



TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility
for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Annex 2:

TAFF Guide for Applicants – Expressions of Interest



Summary: This guide provides key information about the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Technical Assistance Financing Facility (TAFF) for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness. It is relevant for UCPM members, participating states, and Kosovo¹, interested in responding to the Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for TAFF. This guide provides a summary of TAFF objectives, activities, implementation arrangements, eligibility, procedures for allocating funding and approval of activities, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, as well as communications and visibility. In case of questions, please contact UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org.

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List of acronyms and abbreviations

| | |
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| DG ECHO | European Commission's Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations |
| DRGs | (European Union) Disaster Resilience Goals |
| DRM | Disaster risk management |
| EC | European Commission |
| ECA | Europe and Central Asia |
| EOI | Expression of interest |
| EU | European Union |
| GFDRR | Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery |
| TAFF | Technical Assistance Financing Facility |
| UCPM | Union Civil Protection Mechanism |
| UCPKN | Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network |

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Introduction

The Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (TAFF) is a partnership between the European Commission through its Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the World Bank, and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).² Launched in 2024, TAFF forms part of a range of initiatives focusing on prevention and preparedness led by DG ECHO and the UCPM in line with the below EC policy framework. Per the UCPM financing decision for 2026, the TAFF budget for 2026 is €4 million.

TAFF is a mechanism which allows national civil protection and disaster risk management (DRM) authorities to access technical assistance and global knowledge on prevention and preparedness to support country efforts on DRM. TAFF is aligned with:

- The EU-wide Disaster Resilience Goals (DRGs), with a focus on enhancing UCPM response capacity, strengthening crisis and emergency preparedness of civil protection, improved risk analytics, anticipation and planning, enhanced early warning systems, and increased risk awareness of the population, and findings of the Niinistö Report, as well as the EU Preparedness Union Strategy which aims to boost the EU's ability to anticipate, prevent, and respond to various threats.
- The World Bank's strategy in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region, which focuses on supporting a green transition, building and strengthening institutions, and boosting resilience.
- The GFDRR mission to support communities and countries to reduce risk, prepare for, and recover from disaster by integrating DRM and climate change adaptation into development strategies and programs, and contributing to country efforts in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Objectives

TAFF's overarching objective is to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of countries under the UCPM for disaster prevention and preparedness. This will be achieved by focusing on the following specific sub-objectives:

- **To strengthen the capacity of civil protection and other relevant competent authorities** in scaling up disaster and climate resilience in line with the EU DRGs, the European Green Deal, the EU Preparedness Union Strategy, as well as countries' national priorities.
- **To support investments in disaster prevention and preparedness** through the development of a project pipeline and enhanced administrative capacity.
- **To improve the knowledge base on DRM,** and facilitate the sharing of knowledge, good practices, and information.

TAFF activities focus on four DRGs in particular – Anticipate, Prepare, Alert, and Secure, as shown in the figure below.

² GFDRR is a multi-donor partnership and grant making facility housed within the World Bank. It helps communities and countries understand their climate and disaster risks, reduce and prepare, and to recover after an event.



Types of activities

Activities include various types of analytics, technical studies and recommendations for plans and strategies, piloting of activities, and capacity-building/training activities to strengthen the capacity of civil protection and other relevant competent authorities under the UCPM in scaling up investments contributing to disaster and climate resilience. An indicative list is provided below, with more information in **Annex 5**. A list of ongoing and completed projects is included **Annex 6**.

The expected budget for each activity will range between €250,000–€750,000, with an implementation timeline of 12 to 24 months (potential extension to maximum 30 months in total). Activities outside this range will be considered on a case-by-case basis, please contact UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
|  Anticipate |  Prepare |  Alert |  Secure |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk analytics for DRM planning (e.g., UCPM Peer review) • Critical entities resilience – analytics, good practice, etc • Recommendations for prioritization frameworks (i.e., portfolio assessment; cost/benefit analyses) • National DRM/DRR, prevention or preparedness strategies/ plans • Resilient infrastructure (building regulations, nature-based solutions, climate-proofing, etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk awareness activities • Communication strategies/ actions plans to support inclusive DRM • Capacity-building related to improved risk awareness • Perception surveys • Promote open access to, and utilization of, risk information, data, tools, and analytics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical reviews of EWS and national hydromet systems • System review of climate services provided vis-à-vis user needs, coordination, etc. • Review of hydrometeorological investments • Technical reviews focusing on enhancing human and technical aspects of public warning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparedness and response analytics (i.e., Ready2Respond or UCPM peer review) • Recovery technical reviews & recommendations (i.e., business continuity, SOPs, post-disaster financing, damage & loss systems or methodologies, inclusive & gender responsive recovery, recovery frameworks, etc.) • Trainings, e.g., inclusive first responders |

Implementation arrangements and principles

TAFF is funded by the EU and administratively managed by the GFDRR. Activities are implemented by World Bank teams from the ECA Disaster Risk Management and Urban Resilience Unit, and with the technical support of the GFDRR's global experts. Projects are carried out in coordination with the respective national counterparts, with DG ECHO, and relevant stakeholders involved in disaster and climate resilience in the region.

The **World Bank/GFDRR teams implement activities**, working closely with the beneficiaries to ensure activities are aligned with their needs, the **global Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030**, the **EU DRGs** and the **EU Preparedness Union Strategy**, and the **EU-World Bank shared priorities for disaster preparedness**.

