulletins, and increased competence in wildfire propagation modelling by the MIA. EWEA is now included in plans, and the methodological framework has been shared at all levels, indicating a shift toward a prevention and preparedness system.
Volunteerism, enhancing the training of volunteers	Strong Progress	The 2023 "Volunteer Work Law" formalised volunteer roles in disaster management, including the Armenian Red Cross. Training programs and exchanges with international partners improved volunteer management. However, the absence of a specific "Red Cross Law" limits the full institutionalization of volunteer roles in civil protection.
HNS structure and regulation	Limited Progress	HNS was tested in TTXs, but its structure and regulation remain underdeveloped. There was confusion regarding the activation of the UCPM, reducing Armenia's ability to benefit fully from this asset. Despite this, MIA adequately executed HNS during real emergencies with the IFRC. Further efforts are needed to establish clear SOPs and regulatory frameworks for managing international aid and cooperation through the HNS mechanism.
Training focusing on enhancing the quality of training and the training grounds	Strong Progress	Armenia benefited from capacity-building initiatives, such as ToTs and UCPM courses, aligning disaster response training with EU standards. ToTs curricula and materials have been fully integrated into MIA's academy and are used to train new civil protection experts.
Public Awareness, enhancing the risk awareness of the population	Moderate Progress	Public awareness campaigns on disaster preparedness were initiated, particularly in wildfire-prone regions, involving CSOs and local communities. However, more comprehensive and widespread efforts are needed to effectively reach remote and vulnerable populations.

Connection to national processes

The PPRD East 3 programme activities in Armenia have effectively aligned with the country's national agenda, particularly in Disaster Risk Management (DRM). The consolidation of civil protection under the MIA has driven the modernization of legal frameworks, enabling the integration of key programme components. These include enhancing the NDRA process, developing EWS for wildfires, and revising emergency plans at both local and national levels. The involvement of civil society, especially the Armenian Red Cross, in DRM has been formalised through recent legislation, and

interagency coordination has been bolstered by the development of SOPs for better communication and cooperation.

The Figures below outline the amount of WP activities and the number of participants in Armenia during 2023-2024. Most of the activities were planned back-to-back and in synergy with other WPs in order to maximise efficiency and reduce costs. They do not consider the TTXs nor the participants of the TTXs and some regional activities are not accounted for either.

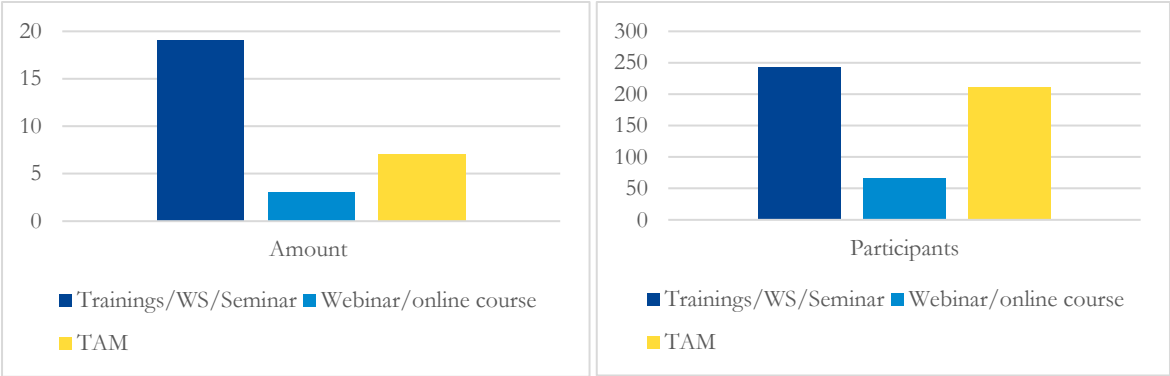


Figure 5. 2023-2024 Activities (left) and Participants (right) in Armenia

For more information on the outputs produced in Armenia for 2023-2024, please refer to Annex 5. Details regarding the connections with national processes can be found in the Advisory Document for Armenia, attached as Annex 6 of this report.

Overview of TTX

The endline TTX in Armenia, held on 28-30 May, 2024, in Yerevan, focused on testing and evaluating the country's civil protection and emergency response capabilities. The exercise was conducted at the premises of Armenia's national coordination centre, with participants working from their respective dislocated workplaces due to ongoing real emergency event (flash flood) in the northern part of the country.

Key participants included representatives from the MIA, national civil protection agencies, local authorities, and other relevant institutions. In total, 35 experts from various organizations participated in the exercise. Communication between exercise control and participants was facilitated through digital tools, including emails and Google forms for real-time reporting and feedback.

The exercise structure included scenarios and injects designed to test the preparedness, decision-making processes, and coordination between different actors. No regional or local levels were played in this exercise due to the response operations to flood

emergency. The overall aim was to assess progress made in the integration of, among others, EWS and civil protection mechanisms developed over the course of the PPRD East 3 programme.

For more detailed information on the TTX results and findings, please refer to the Assessment Report for Armenia in Annex 7 and the TTX Activity Report for Armenia in Annex 8.

Figure 6. CRI and IFRC assessment team during the flooding event that hit the Programme Pilot area (Lori Region) during the TTX, June 2024

Summary of results

The final year of the PPRD East 3 programme in Armenia followed a strategic, integrated approach that strengthened disaster preparedness and civil protection. Following the identified priorities, the focus was on enhancing risk assessment, improving emergency planning, ensuring coordination, and building capacity in line with the UCPM standards.

The first step involved strengthening Armenia's NDRA. This work led to the creation of detailed risk scenarios, including a key wildfire risk scenario for the Stepanavan area. Alongside this, the EWS was upgraded with advanced fire danger indices and the installation of automatic weather stations. These tools provided critical data that helped

inform decision-making processes and improve the country's readiness to act in the face of disasters.

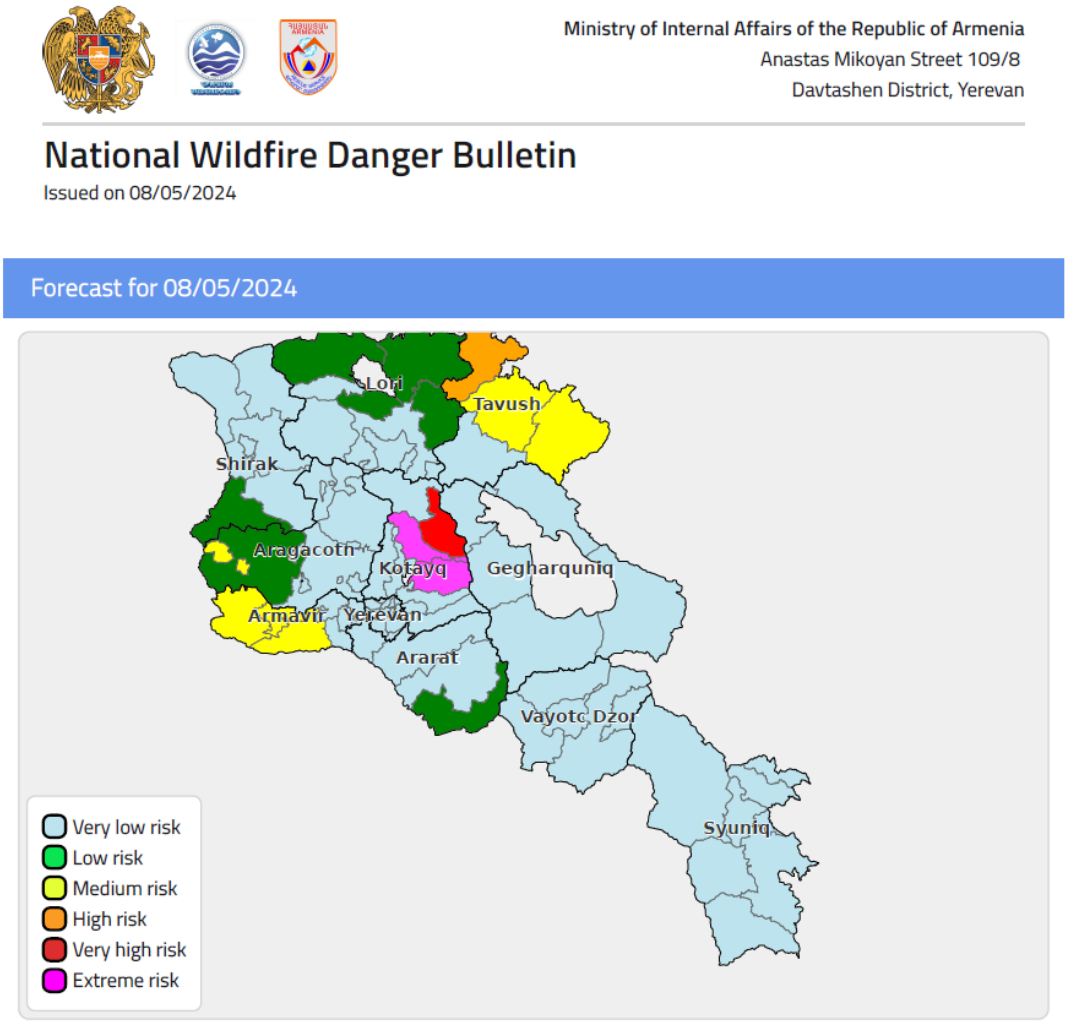


Figure 7. Abstract of the Armenian wildfire danger bulletin

Emergency planning was another major focus. The Stepanavan Emergency Plan was revised to include the latest risk assessments and guidance, with the EWEA protocol incorporated to ensure swift and effective responses to emergencies. Regional cooperation was also strengthened, with a new cross-border emergency plan developed with Georgian authorities, enhancing preparedness for transboundary disasters. Additionally, local communities and CSOs were actively involved in the planning process, ensuring a more inclusive approach to disaster management (See Annex 4 activity report 17 for the Stepenavan emergency plan and cross-border emergency plan).

Coordination across government agencies and other stakeholders was improved by developing SOPs, ensuring that everyone was clear on their roles and responsibilities during an emergency (See Annex 4 activity report 9). Efforts were also made to raise public awareness, with campaigns aimed at better informing the population about disaster risks and response strategies, supported by more effective crisis communication.

Additionally, the programme prioritised knowledge sharing and capacity building. Armenian civil protection personnel took part in expert exchanges and regional cooperation initiatives, learning from the experiences of neighbouring countries and EU practices. This was complemented by training programmes like ToT and Basic UCPM courses, which gave key professionals the skills they needed to manage disaster response and recovery more effectively, in line with EU standards.

Overall, the various activities undertaken in the final year of the programme worked together to create a more resilient disaster management system in Armenia. Risk assessments and EWS provided the foundation for robust emergency planning, supported by a strong framework for coordination between agencies and active engagement from local communities. With the added benefits of international cooperation and targeted training, Armenia is now better prepared to manage future disasters.

4.3.2 Azerbaijan

In Azerbaijan, the programme confirmed its workplan based on the consolidation of activities identified as priorities for the country. However, it is important to note that some activities were not implemented due to Azerbaijan's self-suspension from the programme between the period of January 2021 to October 2021, as well as delays resulting from the postponement in the programme beginning.

Hence, several activities related to EWS, HNS, and Disaster Risk Assessment (DRA), which required bilateral discussions, were either cancelled or reduced in scope. Additionally, the TTX was conducted only at the local level. Despite these setbacks, Azerbaijan actively participated in most ToTs and regional activities. In the final implementation year, the MES demonstrated strong commitment and capacity by supporting programme implementation.

National Priorities

Table 4. Azeri National priorities and achievement levels throughout the programme

IDENTIFIED COUNTRY PRIORITY	ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL	NOTES

NDRA methodology and process through a multi-stakeholder approach	Limited Progress	Azerbaijan's NDRA process is aligned with international frameworks like the Sendai Framework, but challenges remain due to governance restructuring and limited access to classified information. A multi-stakeholder approach is in place, but broader institutional participation is needed.
Emergency preparedness planning with a focus on transboundary arrangements	Moderate Progress	The programme improved local and national-level emergency preparedness, aligning procedures with EU standards. Transboundary cooperation, particularly through workshops and risk assessments, enhanced Azerbaijan's ability to handle emergencies involving neighbouring countries. Progress was made in enhancing the Gabala Emergency Management Plan and in foundational work on interagency coordination and volunteer inclusion (see more under Regional cooperation below)
All of society-inclusive civil protection with the aim to involve CSOs and scientific organisations in emergency preparedness planning	Strong Progress	The integration of CSOs, especially the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, has been efficient. Legal frameworks support volunteer involvement, and the MES Volunteer Training Programme has effectively enhanced volunteer roles in emergency responses. More involvement from scientific organizations would strengthen this approach further.
HNS	Limited Progress	HNS was tested during TTX, but activities were limited. Clearer frameworks and SOPs are required for the effective management of international aid and assistance.
Regional Cooperation - take part in and contribute with good practices and lessons learned to the regional dimension of the programme	Moderate Progress	Azerbaijan contributed to regional cooperation by sharing best practices through TTX exercises in Gabala and participating in cross-border emergency planning initiatives. Further integration of lessons learned at the regional level is necessary.
Participation in the UCPM-related trainings and other activities	Moderate Progress	Azerbaijan participated in various UCPM-related trainings, improving operational capacity. Training programs focused on EWS and operational planning, helping align local and national capabilities with EU standards. However, more comprehensive training is still needed at all levels.

Connection to national processes

The PPRD East 3 programme in Azerbaijan effectively aligned its activities with the country's national agenda for DRM. The integration of the NDRA process with international frameworks like the Sendai Framework helped advance Azerbaijan's risk assessment capabilities, though challenges remain due to limited access to classified

data. Efforts to improve EWS, particularly in wildfire management, have built on the national framework, enhancing operational capacity. Additionally, the programme fostered collaboration among national civil protection agencies and CSOs, including the AzRCS, to strengthen local disaster preparedness. Finally, interagency coordination was a key focus, with the TTX in Gabala in July 2024, revealing areas for further development, especially in communication and coordination among agencies.

Figure 8. TTX in Gabala, July 2024

The figures below outline the amount of WP activities and the number of participants in Azerbaijan during 2023-2024. Most of the activities were planned back-to-back and

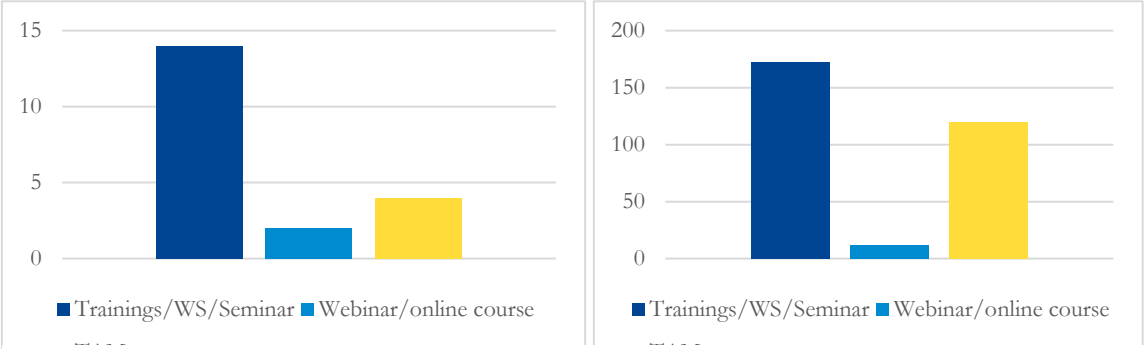


Figure 9. 2023-2024 Activities (left) and Participants (right) in Azerbaijan

in synergy with other WPs to maximise efficiency and reduce costs. They do not consider the TTXs nor the participants of the TTXs and some regional activities are not accounted for either.

For more information on the outputs produced in Azerbaijan for 2023-2024, please refer to Annex 9. Details regarding the connections with national processes can be found in the Advisory Document for Azerbaijan, attached as Annex 10 of this report.

Overview of TTX

The TTX in Gabala, Azerbaijan, highlighted strengths in coordination between the Crisis Management Center and local bodies, as well as the effective integration of the AzRCS in emergency decision-making. However, gaps were identified in local-level coordination, EWS testing, and the application of SOPs. Public communication, while effective, needs to better reach vulnerable groups, and stronger mechanisms are required to address environmental impacts during emergencies. These findings underscore the need for further improvements in SOP clarity, local coordination, and environmental management.

For more detailed information on the TTX results and findings, please refer to the Assessment Report for Azerbaijan in Annex 7 and the TTX Activity Report for Azerbaijan in Annex 8.

Summary of results

Over the past year, Azerbaijan has made notable advancements in disaster management, reflecting important progress in both preparedness and response capacities. A key indicator of these improvements was demonstrated during the TTX in Gabala, which showcased better coordination and communication among local agencies. This progress highlights enhanced interagency collaboration and a more effective flow of information during emergencies, an area previously identified as needing improvement.

One of the most noteworthy developments has been the increased integration of CSOs, particularly the AzRCS, into emergency operations. This shift towards a more inclusive model of disaster response ensures CSOs play a vital role in supporting operations and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. This approach fosters resilience at the community level and strengthens overall response capacity by involving non-governmental actors in disaster management.

A significant milestone in this process has been the Gabala Plan, a structured framework developed to enhance local disaster preparedness by formalizing cooperation between governmental agencies, emergency services, and CSOs. The plan was reviewed by MES using the guidelines developed in PPRD East 3 and emphasizes multi-hazard preparedness, with a particular focus on wildfire scenarios, a key risk

identified in the Pilot Region. It also outlines SOPs for coordinated response efforts. The Gabala Plan serves as a blueprint for future national and transboundary initiatives, aiming to scale up localized advancements to a broader, more cohesive disaster management system.

Local-level preparedness has also evolved, with improvements in risk management practices, especially regarding wildfire scenarios. Continued training and comprehensive risk scenarios at both local and national levels are needed to ensure these advancements translate into readiness across different disaster contexts.

The EWS in Azerbaijan has seen advancements, with new layers and data on wildfire risks produced and used by the country, such as the Fire Weather Index and past burned areas, improving the prompt dissemination of critical information. Nonetheless, the exercise revealed the need for clearer threshold-trigger mechanisms and broader departmental involvement.

An evolving area is the inclusion of CCIs such as gender, human rights, and environmental perspectives in disaster management planning. Azerbaijani participants in training sessions and workshops have demonstrated a growing understanding of integrating these aspects into emergency preparedness and response efforts. Further efforts are required to institutionalise these practices across all levels of disaster management.

Despite progress at the local level, the TTX also highlighted the need to scale these advancements to national and transboundary levels. Observed gaps in coordination between different tiers of government and international partners underscore the importance of developing more integrated disaster management strategies. Enhancing coordination mechanisms for seamless collaboration between local, national, and international entities will be crucial to strengthening Azerbaijan's overall preparedness.

In summary, Azerbaijan has made commendable advancements in improving its disaster management capabilities, particularly in local-level preparedness, CSO integration, and risk management. While further development is needed in areas such as DRA, scenario planning, EWS and structuring of SOPs between different institutions, the progress made over the last year has laid a strong foundation for continued advancement in building a resilient and inclusive disaster response system.

4.3.3 Georgia

Georgia has made important progress in enhancing its DRM approach, notably transitioning towards an EWEA system. Local-level emergency plans of the pilot areas, such as those for Borjomi and Telavi, have been upgraded (Telavi) or fully

drafted (Borjomi) in alignment with programme guidelines addressing a very important vulnerability of the country. The plans are being used by EMS as a blueprint for future national and transboundary initiatives, aiming to scale up localized advancements to a broader, more cohesive disaster management system. The integration of CSOs, particularly the Georgian Red Cross Society, has strengthened volunteer capacity in civil protection planning. However, while advancements have been made in areas such as HNS and SOP development, gaps remain in the legal framework and interagency coordination, which are crucial for the full implementation of these improvements.

National Priorities

Table 5. Georgian national priorities and achievement levels throughout the programme

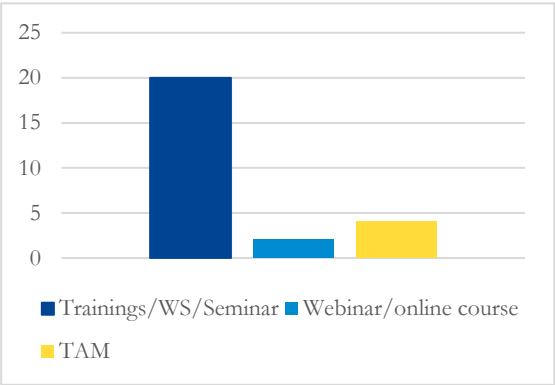
IDENTIFIED COUNTRY PRIORITY	ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL	NOTES
Establishing a more proactive approach in DRM	Strong Progress	The Emergency Management Service (EMS) has shifted its methodological approach from response-oriented to an EWEA system. Emergency plans in the pilot areas serve as an example.
Further development of interagency coordination through the development of SOPs and broadening the scope of interagency coordination	Moderate Progress	Although the country has a strong national civil protection legal framework, it needs modernization and alignment with the programme results. Clear mandates and the establishment of specific SOPs are necessary to consolidate the changes initiated with the programme.
Enhancement of the involvement of CSOs and academia in DRM	Strong Progress	Georgia Red Cross is not only foreseen as the coordinator of CSOs in the national framework but has also been fully integrated into the emergency plans at the local level.
Emergency planning at the local level in all phases of DRM	Strong Progress	One of the major achievements for Georgia. The Emergency Plans for of Borjomi and Telavi have been developed in line with provided guidelines and need to be updated. Additionally, EMS is replicating the results nationwide, demonstrating the country's buy-in of this output.
Strengthening the volunteer management	Strong Progress	Not only have trainings been provided, but operational integration into emergency planning processes ensures an overall increase in the management capacity of this vital CP force.
Crisis communication, support to the development of a strategy	Strong Progress	Guidelines, trainings, and the inclusion of crisis communication in all programme activities have been effectively understood and applied.

