



UNDP ACTION PLAN ON DRR IN BIH: FROM PROJECTS TO SYNERGY

Developed in 2015

INTRODUCTION

The notion of disaster risk reduction (DRR) has come a long way from emergency response to **disaster risk management** with emergency response now being only one of the components of a broader approach that deals with disaster risk in terms of prevention, preparedness and response.

The year 2015 marked important intergovernmental negotiations on the **post-2015 development agenda, climate change (CC) and DRR**. These negotiations clearly accepted that DRR and CC are closely related and integral parts of the future development agenda. The way DRR and CC are included in future development will, among other things, shape our future. DRR policy framework, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, emphasizes mainstreaming and urges states to invest in **risk-informed and climate-smart development choices** that take the increase in disaster risk and extreme weather events into consideration.

Substantially **increased disaster losses in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)** over the past decades - effects of CC manifested in more frequent extreme weather events such as May 2014 floods - signals that **a comprehensive understanding of DRR by all stakeholders** is a necessity in BiH. Post-disaster periods are an opportune moment to introduce important behavioral changes, from awareness raising to a greater understanding of the importance of prevention and preparedness as opposed to response and recovery. This is why now, **after the devastating May 2014 floods and recovery efforts, investments into DRR is expected to yield the greatest impact** through buy-in of all stakeholders.

The purpose of this paper is to guide UNDP's strategic support to DRR efforts in BiH in a form of a road map to contribute to the achievement the four priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030:

1. Understanding disaster risk
2. Strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "BBB" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

This paper builds on UNDP BiH's lead role during the 2014 floods response and recovery and its strong development programmes that build **UNDP's comparative advantages in the field of DRR** through required field presence, knowledge and expertise in both, sustainable development and DRR.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- I. **All future development activities in BiH should take natural hazards and CC into consideration** based on spatial, multi-hazard assessments and climate scenarios with a focus on the hazards that have the highest exposure, notably floods, droughts, fires, landslides and earthquakes.
- II. **A multi-hazard approach is required.** This is particularly important following the 2014 floods. Hazards such as **seismic risk, fires and landslides** would need more attention in view of the current focus on **floods and droughts**. For this reason specific activities targeting these hazards should be developed as part of the below listed interventions.
- III. Human development is as important as natural phenomena and processes for which reason **vulnerabilities and capacities of people, communities and institutions need to be factored into risk assessments**. Natural hazards and CC affect **vulnerable and marginalized groups** the most. Hence, strategies for disaster risk management should pay special attention to these groups.
- IV. **DRR and CCA need to be mainstreamed into all ongoing and future projects implemented by all UNDP sectors.** DRR and CCA are cross-sectoral strategies that need to influence all development activities in the country. UNDP also plays a key role in motivating other UN agencies and national institutions to **adopt risk-informed and climate-smart development strategies**.

ACTION PLAN / THE WAY FORWARD

1. Understanding disaster risk

Understanding of disaster risk requires proper understating of all the **elements of disaster risk (hazards, exposure, vulnerability and capacity) by various stakeholders**. Disaster risk can basically be understood as a function of these four components and BiH is still learning this.

Even though a lot of information, including scientific data on hazards and exposure exist in BiH, it is critical to **promote systematic data collection and free flow of information** in order to strengthen early warning systems and inspire risk-informed and climate-smart development through community engagement. People have the right to know risks in their locality and to define their acceptable level of risk.

In addition, it is necessary to strengthen/establish **DRR practitioner platforms** to facilitate mutual learning and enable usage of **evidence-based data in decision-making processes**. Data on vulnerability and capacity are still not sufficiently available nor used and DRR and CC are often regarded as 'technical issues'.

Through ongoing UNDP projects that work on local development, DRR, flood risk management and climate change adaptation there are various efforts tackling this priority. These ongoing efforts need further support and streamlining in order to facilitate synergy and system-wide application of DRR and CC in UN and government approaches.

