

ALBANIA

Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness Project

Disaster Context

Albania is vulnerable to a range of disasters, and like several countries in the region, the greatest single disaster threat is that of severe earthquake. In addition, records indicate there is a typical risk across Albania of small-scale disasters related to floods, landslides, forest fires and snowstorms.

Nearly 47 percent of Albanians live below the poverty line. Poor infrastructure and public services, an insufficiently regulated building boom, poor watershed management and a range of other environmental factors compound the vulnerability of the population to disasters.

The political situation in Albania has stabilized since the almost total collapse of public order in 1997, but frequent changes in government still strain institutional memory and the ability of the country to deal with disasters.

Project Title

Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness Project (ALB/01/005)

Sectors

- Risk assessment
- Disaster plans
- Disaster management training
- Strengthening of institutional partners at national and local levels.
- Public awareness and sensitisation

Funding

UK Department for International Development contributed \$932,640. UNDP provided TRAC 1.1.3 sources of \$50,000.

Partners

- Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization
- Other line ministries
- Albanian Red Cross
- Albanian Academy of Science
- Six pilot prefectures (out of 12)
- Various UN agencies and international NGOs

Programme Activities

Between January 2002 and January 2005, the project aims to accomplish:

- A multi-hazard risk assessment;
- Capacity-building for the collection and analysis of data on risks and vulnerability in government and academia;
- Establishment of an operations room at the central government level and a database for planning and coordination (GIS);
- Initiation and facilitation of an inclusive, multi-sectoral disaster planning process at the national level;
- Design of a relevant training curriculum for government and civil society disaster managers in Albania;
- Training of trainers and focal points in prefectures, communes and municipalities
- Operation reviews and simulations.
- Hardware support (mostly IT and communications) to central and local government.
- Partnership between the Ministry of Local Government, Albanian Red Cross and UNDP to strengthen disaster preparedness at the local level.
- Public awareness and sensitisation on most frequent risks and coping mechanisms.
- Development of an inter-agency contingency plan for large-scale disasters.