EWEA strategies with specific focus on wildfires	Limited Progress	Capacities, tools, and specific competencies exist. The three institutions (EMS, NEA, and FA) are well aligned. Wildfire hazard maps, propagation models, wildfire forecasts, and a bulletin application have been established. However, the lack of a necessary legal framework poses the greatest challenge to the operationality and sustainability of these results.
Strengthening the HNS through the development of SOPs	Strong Progress	HNS guidelines drafted under PPRD East 2 have been tested and updated during this third phase.
Enhanced training capacity through ToT and exchanges of experts on the training domain	Moderate Progress	Georgia has participated in most ToTs and EoEs with interest. However, the inclusion of results into a national CP training curriculum has not yet been clarified.

Connection to national processes

The PPRD East 3 programme in Georgia aligned with the national agenda by addressing key priorities such as DRM, interagency coordination, and civil society involvement. The programme supported the development of DRA methodologies at the local level, complementing Georgia's National Threat Assessment approach. It also enhanced EWS for wildfires, which is a priority for Georgia's disaster preparedness. Furthermore, the integration of emergency planning guidelines helped modernise local and national emergency plans, ensuring that these plans align with national laws, such as Law No. 508 on Civil Protection. The programme also strengthened the role of the Georgian Red Cross in disaster response, reflecting the country's commitment to involving civil society in its civil protection framework. Lastly, the focus on interagency coordination and regional cooperation, particularly with Armenia, aligned with Georgia's broader goals of improving transboundary disaster management.

The figures below outline the amount of WP activities and the number of participants in Georgia during 2023-2024. Most of the activities were planned back-to-back and in synergy with other WPs in order to maximise efficiency and reduce costs. They do not consider the TTXs nor the participants of the TTXs and some regional activities are not accounted for either.



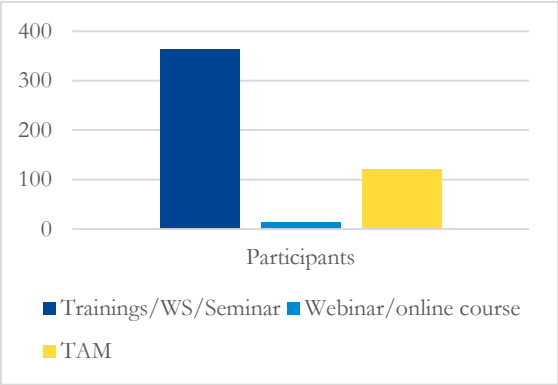


Figure 10. 2023-2024 Activities (left) and Participants (right) in Georgia

For more information on the outputs produced in Georgia for 2023-2024, please refer to Annex 11. Details regarding the connections with national processes can be found in the Advisory Document for Georgia, attached as Annex 12 of this report.

Overview of TTX

Georgia was the only country where three TTXs were conducted during the programme period: the Baseline TTX, TTX prior to the FSX in 2023, and the endline TTX. The strong growth and buy-in to the programme's activities was evident from the fact that the municipality of Borjomi now had a functional DRM plan. Participants in the TTXs demonstrated a cohesive approach to DRM, with enhanced interagency coordination, clear distribution of functions, and a strong understanding of roles. The plan has been updated using the guidelines produced and now effectively incorporates DRA and EWEA into the Civil Protection framework, representing a shift from a response-oriented system to one focused on prevention and preparedness.

Another positive development was the engagement of local authorities and civil society, marking a shift towards a more inclusive disaster management approach. This was particularly evident in the role of volunteer organisations and local branches of the Red Cross, whose participation was crucial in response simulations. The TTX demonstrated the potential for scalable and sustainable improvements in interagency coordination, although further work is required to institutionalise these practices through formal agreements and protocols.

The TTX revealed several key strengths in Georgia's DRM, particularly regarding the operational capabilities of the EMS and National Environmental Agency (NEA), in handling early warnings for wildfires. However, gaps in coordination between national and local authorities, as well as the need for a more integrated response mechanism, were identified. A recurring challenge observed was the reliance on informal

communication channels and personal networks, which limited the efficient flow of information. Nevertheless, the integration of multi-agency collaboration was also evident, with stronger partnerships between the EMS, NEA, and National Forestry Agency of Georgia (NFA).

One of the major lessons learned was the necessity for formal SOPs to ensure a structured response in real-time scenarios. For example, while early warning data was effectively generated, its dissemination to all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and local responders, was inconsistent. Additionally, the TTX underscored the importance of refining the HNS protocols to align more closely with the UCPM standards. The exercise confirmed the effectiveness of the PPRD East 3 initiatives, while also highlighting the need for continued efforts in formalizing communication channels, refining early warning dissemination, and enhancing interagency coordination for large-scale disasters.

For more detailed information on the TTX results and findings, please refer to the Assessment Report for Georgia in Annex 7 and the TTX Activity Report for Georgia in Annex 8.

Summary of results

In the final year of implementation, Georgia made important progress in several areas including advancement of its technical capabilities in wildfire monitoring and forecasting by integrating EWS with early action protocols, and through training of. institutions such as the NEA, NFA, and EMS. During the summer season, wildfire bulletins were regularly issued, providing critical information to mitigate risks. This development extended to local levels, where early action strategies were implemented to ensure rapid response and reduce risks.

Further advancements included the migration of the myDEWETRA portal to incorporate new wildfire early warning products. The RISICO model’s performance was evaluated and validated further solidifying Georgia's capacity to monitor and predict wildfires. Progress was made in developing and revising local emergency plans, particularly in Borjomi and Telavi. In Borjomi, a task force was established to overhaul the outdated local emergency management plan, which had not been revised for a decade. This plan was updated to align with national legislation and included the development of 14 annexes to support comprehensive emergency preparedness. This process, supported by TAMs, resulted in a model that could be replicated across Georgia’s municipalities.

Focus in pilot area of Telavi was on strengthening the emergency management plan by integrating EWEA protocols. A key achievement was the drafting of an EWEA protocol that ensures early warnings are swiftly followed by early actions, improving

the municipality’s capacity to respond effectively s. Collaborative efforts between the EMS of Georgia and MIA of Armenia resulted in the drafting of a cross-border plan addressing gaps and building on strengths identified during transboundary training exercises. The collaboration focused on enhancing countries’ capacities to provide and receive international assistance during large-scale disasters.

The TAM, conducted in March 2024 in Borjomi, helped to facilitate the integration of cross-border cooperation into emergency plans. While Georgia has made notable strides in setting up a functioning emergency situation room with 24/7 officers monitoring and analysing the national situation, a need remains to formalise legal frameworks around EWS. Currently, the roles and responsibilities of different agencies involved in EWS need to be better defined. and institutionalization in the form of SOPs and legal mandates are required.

Georgia made progress in operationalising EWS procedures, introducing new SOPs, and crises communication where training improved capacity of local authorities and Red Cross. Surveys in Borjomi and Telavi helped tailor awareness campaigins.

The December 2023 workshop on Crisis Communication resulted in the development of guidelines for crisis communication. The increased focus on interagency cooperation has been another notable achievement. A comparison of exercises held in 2023 and 2024 in Borjomi showed a marked improvement in coordination between EMS, municipal authorities, and the Red Cross.

Furthermore, the Training Development Seminar held in early 2024 provided participants from Georgia with insights into different civil protection training systems and how they could be adapted to local needs. This seminar also addressed evaluation methods for exercises, such as tabletop simulations. The integration of CSOs, particularly the Georgian Red Cross Society, into Georgia's civil protection system has improved over the past year and key workshops were held. In 2023, the Red Cross volunteers received training in using data collection tools for monitoring EWS, leading to the formation of a group of volunteers working in disaster prevention serving as a model for other CSOs. CSOs and volunteers were further integrated following a 2024 revision of the legal framework clarifying the roles of CSOs and volunteers in emergency settings regional training events have highlighted the essential role CSOs play in enhancing Georgia's disaster preparedness and resilience.

Figure 11. Georgia-Armenia transboundary planning workshop in Borjomi, March 2024

In 2024, a revision of the legal framework clarified the roles of CSOs and volunteers in emergency settings, further integrating them into national civil protection strategies. A regional training event in Tbilisi also identified ways to replicate the effective involvement of CSOs in civil protection across other countries. These efforts have highlighted the essential role CSOs play in enhancing Georgia's disaster preparedness and resilience.

4.3.4 Moldova

In the final year of programme implementation, Moldova has made significant progress in DRM, advancing key areas such as emergency planning, EWS, and interagency coordination. Key achievements include the development of a NDRA methodology, improvements to the Soroca Emergency Management Plan, and enhanced collaboration with Ukraine. The GIES has played a pivotal role in these efforts, supported by the PPRD East 3 programme. Despite challenges, such as the need for broader public awareness and complete institutionalization of EWS, Moldova is aligning its DRM approach with the UCPM standards, laying a solid foundation for future resilience.

National priorities

Table 6. Moldovan national priorities and achievement levels throughout the programme

IDENTIFIED COUNTRY PRIORITY	ACHIEVMENT LEVEL	NOTES
NDRA, with a focus on support with the methodology both at the national and the local level	Strong Progress	Moldova has made progress with the development of a standardised NDRA methodology, aligning with UCPM requirements. The integration of risk assessments at both national and local levels has improved disaster preparedness. However, the NDRA methodology needs to be fully institutionalised for implementation across all municipalities.
Interagency coordination, enhancing the existing inter-institutional coordination with a focus on information flows, procedures and the inclusion of CSOs	Moderate Progress	Improvements in interagency coordination have been noted, especially in Soroca, with better collaboration between GIES, local authorities, and CSOs. Cross-border cooperation with Ukraine has also strengthened. However, consistent SOPs and broader CSO inclusion across agencies are still needed.
EWEA, supporting the integration of early warning information into emergency planning and procedures	Limited Progress	Moldova's EWS, including upgrades to the myDEWETRA platform, has enhanced early warning capabilities. Soroca's Emergency Management Plan now integrate early actions. However, full integration and institutionalization of EWS at all levels remain a challenge.
Enhancing the emergency planning through developing a guideline for emergency planning	Strong Progress	The updated Soroca Emergency Management Plan is a strong model for emergency planning, incorporating risk assessments and multi-agency coordination.
Volunteerism, enhancing the training of volunteers	Strong Progress	Volunteerism has been strengthened, particularly with the new Red Cross branch and the integration of CSOs in the planning process in Soroca. Further training is now needed to consolidate these achievements.
HNS, building further on the work done in PPRD East 2, through supporting the development of a HNS training programme	Strong Progress	Progress in HNS has been made through training and exercises with UCPM involvement, improving Moldova's capacity to assist in international emergencies.
Training, focusing on enhancing the quality of training and the training grounds	Moderate Progress	Moldova benefited from multiple training programs, such as ToTs and UCPM workshops, enhancing the skills of civil protection personnel. However, GIES had a structural shortage of staff with high turnover which decreased the absorption capacity of such skills.
Public Awareness, enhancing risk awareness of the population	Moderate Progress	Targeted campaigns in Soroca on flood risks, led by Red Cross volunteers, have raised public awareness and community engagement. However, broader efforts are needed to connect

		a national campaign with the EWS and the actions required at the local level, in line with updated emergency plans.

Connection to national processes

The programme activities in Moldova align closely with the national agenda through the development of regulatory frameworks for DRM and EWS, following the Peer Review recommendations of 2023 and Moldovan national law towards the approximation to EU standards. Experts working in Moldova have also used the recommendations of the conducted 2023 Peer Review of Moldova's civil protection system to guide the implementation scheme for the last year.

A noteworthy achievement of the programme has been the development of the NDRA methodology by GIES, filling a critical legislative gap and ensuring coordination between all relevant ministries and institutions involved. With Moldova becoming a Participating State of the UCPM, the NDRA has become a mandatory document. The Emergency Management Plan in Soroca exemplified this, with clear codification of the connection between EWS and EWEA actions. Additionally, these initiatives have integrated the roles of CSOs and the Red Cross into disaster management, strengthening community involvement and resilience across Moldova's DRM system.

The figures below outline the amount of WP activities and the number of participants in Moldova during 2023-2024. Most of the activities were planned back-to-back and in synergy with other WPs in order to maximise efficiency and reduce costs. They do not consider the TTXs nor the participants of the TTXs and some regional activities are not accounted for either.

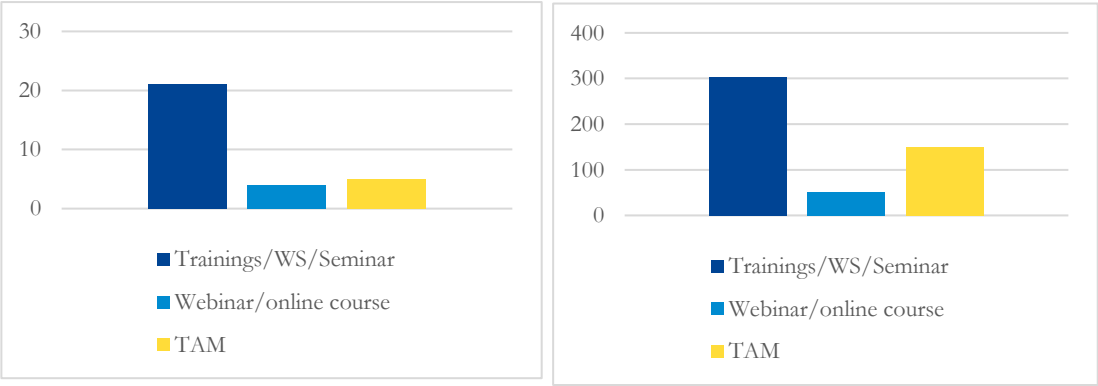


Figure 12. 2023-2024 Activities (left) and Participants (right) in Moldova

For more information on the outputs produced in Moldova for 2023-2024, please refer to Annex 13. Details regarding the connections with national processes can be found in the Advisory Document for Moldova, attached as Annex 14 of this report.

Overview of TTX

Since the initiation of the PPRD East 3 programme, Moldova has demonstrated notable improvements in its disaster management system. The enhanced functionality of the EWS and the timely sharing of flood bulletins from the MetOffice were important advancements. Coordination between the IGSU, government agencies, and local actors has improved, with more active engagement during the warning and mobilization phases. The involvement of the Red Cross and other CSOs, particularly during the evacuation process, highlighted a shift towards more inclusive disaster response practices.

However, the exercise also revealed the need for better integration of local and national efforts. The local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was not fully staffed, and key stakeholders from several institutions were either absent or insufficiently trained. Despite the existence of EOC activation protocols, they were not fully followed, and this limited the effectiveness of the local response. At the national level, the EOC functioned as intended, with effective coordination of cross-border activities and engagement with relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Environment for assessing potential contamination risks.

One of the major takeaways from the exercise was the need for clearer communication channels and a better-defined multi-stakeholder approach to information management. The introduction of rapid communication tools to facilitate communication at the local level was a step in the right direction, but further development of a structured information management system is necessary. The exercise also underscored the importance of familiarizing all stakeholders with updated emergency plans and ensuring that vulnerable groups are considered throughout the warning, assessment, and evacuation phases.

The TTX in Moldova provided valuable insights into both the strengths and weaknesses of the country’s emergency response system. While progress has been made, particularly in national-level coordination and early warning dissemination, there remains a need for further improvements at the local level, particularly in terms of training, information management, and the integration of environmental considerations into emergency plans. The recommendations from this exercise will guide the next steps in refining Moldova's disaster management capabilities.

For more detailed information on the TTX results and findings, please refer to the Assessment Report for Moldova in Annex 7 and the TTX Activity Report for Moldova in Annex 8.

Summary of results

In the past year, Moldova has made noteworthy advancements in DRM at both local and national levels. These achievements were possible through coordinated efforts by Moldovan authorities, particularly GIES, alongside structured support from the PPRD East 3 programme, including technical assistance and capacity building across various WPs. Moldova's progress in emergency planning, EWS, interagency coordination, and civil society engagement has contributed to a more resilient civil protection system that aligns with the UCPM standards.

A major milestone was the comprehensive revision of the Soroca Emergency Management Plan. Two TAMs were conducted in Soroca, focusing on integrating missing elements into the plan. Guided by the Annex Step 1 model of the Emergency Planning Guidelines, improvements were made, including the addition of detailed maps, risk data, and considerations for vulnerable populations, particularly in response to flood risks along the Dniester River. This update marked important progress in adapting the plan to flood scenarios and improving preparedness for flood-related emergencies.

The involvement of various stakeholders, including GIES, local authorities, and CSOs, further strengthened the interagency coordination approach. These efforts have enhanced understanding of roles and responsibilities across agencies, improving Moldova's ability to manage emergencies collaboratively. This initiative laid the foundation for replicating these strategies in other regions, ensuring the Soroca plan serves as a model for future emergency planning across Moldova.

Moldova's regional cooperation with Ukraine has also been a key focus. The information flow between Moldova's Hydrometeorological Centre and GIES has improved, enabling earlier activation of response measures based on meteorological bulletins and wildfire alerts. This collaboration has proven essential for addressing shared risks, particularly flood risks in the Dniester River region. A technical working group on flood risk management was established, further enhancing cross-border coordination between Moldova and Ukraine. This group has worked to develop a transboundary plan that ensures a coordinated response to emergencies affecting both countries, supported by regional training on transboundary planning and joint preparedness.

Concerning EWS, the myDEWETRA platform was enhanced with new wildfire-related data layers, including past burned areas and fire danger indices. The Wildfire

Bulletin application was effectively migrated to the staging line after updates based on user feedback. The performance of the RISICO platform, which forecasts wildfire risks, was validated during the fire season by comparing its predictions with actual occurrences, improving the accuracy and reliability of Moldova's wildfire warnings and contributing to more effective early action. An online training session familiarised GIES and SHS experts with these tools, increasing their capacity for EWEA. SOPs for flood early warning were tested during the final TTX in Soroca, which also assessed Moldova's EWS effectiveness at both national and local levels, especially in implementing early actions related to flood warnings.

Figure 13. Final TTX in IGSU crisis coordination centre, Chisinau may 2024

Moldova also made notable progress in IBF, with 336 bulletins published from October 2023 to August 2024 and 194 focus bulletins targeting specific risks. The programme also contributed to the development of a standardised NDRA methodology that aligns with both Moldovan and EU standards. Government Decision No. 391 of June 2023 mandated GIES to oversee the NDRA process, establishing the institutional framework for conducting risk assessments at both national and local levels. In collaboration with SHS, the NDRA working group identified the main risks in Moldova and developed three scenarios to better understand and mitigate risks. The NDRA also integrated cross-cutting issues, such as gender and environmental considerations, ensuring risk assessments reflect population vulnerabilities. Additionally, work on Disaster Loss Data (DLD) methodology was advanced, with eight templates updated to incorporate disaggregated data for more detailed disaster monitoring aligned with the Sendai Framework.

Crisis communication and public awareness have also improved through various programme initiatives. In March 2024, a knowledge-raising session on crisis communication was held in Chisinau, offering a platform for participants to exchange best practices and identify gaps in interagency communication. A Crisis Communication Guideline (see Annex 15) was developed and shared with stakeholders to streamline communication during emergencies. Public awareness initiatives were strengthened in May 2024 with training in Soroca for Red Cross volunteers and local youth to implement a campaign on flood risk awareness, improving community response capacity.

Additionally, the programme focused on strengthening volunteer management and enhancing CSOs involvement in DRM. A February 2024 workshop emphasised the role of volunteers during emergency scenarios. A new Moldova Red Cross branch in Soroca exemplified CSO engagement in civil protection efforts. Moreover, a capacity assessment identified opportunities for CSOs and the Red Cross to contribute at national, local, and transboundary levels, ensuring more effective integration into Moldova's disaster management system.

Figure 14. TAM on planning and preparation of TTX in Soroca, February 2024

Overall, Moldova's progress reflects the notable contributions of the PPRD East 3 programme. The country has made important advancements in EWS, interagency coordination, and volunteer management, while aligning national processes with the UCPM standards. The Soroca Emergency Management Plan revision, NDRA development, and enhanced cross-border cooperation with Ukraine demonstrate Moldova's commitment to improving its DRM capabilities. Through these efforts, Moldova is positioning itself as a regional leader in DRM, promoting a proactive and coordinated approach to civil protection. The outcomes achieved through PPRD East 3 provide a solid foundation for continued progress in building resilience against disasters.

4.3.5 Ukraine

The programme supported Ukraine in enhancing its NDRA methodology, advancing multi-hazard risk assessments and EWS. This was achieved despite the challenges posed by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, highlighting the country's commitment to resilience. The programme also fostered interagency coordination, strengthened volunteerism through collaborations with the URCS, and improved emergency planning, notably through enhanced cooperation with Moldova. Additionally, efforts to integrate CSOs into disaster management were bolstered, contributing to Ukraine's overall capacity to manage complex emergencies.

National Priorities

Table 7. Ukrainian national priorities and achievement levels throughout the programme

IDENTIFIED COUNTRY PRIORITY	ACHIEVMENT LEVEL	NOTES
NDRA, with a focus on supporting DRA methodology and development of risk scenarios on the national level	Moderate Progress	The PPRD East 3 programme supported Ukraine in developing information and hazard knowledge (floods, wildfires, UXOs, etc), aligning with national goals of enhancing DRAs at a national level. The creation of multi-hazard maps and daily impact-based forecasts further supported the risk evaluation process. The NDRA however needs to be completed.
Interagency coordination, enhancing the existing inter institutional coordination	Strong Progress	The programme improved interagency coordination, particularly between SESU and the URCS, along with other national agencies. The involvement of multiple actors in joint exercises and coordination efforts strengthened communication and planning. This inter-institutional coordination enhancement was directly addressed through the programme.
EWEA, supporting the integration of early warning information into emergency planning and procedures	Limited Progress	EWEA integration into Ukraine's emergency planning reflected significant advancements. While procedural challenges remain, 336 IBF bulletins and focus reports were made between 2023 and 2024, which provided operational support to SESU and humanitarian responses. However, the legislative framework needs to be modified to implement the modernization of the

		system. Furthermore, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has severely damaged the observation network which is an essential component of the EWEA. Important investments and improvements will be needed in the future to re-establish the full capacity of the country under this component.
Volunteerism, building further on the work of the projects StrengthVol and ProVoice26	Strong Progress	The programme reinforced volunteerism by involving the URCS and integrating volunteers into civil protection operations. Training sessions and exchanges with international partners, such as the CRI, helped develop volunteer management capacity.
HNS, building further on the work done in PPRD East 2, implementing the SOPs	Moderate Progress	HNS was a focus during the TTX exercises, helping Ukraine evaluate and improve its HNS procedures. This built on prior efforts from PPRD East 2 and ensured that international assistance, especially through the UCPM mechanism, could be efficiently managed. Further work on the establishment of SOPs is needed in this regard.
Training, focusing on enhancing the quality of trainings, the UCPM knowledge and innovative response methods	Strong Progress	SESU and other national actors participated in numerous in-person and digital training sessions, focusing on operational planning, 24/7 duty officer functions, and UCPM procedures. Given the circumstances, the effort and interest in continuing to strengthen the organization is commendable and demonstrates the effective coping capacity of SESU.
Public Awareness, enhancing the risk awareness of the population	Moderate Progress	The programme leveraged CSOs and volunteers to raise awareness about risks and preparedness measures. The ongoing crisis however has reduced the possibility of working on this component.

