GEORGIA

Disaster Management, Risk Reduction, 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, combined with rapid urbanization and an improperly maintained technological infrastructure increase the level of vulnerability and the severity of the 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 100 people, injured hundreds more and left 100,000 homeless. Total damage was estimated at $10 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 was severely affected.

The Georgian Government, United Nations, various international organizations and donor countries are currently exerting efforts to build sustainable national disaster management capacities. UNDP is taking a leading role.

Project Title

National Disaster Management Capacity Building Project

Sectors

- Training and public awareness on disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response
- Policy development
- Institutional strengthening and coordination
- National disaster action plans
- Disaster anticipation, risk and vulnerability assessment
- Emergency relief

Funding

- UNDP contributed TRAC 1.1.3 funds of $600,000.
- The Government of Georgia allocated an additional $20,000.

Partner

- Ministry of Internal Affairs

Programme Activities

Implementation of the project began with 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 considerable results, including the introduction of innovative technologies to the national 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 to 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 for all relevant structures/players in case of emergency.

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