

Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Disaster Reduction Unit (DRU)



Project title:

Disaster risk management project - Tajikistan

Project number:

00034663

Programme components:

Institutional capacity building, national coordination mechanisms and public awareness programmes.

Estimated start date:	1/01/2004
Estimated end date:	31/12/2006
Implementing agency:	UNDP
Partners:	Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES)
Total budget:	1,693,000 US\$
Beneficiary countries:	Tajikistan

General background:

Tajikistan and its people have been in transformation since the country's independence in 1991. The civil war, the overall economic situation and the loss of social services have caused a drastic deterioration in living conditions throughout the country. These economic ills have been further complicated by Tajikistan's geography. As a mountainous, landlocked nation, Tajikistan is prone to a variety of chronic natural disasters: earthquakes, landslides, mudflows, floods, droughts and avalanches. But national response efforts continue to be hampered by a lack of resources as well as poor communication and access to remote areas.

Tajikistan has certain disaster management experience and expertise; during Soviet times, it was at the leading edge of research and mitigation. Today, as the population continues to grow, a dangerous trend has developed: the unchecked proliferation of new communities in disaster-prone areas throughout the country. The government is familiar with many of the high-risk sites, but has been unable to conduct further detailed assessments and mapping due to the lack of human and financial resources.

The UN in Tajikistan will be taking a unified approach to disaster management, combining the mandates of three UN agencies - OCHA, UNDP and UNISDR - in the areas of preparedness, response and mitigation. A post-disaster reconstruction period provides the best time to introduce disaster reduction into sustainable development planning. Therefore, political commitment and social acceptance of the value of risk reduction are necessary to increase the sustainability of communities.

Project summary:

This project is a collaborative endeavour designed to address the serious, chronic problems faced by Tajikistan and its regional neighbours with regard to natural disaster management, comprising preparedness, response, and most importantly, mitigation and prevention. The strategy is to build upon existing relationships and take a national approach to disaster reduction, seeking to involve individuals and communities in reducing the loss of lives, the socio-economic setbacks and the environmental damage caused by natural hazards. The project will increase public awareness to understand risk, vulnerability and disaster reduction, to enhance commitment from public authorities to implement disaster reduction policies and stimulate interdisciplinary and inter-sectorial partnerships, locally, nationally and regionally.

Overall and specific objectives:

To reduce the loss of lives, the socio-economic setbacks and the environmental damage caused by natural hazards in Tajikistan.

Expected results:

- A unified coordination mechanism that fosters national leadership and coordinates all international actors;
- A fully functioning national information and coordination hub that consolidates and analyses information from the field;
- At least 15 local communities take physical measures and organize themselves to mitigate disaster risks;
- At least one national and three regional disaster management capacities initiate inter-ministerial action.

Activities:

- Strengthen coordination between all national and international disaster management actors in disaster preparedness, response and mitigation by providing leadership of the United Nations Disaster Management Team and strengthening the coordinating role of the MES;
- Support the MES in improved hazard assessment,

- including the preparation of hazard maps and the application of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and other web-based data management tools for increased information-sharing amongst government departments and international partners;
- Promote inter-ministerial and regional planning together with the UNISDR Central Asian representative;
- Manage small-scale, community-based hazard mitigation and awareness projects in partnership with Regional MES offices, the UNDP Communities Programme and the national Red Crescent Society;
- Develop the capacity of the MES training centre to provide improved training for staff of the central and regional offices of the MES, especially in the field of hazard assessment;
- Lead international contingency planning efforts. Support the government to gather and consolidate data for a national disaster preparedness plan;
- Develop and promote standards amongst all partners in the fields of hazard assessment, mapping and GIS and training material development. Ensure the sharing of lessons learned and best practices amongst all partners.

Project manager:

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