Connection to national processes

Throughout the final year of implementation, SESU has consistently demonstrated its commitment to consolidating its role as a Participating State of the UCPM. Despite the continuous escalation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, SESU has remained engaged in the PPRD East 3 programme. Its dedication was particularly evident through participation in key high-level trainings, such as the NDRA workshop held in Moldova due to security concerns. Additionally, Ukraine took part in other critical trainings, both in person and online, focused on the 24/7 duty officer function and the inclusion of CSOs in structured civil protection activities.

The PPRD East 3 programme, with strong support from the CRI—present in Ukraine since the beginning of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine—has worked hard to ensure that its efforts would contribute to both humanitarian and civil protection needs. Despite the current situation, the consortium played a key role in coordinating emergency responses, liaising with ongoing initiatives, and developing follow-up projects based on the programme's outcomes. These efforts ensured that the lessons

learned and tools developed through the programme had a tangible impact, aligning humanitarian responses with civil protection frameworks and bolstering Ukraine's overall disaster resilience. The programme continued providing support through the IBF, issued daily and used operationally on the field, to the extent that the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center (UHMC) has, in August 2024, made an official request to CIMA to receive further support in this sense given the importance and strategic use of the tool for civil protection and humanitarian purposes. This goes also in the direction of further demonstrating the capacities of the country in terms of innovation and upgrade of its civil protection systems.

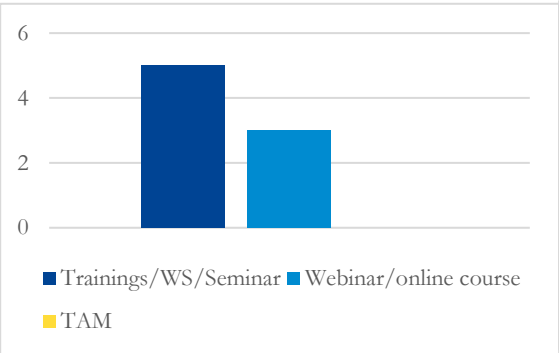
The well-structured legal framework in Ukraine further supported these efforts by providing a robust foundation for NDRA development under the PPRD East 3 programme. Through the Code of Civil Protection and various government resolutions, Ukraine was able to create clear mandates and standardised methodologies, while fostering collaboration with scientific institutions. Despite the disruptions caused by the current situation, Ukraine's commitment to aligning with international and European standards enabled the formation of a national working group on NDRA. This group's capacity was significantly strengthened, allowing it to make progress on the NDRA process, despite the challenges.

Figure 15. Transboundary planning training in Bresso (Italy). Moldovan and Ukrainian experts discussing about conjoint scenario on Dniester River

In addition to NDRA, EWS are integrated into Ukraine's broader DRM strategies. While the primary Civil Protection law does not specifically cover EWS, SESU and the UHMC are the main entities responsible for generating and disseminating early warnings. Various laws and regulations outline their roles, ensuring that both the public and civil protection agencies are informed in times of crisis. However, EWEA remains underdeveloped as a separate concept within the legal framework, which is still predominantly focused on immediate response and preparedness.

The roles of SESU and UHMC, reinforced by this legal structure, have facilitated the execution of programme activities despite Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The well-established framework for assessing severe events has also enhanced scientific discussions, enabling knowledge exchange on IBF approaches. Nonetheless, some challenges remain, particularly regarding internal and interdepartmental information sharing, which has been further complicated by the current situation. Addressing these communication gaps will be essential to ensuring the effectiveness of Ukraine's disaster response in the future.

The figures below outline the amount of WP activities and the number of participants in Ukraine during 2023-2024. Most of the activities were planned back-to-back and in synergy with other WPs in order to maximise efficiency and reduce costs. They do not consider the TTXs nor the participants of the TTXs and some regional activities are not accounted for either.



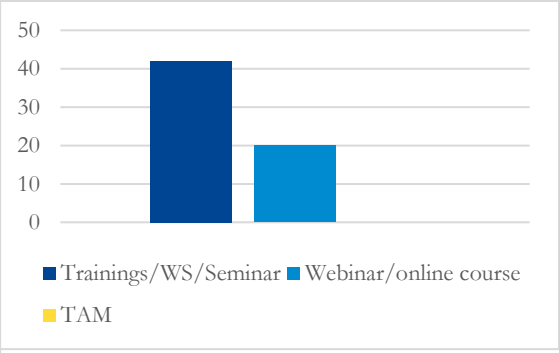


Figure 16. 2023-2024 Activities (left) and Participants (right) in Ukraine

For more information on the outputs produced in Ukraine for 2023-2024, please refer to Annex 16. Details regarding the connections with national processes can be found in the Advisory Document for Ukraine, attached as Annex 17 of this report.

Overview of TTX

The TTX in Ukraine, although cancelled in its originally planned format, led to a collaborative exercise organised by URCS with participation from SESU, URCS, CRI and other Ukrainian stakeholders. The primary focus was on improving coordination

for flood response scenarios, a significant recurring disaster risk in Ukraine. The exercise aimed to evaluate how Emergency Response Teams from different agencies integrate into national and international disaster response frameworks.

It highlighted the effective integration of national and international teams, focusing on SESU and URCS collaboration while emphasizing the importance of having solid HNS procedures to host international teams. Improvements were observed in communication and operational planning for disaster scenarios, particularly regarding rapid deployment of resources. However, communication gaps between national agencies and international actors (such as the UCPM, and humanitarian actors operating in Ukraine) were noted, requiring further enhancement for real-time information sharing during emergencies. Additionally, coordination during multi-agency responses needs to be strengthened to ensure smooth collaboration in high-pressure situations.

The involvement of CRI provided a platform for knowledge exchange, especially in water rescue operations and disaster planning. The exercise underscored the importance of continued collaboration with international partners to strengthen Ukraine's disaster response capacity.

For more detailed information on the TTX results and findings, please refer to the Assessment Report for Ukraine in Annex 7.

Summary of results

Ukraine has made important progress in DRM, despite the challenges posed by the ongoing Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine. Key activities during this period include advancements in multi-hazard risk assessment, EWS, emergency planning, interagency coordination, and volunteerism. The operationalization of programme results, as requested by DG ECHO to support the humanitarian crisis, was done to such an extent that CRI was able to fully integrate outputs in the relief operations that it has been conducting in the country. As a result of CRI’s presence on the field, coordination with SESU and URCS has been continuous notwithstanding the current situation.

Important progress was made in emergency planning, particularly through enhanced collaboration between the URCS and the SESU. Under the bilateral agreement facilitated by the PPRD East 3 programme, several initiatives were launched to improve SOPs and operational plans for emergency response. One key outcome was the establishment of the National Emergency Operations Centre for URCS, improving field coordination and streamlining disaster responses. Additional efforts focused on strengthening transboundary flood risk management between Ukraine and Moldova, particularly in regions like Vinnytsia and Soroca. A transboundary working group was

formed, and cross-border planning sessions were held to enhance information flow and joint preparedness.

Furthermore, guidelines for requesting and sending international assistance via the UCPM were developed. Several activities supported Ukraine's understanding of UCPM procedures, including the development of SOPs and simulation exercises to test operational readiness. Workshops and digital training sessions focused on establishing solid institutional foundations for SOPs related to EWS and UCPM contexts.

Interagency coordination was another focus area. Coordination between SESU, the URCS, and other national agencies improved through joint exercises and TAMs. Despite challenges posed by the current situation, the integration of volunteerism into civil protection operations also made progress. During exchanges with CRI, Ukrainian experts learned about effective volunteer management and civil protection planning, reinforcing the role of volunteers in emergency response.

Volunteerism within Ukraine's civil protection system was strengthened through various activities, including exchanges with the CRI, where Ukrainian participants gained insights into the management of volunteers and the operational aspects of civil protection. These exchanges emphasised collaboration between volunteers, civil protection authorities, and NGOs, helping to integrate volunteers into emergency response frameworks more effectively.

The NDRA process has been a priority for Ukraine, focusing on developing risk scenarios and conducting risk evaluations. A national working group was established to drive the NDRA process, identifying major risks like floods, wildfires, and UXOs. By the end of 2023, three scenarios were drafted, assessing how these risks could interact in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. In collaboration with UHMC and Moldova's National Meteorological Service, daily impact-based bulletins were developed, addressing flood and wildfire risks. These bulletins incorporate weather-related data and indicators, such as temperature and wind-chill, to support humanitarian crisis management. Multi-hazard maps, created using a combination of conflict data and environmental hazard maps, were developed to evaluate the cascading effects of flood and wildfire risks.

Ukraine's EWS were enhanced by integrating new wildfire tools and data on past burned areas into the myDEWETRA platform, now including additional fire danger indices. While the war limited the country's ability to implement procedural changes, daily IBF were issued, with 336 IBF bulletins and 194 focus bulletins released between October 2023 and August 2024. These forecasts assist local and national responses to extreme weather events, particularly in areas at risk of floods and wildfires. Despite

the limitations, Ukraine's participation in online training sessions on wildfire tools helped strengthen its EWS capabilities.

Efforts to raise public awareness were also boosted through workshops and training sessions. Ukrainian experts engaged in discussions on disaster preparedness and public awareness strategies during their visit to Italy. The focus was on leveraging volunteers and CSOs to better inform the public about risks and disaster preparedness.

The successful implementation of the PPRD East 3 programme, with committed support from Ukraine's key counterparts—SESU, URCS, and UHMC—laid the foundation for an experimental yet successful scheme integrating humanitarian actions with EWEA-oriented and codified civil protection interventions. The use of IBF, the development of multi-hazard risk assessments, and SESU's capacity to initiate discussions on shifting from a response-oriented system to one focused on prevention and preparedness, even during Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, is both remarkable and promising. These achievements demonstrate the effectiveness of the work carried out in Ukraine and highlight the potential for replicating these strategies in other regions facing similar challenges. The adaptability of the EWEA approach, combined with Ukraine's strong institutional collaboration, underscores the importance of continuing to build resilience through proactive DRM, even in difficult circumstances.

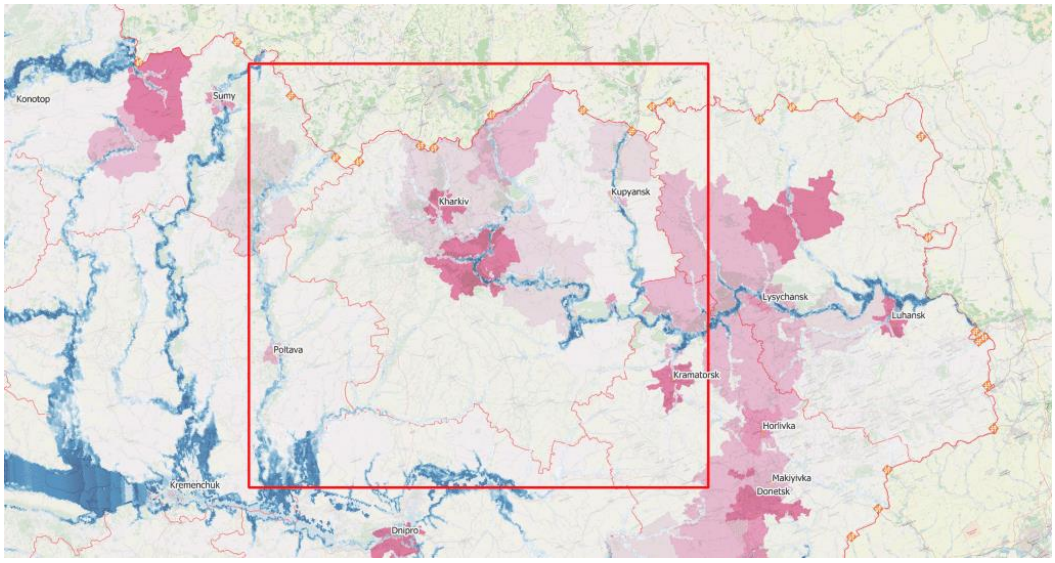


Figure 17. Multi-hazard risk mapping

4.4 Cross-Cutting Issues

Reporting period Oct 2023 – Sep 2024

Further integration of gender, human rights, and environmental perspectives in WP activities was achieved in the final year of implementation. CCI advisors supported WP experts in identifying entry points for these considerations and developing relevant methods, tools, training, and exercises. Key achievements included targeted CCI sessions during the ToT training in Yerevan and UCPM basic courses in Chisinau, aimed at enhancing participants' understanding of CCIs in DRM and practical application in their work, a full list of activities and outputs are found in Annex 18. Moreover, the annexes for CCIs in Multi-Risk Assessments were refined based on lessons from 2023 and early 2024 WP H activities. Notable results included scenario analyses in PCs with population data disaggregated by sex, age, and disability, fulfilling WP H objectives to integrate gender and human rights. Environmental and climate aspects were also incorporated, such as meteorological conditions and protected natural resources.

The integration of CCIs in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the final TTXs was a key focus during the reporting period. Building on the effective integration of CCIs in the 2023 FSX, TbiEx2023, the final TTXs adopted a similar approach. A notable advancement was the inclusion of CCIs in the assessment and evaluation of participating organizations' performance. Specific CCI indicators were identified, scored, and provided an evidence base for targeted recommendations to the PCs in the final advisory documents. For more details on the CCI approach and outputs in the TTX, refer to the Report on the Integration of CCIs in the Final TTXs in Annex 19. Additionally, chapter 5.2.7 provides a summary of the implementation process of CCI throughout the entire programme period, highlighting both outputs and impacts.

At the final conference, CCI Advisors presented programme outputs, learnings, and future recommendations. PC representatives acknowledged the positive impact of the CCI focus while also emphasizing ongoing challenges and the need for continued capacity building, possibly in a future PPRD East programme.

4.5 Communication

The PPRD East 3 programme's communication activities targeted specific groups, including civil protection authorities in PCs, governmental DRM institutions, consortium partners, and academic bodies. The EU institutions, regional stakeholders

and projects, media outlets, and the general public were also key audiences for these communication efforts.[6]

Communication activities 2023 Sept. – 2024

During the reporting period, the following communication and visibility activities have been conducted:

- **Website**: A new PPRD East 3 website (www.pprdeast3.eu) was launched in January 2024 to meet EU accessibility standards and provide a modern, user-friendly, and search-optimised experience. The website offered an overview of the programme, its objectives, and contact details for programme managers and experts. The news section highlighted events and programme activities, focusing during the reporting period on TAMs, final TTXs, workshops, and related activities. Special attention was given to featuring women in the programme, particularly on International Women's Day, and covering the Civil Protection Forum attendance. Ten articles were published in total, and direct links to the Gender Guideline and promotional videos are available on the website. All newsletters were archived on the site too.

- **Facebook**: The PPRD East 3 official Facebook page served to promote dialogue, inform about programme activities, and share live updates. It also directed the target audience to the website for more details. Posts included live updates, activity summaries, and videos featuring expert and participant testimonials. The page had 502 followers (an increase of 130 from the last reporting period), with 57% men and 43% women. Posts reached 2,480 users and recorded 935 engagements (as of 20 September 2024). The programme posted on average twice per week.

- **Newsletter**: The PPRD East 3 Newsletter provided direct updates to partners and stakeholders. An archive of all newsletters was available on the programme's website. During this reporting period, two newsletters were issued, with a final one published in October 2024. The newsletter had 236 subscribers (as of 2024-09-20).

- **Knowledge Network**: A webpage of PPRD East 3 was launched on the Knowledge Network platform during the reporting period to share programme information. It also hosts the programmes legacy documents and previous interim technical implementation reports.

- **Civil Protection Forum**: The Civil Protection Forum held in Brussels in June 2024 provided a key communication opportunity. The consortium collaborated to

[6] The Communication and Visibility plan was developed and reported together with the PPRD East 3 Inception report in February 2021.

promote the programme by exhibiting at the forum and coordinated efforts with the EU-funded IPA CARE programme.

5. Summary of Implementation Process (September 2020 - September 2024)

5.1 General overview of the implementation process

September 2020 – September 2021: Inception and Assessment Phases. The programme commenced with an inception phase (October 2020 to January 2021) and focused on establishing strategic relations and assessing needs in the PCs. The COVID-19 pandemic influenced initial activities, shifting all engagements, such as country meetings and consortium discussions, to online platforms. Key outputs included forming working groups and planning an assessment phase, agreed upon with the European Commission and PCs during the first Steering Committee in February 2021.

The assessment phase aimed to evaluate civil protection systems using approaches rooted in system and results-based strategies, incorporating lessons from previous initiatives. The phase included 34 online TAMs and working group consultations, culminating in TTXs tailored to each country's unique contexts. Despite the pandemic, digital TTXs tested response mechanisms, and lessons learned were embedded into further plans. Webinars on DRM bridged the assessment and implementation phases, encouraging knowledge sharing between EU member states and PCs. The webinars facilitated knowledge sharing by featuring EU experts who presented best practices, fostering interactive discussions where Partner Countries shared challenges, and promoting alignment with European standards through direct engagement and follow-up collaboration. The participation to the webinars was open and mainstreamed by the consortium communication network.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic extended the inception phase from 6 to 10 months and required integrating the assessment phase into the overall programme, deviating from the original plan.

October 2021 – September 2022: Early Implementation. Following the assessment validation, the programme implementation began, with adjusted plans for Azerbaijan and a cancelled assessment in Belarus due to political situation. Key initiatives included gender and environmental integration guidelines and the development of

regional DRM guidelines. The programme's first in-person event took place in Tbilisi, followed by several national TAMs and workshops throughout the reporting year.

Despite the impacts of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which required adapted support for Ukraine, the programme revised its strategy and maintained progress in the other PCs. Key efforts included TAMs, regional training, and workshops. Moreover, evaluations prompted the programme to enhance its local presence by recruiting Local Coordinators in Georgia, Armenia, and Moldova, followed by Azerbaijan and Ukraine the year after. This move significantly strengthened partnerships and deepened engagement with PCs throughout the programme.

October 2022 – September 2023: Strengthened Implementation. During this period, the programme advanced significantly in implementing planned activities. Key achievements included emergency planning courses in Italy and TAMs to Armenia, Georgia, and Moldova, initiating work on EWEA in selected pilot regions. ToT courses and an operational UCPM management course were conducted, alongside innovative firefighting workshops.

Pilot regions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine were chosen to facilitate cross-border cooperation. By early 2023, Armenia, Moldova, and Georgia began issuing forest fire early warning bulletins. The programme also developed NDRA guidelines and maintained IBFs for Ukraine and Moldova. The highlight of this period was the FSX, TbiEx2023, organised in June 2023 in Georgia, showcasing programme progress and training over 350 staff. Advisory Documents for PCs were issued to guide future TTXs and programme activities.

October 2023 – September 2024: Final Phase. The programme's final year consolidated prior efforts and addressed remaining activities. Emphasis was placed on interagency coordination, SOPs development, and civil society's role in emergency preparedness. Key events included workshops on volunteer management, operationalizing EWSs, and the High-Level UCPM course with all PCs in Brussels.

Spring and summer 2024 focused on expert exchanges, regional workshops while assessing and reinforcing each country's readiness. Notable events were the endline TTXs that tested the effectiveness of the implemented activities throughout the programme period and assessed each country's coping capacity. The Advisory Documents were subsequently updated with detailed recommendations for the respective PCs after the TTXs. Yet another noteworthy activity was the programmes exhibition at the Civil Protection Forum in June 2024 where the PCs also participated in.

The programme concluded with a final conference in Chisinau in September 2024, where key results, legacy documents, and resources were officially handed over to the PCs in order to support lasting disaster preparedness and civil protection.

Delimitations and challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, Belarus' suspension from the programme, and tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan created significant challenges for programme implementation. To address them, an adaptive approach was adopted to sustain progress. Russia's military aggression against Ukraine led to the cancellation or adaptation of activities and limited participation of Ukraine. Institutional changes and gaps in legal frameworks hindered the integration of processes like the NDRA and EWSs. Limited access to classified data and difficulties in data sharing impacted comprehensive risk assessments, while coordination issues highlighted the need for improved interagency communication and formalised procedures. Ensuring the sustainability of results required attention to integrating procedures into national frameworks and maintaining national commitment. Despite these challenges, the programme successfully achieved its objectives, enhancing disaster preparedness and civil protection capacities across PCs and establishing a strong foundation for continued resilience in the region.

5.2 Progress towards outcomes

The following chapter gives an overview of the overall achievement of outcomes across the four years of implementation. Results have been subdivided per country and WP with the exception of activities that operated on a regional extent, such as exercises (TTXs and FSX), EoEs and transboundary emergency planning which will be reported at the end of this section. This chapter provides a summary of the main achievements under each WP, while Annex 20 contains a table detailing expected outcomes for each WP.

5.2.1 Armenia

In Armenia, the programme has supported the national civil protection in transition to better prepare for and respond to disasters, embedding resilience and adaptability in institutions and communities. Over four years, it has driven notable advancements across DRM, enhancing Armenia's capacity and strengthening EWEA strategies under challenging conditions. Despite limited resources and the complexities of institutional change—including the shift of civil protection under the newly established MIA in 2023—the results reflect Armenia's commitment to modernizing its approach. However, the body of laws needs to fully embrace the changes obtained during the

programme ensuring that a substantial framework is created to support the execution of EWEA into emergency plans at all levels.

