



BELARUS

National Programme for Disaster Prevention

Disaster Context

The 1986 nuclear power plant explosion in Chernobyl, near the Ukraine-Belarus border, is considered the greatest humanitarian catastrophe in Belarusian history. Twenty percent of Belarus was contaminated by radioactive fallout. Radioactive contamination occurred on 22 percent of agricultural land and 21 percent of forestland. The disaster severely deteriorated Belarusian natural resources and required high expenditures to minimize the dangers of radiation. Today, the focus of the response has moved from humanitarian to developmental aspects.

A hurricane struck the Brest and Minsk regions of Belarus in 1997, causing substantial damage to the economy. In order to assist the Crisis Management Centre (CMC) in acquiring the capacity needed to handle massive emergencies, UNDP approved funding for necessary and training and equipment.

Project Titles

- Strengthening Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Mechanisms to Mitigate the Chernobyl Disaster Consequences (BYE/01/003)
- Establishment of a Crisis Management Centre (BYE/97/004)

Sectors

- Disaster prevention and reduction
- Environment

Funding

UNDP and the Government of Belarus each contributed \$60,000. UNDP contributed \$23,992 from TRAC 1.1.3 funds.

Partners

- State Committee on Chernobyl
- Local authorities and NGOs

- Medical and rehabilitation centres
- CMC of the Ministry of Emergencies
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Programme Activities

- For project BYE/01/003, the following activities were carried out:
 - In 2001, a three-year project was developed jointly by UNDP and the Chernobyl Committee of the Republic of Belarus with the goal partnerships and resource mobilization mechanisms to mitigate the effects of the Chernobyl disaster. The project is considered a platform for joint efforts by the Government, NGOs, donors and international organisations.
 - In mid-2001, a joint UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, OCHA mission was undertaken in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine to identify and develop a strategy for dealing with developmental aspects of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant explosion and mobilize resources from international donors. The report was presented in 2002. Efforts on implementing its recommendations continue.
- For project BYE/97/004, the following activities were carried out:
 - Sophisticated equipment has been purchased, installed and tested at the CMC.
 - A scheme has been developed to integrate CMC computers into a ministerial network.
 - Two databases have been developed: Emergencies in the Republic of Belarus, and Installations Posing Chemical Danger in the Republic of Belarus.
 - Logistical support has been provided by IFRC.