Priority actions for UNDP in this field include:

PRIORITY 1 Understanding Disaster Risk	INCORPORATED INTO ONGOING PROJECTS
1. Collect hazard and exposure data and increased understanding of vulnerability and capacity segments of DRR/CCA	Vrbas, Housing Risk Assessment, DRR Initiative, Disaster Reduction and Response Application, Landslides Risk Management, Third National Communication, national Adaptation Plan, Forecast-based Financing
2. Support multi-hazard, spatial and GIS-based risk assessments incorporating CC scenarios at all levels	Vrbas, Housing Risk Assessment, DRR Initiative, Disaster Reduction and Response Application, Landslides Risk Management
3. Increase knowledge on multiple purpose usage of risk assessments, scientific data and relevant modeling tools in decision-making and development efforts at all levels	Vrbas, DRR Initiative, Disaster Reduction and Response Application, Landslides Risk Management, MEG, Housing Risk Assessment
4. Promote and disseminate relevant data and practical DRR measures including real time access to information through cooperation of relevant stakeholders	Vrbas, Disaster Reduction and Response Application
5. Strengthen awareness on DRR and building knowledge of government stakeholders, CSOs, communities and the private sector	all projects
6. Establish a system for evaluation, record of disaster losses including accountability systems	
7. Apply risk information to develop and implement DRR policies	MEG

2. Strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

Complex constitutional arrangements in BiH are reflected in the disaster risk management system and mechanisms in the country. BiH’s institutional framework for DRR is fragmented and lacks vertical and horizontal integration. Decision making power is spread across state, entity and local levels. This situation creates **unclear division of labor and duplication of efforts**. That is why substantial improvements in this area can be achieved only through **participatory and innovative approaches that take into consideration different interests and by building on lessons learned**.

Ongoing UNDP initiatives are working on increasing cooperation through multi-sectorial working groups and community engagement. By building on the existing efforts in the country, the following steps are needed to improve disaster risk governance capacities in the country:

PRIORITY 2 Strengthening Disaster Governance	INCORPORATED INTO ONGOING PROJECTS
1. Mainstream DRR into development strategies and development of local resilience action plans	Vrbas, MEG
2. Work on improving spatial planning at all levels	Vrbas, Disaster Reduction and Response Application, Landslides Risk Management, Housing Risk Assessment
3. Support urban risk reduction and resilience practices	Vrbas, Disaster Reduction and Response Application
4. Work on the issue of illegal and/or unplanned construction that would include options such as resettlement, safeguarding investments, awareness raising on appropriate construction practices	Vrbas
5. Integrate DRR in relevant sectors such as agriculture, urban planning, livelihoods and employment, forest and water sectors and ensuring cross-sectoral cooperation	Vrbas
6. Establish necessary mechanisms and incentives to ensure compliance with existing laws and regulations (land use, urban planning, building codes, environmental and resource management and health and safety standards) and assign clear roles and tasks	
7. Support State and entity platforms and coordination systems in order to foster high-quality knowledge sharing that will increase awareness, connect various stakeholders and build cooperation and technical capacities of relevant institutions	DRR Initiative
8. Promote disaster risk transparency including conducting institutional review of assigned roles	Regional Human Development Report

3. Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

BiH today is facing many challenges across the sectors including lack of financial resources. Following several years of relatively stable economic growth, the country's ***economic performance has significantly deteriorated***, with many persisting constraints on the economy, including taxation and social costs, poor infrastructure and a generally unattractive investment climate, as well as the effects of the 2008 global economic crisis. Even though failure to invest in DRR actually undermines development efforts, as was seen through May 2014 floods, ***little effort is done in promoting public and private investments into disaster risk reduction*** through both structural and non-structural measures.

This priority will require ***great efforts of local communities, the private sector, government institutions and international stakeholders to progress in this area***. Although high investments are expected in floods prevention (structural and non-structural measures) through EU funding, much needs to be done on other issues including institutional capacity development.

Priority actions for UNDP in this field include:

PRIORITY 3 Investing in DRR	INCORPORATED INTO ONGOING PROJECTS
1. Promote mechanisms for disaster transfer and insurance, risk-sharing and retention for both public and private investments (sovereign disaster risk financing, property catastrophe risk insurance, agricultural insurance, disaster micro-insurance)	Vrbas, Regional Human Development Report
2. Increase business resilience and protection of livelihoods and productive assets through integration of disaster risk management into business models and practices	
3. Invest in making public buildings resilient	
4. Enforce building codes and higher standards for critical infrastructure	
5. Support investments on structural and non-structural measures in DRR action plans and other relevant strategic documents	Landslides Risk Management, Floods Recovery, Vrbas, MEG
6. Strengthen design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety nets mechanisms	
7. Develop BiH's Strategic Action Plan for DRR/CCA	

4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response including "BBB" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Disaster risk reduction in BiH is still *predominantly perceived through civil protection activities* in preparedness and notably response. This is why, after the May 2014 floods, various initiatives are directed towards investments into much needed capacity building of civil protection at all levels. Strong involvement of civil society, communities at risk and international agencies is a requirement to address the numerous recommendations following the May 2014 floods on how to *improve the overall systems*.