The implementation of activities by World Bank ECA DRM and GFDRR will be conducted taking into consideration the priorities and activities of DG ECHO to ensure added-value and complementarity of the implemented activities under TAFF, and to avoid duplication. TAFF projects are subject to quality-review by the World Bank/GFDRR, and reporting, monitoring, and evaluation procedures.

All activities under the TAFF will be designed taking into account the following operating principles:

- **Promote disaster and climate resilience and sustainable development** – as part of that, also the greening of civil protection sector, in line with shared global, EU, and World Bank efforts.
- **Build country capacity and sustainability** – the TAFF will aim to support countries develop new studies, methodologies, assessments, etc., and it will do so by relying on country knowledge and building capacity on the beneficiary side to be able to build on the results, once the technical assistance activities end.
- **Provide added value to countries' DRM program and coordination with other actors** – e.g., strategic value of activities in the country's DRM program, and close coordination with technical and financial partners already operating in the country on DRM issues.
- **Integrate transversal issues**, such as social inclusion and gender as a cross-cutting element of the TAFF activities, including in its trainings, tools, and knowledge products to the extent possible.
- **Do no harm**, i.e., reduce to the maximum the environmental and social negative impacts of the projects.
- **Promote dissemination of activities and findings** through the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (UCPKN).

Non-eligible activities under TAFF include the following: drafting of legislation, risk assessments for specific assets, feasibility-level studies such as engineering assessments at asset level, developing technical specifications, prioritization of specific investments (asset level), purchase of goods, software development of online applications, websites, or software, etc. Civil works or purchase of equipment are not eligible. The World Bank does not engage in providing technical assistance support on nuclear energy/management of nuclear hazards.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for TAFF Component 1 activities, beneficiaries and affiliated entities must:

- be legal public entities (public bodies)
- be the national level civil protection authority or a national authority with DRM responsibilities of eligible countries
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - **EU Member States:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden
 - **UCPM Participating Countries:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine
 - **Other countries:** Kosovo³ in view of their ongoing efforts to join the UCPM.

³ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Selection of TAFF projects

The selection of TAFF projects is on the basis of Expressions of Interest (EOIs). Relevant criteria and prioritization principles (see Annex 3) are in place to ensure appropriate targeting and effectiveness of implemented activities.

Eligible countries may request country-specific technical assistance through an EOI per agreed template (see Annex 3). Based on evaluation criteria described below, a shortlist of EOIs is prepared by the World Bank and GFDRR team and reviewed with DG ECHO as part of TAFF annual review and planning meeting. The EOIs are accepted on an annual basis within defined timeframes. EOIs outside this range, particularly due to emergency situations, capacity constraints or small scope, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The evaluation criteria for the EOIs focus on (1) eligibility conditions (Yes/No questions) and several key aspects including (2) quality; (3) relevance, and (4) impact. The assessment score for criteria 2, 3, and 4 takes into consideration a minimum pass score for each and across. In case of over-demand, additional criteria will be applied for shortlisting EOIs. The evaluation will only consider information provided in the EOI template as submitted. Applicants should coordinate with World Bank teams before submitting the EOI. Details on the application of the criteria are included in **Annex 4**.

The Call for EOIs will be published on the TAFF webpage hosted on the [GFDRR website](#) and [DG ECHO website](#). In order to be admissible, your EOI should be submitted to UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org, within the deadline stipulated in the call. It is necessary to strictly follow the template for the EOI.

Following EOI shortlisting

For approved shortlisted EOIs, technical assistance proposals are developed by the World Bank and GFDRR teams in coordination with national counterpart(s). Projects are then implemented by the World Bank and GFDRR. The shortlisted beneficiary will be contacted by the World Bank team. The World Bank will lead the development of the technical proposal, based on the EOI, in coordination with the national counterpart(s). The design will integrate the knowledge generation and sharing arrangements to ensure that the beneficiary country retains full ownership of the project and its results. The development and implementation will be done in consultation with relevant stakeholders and DG ECHO, to ensure alignment, added value, and avoid any duplication.

Timeline

The indicative timeline for the selection and implementation of activities is the following:

- **30 January 2026: Launch of the Call for EOI** by DG ECHO and World Bank/GFDRR.
- **12 February 2026: Info Day online**
- **27 March 2026: Deadline for submission of EOIs** by Countries per Template (see separate Annex 3).
- **27 March – 14 April 2026: Shortlisting** by World Bank/GFDRR per agreed criteria.
- **29 April 2026: Approval of shortlist** as part of TAFF annual work plan and budget by DG ECHO.
- **6 May 2026: Official notification on shortlisting** by DG ECHO and World Bank/GFDRR.
- **6 May – 10 June 2026: Proposals developed** by World Bank/GFDRR for shortlisted proposals/countries in coordination with respective counterparts and stakeholders.
- **June – July 2026: Start of implementation of TAFF projects** by the World Bank and GFDRR teams in coordination with respective counterparts and stakeholders.

Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

TAFF follows the standard evaluation requirements outlined in the World Bank Group Financial Framework Partnership Agreement between the World Bank and the EU. A summary report is published on yearly basis. World Bank and GFDRR teams regularly report on TAFF project implementation, and beneficiaries may be asked to join meetings on occasions.

Communication and visibility

All activities financed under the TAFF will clearly indicate that they have received funding from the EU; all program products and events financed under this initiative will carry EU, WB, and GFDRR logos. A dedicated webpage is available for TAFF under the [UCPKN website](#) and the [GFDRR website](#). Key outputs and information will be shared via the UCPKN and may be conducted in collaboration with existing UCPKN initiatives. Beneficiary organizations are expected to disseminate relevant outputs of their projects on their own websites and through their own information channels.