Work Package B: Knowledge Transfer

A critical early phase in Armenia's journey was to build knowledge infrastructure, beginning with the ToT event in Yerevan. This training established a cadre of Armenian civil protection experts capable of passing on advanced skills and knowledge to new civil protection professionals. The effective incorporation of these curricula into the MIAs academy marked a substantial institutional gain, embedding European standards of civil protection within Armenia's own educational system. Armenia's consistent participation in regional and international trainings, including on the UCPM, was instrumental in increasing its understanding and alignment with the UCPM. In 2023 and 2024, Armenia demonstrated its integration with the Mechanism, requesting international assistance through the UCPM in response to disasters. While the activation of the UCPM revealed areas for improvement, the progress within two years was encouraging and showed an increased competence in this sense. The knowledge transfer also prioritised inclusivity, embedding gender-sensitive approaches in alignment with the Sendai Framework, which reinforced Armenia's commitment to ensuring that disaster resilience reaches all segments of society.

Work Package C: Emergency Preparedness

Parallel to these educational advancements, the programme supported Armenia in fundamentally strengthening its emergency preparedness. A noteworthy achievement here was the drafting of a new national civil protection law with the support of the EU-funded Twinning project, aligning the country's legal framework with international best practices and programme recommendations. The revision of the Stepanavan Emergency Management Plan exemplified Armenia's progress in interagency cooperation and volunteer integration to manage risks such as wildfires and floods. These developments were reinforced by the introduction of EWEA strategies, which included not only the drafting of protocols but also the practical integration of EWEA into Armenia's national emergency planning. One landmark event in this area was the first multilevel meeting led by MIA (April 2024), demonstrating Armenia's commitment to fully implement EWEA strategies nationwide. The country's dedication to enhance planning capacities reached a new level here, with MIA aiming to replicate EWEA strategies at a national scale.

Additionally, Armenia's approach to transboundary collaboration was enhanced by forming a committee with Georgia to facilitate joint emergency responses. Emergency plans in Stepanavan were expanded to include cross-border response scenarios, ensuring that Armenia's preparedness extended beyond its borders and could adapt to complex, regional emergencies.

Work Package D: Civil Protection Agency Development
Armenia’s ability to respond rapidly and effectively to emerging threats was further fortified by strengthening its inter-agency coordination. Through workshops and exercises, the programme equipped Armenia's civil protection agencies with the skills necessary to improve information sharing and operational response. The redefined roles and responsibilities within the newly established civil protection law, the adopted National Disaster Risk Management Strategy, and emergency plans streamlined inter-institutional collaboration, enhancing overall coherence between national and local levels within MIA.

Considering that the Armenian civil protection has undergone significant institutional restructuring during life span of the programme, this collaborative framework was a crucial advancement, addressing one of the key barriers to effective emergency response: fragmented communication. Moreover, public awareness campaigns tailored to reach Armenia’s vulnerable groups further ensured that communities were not only informed but actively engaged in preparedness activities.

Work Package E: All-of-Society Civil Protection
Inclusion of civil society and academic institutions in disaster planning significantly broadened Armenia's resource base for emergency response. Through collaborative workshops, the programme fostered partnerships with organizations such as the Armenian Red Cross Society and the Crisis Management Academy, expanding the network of trained volunteers. This inclusive approach bridged gaps between official civil protection agencies and community organizations, a strategy that reinforced Armenia’s response capabilities. The programme emphasised gender balance and inclusion of vulnerable populations, integrating these values to create a disaster management framework that is both equitable and effective.

Work Package F: Regional Cooperation and Host Nation Support
Armenia’s HNS capacity experienced a leap forward through focused TTXs and the establishment of SOPs for international assistance. By 2024, Armenia demonstrated its readiness by activating the UCPM to manage the impacts of severe flooding, showcasing the efficacy of HNS protocols developed through PPRD East 3. These exercises highlighted key operational challenges, including customs processes and cross-border aid coordination, leading Armenia to refine its HNS practices and enhance readiness for receiving and providing international assistance. Armenia's progress in this area reflects a holistic preparedness, encompassing logistical, strategic, and operational facets of disaster response.

Work Package G: Early Warning Systems
A notable advancement was the establishment of a robust EWS, particularly for wildfire management. This achievement was enabled by the deployment of customised

tools such as the myDEWETRA platform, which is now operationally used by MIA's risk analysis department, and an automatic weather station in Lori, which together enhanced Armenia's data collection and forecasting abilities. Collaboration with the hydrometeorological service and the creation of a dedicated working group further integrated scientific expertise into the civil protection domain, bridging technical and operational needs. The linkage of early warning with early action was strengthened through scenario-based training and the use of propagation models, allowing Armenia to implement proactive, data-driven disaster responses.

Work Package H: Risk Management Capabilities

The final piece in Armenia's resilience strategy was the enhancement of its NDRA capabilities. Through the formation of a National Working Group and a roadmap for developing Armenia's NDRA, the programme introduced structured processes to integrate comprehensive risk assessments into emergency planning. The addition of annexes on gender, human rights, and environmental considerations in the NDRA guidelines exemplified a holistic approach to risk management, one that encompasses both national and local needs. This structured risk management framework provides Armenia with a reliable foundation for future disaster planning, significantly improving both preparedness and response strategies. The Webinar "Disaster Loss Data Accounting for DRR monitoring and risk interpretation" in Armenia in collaboration with UNDRR was provided in November 2023 and was followed-up with a 2-days Training of Trainers on DesInventar Sendai system in March 2024 in Yerevan.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Throughout each work package, gender, human rights, and environmental issues were embedded to ensure sustainable and inclusive DRM systems. The development and dissemination of the PPRD East 3 Practical Guidelines and e-learning modules supported Armenia's civil protection entities in prioritizing the needs of women, the elderly, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the risk assessments and EWS tools, ensuring that Armenia's preparedness efforts align with sustainable practices and minimise environmental impacts.

5.2.2 Azerbaijan

The programme has employed a combined approach through specific WPs aligned with the country's identified priorities, focusing on knowledge transfer, emergency preparedness, civil protection agency development, inclusivity, regional cooperation, EWSs, and risk management. Cross-cutting issues such as gender, human rights, and environmental perspectives have been integrated across activities, enhancing the

programme's relevance and sustainability. Although progress in Azerbaijan was initially slowed by the country's temporary withdrawal from the activities, notable advancements were achieved from early 2023 within the remaining timeframe. Key achievements include the enhancement of training and knowledge transfer capacities, improved emergency planning with a shift towards preparedness, initial steps towards effective EWSs, inclusive disaster management through the integration of civil society and volunteers, and advanced risk management capabilities. While challenges remain, particularly in fully embedding cross-cutting issues and refining early warning mechanisms, the foundations laid by the programme provide a robust platform for ongoing development and resilience building. As Azerbaijan moves forward, the collaboration and knowledge shared during the PPRD East 3 programme ensure a safer and more prepared society.

Work Package B: Knowledge Transfer

Azerbaijan actively engaged in regional training activities, utilizing the opportunity to align with the UCPM. Participation in UCPM Basic Courses, High-Level Courses, and Training Development Seminars enhanced the understanding of UCPM practices and standards among Azerbaijani civil protection actors. The final TTX in the pilot area Gabala, demonstrated dedicated effort and energy from the participants, reflecting a strong commitment to training and exercising response actions.

This dedication to knowledge transfer resulted in better-trained civil protection actors and strengthened local training capacities that are interlinked with UCPM trainings. Authorities are now better equipped to apply European good practices and international standards, increasing interoperability during exercises and real-life emergencies. The trainings incorporated gender-sensitive methodologies, promoting inclusivity in line with the Sendai Framework targets. Connections with the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network were also established, fostering ongoing knowledge sharing.

Work Package C: Emergency Preparedness

The MES gradually demonstrated its commitment to the activities proposed under WP C, particularly in the last two years of activity. This commitment was evident in efforts to strengthen civil protection and volunteer structures. Strategic support from CRI facilitated notable outcomes at both national and local levels, contributing to the overall programme objectives and aligning with European standards in DRM.

One of the significant national-level outcomes is the initiation of a comprehensive system by MES to integrate key elements from the Emergency Planning Guidelines and volunteer involvement. Although the work on emergency management plans was delayed due to Azerbaijan's institutional reforms (the finalization of a new law on emergency management expected by 2025), progress was made in enhancing the

Gabala Emergency Management Plan and in foundational work on interagency coordination and volunteer inclusion.

The Gabala Emergency Management Plan was updated to enhance preparedness and establish cross-agency coordination, setting a foundation for improved response planning. Volunteer integration efforts further strengthened response capacity, embedding all-of-society approaches that bring together civil society, local agencies, and volunteers for comprehensive disaster preparedness.

Work Package D: Civil Protection Agency Development

The programme helped strengthen Azerbaijan's civil protection communication systems by supporting the establishment of a network of 24/7 contact points for early warning information. Although still in the development phase, the creation of SOPs and guidelines for early warning communication (in collaboration with WP C and G) and interagency coordination laid essential groundwork for Azerbaijan's top-down civil protection system. The SOPs have been provided for the institutionalization and full operationalization of this capacity.

Taking the baseline TTXs as a benchmark, enhanced inter-institutional collaboration between ministries and agencies was observed during the four years of implementation of the programme, contributing to an overall more coordinated national response mechanism. While the disaster management system is centred around the MES, the framework agreement with main institutions and line ministries exists. In addition, within the framework of the upgraded of Gabala Emergency Plan, an increased participation of local authorities was noted. The programme has therefore facilitated the creation of interministerial bonds on different national levels.

The SOPs for the activation of international assistance through the UCPM were shared and trainings performed enhancing Azerbaijan's capacity to efficiently coordinate assistance requests.

Work Package E: All-of-Society Civil Protection

The programme placed significant emphasis on involving CSOs and volunteers in disaster management to foster a more inclusive approach. Guidelines for integrating civil society were delivered within the Regional Emergency Planning Guidelines, and concerted efforts were made to build and strengthen a network of civil protection volunteers. The involvement of the AzRCS in civil protection activities and programme events enabled the AzRCS to work closely with MES, creating a solid foundation for collaboration.

Inclusivity, particularly in terms of gender balance, was prioritised throughout the programme's activities. The collaboration with AzRCS allowed MES to structure targeted actions and activities where volunteers could effectively support the civil

protection authorities. This partnership improved resource optimization and time efficiency, contributing to a more robust and responsive volunteer network. Jointly with the MES Volunteer Training Programme, these efforts expanded the network of civil protection volunteers, ensuring the engagement of both women and men in disaster preparedness and response roles.

The programme's primary focus on prevention and preparedness led MES and AzRCS to establish specific roles for volunteers within civil protection efforts. Although Gabala had a limited presence of local CSOs and volunteerism was still developing in Azerbaijan at the time of the reporting, AzRCS's participation in the local EOC for the first time was a major milestone. This involvement demonstrated AzRCS's capacity to collaborate with diverse stakeholders, showcasing an understanding of its roles and responsibilities during emergencies.

The programme's final activity in Azerbaijan, held alongside the last TTX, marked a critical step in modernizing MES's volunteer training curriculum. This training and an accompanying demonstration exercise allowed MES to identify gaps and vulnerabilities in its training programmes, providing the basis for substantial curriculum enhancements. These activities underscored the programme's commitment to establishing a well-prepared and inclusive volunteer network that strengthens Azerbaijan's overall disaster management capabilities.

Work Package F: Regional Cooperation

This WP included two key elements. First, Azerbaijan deployed a helicopter during the FSX in Georgia, which necessitated a review of existing protocols to permit cross-border flights. This coordination effort was essential to strengthen the management of transboundary emergencies, such as wildfires along the border, and fostered much-needed collaboration between the two countries. Additionally, during the final TTX, a simulated request for assistance was introduced to test Azerbaijan's HNS procedures and capability to manage cross-border assistance effectively. These exercises enhanced understanding of roles, responsibilities, and procedures, leading to practical improvements in HNS protocols. Through participation in the EoE program and other forums, Azerbaijani professionals also expanded their professional networks and gained insights into international best practices in disaster management.

Work Package G: Early Warning Systems

Azerbaijan's progress in EWS focused on wildfire monitoring and forecasting, with upgraded tools such as fire propagation models and an emergency bulletin application. While security limitations restricted the full use of the myDEWETRA platform, the TTX exercise allowed MES to test these tools, enhancing local capabilities in forecast-based early warning. The exercise highlighted the need for improved linkages between EWEA, particularly through IBF. Strengthening the collaboration between civil

protection entities and the Hydrometeorological Department will further enhance Azerbaijan's multi-hazard early-warning capacity and improve proactive disaster responses.

Work Package H: Risk Management Capabilities

The programme's support in developing a NDRA was pivotal, establishing a National Working Group to advise on NDRA creation and strengthening Azerbaijan's technical capacity for risk assessment. This group facilitated the application of international best practices to local risk scenarios, and a comprehensive roadmap for NDRA was developed to provide structured guidance for Azerbaijan's future disaster risk management.

The Gabala pilot project served as a model for applying these methodologies locally, showcasing how hazard, exposure, and vulnerability assessments can inform targeted risk management actions. This laid the basis for further work to consolidate such results at different levels and ensure the achievement of the expected outcomes under this WP.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Cross-cutting issues were systematically embedded across the programme, including practical guidelines and e-learning modules for gender, human rights, and environmental integration in disaster planning and response. Through its collaboration with AzRCS the MES prioritised inclusivity, particularly in terms of gender balance, throughout the programme's activities. These efforts helped Azerbaijani stakeholders apply inclusive planning perspectives. The TTX assessments showed room for improvement in fully incorporating environmental and gender considerations into operational practices. Continuing to integrate these perspectives will support the development of a comprehensive, sustainable disaster risk management approach.

5.2.3 Georgia

Over the four-year implementation period, Georgia made important strides in disaster preparedness and risk management across several domains. However, while the programme resulted in clear advancements, some challenges persist. The PPRD East 3 programme's activities under various WPs enabled Georgia to make progress in aligning with European standards and enhancing interoperability, though areas for improvement remain.

Work Package B: Knowledge Transfer

Georgian civil protection authorities actively participated in the UCPM training initiatives using a needs-driven, ToT approach aligned with the Sendai Framework

targets. This included gender-sensitive sessions and core curricula from Union Civil Protection Mechanism Introduction Course and Operation Management Course trainings. Georgian trainers' involvement in regional exercises strengthened national expertise in delivering inclusive training and enhanced local capabilities for organizing drills. Experts trained through these initiatives enabled Georgia to host and coordinate cross-border training, advancing interoperability between the EU Member States and Eastern Partnership countries. The EMS's strong facilitation of these activities has fostered an optimal training environment, consistently enhancing training effectiveness.

Work Package C: Emergency Preparedness

Georgia's capacities were strengthened through a comprehensive multi-risk response plan focusing on wildfires and flood risks. This plan integrated structured risk assessments and EWS mechanisms, based on PPRD East 3's Emergency Planning Guidelines. Using an all-society approach, response plans included risk scenarios aligned with EWEA strategies, yielding significant progress in two pilot areas:

- **Completion and Revision of Borjomi's Emergency Management Plan:** A major achievement was the comprehensive revision of Borjomi's Emergency Management Plan, previously outdated for over a decade. This update involved data training, capacity mapping, interagency coordination, and volunteer management, creating a cohesive, up-to-date framework. The plan serves as a model for other municipalities like Batumi. The standardised approach also allowed EMS to gain a clearer understanding of national emergency response capabilities, supporting more targeted planning and resource allocation.

- **Strengthening of Telavi's Emergency Management Plan and EWEA Protocol:** the plan for Telavi was strengthened by integrating an EWEA protocol, linking early warnings directly to early actions—critical for timely responses to threats. This protocol enhanced Telavi's readiness to act on early warnings and was part of broader efforts to embed a robust EWS in local Emergency Management Plans.

With over 50 municipalities still needing updated Emergency Management Plans, the models from Borjomi and Telavi offered a replicable framework for national adoption. Revision of existing laws was prompted by the results of the programme facilitating the alignment with the acquis Communautaire. Additionally, cross-border preparedness protocols were developed, enabling Georgia to coordinate resources and communication channels with Armenia and Azerbaijan, respectively, when needed.

Work Package D: Civil Protection Agency Development

The establishment of 24/7 operational contact points for real-time information exchange marked a key advancement in strengthening Georgia's EWS. Interagency coordination improved, enabling civil protection entities, local government units, and emergency responders to collaborate more effectively. SOPs for emergency activation were refined, and public awareness initiatives to boost disaster preparedness across urban and rural areas were launched by EMS and regional authorities.

Despite these improvements, operational challenges remain across sectors and levels of government. Some SOPs lack clarity, potentially leading to inefficiencies in crisis response. Additionally, public awareness campaigns had mixed engagement levels across regions, underscoring the need for tailored communication strategies to better reach rural communities.

Work Package E: All-of-Society Civil Protection

Georgia has strengthened its disaster response by expanding its network of civil protection volunteers and involving CSOs in emergency management. Volunteers contributed to data gathering for risk assessments, enriching response strategies with local insights and promoting a resilient community-centred approach.

A key advancement was the training and integration of regional Red Cross branches into local emergency management. As a result, these branches closely coordinate with EMS and local authorities, boosting on-the-ground response capacity. This alignment ensures RC volunteers are well-prepared and adhere to national protocols, becoming essential partners in local disaster efforts.

Additionally, coordination with other WPs involved scientific bodies like the NEA, adding data-driven insights to emergency planning and EWS.

Work Package F: Regional Cooperation

Regional cooperation has been central to Georgia's disaster preparedness, with a focus on strengthening HNS mechanisms. The FSX tested EMS's coordination with the UCPM, deploying Technical Assistant and Service Team and an Azerbaijani helicopter, providing real-world testing for HNS protocols developed under PPRD East 2. This cross-border deployment prompted revisions in aviation clearance and logistics protocols, crucial for enhancing Georgia's readiness for transboundary emergencies and HNS.

The FSX provided a learning opportunity to tackle logistical challenges, such as coordination between Georgian authorities and international teams, resource allocation, and deployment logistics. These insights have strengthened Georgia's HNS capacity, improving its ability to receive and provide international assistance for emergencies like wildfires, floods, and earthquakes.

Georgia's strategic location in the South Caucasus underscored the need for efficient mutual support with neighbouring countries, a focus reinforced through collaboration across WPs. This cooperation has significantly bolstered EMS's capabilities to receive and provide international assistance.

Work Package G: Early Warning Systems

Significant progress was made in enhancing Georgia's early warning capabilities with a comprehensive multi-hazard EWS, developed in close collaboration with NEA and the Forestry Agency. Scientific input was essential in building a data-driven framework, particularly for high-risk hazards like floods and wildfires. The EWS enabled IBF, translating hazard predictions into actionable information that currently guides community responses.

Risk scenarios and EWS connections have been integrated into the emergency plans of Telavi and Borjomi, ensuring that alerts trigger immediate, localised responses. In high-risk regions, early warning alerts now activate swift action protocols to protect vulnerable populations. Training sessions for local authorities and responders improved readiness for rapid response.

PPRD East 3 also conducted scenario-based training exercises, helping Georgian authorities refine EWS thresholds, improve information dissemination, and enhance coordination between NEA and emergency responders.

Challenges remain in ensuring rapid dissemination to rural areas, fully integrating EWS with local protocols, as well as updating the national framework to define mandates for exertion of the entire EWS from bulletin creation, transmission, and local response.

Work Package H: Risk Management Capabilities

Georgia has made notable progress in strengthening its DRA and risk management planning. Although WP H did not directly implement a NDRA, it supported national efforts by focusing on local DRA, aligned with the relevant Government Decree, which guides risk identification, analysis, and evaluation for local and national preparedness.

Borjomi and Telavi municipalities served as pilot cases, demonstrating DRM practices that can inform national strategies. Borjomi's emergency plan, including full hazard, exposure, and vulnerability assessments, set a benchmark by using disaggregated data for tailored community interventions. The comprehensive risk scenarios developed for the FSX and TTXs exemplified effective local and national emergency planning. Moreover, by focusing on detailed vulnerability assessments, it strengthened resilience by making disaster management inclusive and effective for diverse populations. This

approach enhanced municipalities' ability to manage complex risks, setting a benchmark for other regions in Georgia.

Georgia also gained a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) platform (MyDEWETRA) to map asset data, enabling rapid exposure analysis—significantly advancing data accessibility for local and national emergency planning.

At the national level, WP H supported EMS in building capacity among local authorities to incorporate risk scenarios into national planning, integrating insights from pilot cases like Borjomi and Telavi. This approach promoted a standardised, scenario-based framework for risk management across Georgia.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Integration into each WP emphasised gender equality, human rights, and environmental considerations. Emergency planning incorporated environmental assessments, accounting for climate change effects on risk patterns, while gender-sensitive approaches ensured the inclusive participation of vulnerable groups. By embedding these considerations into disaster management policies, Georgia not only advanced resilience but also set a sustainable model for future initiatives.

5.2.4 Moldova

Since Moldova's accession to the UCPM, it has advanced DRM and preparedness, notably through developing Soroca's comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, which integrated EWEA strategies and aligned with EU standards. This plan demonstrated Moldova’s commitment to inclusive disaster management, with active CSO involvement, including Red Cross which opened a new branch in Soroca specifically to support these efforts. CSO participation established clear mandates, enhancing a coordinated response framework.

Moldova has also set a regional benchmark with its NDRA process. A working group formed NDRA guidelines that were legislated at the time of the reporting, with full adoption expected by late 2024 or 2025, aligning with the UCPM standards. However, challenges remained in interagency coordination, SOPs standardization, and staffing limitations, which continues to hinder the full realization of a modern civil protection system.

Work Package B: Knowledge Transfer

Moldova has made notable strides in knowledge transfer and capacity-building, equipping its civil protection authorities with critical skills in EU-aligned disaster response, including INSARAG guidelines and HNS protocols. Since joining the

UCPM, PPRD East 3's training has been key in aligning Moldovan civil protection with EU best practices.

A ToT model developed, skilled Moldovan trainers who now lead sessions aligned with UCPM standards, creating a sustainable knowledge base and fostering continuous skill enhancement. By adopting EU best practices, these trainers elevated national standards and improved responder capacity.

Participation in the UCPM exercises and activities has also built a network of Moldovan civil protection experts, allowing to operate cohesively with EU and regional counterparts. This progress has positioned Moldova to fully integrate European standards, ensuring high preparedness and interoperability within the broader European disaster response community.

