



AZERBAIJAN

Support for Disaster Management

Disaster Context

Azerbaijan is at risk of a range of natural disasters. Earthquakes, landslides, and floods that struck the country over the past decade have reinforced the need to accelerate disaster-management capacities within the country.

The capital city of Baku suffered from a destructive landslide and a major earthquake, measuring 6 on the Richter Scale, both in the year 2000. The earthquake was the first to hit the capital for many decades and it revealed flaws in the national disaster management system.

The recent disasters have demonstrated a need for a viable approach to disaster reduction. UNDP provided training for civil officials, yet this training was an initial step in assisting civil emergency reform.

Project Title

National Programme of the Government of Azerbaijan for Reorganising and Developing the System for Disaster Management Training (AZE/99/001)

Sectors

- Capacity-building through training and public awareness
- Risk and vulnerability assessment
- Preparation of National Disaster Management and Preparedness Plan

Funding

UNDP contributed \$800,000 and the Government of Azerbaijan allocated \$230,000 as cost sharing. Additionally, the Shell Oil Company granted \$30,000 to conduct a series of first aid training courses targeting, primarily, young girls and women.

Partners

- State Emergency Commission
- Institute for Seismology under the Academy of Sciences
- The Ministries of Education, Communication, and Environment
- Shell Oil Company and other private sector representatives
- National NGOs

Programme Activities

The project intervention is focusing on disaster mitigation and preparedness countrywide. Specifically, it aims to assist the Government of Azerbaijan in:

- Drafting a National Disaster Preparedness and Management Plan with accompanying standing orders for all relevant ministries, committees, institutions, and regions, outlining their respective roles and responsibilities
- Establishing national and regional centres to train management staff and to educate the population
- Preparing an inventory of national disaster management capacity together with a complementary database on natural and human-made risks and hazards
- Developing and implement awareness raising programmes at all levels, national, regional, and community
- Enhancing the provision of medical relief and the rehabilitation of disaster victims
- Establishing a National Authority for Disaster Preparedness and Management capable of providing coordination mechanisms in the event of a disaster

Recently, UNDP and the Government of Azerbaijan have initiated expanding the project with emphasis on developing emergency communication and warning system countrywide.

A UN contingency planning workshop held in April 2003 with representatives from UN agencies, international NGOs and the Government. The objective of the workshop was to consolidate a collaborative platform and partnership for improved emergency and crisis management coordination in Azerbaijan.