



Azerbaijan

Support for Disaster Management

Disaster Context

Azerbaijan is at high risk to 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 produced compelling evidence and called 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 Reorganizing and Developing the System for Disaster Management Training

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.

Partnerships

- 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: 1) 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; 2) establishing national and regional centres to train management staff and to educate the population; 3) prepare an inventory of national disaster management capacity together with a complementary database on natural and human-made risks and hazards; 4) develop and implement awareness raising programmes at all levels – national, regional, community; 5) enhance the provision of medical relief and the rehabilitation of disaster victims, and 6) establish a National Authority for Disaster Preparedness and Management capable of providing co-ordination mechanisms in the event of a disaster.

Recently, UNDP and the Government of Azerbaijan have initiated expanding the project with laying emphasis on developing emergency communication and warning system countrywide. Further, the project will be inviting and encouraging the interested donors and potential partners to pull efforts to build on the knowledge and experience gained with a multi-disciplinary, inter-institutional approach based on strategic alliance with national and international partners in Azerbaijan.