

# LOCAL-DRM Project Dissemination Activities

## PROJECT SUMMARY REPORT

“Strengthening Disaster Risk Management Capability at Local Level”

UCPM-2023-TRACK1-IBA - Technical Assistance for Disaster Risk  
Management

National Civil Protection Agency of Albania

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## Project context and overall objectives

Albania is exposed to a wide range of disaster risks—including earthquakes, floods, wildfires, landslides, technological hazards, and pandemics—which threaten lives, infrastructure, and economic development. While the country has made significant progress in aligning its disaster risk governance with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and national strategic frameworks such as the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023–2030, local institutions often lack the technical, human, and financial resources necessary to operationalise disaster risk reduction (DRR) at the community level.

The project LOCAL-DRM – “Strengthening Disaster Risk Management Capability at Local Level”, funded under UCPM-2023-TRACK1-IBA - Technical Assistance for Disaster Risk Management and implemented by the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA), sought to bridge the implementation gap between national policy and local capacity.

Implemented from January 2024 to June 2025, the project targeted all 61 municipalities and 12 prefectures across Albania. Its objectives were to:

- a) Strengthen local capacities for risk identification, assessment, and emergency planning.
- b) Improve financial preparedness by integrating DRR into budgeting and public financial management.
- c) Enhance public awareness and the visibility of DRR concepts at the local level.
- d) Promote inter-institutional coordination and knowledge sharing between central and local actors.

## Work performed and main achievements

The project was implemented through four Work Packages (WPs), each addressing a key dimension of local disaster risk governance.

### ***Work Package 1 – Project Management and Coordination***

A Project Manager and Finance Manager were recruited to oversee implementation and ensure compliance with EU funding regulations. Key responsibilities included activity planning, reporting, partner coordination, financial oversight, and documentation of progress. A certified external audit was also conducted to verify proper use of funds and ensure financial transparency.

### ***Work Package 2 – Disaster Risk Management Capacity Building***

A national needs assessment was carried out to identify institutional gaps, training needs, and local-level challenges in DRR implementation. Based on this, a structured training curriculum was developed in line with Albania's civil protection legislation.

From December 2024 to April 2025, the project delivered 11 regional training sessions, engaging 435 local government staff from municipalities, prefectures, and other relevant institutions. Participants included professionals from civil protection, emergency services, legal departments, procurement, and planning units.

**Training modules covered:**

- National legal frameworks and local DRM responsibilities under Law 45/2019: Participants reviewed the core provisions of the law, clarifying the specific mandates of municipalities and prefectures in risk governance.

- Identification and assessment of local hazards (floods, earthquakes, fires, etc.). Practical exercises guided participants in mapping and prioritising hazards relevant to their territories.

- Tools for municipal-level risk assessment and emergency planning. Trainees were introduced to standardised templates and methodologies to develop risk scenarios and integrate them into local emergency plans.

- Inter-institutional coordination practices. Case-based discussions demonstrated how municipalities can effectively collaborate with prefectures, line ministries, and first responders during emergencies.

Surveys revealed a 90% satisfaction rate, with 70% of participants reporting increased knowledge and confidence. In select regions such as Lezhë, Berat, and Tiranë, 100% of participants reported an increase in institutional capacity.

***Work Package 3 – Financial Preparedness***

The project initiated a review of disaster-related financial management practices at the municipal level. This served as the basis for a national training program on financial preparedness and DRR budgeting.

Between February and April 2025, training was delivered in all municipalities and prefectures, reaching 354 participants from finance, procurement, civil protection, and planning units.

**Key themes included:**

- DRR integration into local budgeting processes. Participants learned how to systematically include disaster risk considerations when drafting annual and mid-term budgets.

- Public investment planning under uncertainty. The training introduced methods for prioritising and sequencing investments while accounting for potential disaster impacts.

- Mobilising external funding for preparedness. Municipalities explored opportunities to access national contingency funds, donor programmes, and EU financial instruments for DRR.

- Financial risk analysis and mitigation tools. Practical sessions presented approaches for assessing fiscal risks and applying mitigation measures such as contingency reserves or insurance mechanisms.

This effort fostered cross-sector dialogue and provided municipalities with tools to incorporate risk considerations into financial decision-making.

***Work Package 4 – Awareness and Dissemination***

To promote a risk-aware culture and enhance visibility, the project produced:

- 5 thematic mini-videos (general awareness, earthquakes, floods, fires, landslides/avalanches);
- 6 leaflets (five hazard-specific plus one on the project and NCPA);
- 3 practical guides for households, schools, and workplaces.

These were disseminated through social media, NCPA channels, local partner networks, and community events. Printed campaigns and outreach activities reinforced citizen engagement and strengthened the visibility of DRR messages nationwide.

The project also held two national-level events:

- A Kick-off Conference to launch the initiative and engage stakeholders.
- A Final DRM Conference (June 2025) to present project outcomes, share best practices, and issue policy recommendations.

The LOCAL-DRM project engaged more than 750 local officials through capacity-building and outreach, delivering immediate improvements while laying the foundation for longer-term systemic change in local disaster governance.

## **Results and impacts**

It strengthened awareness and ownership of DRM at municipal and prefectoral levels, enhanced technical capacity for hazard assessment and emergency planning, and improved financial preparedness by introducing a standardised training curriculum aligned with national law. The project also fostered closer cooperation between civil protection and finance departments, encouraging a more integrated approach to local risk management.

Public awareness was boosted through wide dissemination of educational content via digital, printed, and community channels, which increased citizen understanding of DRR and reinforced the NCPA's leadership role at national level.

At systemic level, the project highlighted the need for municipal DRR focal points, stronger regional coordination, and lasting technical support frameworks. By creating a replicable model for national-local coordination, it supported Albania's alignment with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The practices and tools introduced are designed to remain embedded locally, ensuring capacities continue to be applied and strengthened beyond the project's lifetime.

## Select Pictures from Project Activities



Figure 1: LOCAL-DRM Kick-Off Conference



Figure 2: WP2 Dibra Training



Figure 3: WP2 Kukës Training



Figure 4: WP3 Lezha Training



Figure 5: WP2 Tirana Training



Figure 6: WP2 Gjirokastra Training



Figure 7: WP3 Vlora Training



Figure 8: WP3 Berat Training



Figure 9: WP2 Korça Training



Figure 10: WP2 Shkodra Training



Figure 11: LOCAL-DRM Final Conference



Figure 12: LOCAL-DRM Final Conference



*Figure 13: LOCAL-DRM Final Conference*