Work Package C: Emergency Preparedness

Moldova has advanced emergency preparedness by prioritizing local and transboundary readiness, integrating EWEA strategies to ensure early risk assessments inform proactive response plans.

The Soroca Emergency Response Plan, a pilot initiative, integrated meteorological thresholds and action triggers from the State Hydrometeorological Service, enabling timely, preventive actions. This model aligned with the Emergency Planning Guidelines, national methodologies, and EU best practices, setting a high standard for replication across Moldova.

The Soroca plan also involves CSOs in risk assessment, scenario planning, and readiness, strengthening community engagement and enriching response frameworks with local insights. These methodologies extend to the national flood management plan for the Dniester River, incorporating precise EWEA mechanisms for timely responses to transboundary flood risks. The plan's effectiveness was tested in TTX exercises to improve coordination among various agencies.

Moldova's commitment was evident in GIES's proactive approach, embedding EWEA into emergency plans, and shifting toward resilience-focused disaster management through structured planning, capacity-building, and cross-border coordination.

Work Package D: Civil Protection Agency Development

Despite gaps in the legal framework and SOP development, the programme advanced interagency coordination. For example, GIES's Soroca Emergency Plan fully integrated EWEA strategies, with clear roles for civil protection, local government, the new Red Cross branch, and CSOs.

At the national level, the programme supported NDRA guidelines to align risk assessment practices with European standards, establishing a framework for coordinated risk assessment among institutions. A milestone in interagency coordination was SHS's first participation in the final TTX, marking a step toward operational synergy.

Public awareness campaigns have further promoted disaster preparedness and resilience. While Moldova has made progress, further standardizing SOPs and aligning frameworks with UCPM standards remain priorities.

Work Package E: All-of-Society Civil Protection

WP E has strengthened Moldova's disaster resilience by integrating CSOs and expanding civil protection volunteers, building a community-centred disaster management framework. As a result, CSOs now actively engage in risk assessment, scenario planning, and response coordination, ensuring that local insights shape emergency plans. The Moldovan Red Cross has been central in these efforts, particularly with a new branch in Soroca focused on flood response. This branch, supported by training and capacity-building, enhanced local response capacity, serving as a model for other regions.

This all-of-society approach not only strengthened Moldova's civil protection network but also established a sustainable framework for community engagement in disaster management. By embedding CSOs and the Red Cross into emergency planning and response processes, Moldova has built a resilient foundation that leverages local expertise and resources, further aligning with European civil protection standards.

Work Package F: Regional Cooperation

A key advancement under this work package was GIES's participation in the FSX, a step toward aligning Moldova's disaster response with the UCPM standards. The FSX allowed GIES to simulate response module deployment alongside EU and neighbouring country teams, testing Moldova's capabilities in a structured international framework.

This exercise highlighted strengths and areas for improvement in logistics, coordination, and SOP alignment, giving Moldovan teams practical experience in cross-border cooperation. Participation underscored the importance of standardised procedures and strengthened Moldova's commitment to UCPM standards. Engagement in the EoE Programme further expanded Moldova's DRM network for ongoing collaboration with European civil protection experts.

Work Package G: Early Warning Systems

An important advancement under this WP was integrating EWEA strategies and risk assessments into Moldova's emergency planning, in collaboration with WP C and WP

H. This integration ensured early warnings translation into immediate and preventive actions. By embedding EWEA principles into local and national plans, Moldova advanced toward a proactive disaster management system focused on preparedness and timely response.

A key achievement was enhanced coordination with SHS, improving early warning protocols and hazard forecasting accuracy. This collaboration shaped the Soroca emergency and Dniester flood management plans, models of EWEA integration, with meteorological thresholds triggering specific actions. These plans boost local readiness and showcase Moldova's capability to implement impact-based early warning in high-risk areas.

However, gaps remained in institutional frameworks, SOPs, staffing, and technical skills, limiting Moldova's capacity to fully operate a cohesive national EWS. Addressing these issues is essential for realizing a fully functional EWS.

Work Package H: Risk Management Capabilities

At the start of PPRD East 3, Moldova lacked a standardized NDRA process. WP H has since played a key role in developing this framework, aligning Moldova's DRM policies with EU standards as per Law No. 112/2014. Government Decision No. 391 (14-06-2023) designated GIES to lead NDRA efforts, with WP H supporting the creation of a formal NDRA methodology, which was in the approval process at the time of the reporting. This methodology aligned with UCPM requirements, setting the foundation for Moldova's DRM—a vital step for Moldova as a new member of the UCPM.

National risk assessment methodologies were further developed to local ones. For example, the Emergency Plan in Soroca encompassed DRA elements, especially for at-risk groups, reflecting Moldova's inclusive approach aligned with the Sendai Framework. During the TTX, flood hazard maps from the Dniester River flood management plan highlighted Moldova's progress in integrating risk data into emergency actions, demonstrating IBF for early warning and preparedness.

WP H integrated gender, human rights, and environmental considerations into the NDRA process, with annexes ensuring data is disaggregated by sex, age, and disability for more inclusive risk assessments. This aligned Moldova's approach with European best practices, enhancing resilience for all societal groups.

The tools introduced by WP H improved Moldova's capacity for DLD collection and multi-risk assessments, providing a comprehensive view of hazards, exposure, and vulnerabilities. This enhancement supported data-driven decision-making, enabling efficient resource allocation and targeted interventions for DRR. Improved access to risk assessments and hazard maps also supported integrated emergency planning,

equipping responders and authorities with essential preparedness information across pilot areas.

Cross-Cutting Issues

In Moldova, CCIs activities emphasised gender-sensitive approaches, inclusivity, and stakeholder engagement in disaster preparedness and response. Efforts were made to integrate civil society organizations, including women's groups, into emergency planning processes to ensure diverse perspectives and local knowledge were considered. Additionally, public awareness campaigns and training sessions promoted community resilience by addressing social vulnerabilities and fostering cooperation between government agencies and non-state actors.

Furthermore, policy recommendations were developed to mainstream gender equality and human rights principles into Moldova's civil protection framework. Specifically, these actions are reflected in the revision of emergency plans and the emphasis on creating disaggregated datasets to enable civil protection authorities to assess risk and vulnerability more effectively in the municipality of Soroca. In this regard, it is also worth mentioning that the NDRA guidelines and the Emergency Planning Guidelines, which supported Moldova in drafting its national NDRA framework methodology, include specific parameters focusing on CCI. These parameters have been incorporated into the national guidelines, which are currently under approval.

5.2.5 Ukraine

Ukraine's participation in the programme during Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine showcased the SESU's resilience and dedication to disaster preparedness. A key achievement was Ukraine's entry into the UCPM, enhancing alignment with EU standards and cross-border emergency capacity.

Through WP C and WP E, supported by CRI's presence in Ukraine, SESU advanced multi-hazard planning and integrated civil society, especially the URCS, into preparedness efforts. The IBF system has further enabled timely warnings, underscoring Ukraine's strides toward a resilient, inclusive and internationally aligned disaster management system.

Work Package B: Knowledge Transfer

Ukraine has made substantial progress in adopting European civil protection standards, a key step since joining the UCPM. This membership granted access to EU resources, training, and operational support, enhancing Ukraine's alignment with EU norms. Participation in UCPM activities has refined Ukraine's understanding of European

standards, including INSARAG protocols, EU SOPs, and HNS guidelines, boosting its response capabilities and cross-border coordination.

The ToT model has been instrumental in creating a skilled, sustainable workforce for EU-standard civil protection training in Ukraine. The SESU's active involvement in several EoEs activities has further strengthened its capacity and alignment with EU best practices.

Work Package C: Emergency Preparedness

Supported by PPRD East 3 through CRI, Ukraine has developed SOPs to improve coordination between the URCS and SESU, ensuring efficient collaboration during large-scale emergencies. The creation of a National Emergency Operations Centre for URCS further strengthens rapid response capabilities. Joint trainings and the FSX in Georgia reinforced teamwork between URCS volunteers and CRI.

Ukraine's multi-risk emergency planning incorporated the IBF system at the time of the reporting, which provides targeted daily bulletins that inform humanitarian and emergency responses on defined exposed elements (Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and logistic assets) in the country. WP C also prioritised trans-boundary planning, especially with Moldova, leading to flood risk plans for regions like Vinnytsia and Soroca and discussions on cross-border emergency protocols.

SESU and URCS delegations participated in exchanges with the Department of Civil Protection of Italy, aligning Ukraine's emergency preparedness with EU standards and fostering collaboration in light of Ukraine's UCPM membership.

Work Package D: Civil Protection Agency Development

WP D advanced inter-ministerial coordination in Ukraine, strengthening collaboration among meteorological institutions, SESU, and CSOs. Enhanced SOPs and defined roles within its civil protection framework have improved integrated response efforts. While challenges remain in fully aligning with UCPM requirements, significant progress was made in training duty officers for proper assistance requests.

Work Package E: All-of-Society Civil Protection

Under WP E, Ukraine expanded its civil protection volunteer network, integrating local organizations like the URCS and academic institutions in emergency planning processes. This all-of-society approach has enhanced disaster resilience by incorporating diverse perspectives into civil protection efforts. For example, URCS has strengthened local resilience by conducting community risk assessments and integrating community needs into disaster preparedness plans.

A key achievement was establishing new URCS regional branches in high-risk areas, supported by PPRD East 3, serving as hubs for volunteer training, community

outreach, and local emergency coordination. They also served as essential links between national emergency services and local communities, ensuring effective grassroots disaster preparedness and response. Moreover, CRI's presence strengthened coordination between SESU and URCS, aligning URCS Emergency Response Teams with national response plans for cohesive emergency response.

Work Package F: Regional Cooperation

Regional cooperation under WP F was key to Ukraine's strategy, enhancing HNS protocols for efficient crisis resource mobilization. Participation in multinational exercises, like the FSX in Georgia, tested these protocols and highlighted improvements in logistical coordination. Moreover, joint flood response planning with Moldova for the Dniester River showcased Ukraine's readiness for coordinated cross-border operations.

Work Package G: Early Warning Systems

Under WP G, Ukraine made significant progress in establishing a multi-hazard EWS, crucial for managing natural and conflict-related risks. The programme improved coordination between SESU and UHMC with international partners (Joint Research Centre, ERCC, WMO, ECMWF), strengthening scientific and operational collaboration. The IBF approach, refined through regular online consultations, addressed the needs of vulnerable groups, including IDPs. Due to this, SESU and humanitarian responders now relied on IBF bulletins as a critical tool. UHMC has formally requested its continuation, reinforcing Ukraine's commitment to proactive DRM and alignment with UCPM standards.

The myDEWETRA platform was introduced to expand EWS capabilities, particularly for wildfire monitoring, with data for fire risk forecasting. Although Ukraine's participation in live training sessions was constrained, the SESU and UHMC received recorded trainings and platform access, allowing them to incorporate data into their existing protocols to enhance fire response. The platform's advanced functionality is expected to improve operational efficiency in managing wildfire risks, a critical step given Ukraine's vulnerability to both natural and human-induced fires.

In the later stages of the programme, synergies with future demining projects were explored, leveraging PPRD East 3's multi-hazard mapping and EWS advancements. This collaboration could expand the EWS to include demining alerts and other post-conflict hazards. However, persisting challenges in staffing, SOPs, and technical capacity at SESU required ongoing support to establish a resilient national EWS.

Work Package H: Risk Management Capabilities

Through WP H, Ukraine has structured its DRA and multi-hazard mapping to align with the UCPM standards. A National Working Group was established to drive NDRA

processes, providing capacity building for government, academia, and civil society, and enhancing the country's overall risk assessment capabilities. Moreover, the group also crafted a detailed roadmap for NDRA implementation, prioritizing areas for development and aligning with Ukraine's existing legal framework.

Training initiatives that emphasised practical and interactive learning, focused on scenario development, GIS-based mapping, and included cross-cutting issues like gender and sustainability. The training sessions reinforced the importance of inclusive and sustainable DRM with materials designed for long-term use by local institutions. A key achievement was a transboundary flood risk scenario for the Dniester River, developed with Moldova, enhancing cross-border coordination and resource sharing. The initiative underscores Ukraine's alignment with UCPM expectations, emphasizing an approved NDRA as a foundation for effective DRR.

WP H also improved Ukraine's multi-hazard mapping for risks like floods, wildfires, and UXOs, that strengthened the ability to manage overlapping hazards effectively, especially in conflict-affected regions. As a result, the use of GIS for hazard, exposure, and vulnerability assessments enables Ukraine to conduct rapid mapping in real-time emergencies, supporting prevention, preparedness, and response phases. Future efforts should enhance procedural coordination and integrate advanced technologies, like drones, to support data sharing in complex scenarios.

Cross-Cutting Issues

In Ukraine, CCI activities under the PPRD East 3 programme emphasised gender-sensitive and inclusive disaster risk management approaches, particularly in response to the ongoing conflict. Efforts were made to ensure the participation of the Red Cross Society, including women's groups and representatives of vulnerable communities, in emergency preparedness planning. A key initiative was the integration of disaggregated data in multi-hazard mapping, helping civil protection authorities assess risks and vulnerabilities more effectively, particularly for conflict-affected and marginalized populations. Furthermore, the programme supported the development of an IBF bulletin to enhance early warning capabilities, ensuring that gender and social vulnerabilities were considered in risk communication. In fact, the initial matrixes of impact of specific hazards (low temperatures, rain, etc) where structured focusing on the impact of IDPs and mainly children, women and elder people. This granted a focused approach and supported SESU in the development of structural analytical frameworks focusing on societal vulnerabilities.

5.2.6 Regional activities of the programme

The PPRD East 3 programme's regional activities fostered collaboration among Eastern Partnership countries through a range of exercises, training sessions, and shared planning initiatives. These activities not only enhanced the technical skills of civil protection actors but also significantly strengthened transboundary emergency management and preparedness.

Full-Scale Exercise and Host Nation Support

The FSX served as a cornerstone for training civil protection teams on HNS and refining transboundary protocols. The exercise allowed participants to practice large-scale deployment scenarios, sharing protocols for mobilizing resources and managing cross-border aid. This exercise was instrumental in reinforcing HNS guidelines established in prior phases and allowed Georgia to test its ability to host and coordinate foreign assistance, while other countries tested their deployment and coordination capacity. Azerbaijan’s helicopter deployment for the exercise, for example, provided a practical test of cross-border aviation protocols, underscoring the value of real-world simulations for refining HNS mechanisms. Ukraine sent a URCS team despite Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, once again demonstrating the country's copying capacity. GIES’s team come with its wildfire module via land testing also border crossing and customs clearance protocols. Armenia sent a CBRN module composed of 20 people.

Impact-Based Forecasting Collaboration

Moldova and Ukraine exemplified successful regional collaboration through their joint work on the IBF initiative. This collaboration involved meteorological services from both countries, focusing on building shared EWSs. This collaboration continued with the beginning of discussions around the necessity of better planning to manage flood risks along the Dniester River, discussions which were unfortunately halted due to the exacerbation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine. Nevertheless, the programme facilitated meetings and technical exchanges, helping both countries establish forecasting tools that consider both natural and conflict-related hazards, providing critical, timely alerts to both civil protection organisations.

Transboundary Cooperation between Georgia and Armenia

Regional collaboration extended to Armenia and Georgia, where discussions have begun on forming a technical working group for transboundary data sharing and coordination during emergencies. This effort reflected a growing commitment to proactive planning for regional crises, with both countries focusing on wildfire and flood risk management along their shared border. Workshops held under the PPRD East 3 framework helped to outline preliminary strategies for real-time data transmission, enhancing communication flow and interoperability between Armenian

and Georgian civil protection agencies. The workshop and TAMs, conducted with both countries present in the pilot areas was followed by a high-level coordination meeting between MIA and EMS where the basis of such a coordination were launched paving the way towards the renewal of existing, albeit outdated, bilateral agreement on cross-border emergency response.

Emergency Planning Workshops

Workshops focused on emergency planning played a pivotal role in shaping cross-border preparedness. Examples of successful transboundary integration included the Emergency Management Plans in Soroca and Borjomi, both of which incorporated early warning triggers and collaboration with neighbouring countries. Plans for areas like Telavi and Stepanavan further highlighted the importance of considering transboundary impacts, allowing PCs to manage complex, regional emergencies in a structured and integrated way.

Table Top Exercises

Each TTX was designed around transboundary scenarios, focusing on testing bilateral communication between countries. These exercises allowed civil protection agencies to evaluate their capacity for real-time information exchange and data-sharing practices essential for cross-border emergencies. TTXs underscored the importance of clear protocols for managing multi-national incidents and tested the effectiveness of pre-established communication links.

Exchange of Experts

The EoE Programme provided Eastern Partnership countries a direct exposure to EU civil protection practices. Participants observed operational frameworks in different EU Member States, allowing for knowledge sharing on topics like the emergency planning, volunteerism, and cross-border response strategies. The EoE Programme was particularly valuable for fostering relationships between national and regional civil protection teams, promoting a mutual understanding of procedures.

UCPM Training on 24/7 Duty Officer Mechanisms

Through UCPM training, PCs learned about duty officer mechanisms crucial for early warning response. These activities aimed to ensure a reliable system for real-time communication and collaboration, further enhancing regional resilience to disasters. As a result, countries were encouraged to improve their own 24/7 operational protocols and facilitated bilateral discourse.

Given the overall political situation, the fact that PPRD East 3 was able to successfully conduct regional activities was not given for certain. Careful planning and the implementation of practical actions showing the advantages of fostering such agreements allowed to cultivate a cooperative environment where shared protocols,

joint exercises, and cross-border data-sharing initiatives, which are now foundational elements of disaster preparedness across the Eastern Partnership. This regional framework has laid the groundwork for sustained collaboration in addressing future emergencies with shared resources and aligned strategies.

5.2.7 Cross-cutting Issues

Outputs and impacts

The integration of CCIs became a strategic priority early in the programme, marking a shift from previous phases where CCIs were not systematically incorporated. This required developing new methods, entry points, and defined roles, as many experts were initially less familiar with embedding CCIs in DRM. Although most PCs had legal frameworks for CCIs, the systematic integration of gender, human rights, and environmental considerations was initially assessed as low.

With a modest budget for CCI Advisors, the strategy focused on embedding CCIs through WP experts by providing technical support, enabling them to incorporate CCI aspects into their activities. Capacity building for WP experts was crucial, as CCI Advisors trained and co-developed tools with them. Initially met with some hesitation, experts became progressively confident in addressing CCIs independently.

Throughout the programme, specialised CCI resources, tools, and guidance documents were developed to aid capacity building and practical application. These outputs have strengthened PCs' capacities to integrate CCIs in DRM, leaving a lasting impact. Key outputs and impacts are outlined below.

- **Practical Guidelines for Integrating Gender, Human Rights and Environmental Issues in Disaster Risk Management with supporting e-learnings.** The Practical Guidelines have served as a foundational resource for integrating CCIs across the programme. Developed collaboratively with WP experts and based on global and EU standards, these guidelines have been essential for CCI Advisors and WP experts in guiding the practical integration of CCIs into WP activities, resources, and methods. Shared extensively with PCs and wider civil protection community, the guidelines have been a cornerstone in dialogues around CCI importance and application. Additionally, two e-learning modules based on the guidelines were created, enabling PCs to continue building internal CCI capacities beyond the programme. As legacy documents, the Practical Guidelines and e-learnings support ongoing capacity strengthening in PCs and offer a model for similar DRM programmes.

- **CCI annexes to NDRA Guidelines.** In collaboration with WP H experts, the CCI Advisor developed two annexes for the NDRA Guidelines (see Annex 21),

outlining key entry points and technical recommendations for incorporating CCIs into multi-risk assessment methodology. PCs received training and coaching on applying these recommendations to their NDRA processes. Notable results include Moldova's draft frameworks for NDRA, which incorporated indicators on environmental impacts, climate change, and accessibility for people with disabilities. Additionally, in Moldova's draft DRM Strategy 2024-2030, inclusive participation from civil society, women, vulnerable groups, and local communities was emphasised. Scenario analyses in Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan also included data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, and ethnicity, as well as environmental and climate change considerations. During the final TTXs, PCs applied this data to EWEA activities, such as needs assessments, crisis communication, and DLD collection. While assessment scores shown progress, discussions after the final TTXs indicated that further capacity building is needed across PCs to enhance these procedures.

- **CCIs in the development of emergency plans.** CCI Advisors contributed to the Emergency Planning Guidelines, providing feedback on CCI, building on the Practical Guidelines. PCs were trained on these guidelines and supported by WP experts to establish or update emergency plans in pilot areas with a CCI focus. Key areas included conducting needs and vulnerability analyses for diverse groups and adapting response actions to address the specific needs of vulnerable populations, such as tailored evacuation procedures. Environmental impact reduction in both short- and long-term responses was also emphasised. As a result, several PCs now have CCI-inclusive emergency plans in pilot areas.

  The plan also emphasised the importance of providing public climate information on drought and frostbite risks. In the Emergency Plan in Soroca, environmental protection and impacts on ecosystems were highlighted throughout. Additionally, Georgia requested targeted recommendations on LGBTQI+ and disability-inclusive DRM, which the Gender Advisor provided. These resources were shared with all PCs, and Georgia reported successful integration of the recommendations into its emergency plans.

- **CCI in knowledge transfer.** Early in the programme, WP B experts, with CCI Advisors' support, set standards for incorporating CCIs into trainings. The PPRD East 3 Training Manual included CCI considerations, and a specific CCI Checklist that was developed to guide training planning. WP experts were encouraged to use the checklist, but not all trainings consistently applied it. To maximise its impact, making the checklist mandatory for all training documentation and ensuring systematic follow-up would have strengthened its integration.

CCI Advisors also led several trainings, including UCPM basic courses and ToTs. Interactive online CCI sessions generated interest, with participants increasingly recognizing the relevance of CCIs.

- **CCIs in the FSX and TTXs.** Integrating CCIs into the planning, implementation, and evaluation of FSX, TbiEx2023, and the final TTXs was a major focus that led to substantial results and insights for the programme. Using the CCI Checklist and Practical Guidelines, the exercises provided a unique opportunity to pilot CCI tools in large-scale training, breaking new ground in this approach. During the FSX, tools supported CCI considerations in logistics, while TbiEx2023 became one of the first EU-funded FSXs to measure and report its environmental footprint. This included carbon emissions from fuel use and simulated forest fires, embodying the "Do No Harm" principle and exploring ways to mitigate disaster-related emissions. A feedback and complaints mechanism for reporting misconduct was also piloted, with plans to expand its use in future programmes.

