

Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Disaster Reduction Unit (DRU)



Project title:

Comprehensive disaster reduction programme - Syria

Project number:

SYR/04/010

Programme components:

Crisis prevention and recovery

Estimated start date: 01/09/04
Estimated end date: 01/09/06
Implementing agency: Syrian Ministry of Local Administration and Environment
Partners: UNDP and others
Total budget: 500,000 US\$
Beneficiary country: Syria

General background:

The major natural hazards affecting Syria are drought, flooding and earthquakes. The capacity to deal with natural hazard risk in Syria is still at a fairly low level. In general, Syria is still attempting to put in place basic disaster preparedness functions that are not well developed and need to be strengthened. Also, national planning efforts do not systematically integrate risk reduction concerns into development planning. But although there is awareness of this at the highest political levels, limited national capacity exists to make it happen.

Project summary:

The strategic aims of this project are to strengthen national disaster risk management capacities by reinforcing national institutional and legislative systems. This should encourage its integration, and enhance local level risk management initiatives through the decentralized governorate system while strengthening technical capacities of main stakeholders to sustain the disaster reduction capacity development activities initiated through this project. A comprehensive approach should be devised which concentrates on support towards the preparation of a national strategy for disaster risk reduction. The strategy will emphasize the integration of disaster risk reduction into development issues at the national and governorate levels, facilitate stakeholder participation in this effort, and raise awareness among policy-makers and civil society regarding appropriate disaster risk reduction actions.

Overall and specific objectives

To enhance risk reduction capacities to deal with natural disaster and conflict situations.

Expected results:

- A risk reduction strategy and legislation;
- A team of risk management personnel;
- Increased capacity for conflict resolution.

Activities:

- Develop a national disaster reduction strategy and institutional framework for the implementation of the strategy;
- Support the inclusion of disaster reduction concerns into the tenth national five-year development plan (2006-2010) being prepared by the State Planning Commission;
- Design and implement disaster mitigation projects;
- Mainstream disaster reduction into the CCA and UNDAF process;
- Finalize GIS-based multi-hazard mapping;
- Carry out earthquake risk-mapping and seismic data interpretation;
- Strengthen disaster committees at governorate level through basic disaster management training;
- Train disaster agencies in basic disaster preparedness and emergency response;
- Organize earthquake risk awareness campaigns for the general public and in particular a programme for earthquake preparedness and awareness in schools;
- Participate in the Arab states sub-regional initiative for disaster reduction;
- Organize Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP) workshops;
- Assess the potential for conflict through the application of a conflict development assessment tool.

Work to date

- Recruitment of a project director.
- The government assigned an office for the project at the Fire Fighting Department.
- The office is furnished and equipped.

Project manager:

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- An job advertisement has been placed for a programme assistant and an IT specialist.
- The annual work plan has been prepared and approved.
- A questionnaire has been prepared to be sent to the region.