



# GEORGIA

## Disaster Management, Risk Reduction, and Recovery

### Disaster Context

Georgia is a disaster-prone country, suffering frequent occurrences of earthquakes, floods, droughts, landslides and avalanches. The country's current fragile social, political and economic environment, rapid urbanization, concentration of improperly maintained technological infrastructure increase level of vulnerability and largely contribute to the severe impact of disasters.

Institutional disaster management capacities are limited in terms of disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation. The system does not have the resources to respond to even small and medium scale disasters.

The Earthquake in Racha-Imereti in April 1991 killed about hundred people, injured hundreds more and left 100, 000 homeless. Total damage was estimated at \$10 million.

Another Earthquake of April 2002 damaged 5,108 residential buildings in the capital Tbilisi, leaving over 18,000 households with 69,000 inhabitants homeless. The total repair and rehabilitation cost was estimated at \$187 million.

More recent droughts in Eastern Georgia in 2000 and in Western Georgia in 2001 caused great suffering. Agricultural production was disrupted and the country's economy severely affected.

The Georgian government, United Nations, various international organisations and donor countries are currently exerting their efforts to build sustainable national disaster management capacities. UNDP is taking the leading role.

### Project Title

- National Disaster Management Capacity Building Project (GEO/99/012)
- Pilot Rehabilitation Activities for Tbilisi Earthquake
- Drought Relief

### Sectors

- Training and public awareness on disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response
- Policy development
- Institutional strengthening, co-ordination
- National Disaster action plans
- Communications Technologies
- Disaster anticipation, risk and vulnerability assessment
- Equipment for disaster rapid response
- Emergency relief
- Rehabilitation, reconstruction

### Funding

- UNDP TRAC 1.1.3 \$ 600,000 for National Disaster Management Capacity Building Project Government of Georgia \$20,000
- \$ 100,000 Allocated by Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) for Tbilisi Earthquake project
- Donors and the Government of Georgia allocated \$9,719,717 for Drought of 2000 and \$1.735.000 for Drought 2001

### Partner

- Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia;
- Government of Switzerland through the SDC for Earthquake.
- Government of Germany through Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau ("KfW") for Earthquake
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Belgium, ECHO, FAO, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, USA for Drought

## Programme Activities

- National Disaster Management Capacity Building Project

Implementation of the Project started by UNDP in 1999, based on the project document created during the Preparatory stage of the Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP), launched in Georgia in 1997. The project has already achieved a number of considerable results, including the introduction of innovative technologies to the natural disaster management system. The Spatial Information System and GIS-Analyses of geodynamic processes for natural hazards monitoring, developed within the framework of the project, represent the main tool for risk anticipation and will greatly contribute in further risk reduction and mitigation activities.

The disaster management operations expert system is aimed at promoting relevant decision making, proper and prompt planning, as well as rapid and coordinated activities of all relevant structures/players in case of emergency.

A key factor in successful implementation of the project is the strong commitment of the government of Georgia to build sustainable national disaster management system.

The international Disaster Management Team in Georgia was established in December 2001, at the DMTP workshop.

The DMT has conducted the Contingency Planning workshop with the participation of IASC Reference Group on Contingency Planning and the Government. The newly established DMT supported the Government in mitigating the consequences of Tbilisi earthquake of April 2002 by organising joint assessments, providing immediate relief aid to victims, elaborating the international appeal. The DMT maintains joint UNDP/OCHA Support Unit to facilitate day-to-day operation of the Team. In November 2002 the DMT Steering Committee was created with the authority to lead DMT operation. To date the DMT has finalized its internal preparedness measures, including the Contingency Plan (earthquake scenario) and set up a potential Coordination Centre. At present the DMT focuses on the strengthened cooperation with the Government and facilitation of the capacity

building initiatives for the improvement of national Disaster Management System.

- Pilot Rehabilitation Activities for Tbilisi Earthquake

The earthquake of April 25, 2002 left about 69,000 residents of the capital of Georgia, Tbilisi homeless. The cost of repair/ rehabilitation to 5,108 residential buildings classified as unsafe for living was estimated at \$187 million, with \$115.2 million (61.6%) estimated for repair, structural upgrading, and functional improvement of low rise residential masonry buildings, \$15.5 million (8.3%) for essential public buildings, \$41.3 million (22.1%) for other public buildings, and \$15.0 million (8.0%) for rehabilitation of urban infrastructure.

The objective of the project is twofold: to rehabilitate selected educational and health facilities damaged by earthquake while simultaneously establishing and testing pilot mechanisms, which would serve as the verified basis for implementation of similar rehabilitation projects and improvement of seismic protection in the country

The project envisages the establishment of the technical support capacity for the implementation of the pilot rehabilitation activities implementation of pilot rehabilitation projects on the selected priority sites in accordance with seismic safety standards and norms.

Upon request of the Government of Georgia in May 2002, UNDP fielded a consultancy mission to Georgia to assist the Government in assessing the damage and provide the estimated cost of the rehabilitation/repair works. The resulting Expert Report provided the recommendations for seismic protection, reconstruction and planning, disaster preparedness in the City of Tbilisi; suggestions on the proposed structure for development and implementation of rehabilitation programme and elaborated two comprehensive project documents to be used optionally with various donor-funding modalities, such as the World Bank, etc. Simultaneously UNDP launched its own pilot rehabilitation activities in cooperation with the Governments of Switzerland and Germany (through its Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau ("KfW")) aimed at reconstruction of selected

educational and health facilities. The total volume of rehabilitation works planned within the framework of this cooperation exceeds 2,5 Million Euro.

- Drought Relief

UNDP coordinated the response to droughts that affected Georgia in 2000 and 2001. In cooperation with FAO, UNDP implemented a relief programme funded by donor governments and implemented by local and international NGOs.