  Building on the FSX experience, the final TTXs further integrated CCIs, adding CCI-specific scenario elements, injects, and performance evaluations. CCI indicators were assessed, providing evidence for targeted recommendations in the PCs' advisory documents. Two of four PCs achieved top scores for incorporating CCIs in exercises, demonstrating increased capacity. Post-TTX surveys also noted that participants had a better understanding of applying CCI considerations, such as environmental, gender, and vulnerable groups' needs, in EWEA activities. These strategic advancements in CCI integration will be leveraged in future MSB capacity development programmes. Full reports on CCI outcomes from FSX and TTXs are available in Annex 19.

- **Promoting gender equality and women's leadership.** PPRD East 3 has demonstrated a commitment to gender equality, with women comprising 67% of team members, 75% in leadership roles, and 67% as Key Experts. This commitment has encouraged a shift in PCs, with more female representatives participating in and leading technical tasks, such as developing risk assessment methodologies and emergency plans. In celebration of this progress, the programme launched an International Women's Day campaign on 8 March 2024, spotlighting influential women from PCs contributing to DRM and the programme's success (see poster below and article in Annex 22).

Figure 18. Women's Day campaign March 8, 2024

Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Future Programmes

Reflecting on PPRD East 3's integration of CCIs, several key takeaways and recommendations emerge:

- **Synchronised CCI Approach:** Coordinated efforts among CCI Advisors proved effective for partner communication and internal collaboration, promoting peer support, time efficiency, and linking environmental sustainability with Human Rights Based Approach for resilient societies.
- **Utilise Legacy and other supporting Documents:** Resources like the Practical Guidelines were instrumental for dialogue and activities on CCIs. These tools are valuable for ongoing reference and can extend beyond the programme's timeframe for broader DRM use and is accessible via the Knowledge Network PPRD East 3 page.
- **Team Ownership in CCI Integration:** Successful integration requires the whole team's commitment, as seen in the FSX where engaged experts ensured CCI consideration. Regular collaboration between WP experts and CCI Advisors fostered motivation, emphasizing collective progress with slogans like "we're doing this together."
- **Enhanced Physical Presence of CCI Advisors:** Remote support is limited in building strong partner relationships. Increased physical presence of Advisors during key activities would likely have deepened CCI impacts and capacities within PCs.
- **Integrated and Targeted CCI Activities:** Combining CCI integration in all WPs with targeted workshops or mentoring could have further enhanced PC capacities—a need identified by PCs themselves. Future programmes should blend integrated strategies with focused activities.
- **Focused CCI Priorities:** Narrowing CCI work to specific areas, like NDRA methodology, would yield stronger results. Broad integration of CCIs risks superficial engagement; therefore, aligning these ambitions with appropriate Advisor budget would be essential for sustainable outcomes.
- **Role Modelling CCI Values:** Acting as a role model, PPRD East 3 demonstrated CCI values through team diversity and environmental footprint measurement, an approach that should inspire and guide future programs.

5.2.8 Communication

The communication strategy aimed to enhance visibility and foster cooperation among stakeholders through clear and timely updates on programme activities and results. This approach promoted the programme, helping stakeholders and target groups understand its impact and highlighting partners' contributions. Communication efforts focused on ensuring transparency and coordination among consortium partners, EU, and other stakeholders. A dedicated Communication Officer coordinated these efforts in close collaboration with the Team Leader, programme management, and experts, ensuring effective implementation. Additionally, the programme worked with the EU on joint communication activities, adhering to EU visibility and communication guidelines for external actions.

Communication and visibility plan

A Communication and Visibility Plan was developed during the inception phase to ensure effective programme visibility, with the main objectives focused on information sharing and presentation. Primary and secondary target groups were identified, and messaging was tailored accordingly. The plan emphasised inclusive partnership, gender sensitivity, and an environmentally friendly approach.

Guiding principles

All communication and visibility activities within the PPRD East 3 programme have adhered to accurate, fact-based information, employing a people-centred, storytelling approach to highlight individual-level impact, aligned with EU values. Communication activities incorporated gender equality, diversity, and environmental considerations in imagery, language, and audience adaptation, reflecting PPRD East 3's CCIs approach. Emphasis was placed on clear, simple language and consistent terminology. Moreover, all communication activities have focused on cost-effectiveness. Digital platforms complied with the EU's accessibility directive, and plain language was used for public communication[7]. A social media strategy was also developed to guide consortium partners on Facebook and other platforms, including guidelines for gender, diversity, tone, imagery, and personal use.

Graphic profile

The PPRD East 3 graphical profile has been central to the program's visual identity. Its logo and graphical elements build on the phase 2 profile, signalling programme continuity while optimizing time and cost efficiency. The branding slogan, "Together for a safer future," emphasised collective goals with PCs and within the consortium. This inclusive approach has guided the communication strategy, fostered ownership

[7] The Web Accessibility Directive, formally known as Directive (EU) 2016/2102 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies. For more information, please see: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/web-accessibility

and positioned all team members as communication ambassadors through workshops and training sessions. Accessible fonts and the EU-matching blue colour reinforce brand consistency. The logo has been prominently displayed on all documents, publications, websites, and promotional materials to enhance programme visibility and facilitate branding.

Social media presence

A Facebook page was established during the inception phase as the primary platform to reach target groups in the region with timely updates on activities. Consortium partners collaborated by sharing posts and coordinating communication efforts. The social media strategy was developed and implemented to maintain the intended tone, language, and style.

Website

The programme website (pprdeast3.eu), launched at the start of implementation and was updated in January 2024 to meet modern standards and accessibility recommendations. It has served as a platform to promote the programme, presenting WPs, news, activities, and reports. Special attention was given to language and style, using clear, precise terminology aligned with EU standards. The website included partner links and a login tool for programme management and experts.

Press releases

Press releases were issued for major events and activities, distributed to all PCs, EU delegations, and published on the website.

Videos

Videos were produced during the implementation period to promote the programme and highlight its objectives. Additional videos detailed specific activities, such as the hybrid TTX method and the FSX, TbiEx2023[8].

Exit strategy

After programme closure, a final post on the Facebook page will inform users that the programme has ended and that the page will no longer be updated or monitored, with comments disabled to prevent unattended inquiries. The website will be deactivated by the end of 2024, with its URL redirected to an MSB subpage[9] that will provide general programme information and contact details. Additionally, PPRD East 3 will maintain a page on the Knowledge Network platform, where guidelines and results will be accessible[10].

[8] All videos are available on MSB's YouTube channel and accessible via www.pprdeast3.eu
[9] https://www.msb.se/en/operations/international-operations/resilience-building--capacity-development/
[10] See this link for further details: PPRD East 3 programme | UCP Knowledge Network

5.3 Key documents

5.3.1 Legacy documents of the PPRD East 3 programme

During the lifecycle of the programme experts have produced a comprehensive suite of documents that capture the knowledge, methodologies, and tools developed throughout the programme. These documents provide essential resources for continued capacity building, follow up on programme activities, and institutional memory, serving as a foundation to sustain and enhance disaster preparedness and response frameworks in PCs. As these countries continue to integrate with the UCPM and adopt European standards, the legacy documents of PPRD East 3 provide structured guidance, adaptable frameworks, and validated tools to advance their civil protection systems. The documents can be found in PPRD East 3 page in Knowledge Network.

Crisis Communication Guidelines

The Crisis Communication Guidelines (see Annex 15) focus on best practices for managing communication during societal disruptions, emphasizing the importance of timely, accurate, and transparent messaging. It highlights proactive communication to build trust, counter misinformation, and coordinate actions among stakeholders. The document offers models like COM-B for influencing public behaviour and outlines strategies for media engagement and social media usage. It underscores the value of joint stakeholder collaboration to enhance credibility and efficiency in crisis response. These guidelines support actors in developing or complementing crisis communication strategies, ensuring a unified and effective approach.

Emergency Planning Guidelines

The Emergency Planning Guidelines (see Annex 23) offer a systematic approach to developing, reviewing, and updating emergency response plans. These guidelines incorporate EWEA strategies, ensuring that disaster response plans are grounded in risk assessment data and designed for swift activation. Key aspects include the integration of multi-hazard scenarios, alignment with UCPM SOPs, and inclusivity by involving CSOs, volunteers and local stakeholders in the planning process. The guidelines are intended to be adaptable, allowing authorities to tailor response plans to specific regional hazards, such as floods, wildfires, and industrial risks.

Guideline for duty officers' activation of and requests for assistance via the UCPM

These guidelines for duty officers (see Annex 24) aim to facilitate the activation of and requests for assistance through the UCPM. They outline the roles and responsibilities during various phases, including preparedness, indication, response, and deactivation. The document highlights the coordination processes with the ERCC, use of tools like

CECIS for communication, and frameworks like rescEU and the European Civil Protection Pool for resource mobilization. Additionally, it emphasises structured communication, stakeholder collaboration, and best practices for ensuring effective disaster response and international cooperation.

Guidelines for the institution of a national wildfire EWS and establishment of EWEA strategies

The document provides comprehensive guidelines for establishing a National Wildfire EWS and developing EWEA strategies under the PPRD East 3 programme (see Annex 25). It outlines tools, processes, and methodologies for assessing wildfire hazards, forecasting risks, and creating tailored wildfire danger bulletins. Key components include using advanced models like RISICO, leveraging platforms such as myDEWETRA for data integration, and fostering interagency coordination. The guidelines emphasise preventive measures, public communication, and preparedness to ensure timely responses to wildfire risks while enhancing national resilience and meeting the Sendai Framework targets.

National Disaster Risk Assessment Guidelines

The NDRA Guidelines (see Annex 21) were designed to align the PCs' DRA processes with EU standards. These guidelines provide a structured approach for assessing multi-hazard risks, identifying vulnerabilities, and integrating CCIs such as gender, human rights, and environmental sustainability. Tailored to each country's unique context, the NDRA guidelines serve as a blueprint for national and local authorities to conduct comprehensive risk assessments and develop evidence-based risk management plans.

Practical Guidelines for Integrating Gender, Human Rights, and Environmental Issues in Disaster Risk Management

The guidelines offer a detailed framework for CCIs into DRM, guiding the enhancement for institutional capacities in Eastern Partnership countries (see Annex 26). They aim to systematically embed gender equality, human rights, and environmental considerations into DRM practices. Practical strategies are provided across nine key thematic areas, such as training, emergency preparedness, public awareness, and multi-risk assessment. By promoting principles like inclusiveness, transparency, and ecosystem-based approaches, the guidelines strive to build resilience and sustainability in DRM, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Training and Workshop Manual

Training and Workshop Manual (see Annex 27) serves as a comprehensive guide for designing, implementing, and evaluating training and workshop events under the PPRD East 3 programme. It outlines a structured training cycle comprising the needs identification, planning, delivery, assessment, and evaluation, while emphasizing

consistency and quality. The manual provides templates and methodologies for on-site, online, and hybrid events, including participant selection, gender balance, and environmental considerations. It highlights the integration of CCIs such as human rights and environmental perspectives. Practical tips for logistical arrangements, safety, and the use of digital tools like Moodle ensure effective and cohesive training delivery across diverse contexts.

5.3.2 MyDewetra and e-learning

To ensure the sustainability of key disaster management actions implemented under the PPRD East 3 programme, it has been agreed that, through the CIMA Research Foundation, the MyDewetra platform will remain fully operational and accessible at no additional cost to the PCs after the programme. This continued service includes all essential operational models, such as the RISICO wildfire model, susceptibility maps, fireline intensity maps, and hazard assessments. Additionally, advanced tools like the wildfire propagator and the wildfire bulletin remain available to support early warning and response activities. Should a country require further customization or maintenance, these services can be facilitated through bilateral Service License Agreements (SLAs) tailored to specific national needs.

The programme also ensures ongoing access to e-learning resources. The e-learning training modules developed under the programme will remain available on CIMA's Moodle platform, allowing PCs' staff to continue accessing essential knowledge and training materials independently.

These provisions reflect a commitment to sustaining the programme's results and avoiding an abrupt discontinuation of critical services, especially in countries where the platform and tools—such as Georgia, Moldova, Armenia, and Ukraine—have been integrated into official SOPs and Emergency Management Plans. By providing access to both MyDewetra and e-learning resources, the programme continues to strengthen each country's capacity for long-term, resilient disaster management aligned with European standards.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation (2020-2024)

Chapter six explores the PPRD East 3 programme's evaluation processes and outcomes. It begins with providing an outline of the reflection exercises held throughout the years followed by an overview of key performance indicators, that details expected and unexpected results of the programme. Ensued part comments on progress per PC to provide a country-specific analysis of achievements and remaining challenges compared to baseline assessments. The chapter also outlines planned and used resources, discussing the programme's budgetary adaptations and resource management amidst external challenges. Finally, lessons learned summarises critical insights from implementation, offering recommendations for future programmes.

6.1 Reflection Exercises

The PPRD East 3 programme conducted four rounds of reflection sessions to evaluate progress and identify areas for improvement in building disaster resilience across PCs. Each reflection round had a different focus but all utilised a two-stage process: individual WP sessions, followed by PC interviews, closed by a plenary session to cement the recommendations and agree on actions. The reflection sessions provided an instance to look back on the work done in the inter session period (6-12 months) and allowed the PCs and experts to voice issues or challenges faced. The table below presents the dates of the reflection sessions held in the programme.

Table 8. Reflection meetings

Partner Country's reflection meetings				
Reflection Cycle	**1st**	**2nd**	**3rd**	**4th**
Armenia	14-Oct-22	8-May-23	5-Oct-23	12-13 Aug 24
Azerbaijan	-	-	5-Oct-23	6-Jun-24
Georgia	7-Oct-22	31-May-23	9-Oct-23	2-Aug-24
Moldova	18-Oct-22	10-May-23	6-Oct-23	13-Sep-24
Ukraine	-	-	15-nov-23	12-Sep-24
Work Package's reflection meetings				
Reflection Cycle	**1st**	**2nd**	**3rd**	**4th**
Work Package B	9-Oct-22	12-May-23	2-Oct-23	16- Jul-24
Work Package C	10-Oct-22	24-Apr-23	2-Oct-23	26-Jul-24
Work Package D	18-Oct-22	26-Apr-23	3-Oct-23	09-Aug-24
Work Package E	12-Oct-22	24-Apr-23	3-Oct-23	21-Aug-24
Work Package F	12-Oct-22	-	2-Oct-23	09-Aug-24
Work Package G	10-Oct-22	11-Apr-23	2-Oct-23	24-Jul-2024

Work Package H	10-Oct-22	11-Apr-23	2-Oct-23	24-Jul-2024

The first and second rounds of reflection meetings highlighted notable alignments of programme objectives with PCs national plans, responsiveness to emerging needs, and enhanced utility through tools like wildfire predictive models and expert teachings. Progress was evident through trainings, TTXs, and CSO engagement. Key challenges included geopolitical complexities, language barriers limiting participant selection, and insufficient notice for workshops. PCs' low awareness of long-term objectives risked sustainability. Updated plans, a risk-based roadmap, and greater ownership were essential for results, supported by face-to-face meetings, expert exchanges, and stronger in-country engagement by the programme.

The third round of reflection exercises was conducted as an online survey to gain insights from PCs on their experiences and perspectives. This survey adopted the Specific facilitation framework methodology, a structured approach that guided discussions across four dimensions: Objective, Reflective, Interpretive, and Decisional. This method allowed participants to focus specifically on capacity development and the verification of programme indicators, ensuring that the reflections were both comprehensive and actionable.

The final reflection session of this round concentrated on gathering data for seven specific indicators that required verification directly from PCs. One of these key indicators, for example, assessed the percentage of PCs where the ToT programme's learnings have been applied in delivering further training. This indicator, referred to as WP B.2, was critical in measuring the cascading impact of the ToT programme, as it tracks how well the trained participants were using their acquired skills within their national contexts. Other indicators that required input during this session included B.3, E.4, E.6, F.1, F.2, and F.3. These indicators collectively covered various aspects of programme outcomes, such as the practical application of training modules, the inclusion of civil society in disaster preparedness, and the effectiveness of regional cooperation.

Reflection Session Findings and Results

Throughout the reflection sessions, several overlapping themes and challenges emerged during the programme's implementation. This section outlines these challenges, the adaptations made by the programme, the lessons learned from the reflection meetings, and the recommendations for future similar efforts.

Importance of Strong Coordination

Clear communication and defined roles were essential for effective collaboration between WPs and institutions in PCs. Proper leadership by the Team Leader and WP

leads improved coordination, resulting in well-organised activities across pilot areas. While the reflection sessions played a crucial role in identifying coordination issues, the actual improvements were implemented by the programme leadership and management.

Recommendation: Prioritise clarity in roles and responsibilities as well as consistent communication from the start of the programme.

Human-Centred Capacity Building

Building trust and confidence is essential for sustainable impact, especially for institutional change. Keeping track of participant engagement and obtaining feedback enhanced effectiveness.

Recommendation: Focus on tracking participant engagement across sectors and obtaining direct feedback to enhance the effectiveness of capacity-building efforts.

Need for Centralised Data systems

Centralised data systems are essential for tracking programme progress. A robust framework for measuring programme outcomes with quantifiable indicators was necessary for effective progress monitoring and evaluation. Implementing centralised systems for attendance tracking and collecting feedback can produce valuable data on aspects like gender representation and the uptake of learnings.

Recommendation: Implement centralized data systems for tracking progress and impact in future programs.

Contextualised Approaches and Local Replication

Contextualised approaches in pilot areas yielded valuable insights. National agencies benefited from focused collaboration with local and municipal capacities which extended coordination and learning to address regional needs more effectively. Government agencies began replicating the pilot area processes in other areas, reaching beyond the program's scope.

Recommendation: Tailor activities to local contexts and encourage replication of successful models.

Varying Engagement Levels

Engagement levels varied across countries, with Armenia, for example, serving as a successful model for regional replication. Surveys indicated differences in willingness to engage with experts, capacity levels, and self-assessment practices among the PCs.

Recommendation: The differences underscored the value of sharing experiences to build consensus and engagement in other PCs.

Addressing Capacity Gaps for Sustainability

Human resource and budget constraints in some PCs affected implementation and sustainability of programme outcomes. Long-term use of models, like fire prediction tools, faced limitations due to external constraints.

Recommendation: Address capacity gaps early on to support sustainable programme implementation.

Navigating Bureaucratic and Institutional Barriers
Legal and institutional challenges slowed progress toward certain objectives, with issues in engaging decision-makers and resistance to adopting new practices within government structures delayed progress.

Recommendation: Engage decision-makers early and consider legal realities in programme design.

Managing Language, Cultural, and Contextual Differences
Language, cultural and contextual differences impacted some activities, particularly those involving civil society engagement.

Recommendation: Increase face-to-face interactions, employ translators when needed, and ensure cultural sensitivity in training to improve engagement and outcomes.

Recommendations emerging from reflection meetings

While running recurrent reflection meetings, the programme was able to progressively and proactively incorporate lessons learned into the programme implementation plan which was changed several times not only to withstand external changes but also to reflect a strategic approach ensuring a better alignment between country specific needs and available resources. The table below outlines the key focus areas and the respective activities and strategies recommended.

Table 9. Reflection meetings recommendations

Key focus areas	Strategies
Strengthen Coordination Mechanisms	- Establish clear communication channels and define the roles/responsibilities from the outset. - Implement robust coordination between WPs and PC agencies for enhanced collaboration.
Emphasise Human-Centred Capacity Building	- Recognise trust and confidence among individuals as key for change. - Keep detailed participant engagement records and gather feedback for continuous improvement.
Implement Centralised Data Systems	- Develop a framework with quantifiable indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

	- Use centralised tracking for attendance and anonymised feedback for streamlined reporting. - Focus on pre/post-activity measurements to assess impact and consider reducing indicators for simplicity.
Customise Approaches to Local Contexts	- Tailor programme activities to the cultural and contextual specifics of each PC and pilot area. - Encourage local agencies to replicate successful pilot initiatives.
Address Capacity Gaps Proactively	- Identify resource limitations early and provide targeted support for human resource and budget constraints. - Assist in overcoming non-technical challenges for long-term sustainability.
Anticipate Bureaucratic and Institutional Challenges	- Design programs with realistic objectives that consider legal and institutional barriers. - Engage key decision-makers early and develop strategies to reduce resistance to change.
Enhance Communication and Cultural Sensitivity	- Improve pre-training coordination and set clear agreements for follow-ups and deliverables. - Increase face-to-face interactions to navigate cultural differences and boost motivation.
Replicate Successful Models	- Analyse successful cases, like Armenia's approach, for potential replication in other regions to enhance programme effectiveness.

6.2 Expected and unexpected results – overview of key performance indicators from log frame matrix by work package

This section provides an overview of the PPRD East 3 programme's indicators, which measure both expected and unexpected results from the past four years, beginning with impact and outcome indicators linked to the programme's overarching objectives, followed by a short assessment for each WP. Each indicator includes a description, baseline or target, end-line values, and explanations of data limitations or qualitative insights, highlighting achievements and areas for improvement.

Table 4. Impact indicators

Level	WPs	Indicators	Target	End line
Impact	OO1.1	Extent to which Sendai Framework targets are met in each of the Eastern Partnership countries	**Increase**	Armenia: reports all 13 global targets of which 39% show improvement Azerbaijan: - Georgia: (7) 86% Moldova: - Ukraine: (10) 60%
Impact	OO1.2	# of deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters, per 100,000 population (Sendai indicator A-1)	Baseline 2005 - 2014 Azerbaijan: 11.62 Armenia: - Georgia: 1.67 Moldova: - Ukraine: 0.02 **Target: Decrease**	End line 2015 - 2024 Azerbaijan: 46.6 Armenia: - Georgia: 45.42 Moldova: - Ukraine: 22.99 **All countries increased**

Both impact indicators face similar challenges in their reporting. Firstly, it is important to note that data availability varies significantly among countries, with some lacking comprehensive reporting to the Sendai framework i.e., Azerbaijan and Moldova completely lack data, while Ukraine has reported 10 and Georgia 7 indicators.