In order to ensure true improvements for this priority we need to build buy-in from relevant stakeholders including political leadership and have tightly synchronized efforts in the field.

Priority actions for UNDP in this field include:

PRIORITY 4 Enhancing preparedness, response and recovery	INCORPORATED INTO ONGOING PROJECTS
1. Support the reform of civil protection in collaboration with the EU requirements	
2. Promote usage of multi-hazard maps and GIS-based risk assessments and modeling tools including CC scenarios for disaster preparedness and contingency planning at all levels	DRR , Disaster Reduction and Application for Municipalities
3. Build people-centered early warning systems that provide relevant disaster information to communities and different sectors	Vrbas, DRR Initiative, Forecast-based Financing
4. Increase community capacities for preparedness and response as first responders	Vrbas, MTS, MEG, Revitalizing Local Communities
5. Establish effective institutional cooperation on preparedness that includes contingency plans, exercises and increase of capacities	
6. Enhance recovery planning	



OVERVIEW OF CURRENT UNDP CO BIH DRR RELATED ACTIVITIES 2015 – 2020

Priority area	Project/Initiative	Sector	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3	Duration
1, 2, 3 and 4	Technology transfer for climate resilient flood management in Vrbas River Basin	Energy and Environment	Flood Risk Management policy	Tehnology Transfer & Early Warning Systems	Capacity building and infrastructure measures at local level	2015 – 2019
1, 2, 3 and 4	DRR Initiative	Energy and Environment	Support to UNDP DRR Action Plan			2015 - 2018
1, 2, 3 and 4	Landslides risk mitigation	Energy and Environment	Mitigationa and stabilization of exiting landslides	Strenghtening of landslides management capacities at local level		2015 – 2016
3	Floods Recovery and Risk Mitigation	Energy and Environment	Wastewater de-silting and clearance	River dredging and river banks reconstruction.		2015 – 2016
1 and 2	Disaster Reduction and Response Application for Municipalities	Energy and Environment	Development of an integrated multi-hazard risk information management tool	The tool is effectively utilized and set in function in local decision-making processes in two pilot local governments		2016

Priority area	Project/Initiative	Sector	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3	
1	Third National Communication - Climate Change	Energy and Environment	Updated GHG inventories	Improved V&A assessment to deal with risks of climate change, climate variability and extreme weather events	Improved analysis and national capacity on mitigation options	2014 - 2017
2	National Adaptation Plan	Energy and Environment	Development of BiH CC Adaptation Plan			2016 - 2017
1	Forecast-based Financing	Energy and Environment	Increase of EWS capacities through introduction of forecast-based financing			2016 - 2017
1, 2, 3 and 4	Municipal Economic and Environmental Governance (MEG)	Regional and Rural Development	Assessment of Civil Protection Mechanisms at Local Level	DRR Screening of Local Development Strategies		2015 - 2020
1, 2 and 4	Revitalizing Local Communities	Social Inclusion and Democratic Governance	Relevant stakeholders share a modern vision for community government	Effective, legitimate and accountable community governance;		2015 - 2019
1	Floods and Landslides Housing Risk Assessment	Recovery	Prioritization of floods and landslides prone areas for BiH and recommendations for mitigation	Development of detailed risk assessments and recommendations for two pilot municipalities		2015 - 2016
1 and 2	Municipal Training System and Integrated Local Development	Regional and Rural Development	Design and delivery of tailored training programme with a focus on DRR for local governments	Mainstreaming DRR into local and cantonal policies and strategies		2015
1 and 2	Regional Human Development Report	Social Inclusion and Democratic Governance	Development of Sub-regional HDR from DRR perspective			2015 - 2016

DRR QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR NEW AND ON-GOING PROJECTS

Being a cross cutting issue that supports sustainable development, DRR has to be taken into account in all development interventions. In order to ensure that DRR is mainstreamed in all UNDP interventions and to provide quality assurance for these interventions, all project should be DRR screened.

New projects should ensure that in the development satage of Project Document, relevant UNDP DRR focal points are consulted. This step should be mandatory and should be intgrated into Standard Operating Procedures for Project Management. DRR focal points will provide technical advice on how to ensure risk-informed development and how to ensure coordiantion and collaboration with other DRR-related interventions.

Ongoing projects should be screaned to ensure that DRR is taken into consideration and ensure to potential contribution to overall DRR Action Plan. The coordiantion and complementarity of all DRR activities will be done by UNDP DRR Project Manager through regular DRR Coordination meetings that all relevant Projects Managere should attend, regular communication and meetings and other means of coordiantion.