The second point is related to the Sendai Framework's design. Due to the relatively low frequency of disasters indicators are designed to be comparable over decadal intervals. Therefore, to properly report on these indicators we would need to compare 2015-2025 to the decade of 2025-2035. The values shown below compare the past decade and the decade involving the programme.

Furthermore, during the programme’s lifespan, the world saw the insurgence of COVID-19 (included in Sendai indicator A-1) which accounted for a surge in deaths across the globe. Given these limitations, and the fact that the changes promoted within the programme will take years to be converted into legal frameworks covering the entirety of the country and then fully operationalised, both impact indicators cannot currently represent the impact of the programme, nor the work done by the team.

Table 11. Outcome indicators

Level	WPs	Indicators	Target	End line
Outcome	O1.1	# of TTX evaluation recommendations integrated in national work plans or equivalent, disaggregated by the Eastern Partnership countries	Armenia Azerbaijan Georgia Moldova Ukraine	Armenia Azerbaijan Georgia Moldova Ukraine
Outcome	O2.1	# of people per 100,000 that are covered by early warning information through local governments or through national dissemination mechanisms (Sendai indicator G-3)	BASELINE 2020: Armenia: 0.7 Azerbaijan: - Georgia: 0.8 Moldova: - Ukraine: 0.9	ENDLINE 2023 Armenia: 0.9 Azerbaijan: N/A Georgia: 0.5 Moldova: 0.7 Ukraine: 0.9
Outcome	O2.2	# of multi-sectoral and cross-border emergency plans available, created with a participatory approach ensuring that multiple voices and needs where taken into account	2	4 Armenia (Stepanavan) Georgia 2 (Telavi + Borjomi) Moldova (Soroca)
Outcome	O2.3	Extent to which EWSs are effective/efficient and inclusive	1	4
Outcome	O2.4	Extent of increased use of hazard mapping and visualisation tools in disaster preparedness	2	5
Outcome	O3.1	# of times assistance is provided among Eastern Partnership countries and/or with UCPM countries (per year)	1	12
Outcome	O3.2	# of times that Eastern Partnership countries activate the UCPM in justified circumstances or bilaterally channel international assistance to Member States/Participating States	-	Armenia: 1 Azerbaijan: Georgia: 1 Moldova: 8 Ukraine: 9
Outcome	O3.3	# of UCPM funded programmes/projects in which the Eastern Partnership countries participate as partner or beneficiary	21	37

O.1.1 Recommendations were gathered through expert estimates in a survey directed to all work package leads. Systematic collection of these recommendations posed challenges, as national plans are often not shared or may be confidential. To assess how these recommendations were integrated into national plans, relevant questions

were raised during reflection meetings following the FSX, the final round of TTXs, and the Final Conference (see Annex 28 Final Conference Meeting Minutes). The responses were generally positive, demonstrating the comprehensive integration of programme elements into civil protection strategies. Focal Points reached a consensus in these meetings, noting that, through the programme, PCs have directly experienced the advantages of transitioning from a response-oriented to an EWEA oriented civil protection mechanism. Additionally, they confirmed that practices piloted within specific regions were being integrated and replicated on a national level.

O.2.1 This indicator shows an increase in the population covered by EWS, with the programme supporting growth by enhancing national EWS capacities in alignment with the four EWS pillars outlined by WMO and UNDRR guidelines.

O.2.2 The selected pilot areas were located in transboundary regions, inherently supporting cross-border collaboration. However, active cooperation in plan design was limited in conflict-affected region. Nonetheless, transboundary collaboration occurred in various forms:

- **Planning**: Emergency plans incorporating transboundary elements were developed in border areas, such as between Georgia/Armenia and Ukraine/Moldova.
- **Exercises**: TTXs tested bilateral communication flows and protocols, while the FSX facilitated updates to HNS SOPs. For example, Georgia updated its SOPs to permit Azerbaijani helicopter flights within its territory.
- **Workshops**: These involved all PCs and established the foundations for technical working groups, particularly between Ukraine/Moldova and Armenia/Georgia.

Note: The Azerbaijani government reported developing the emergency plan of Gabala in line with guidance from training sessions and workshops. However, the plan remains confidential due to state security considerations.

O.2.3 As a result of the programme, four countries have EWS plans that incorporate CSOs and sub-national civil organizations and response groups, with the exception of Azerbaijan. However, not all countries have fully operationalised their EWS, and the impact of EWS will become more evident over time.

- **Progress by Country**: Armenia has fully operationalised its wildfire EWS and established multilevel operational EWEA strategies, Georgia and Moldova have integrated EWEA mechanisms into their plans and were undergoing national reforms to establish official mandates and responsibilities essential for

enacting such systems. At the time of the reporting, Ukraine is using IBF to support humanitarian interventions.

Furthermore, as reported by PCs during the final conference, these EWS tools and capacities have been successfully used in actual emergencies by the mentioned countries, yielding positive outcomes.

O.3 The third outcome indicators (O3.1, O3.2, and O3.3) are intended to measure improvements in regional cooperation; however, real activation and assistance depend on the occurrence of actual disasters within the programme timeframe, which is outside the programme's control. The programme focused on testing these activations, achieving a total of 12 test activations during the FSX and TTX for O3.1.

Work Package A

WP A focused on strengthening governance and coordination for disaster resilience. It covers areas, including stakeholder engagement, capacity-building efforts, and integration of cross-cutting issues like gender and environmental sustainability.

Table 52. WP A indicators

Level	WPs	Indicators	Target	End line
Output	A.1	# of SC meetings organised	4	5
Output	A.2	# of thematic WGs established	5	7
Output	A.3	# of National Advisory Group meetings organised per year per country	2	10
Output	A.4	# of TTXs carried out	10	12
Output	A.5	# of environmental analysis carried out within PPRD East 3	1	1
Output	A.6	# of gender and human rights analysis carried out within PPRD East 3	1	1
Output	A.7	# of roadmaps for integration of cross cutting issues in PPRD East 3	1	1
Output	A.8	#of supportive tools for integrating cross cutting issues in programme, developed and launched within the PPRD East 3	1	1
Output	A.9	# of exit strategies developed	5	5

The programme demonstrated strong performance, surpassing targets in several areas. Five Steering Committee meetings were conducted (target: 4) to address challenges both external challenges and to further programme commitments and stakeholder engagement. Seven Thematic Working Groups were established (target: 5), reflecting adaptability, though overlapping groups were streamlined for efficiency. National Advisory Groups exceeded expectations with 10+ meetings per year (target: 2 per country annually), fostering stakeholder alignment and tailored interventions. Twelve TTXs were conducted (target: 10), emphasizing practical capacity building. Key

analyses—environmental, gender, and human rights—were completed, ensuring sustainability and inclusivity. A roadmap and supportive tools integrated cross-cutting issues into DRM frameworks. Finally, five exit strategies were developed and incorporated into the Advisory Notes for each PC, ensuring smooth transitions and sustainable outcomes for PCs, emphasizing capacity building and governance.

Work Package B

WP B focused on training and capacity building, including ToT programs, integration into national systems, and the implementation of learning objectives. It also highlights strategies for sustaining DRM practices and enhancing regional interoperability.

Table 6. WP B indicators

Level	WPs	Indicators	Target	End line
Outcome WP	B.1	% of participants evaluate that they can use the ToT learning in their own work	75%	86%
Outcome WP	B.2	% of PCs where ToT learnings are utilised in the delivery of trainings	100%	100%
Outcome WP	B.3	# of national trainers, disaggregated by sex and location, that have applied learning in the development of training modules and/or online training modules	3	16 females / 30 males
Outcome WP	B.4	# of participants of the ToT are utilised in the planning and delivery of the TTX/FSE	3	9
Outcome WP	B.5	% of training participants that reach the learning objectives of the training (ToT, UCPM Basic, UCPM Operational, UCPM High Level, HNS, DRM), disaggregated by the thematic of the training	75%	100%
Outcome WP	B.6	# of relevant staff with an understanding of UCPM, after completing programme training activities	52	56
Outcome WP	B.7	% of participants in trainings covering the thematic areas that have reached the learning objectives	85%	90%
Outcome WP	B.8	% of PC national points of contacts and activity participants can identify the main functions of UCPM KN	50%	NA
Outcome WP	B.9	% of PPRD East 3 electronic training material is moved to further utilisation into the UCPM KN portal	100%	100%

Note: endline results are mostly deducted by surveys. These were not filled up by all the participants and were mostly anonymous. Hence variations and divergences might incur.

The PPRD East 3 programme achieved significant outcomes in its training and capacity-building efforts. A notable figure, 86% of participants reported applying ToT learning in their work (target: 75%), enhancing practical DRM skills. All PCs integrated ToT methodologies into national training programs (target: 100%), ensuring

consistent regional knowledge transfer. Exceeding expectations, 46 national trainers (target: 3) developed training modules, promoting gender inclusivity and strengthening local training capabilities. Nine ToT participants (target: 3) were actively involved in exercises, improving emergency preparedness.

Training programs achieved a 90+% success rate in meeting learning objectives (target: 75%), reflecting the curriculum's effectiveness. Fifty-six staff members (target: 52) were trained in UCPM practices, enhancing interoperability. E-learning training courses and all relevant material were transferred to the CIMA Foundation Moodle platform to allow trainers to further access them in the incoming years ensuring replicability and sustainability. In addition, legacy documents (such as integration of CCIs in DRM and emergency planning guidelines, as well as Inception Reports of PPRD East 3) were available on the PPRD East 3 page on the Knowledge Network. Overall, these outcomes underscore PPRD East 3's success in building sustainable, high-quality DRM capacity across PCs.

Work Package C

WP C aimed at enhancing capacities for emergency response planning in PCs. Each indicator was designed to measure specific aspects of emergency response strategies, focusing on inclusivity and environmental considerations.

Table 7 WP C indicators

Level	WPs	Indicators	Target	End line
Outcome WP	C.1	# of country-specific recommendations given on methodological development for emergency response planning using an all society-inclusive - and environmental mainstreaming approach, to the PCs	3	20+
Outcome WP	C.2	# of national, Emergency Response plans (existing or drafted within the project) tested through exercises	3	4
Outcome WP	C.3	# of domestic (intra-country) response plans outline that include an all society-inclusive and gender sensitive approach.	3	4
Outcome WP	C.4	# of domestic (intra-country) gender sensitive response plans outline that include an environmental approach	3	4
Outcome WP	C.5	# of protocols for integrating risk data in emergency response planning processes developed, with a special focus on vulnerable groups	3	5
Outcome WP	C.6	# of response plans including interagency coordination approaches	5	4
Outcome WP	C.7	# of sub regional recommendations given on methodological development for emergency response planning, using all	5	15+

		society-inclusive approach and environmental concerns, to the PCs		
Outcome WP	C.8	# of transboundary Emergency Response plan(s) drafting processes initiated in an all-society inclusive and environmental mainstreaming approach	1	3
Outcome WP	C.9	# of transboundary Emergency Response plans (existing or drafted within the project) tested through exercises	1	4
Outcome WP	C.10	# of transboundary emergency response plans outline that include an all society-inclusive and gender-sensitive approach	1	4
Outcome WP	C.11	# of emergency response plans outline that include an environmental approach	1	4
Outcome WP	C.12	# of response plans including interagency coordination approaches	1	4

Note for C.2, C.3, C.4, C.5, C.10, C.11, C.12: the team was not able to verify the plan of Gabala due to information-sensitivity. Nonetheless, the MES confirms that the revision was conducted following PPRD East 3 guidelines. Given the impossibility to access and assess it, the plan of Gabala was not included in the above indicators.

The PPRD East 3 programme exceeded its targets for emergency response planning and capacity building. Over 20 country-specific recommendations (target: 3) were delivered, emphasizing inclusivity and environmental mainstreaming in line with the Sendai Framework. Four national emergency response plans (target: 3) were tested through TTXs, improving interagency coordination and identifying gaps. Four gender-sensitive, society-inclusive response plans (target: 3) and environmental-integrated plans (target: 3) were outlined, enhancing sustainability.

Five protocols for integrating risk data into emergency planning (target: 5) were developed, focusing on vulnerable groups in specific areas (e.g., Soroca, Borjomi). Interagency coordination approaches were integrated into four plans (target: 5), reflecting political challenges and confidentiality restrictions in some regions. The programme also delivered 15+ sub-regional recommendations (target: 5) and facilitated three transboundary emergency response drafting processes (target: 1), including Moldova-Ukraine flood management and Georgia-Armenia wildfire coordination. Testing four transboundary plans (target: 1) further demonstrated the programme's success in fostering cross-border collaboration for disaster preparedness.

Work Package D

WP D focused on enhancing operational capabilities for emergency management through improved duty officer functionality and interagency coordination. Each indicator measures specific elements critical to effective emergency response, emphasizing collaboration, inclusivity, and the implementation of best practices.

Table 15. WP D indicators

Level	WPs	Indicators	Target	End line
Outcome WP	D.1	% of country-specific recommendations for duty officer functionality (based on the local needs and the UCPM best practices) applied or process initialised	70%	100%
Outcome WP	D.2	# of SOP's developed or revised on operational 24/7 contact points	5	5
Outcome WP	D.3	# of simulations of duty officer networks organised	3	13
Outcome WP	D.4	# of sustainable inter-institutional coordination mechanisms for emergency planning developed/re-formatted/re-activated per PC	5	20
Outcome WP	D.5	# of meetings of interagency coordination mechanism, inviting all relevant organisations	60	100+
Outcome WP	D.6	# of SOP's developed/revised where interagency coordination procedures are adopted/applied	5	13
Outcome WP	D.7	Communication strategy developed in cooperation between different relevant actors, with special attention to gender, human rights and climate change impacts and risks.	1	1
Outcome WP	D.8	# of relevant state and non-state actors engaged in planning of public awareness campaign	10	10
Outcome WP	D.9	Extent to which messages materials and channel chosen are targeting all groups of society, and channels are inclusive. With the materials including aspects of environmental and climate change perspectives	Inclusive materials, target groups and channels	Material is inclusive, using multiple inclusive channels to target all society groups

The PPRD East 3 programme significantly exceeded its targets in strengthening emergency response coordination and public awareness. Duty officer functionality was fully implemented or initiated (target: 70%, end line: 100%), supported by five SOPs and 13 simulations (target: 3). These efforts enhanced operational readiness and real-time response coordination. Over 20 institutional coordination mechanisms (target: 5) and 100+ interagency meetings (target: 60) reinforced collaboration among diverse stakeholders. Thirteen SOPs (target: 5) were developed for wildfire EWS, emergency plans, and duty officers, ensuring synchronised interagency actions.

A comprehensive communication strategy incorporated gender, human rights, and climate change considerations. Ten state and non-state actors (target: 10) collaborated on public awareness campaigns to address broad societal concerns. Inclusive materials and channels were developed, integrating climate resilience and environmental perspectives to target all societal groups. This holistic approach fostered robust emergency response frameworks, interagency coordination, and community-level preparedness, emphasising inclusivity, sustainability, and in line with the Sendai Framework priorities.

Work Package E

WP E focused on expanding the role of civil society and volunteers in DRM, aiming to build a more inclusive and resilient civil protection framework. By training volunteers, involving CSOs, and formally integrating these groups into civil protection systems, the programme enhanced community-based disaster preparedness.

Table 8. WP E indicators

Level	WPs	Indicators	Target	End line
Outcome WP	E.1	# of volunteers (men and women) increased their competence through training in civil protection (planning, DRR, public awareness, etc.)	15	200+
Outcome WP	E.2	# of participation of volunteer-based organisations in civil protection (planning, DRR, public awareness, etc.)	2	9
Outcome WP	E.3	# of programme activities in which at least one representative of CSOs participates (e.g., trainings, exercises, interventions, awareness campaigns, etc.)	30%	90%
Outcome WP	E.4	# of recommendations/guidelines on the inclusion of civil society in civil protection system applied in PC's	5	5
Outcome WP	E.5	# of CSOs formally recognised as part of the civil protection system	5	5+
Outcome WP	E.6	# of country specific roadmaps for the inclusion of civil society in the civil protection system	5	5

The programme exceeded targets in enhancing civil society involvement in disaster management. Over 200 volunteers were trained (target: 15), equipping communities with practical DRR and emergency response skills. Nine volunteer-based organisations (target: 2), including Red Cross societies, actively participated in DRR and emergency planning, strengthening national and local resilience. CSOs contributed to 90% of programme activities (target: 30%), reflecting increased recognition of their value in disaster preparedness and response.

The programme developed five guidelines (target met) to formalise CSOs roles in civil protection, providing strategies for capacity-building and collaboration. More than five CSOs (target: 5) were officially recognised within national frameworks, empowering them to contribute to preparedness and response efforts. Additionally, five country-specific roadmaps (target met) were created to enhance CSO integration, outlining actionable steps for sustained civil society engagement. These achievements underscore the programme's commitment to fostering inclusive, community-driven disaster risk management systems aligned with Sendai Framework principles.

Work Package F

WP F focused on regional cooperation by strengthening cross-border collaboration, improving HNS procedures, and expanding international professional networks through the EoE programme and regional activities such as the FSX. The outcomes aimed to enhance preparedness and response capabilities in complex, multi-country disaster scenarios, supporting the programme's overarching goal of increased resilience and interoperability among Eastern Partnership countries.

Table 17. WP F indicators

Level	WPs	Indicators	Target	End line
Outcome WP	F.1	% of EoEs Programme’s participants have increased the understanding of cooperation in an international environment and apply in work	75%	100%
Outcome WP	F.2	% of Participants in EoE Programme that has applied knowledge gained in parent organisation	70%	100%
Outcome WP	F.3	% of participants in EoE programme that has increased their professional networks as a result of the programme	75%	100%
Outcome WP	F.4	# of hot wash-up session and Lessons Learned workshop of FSX	2 (1 Hot Wash-up and 1 LL)	17 (15 Washups and 2 LL)
Outcome WP	F.5	Extent on how environmental perspective is included in exercise scenarios of the regional TTX and FSX	3	3
Outcome WP	F.6	Extent on how human rights perspective is included in exercise scenarios of the FSX	4	0
Outcome WP	F.7	% of recommendations regarding improved HNS procedures, applied or process initialised	10%	100%
Outcome WP	F.8	% of recommendations regarding improved deployment of national rescue capacities abroad, applied or process initialised	10%	-100%

Outcome WP	F.9	% of recommendations regarding improved capabilities and procedures to execute rescue operations together with other international rescue teams applied or process initialised	10%	100%-
Outcome WP	F.10	% of recommendations regarding improved capabilities and procedures on how to work in the framework of international response operations applied or process initialised	10%	100%

The programme surpassed expectations in fostering international cooperation skills and knowledge transfer. All participants (target: 75%) reported enhanced understanding and application of international standards in DRM, reinforcing cross-border coordination. Additionally, 100% of participants applied knowledge in their home organizations (target: 70%), leading to improved protocols and response strategies. Professional networks expanded for all participants (target: 75%), creating lasting connections for regional resilience.

The programme conducted 17 hot wash-up sessions and lessons-learned workshops (target: 2), enabling real-time feedback and continuous improvement. Environmental considerations were included in three exercise scenarios (target met), promoting eco-sensitive disaster management. However, human rights perspectives were not integrated due to complexity concerns.

Challenges arose in measuring recommendations on HNS and international coordination (target: 10%), as inconsistent documentation and legal differences complicated progress tracking. Despite this, evidence suggests adoption of recommendations both during the deployment of teams and modules during the FSX and during emergencies occurred during the lifespan of the programme (i.e. support to Turkey during the 2023 earthquake, wildfire in Georgia 2023, refugee influx to Moldova from Ukraine in 2022). Lessons learned sessions where organised to support knowledge exchange and reflections. Future programmes should focus on tailored indicators to address diverse country-specific contexts and capacities.

Work Package G

WP G focused on EWS and aimed to enhance DRM capabilities across Eastern Partnership countries by integrating advanced early warning mechanisms, building institutional capacities, and embedding climate change and environmental considerations into emergency planning frameworks. These outcomes underscore the programme’s commitment to proactive disaster preparedness and the application of scientific expertise in DRM.

Table 18. WP G indicators

Level	WPs	Indicators	Target	End line
Outcome WP	G.1	# of scientific community institutions in programme activities related to Early Warning	5	5
Outcome WP	G.2	# of relevant staff having applied learning or advise from technical assistance on EWS	20	30
Outcome WP	G.3	# of recommendations issued at country level for increased integration of EWS in civil protection legislation/procedures, including CCI aspects	4	20
Outcome WP	G.4	# of countries using EFAS and EFFIS in their DRM procedures	5	5
Outcome WP	G.5	The national EWS operational frameworks for forest fires - comprising preliminary risk assessment, hazard mapping, forecast models and bulletins – are developed and tested	2	5
Outcome WP	G.6	# of open data sets integrated in operational analysis	5	25
Outcome WP	G.7	# of national common standards/guidelines produced to integrate EWEA in emergency planning that include an all society-inclusive, gender-sensitive and environmental mainstreaming approach	3	1
Outcome WP	G.8	# of upgraded emergency plans integrating forest fire risk scenarios and aspects of environment and climate change impacts	3	4
Outcome WP	G.9	# of emergency plans upgraded including EWEA elements	3	4

The programme achieved substantial progress in EWS and EWEA integration. Five scientific institutions collaborated on EWS activities (target met), enhancing hazard assessment and risk modelling, while over 30 staff members (target: 20) applied EWS technical knowledge to national frameworks. The programme provided 20+ recommendations (target: 4) for integrating EWS into civil protection systems, emphasizing climate change adaptation.

All five PCs adopted EFAS and EFFIS for improved flood and wildfire monitoring. Exceeding targets, five wildfire EWS frameworks (target: 2) were developed and tested, and 25 open data sets (target: 5) enhanced hazard mapping and operational analysis. Four emergency plans (target: 3) were updated with wildfire risks, climate scenarios, and EWEA elements, promoting proactive DRM approaches. Although only one EWEA guideline was finalised (target: 3), this underscores the programme's foundation for advancing inclusive, gender-sensitive, and environmentally integrated disaster planning.

Work Package H

WP H focused on enhancing NDRA and DLD capabilities among Eastern Partnership countries. These outcomes underscore the programme's emphasis on embedding systematic risk assessment and data management processes into national frameworks, empowering PCs to adopt more evidence-based and proactive DRR strategies.

Table 19. WP H indicators

Level	WPs	Indicators	Target	End line
Outcome WP	H.1	# of recommendations developed for the advocating for the adoption of NDRAs strategies within the the legal and institutional framework of the member states	5	5
Outcome WP	H.2	# of PCs adopting guidelines addressing in NDRA	2	2
Outcome WP	H.3	# of Roadmaps for NDRA adopted in PC's	2	5
Outcome WP	H.4	# of tools for the definition of wildfire risk scenarios at local scale implemented and adopted	5	5
Outcome WP	H.5	# of working groups established and institutionalised for the implementation of DRA/DLD activities	2	5
Outcome WP	H.6	# of risk scenarios developed for the selected pilot cases	2	5

The programme achieved important milestones in advancing NDRA integration. Five recommendations (target met) were developed to incorporate NDRA into national legal and institutional frameworks, with Moldova notably drafting a national regulation to establish coordinated NDRA procedures by 2025. Two countries, Armenia and Moldova (target met), officially adopted NDRA guidelines, ensuring standardised risk assessment practices.

Exceeding targets include the adoptions of NDRA roadmaps in five PCs (target: 2), outlining structured plans for risk assessment integration. The propagator model was implemented in all countries (target: 5), enabling tailored wildfire risk scenario development and proactive preparedness measures. Five working groups (target: 2) were institutionalised to manage risk and loss data, promoting sustainability and evidence-based DRR actions.

Additionally, five risk scenarios (target: 2) were developed for pilot areas, providing actionable insights for local preparedness and mitigation. These scenarios, tested in TTXs, enhanced local resilience and demonstrated the programme's commitment to data-driven, localised DRR strategies.

6.2.1 Comments on progress per partner country in respect to baseline

The intervention logic of the PPRD East 3 programme progressed through a series of exercises to assess and develop civil protection capacities over four years. The initial round of TTXs established baseline values by evaluating participants' knowledge and skills in key areas corresponding to the programme's objectives. The FSX, conducted mid-implementation, offered an overview of progress made and the current status of capabilities. Finally, the last round of TTXs assessed the overall implementation and impact of the programme. These final exercises incorporated the full spectrum of activities and used Bloom's Taxonomy to align with EU standards like those in MODEX exercises. This shift allowed a more detailed evaluation of cognitive skills, including analysis and problem-solving, rather than just verifying the existence of tools or procedures.

While a general qualitative comparison between baseline and endline results is possible, a direct numerical comparison is not fair or valid. The final TTXs were inherently more complex and demanding, reflecting four years of development and incorporating national and local capacities on systemic elements such as plans, EWS, and interagency coordination. Additionally, the assessment methodology evolved: the final TTX used a different rating scale and an updated taxonomy, making the two sets of results not directly comparable. The assessment teams also changed over time, introducing variables in how evaluations were conducted. Consequently, the scope and focus of the final TTXs broadened significantly, evaluating higher-order cognitive abilities like problem-solving when faced with unexpected situations. Despite these differences, the programme clearly fostered improvement, and the final TTXs provided valuable insights into both national and regional capabilities. What follows highlights key improvements and identifies areas for further development, supported by detailed assessment reports and Advisory Documents which are annexed to this report for further and more detailed consultation. For each country a few good practices have been identified and are reported below.

Armenia

During the initial TTX, Armenia encountered several challenges, such as limited interagency coordination, minimal application of SOPs, and an underdeveloped EWS for wildfires. Additionally, the overall analytical capacity of the Ministry of Emergency Situations (main civil protection authority at the time) required enhancement. By the final TTX, notable progress was evident also in view of the institutional changes in civil protection. Coordination within and between agencies had significantly improved, SOPs were implemented effectively, and the wildfire EWS was fully integrated into emergency plans at both national and local levels. For the first time, Armenia also coordinated across all administrative levels to incorporate

EWEA protocols and improve risk identification processes and this was visible in the TTX. It is worth to mention that the endline TTX in Armenia was conducted during a real emergency in the pilot area which demonstrated a high coping capacity of MIA and also allowed the observation of real-life emergency management skills and HNS capacities of the country.

Good Practices Identified:

- **Enhanced Analytical Capacity of MIA**: The Ministry adopted advanced tools and methodologies, enabling more data-driven planning and timely responses to emergencies.
- **Full Integration of Wildfire EWS**: Integrating the wildfire EWS into emergency plans ensured rapid, coordinated actions across agencies, reducing response times and mitigating wildfire impacts.
- **Cross-Border Cooperation**: Armenia is the promoter of joint emergency management strategies with Georgia, during the TTX it demonstrated its enhanced capacity to manage transboundary risks and coordinate responses.

Azerbaijan

When Azerbaijan conducted its baseline TTX in June 2022, several gaps emerged, including a limited EWS, underutilised SOPs, as well as limited interagency coordination and insufficient involvement of CSOs in emergency preparedness. Decision-making processes relied heavily on broad regulations rather than detailed operational guidelines. By the 2024 TTX, even if the country experienced a limited implementation of the programme, significant improvements were observed. Interagency coordination was strengthened, and information sharing during early warning and mobilization phases became more effective. The AzRCS played an active role in local emergency operations centres, enhancing civil society's contributions.

Good Practices Identified:

- **Enhanced Interagency Coordination**: Clear communication channels among stakeholders supported more efficient early warning, decision-making, and response actions.
- **Civil Society Integration**: The AzRCS's active role in emergency operations strengthened community engagement, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Georgia

Georgia's baseline TTX in October 2022 highlighted several shortcomings, including gaps in the formalised EWS, lack of interagency collaboration and comprehensive SOPs, as well as minimal involvement of CSOs in emergency planning. Challenges in information management, risk assessment, and HNS procedures were also identified. By 2024, Georgia had made substantial progress. The EMS updated the Borjomi Emergency Management Plan (inexistant in 2022) and of Telavi, clarifying roles and responsibilities. Improved interagency collaboration brought together government entities, the Georgian Red Cross Society, the Forestry Agency and NEA. Communication protocols were enhanced, the concept of EWEA became more robust facilitating early activation of response measures, bonding them to inputs deriving from different scientific organizations.

Good Practices Identified:

- **Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans**: Improved planning and coordination among national and local stakeholders enhanced preparedness and response.
- **Civil Society Engagement**: The Georgian Red Cross Society's involvement improved community engagement and ensured better support for vulnerable populations.
- **Interagency Coordination**: The integration of environmental, hydrometeorological, and emergency response agencies into coordinated frameworks established stronger collaboration and improved decision-making processes.

Moldova

Moldova's baseline TTX revealed issues such as an underdeveloped EWS, limited interagency communication, and inadequate SOPs. The integration of CSOs, such as the Red Cross, in disaster management was minimal, and the application of HNS frameworks required practical improvements. By the final TTX, Moldova had made strides in disaster management. Coordination among agencies and stakeholders improved significantly, supported by structured SOPs. Advances in the EWS enabled data-driven decisions and early activation of preventive measures. Moreover, the national disaster management plan was updated, providing clearer guidance at all levels. The active involvement of CSOs and local communities strengthened the system further.

Good Practices Identified:

- **Structured Coordination and SOPs**: Enhanced communication and defined roles improved operational efficiency during emergencies.
- **Adoption of NDRA Methodology**: Moldova adopted a new national NDRA methodology, greatly enhancing its ability to identify and prioritise disaster risks and improve risk-informed decision-making.
- **Soroca Plan Excellence**: The Soroca Emergency Plan exemplified best practices in EWEA integration, enabling proactive and timely disaster responses.
- **CSO Integration**: Greater involvement of volunteer organizations added critical support during the planning process and in the tested emergencies improving the overall civil protection capacity.

Ukraine

Ukraine's baseline TTX highlighted limited SOPs, weak interagency coordination, and insufficient integration of EWS into disaster management. CSOs, including the URCS, were underutilised, and HNS capacities required further development. The final TTX, conducted under challenging conditions, showcased resilience and progress. Collaborative exercises involving the URCS, UHMC, SESU, and international partners improved flood response readiness and interoperability. Training emphasised real-world scenarios, integrating forecasting with humanitarian demining processes to address multi-hazard challenges.

Good Practices Identified:

- **Improved Interoperability**: Coordination between SESU, URCS, UHMC and international teams enhanced communication and role clarity.
- **Adaptive Training Methods**: Innovative approaches combining forecasting and demining operations demonstrated adaptability to complex emergency scenarios.

6.3 Planned and used resources

The PPRD East 3 programme has effectively implemented its planned activities, showcasing its resilience and adaptability in the face of significant challenges. Despite the unforeseen obstacles caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia’s war of

aggression against Ukraine, the programme was able to maintain progress and meet its strategic goals by modifying the format of its activities as needed. This achievement is a testament to the programme's adaptive approach in its planning and resource management.

Throughout the programme period, cost savings were realised due to various factors. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a reduction in travel, resulting in lower-than-anticipated expenditures in travel-related budget categories. These savings exceeded the allowable 10% threshold for budget transfers, prompting the need for a formal amendment to the grant agreement. Furthermore, operational priorities were recalibrated to focus on digitalization, enhancing the European dimension, and ensuring effective programme implementation.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine significantly impacted the programme's operations, requiring budgetary changes to align with the adapted activities. Additionally, the non-participation of Belarus provided an opportunity for budget reallocation, allowing for increased engagement in other PCs, thereby enhancing the programme's reach and impact.

To reflect these developments, a first grant amendment was requested in May 2022. This amendment incorporated an updated strategy and activity plan to accommodate the new realities and ensure the continuation of effective programme delivery. A second grant amendment followed due to further budget reallocations that exceeded 10% in some cost categories. These changes were driven by a combination of cost savings and an expanded scope of work within several WPs, which required rebalancing the budget to support programme completion.

The cost savings and budgetary adaptations allowed the programme to remain efficient and effective throughout its implementation, effectively navigating challenges and meeting its goals.

7. Future Directions and Finalization

The PPRD East 3 Programme has demonstrated the importance of cohesive and collaborative efforts across Eastern Partnership countries. The following tailored recommendations provide a roadmap for stakeholders, partners, and the EU institutions to sustain and expand upon the programme's achievements.

7.1 Recommendations to stakeholders, partners, and EU institutions (region-wide and country-specific)

The full list of recommendations with detailed explanation, roadmaps and suggested implementation plan is incorporated into the Advisory Documents, annexed to this report. Herewith a short summary with brief explanation of the main recommendations to PCs and national stakeholders, Partners and EU institutions.

Partner countries and national stakeholders

Country	Key Recommendations and Actions
Armenia	**Develop and Implement Comprehensive NDRA**: Establish a working group and update the legal framework to ensure all hazards and vulnerabilities are effectively identified and addressed. **Enhance Wildfire EWS and EWEA Strategies**: Strengthen institutional partnerships in order to implement impact-based forecasting for timely and effective wildfire responses. **Update and Align Emergency Plans**: Revise emergency plans to integrate EWEA protocols at both national and local levels. **Strengthen Cross-Border Cooperation**: Formalise joint exercises and communication strategies with Georgia to address shared transboundary risks. **Engage CSOs in Disaster Management**: Expand the role of the Armenian Red Cross and other CSOs in planning, response, and awareness campaigns. **Improve Interagency Coordination and SOPs**: Enhance collaboration among agencies through standardised SOPs and regular joint exercises.
Azerbaijan	**Advance NDRA Development**: Finalise and institutionalise the NDRA framework, ensuring gender-sensitive and climate-adaptive approaches. **Strengthen Wildfire EWS**: Improve data-sharing mechanisms and refine forecasting tools to enhance early warning capabilities.

	Integrate CSOs into Emergency Plans: Promote the role of the AzRCS in all phases of disaster management. **Enhance Interagency Coordination**: Establish formalised communication channels to streamline coordination during emergencies. **Adopt Comprehensive HNS Procedures**: Develop SOPs for managing international aid requests under the UCPM framework. **Promote Volunteerism in Disaster Management**: Create structured volunteer programmes to support disaster preparedness and response efforts.
Georgia	**Finalise and Institutionalise NDRA**: Strengthen the legal framework and governance for conducting comprehensive DRAs. **Expand EWS for Wildfires**: Integrate impact-based forecasting in the legal framework and improve SOPs for wildfire risk management. **Enhance Emergency Planning**: Continue refining national and local emergency plans to include cross-border risks and EWEA strategies. **Foster Interagency Collaboration**: Align roles and responsibilities across agencies for better disaster management coordination. **Strengthen CSO Integration**: Deepen the involvement of the Georgian Red Cross Society in community-based disaster management initiatives. **Develop Regional Cooperation Plans**: Establish joint exercises and frameworks with neighbouring countries for transboundary emergencies.
Moldova	**Complete NDRA Implementation**: Integrate the newly adopted NDRA methodology into all relevant legal and operational frameworks. **Enhance EWS Effectiveness**: Expand forecasting capabilities and refine the Soroca Emergency Plan as a model for EWEA integration. **Update Emergency Plans**: Ensure emergency plans are tested and updated regularly to address emerging risks. **Strengthen Public Awareness Campaigns**: Use NDRA findings to design targeted awareness campaigns for local communities. **Formalise CSO Participation**: Leverage the Moldovan Red Cross and other CSOs to enhance volunteerism and public engagement. **Improve Transboundary Planning with Ukraine**: Develop and formalise joint emergency response plans to address shared risks.
Ukraine	**Finalise NDRA Framework**: Complete the multi-hazard NDRA process to guide resource allocation and disaster preparedness. **Expand EWS Capabilities**: Integrate impact-based forecasting for complex hazards, including UXOs and wildfire risks into legal framework.

	Strengthen Emergency Planning: Enhance multi-risk emergency plans at all administrative levels, incorporating local and national stakeholders. **Develop Robust HNS SOPs**: Establish detailed procedures for managing international assistance requests under the UCPM. **Bolster Volunteer Integration**: Create long-term volunteer programmes to strengthen disaster response capacities. **Promote Cross-Border Cooperation with Moldova**: Establish joint exercises and agreements to improve coordination during emergencies. **Incorporate Cross-Cutting Issues**: Ensure all DRM activities consider gender, human rights, and environmental impacts.

Partners

Key lessons learned throughout the PPRD East 3 programme are outlined in this subsection, highlighting challenges, successes, and areas for improvement. It examines insights on from the monitoring and evaluation process of the programme, offering recommendations to enhance future disaster resilience initiatives. These reflections were elaborated by the WP leads and PPRD East 3 management team during the Final Consortium Meeting (following the Final Conference).

Reduced number of unique indicators: the major challenges of the programme's monitoring and evaluation process were self-imposed: Setting up a framework with too many indicators to successfully follow up in detail for all of them. Outlining indicators that could not be measured consistently or only after efforts beyond the programme's scope and time frame. The recommendation to reduce the prevalence of unique indicators in favour of common streamlined indicators across the programme activities such as a standardised activity registration, attendance tracking and centralised anonymous feedback to the activities. These would provide the basic operational monitoring, using the administrative process already in place, but standardizing and centralizing their data to provide a visual account of the programme's implementation progress. At the same time reducing the number of outcome level indicators would allow for better measurement of the important progress under each WP, including a baseline and an endline measurements to directly compare progress on specific goals.

Lack of a defined central data management system: systematic collection of the programme activity implementation, participants' attendance, and feedback. Over-focus on output level and lack of baseline collection as a point of comparison but also

as a way of checking if the collection of the indicator was possible or even made sense to the experts.

Balancing IT Security and Functional Collaboration Needs for the Programme Team: A key lesson learned from the programme is the need for IT solutions that balance functionality and security to facilitate smooth collaboration within the team and with external stakeholders. The current IT systems provided by the MSB, shaped by its role in a highly secure government branch, are not fully suited to the dynamic needs of a multi-agency consortium. Outdated cloud-sharing protocols and limited tools for document sharing or task management hinder effective coordination. To overcome these challenges, it is recommended to establish an independent IT system under consortium ownership, providing more agile and collaborative tools while maintaining essential security standards.

Consortium monitoring and evaluation capacity and budget: The PPRD East 3 consortium lead had an advisory approach to M&E. On the other hand, this programme called for a more hands-on and involved approach from M&E to provide effective observations, help the programme leadership to pursue recommendations, and even test possible solutions. This naturally would require a larger percentage of time for an M&E expert to better follow up on activity implementation and achieved results. The M&E expert could be involved in the exercises, workshops, and field missions to be exposed first hand in the engagement with the PCs and provide better informed recommendations. This requires for the consortium lead (as well as the consortium partners) to change the way M&E is done in their operations. A change from a part-time expert providing distant, punctual, high-level recommendations to full-time expert would facilitate a much more hands on M&E.

EU institutions

These recommendations are drawn from the experience of implementing and managing the PPRD East 3 Programme over four years, as well as insights gained during the programme's design and execution phases. While the programme achieved significant successes, the process highlighted areas where additional support and refined approaches from EU institutions could have further enhanced effectiveness. Strengthened coordination mechanisms, more precise and context-driven Terms of Reference (ToR), and better alignment with international and regional initiatives would have provided a stronger foundation for achieving the ambitious goals of the programme. These reflections aim to inform future initiatives, ensuring they are more aligned, impactful, and sustainable.

Ensure Full Coordination Among Active Programmes

The EU institutions should implement mechanisms to enhance coordination between active programmes in the same geographical region. These mechanisms may include

regular inter-programme meetings, joint planning sessions, and shared activity and outcome databases. Enhanced coordination helps prevent duplication, streamline efforts, and leverage synergies for maximum impact.

Coordination with EU Delegations should also be improved by introducing biannual briefings. These briefings would align programmes with local priorities, enhance strategic coherence, and improve information exchange between programmes and EU representatives. Additionally, coordination with international organizations such as the UN and the World Bank should be strengthened. This should occur during the preliminary assessment phase of ToR drafting and throughout programme implementation, ensuring EU Delegation involvement at all stages.

Conducting timely Mid-Term Reviews

For long-term programmes like PPRD East 3, mid-term reviews are essential for evaluating progress, identifying challenges, and revising plans. These reviews should be conducted at least 1.5 years before the programme's conclusion to inform the planning of the final year effectively. Reviews must involve independent experts with relevant technical, thematic and contextual knowledge of civil protection. This ensures actionable feedback that would enable early issue resolution, refined strategies, and optimal resource utilization to achieve better outcomes.

Ensuring Effective Programme Design with Expert-Driven ToR Development

The ToR for a programme like PPRD East 3 should be developed and reviewed by professional civil protection experts with a profound understanding of the context, regional challenges, and technical requirements. Experts with capacity development experience can better define realistic objectives and clarify the efforts and resources needed to achieve them. This approach reduces instances of overly ambitious or vague objectives, which can hinder effective programme implementation.

7.2 Consolidation of Results and Exit Strategy

The PPRD East 3 Programme was meticulously designed to shift focus of disaster management from response to prevention and preparedness. The programme empowered a diverse range of stakeholders—including planners, responders, scientific advisors, and CSOs—to enhance their contributions to DRM systems. Central to achieving these objectives, the programme conducted comprehensive TTX that enabled participants to understand challenges, collaboratively develop solutions, and engage in joint problem-solving. Additionally, ToT initiatives and job shadowing activities were implemented to foster a critical mass of experts capable of replicating

and disseminating acquired knowledge within their systems after the programme's conclusion.

A key legacy of the programme is the comprehensive set of guidelines developed for planning, NDRA, EWS, training, crisis communication, and duty officer operations. These documents serve as essential tools for policymakers, providing clear, actionable recommendations that can instruct significant internal changes within national disaster management frameworks after the programme. By outlining short- and mid-term roadmaps, the documents enable policymakers to implement informed decisions that enhance resilience and operational efficiency. Furthermore, the programme supported the revision of tools—including plans, protocols, procedures, and laws—to ensure they are tailored to national contexts, thereby strengthening each country's disaster management strategies.

The operationalization of MyDEWETRA tools across all PCs has ensured a durable and functional system for generating and disseminating early warning information. Tools such as bulletins, maps, wildfire and meteorological models, and the Propagator model remained fully operational at the time of the reporting, enabling countries to maintain data-driven decision-making processes. The replicability model introduced by the programme served as a blueprint for scaling successful interventions across regions, while the Advisory Documents ensures that these practices were customised to each country's specific needs and contexts.

Through these consolidated results and a structured exit strategy, the PPRD East 3 programme not only achieved its objectives but also created a sustainable foundation for continued development. By assessing through TTXs, fostering collaborative solution-building, training trainers, and developing adaptable guidelines, the programme has equipped PCs with the tools and expertise necessary to navigate evolving disaster risks. This comprehensive approach ensured that the advancements made are enduring, with a critical mass of experts ready to sustain and expand upon the programme’s achievements, thereby enhancing the overall resilience and effectiveness of DRM systems in the region.

Annexes

1. PPRD East 3 staff list
2. Programme Activity Plan 2021-2024
3. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework updated
4. Activity Reports
5. Produced outputs in Armenia based on implementation of activities - 2023-2024
6. Advisory Document – Armenia
7. Assessment Reports
8. TTX Activity Reports
9. Produced outputs in Azerbaijan based on implementation of activities - 2023-2024
10. Advisory Document – Azerbaijan
11. Produced outputs in Georgia based on implementation of activities - 2023-2024
12. Advisory Document – Georgia
13. Produced outputs in Moldova based on implementation of activities - 2023-2024
14. Advisory Document – Moldova
15. Crisis Communication Guidelines
16. Produced outputs in Ukraine based on implementation of activities - 2023-2024
17. Advisory Document – Ukraine
18. CCI activities and outputs (2020-2024)
19. CCIs in PPRD East 3 TTXs Report - Sep 2024
20. Progress towards outcomes (2020-2024)
21. National Disaster Risk Assessment Guidelines (and annexes)
22. Article International Women's Day 2024
23. Emergency Planning Guidelines (and annexes)
24. Guideline for duty officers' activation of and requests for assistance via the EU CPM - with annexes
25. Guidelines for the institution of a national wildfire EWS and establishment of EWEA strategies
26. Practical Guidelines for integrating CCIs (and annexes)
27. Training & Workshop Manual (and annexes)
28. PPRD East 3 - Final Conference Meeting Minutes - 10-11 Sept. 2024