



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA



NATIONAL CIVIL
PROTECTION AGENCY

NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGY

(NDRRS 2023-2030)

Tirana, 2023

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Context: importance and rationale

Albania is vulnerable to a range of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, forest fires and landslides as well as snowstorms, droughts, temperature extremes, epidemics, avalanches, technological hazards (e.g., dam breaks), and windstorms.

The latest data shows Albania is exponentially more vulnerable to disasters as in the past decade all of the above-mentioned hazards have at some point turned into a large-scale emergency or a disaster. Numerous reports and documents evidence the high level of risks that threaten the country, the high exposure, and vulnerability, but also the insufficient capacity to cope with and adapt to them.

In that sense, strategic Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) approach was found to be missing so for instance the lack of NDRRS is evident in the findings of successive Progress Reports of the European Commission for Albania, including the last Progress Report for 2021 whereas the need to prepare a strategic document on emergency preparedness is evidenced in NSDI 2015-2020.

Beyond being a legal obligation from Law 45/2019 “On Civil Protection”, NDRRS was drafted in the framework of:

- The globally accepted commitments of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction,
- Obligations deriving from the status of a full member country of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EU Civil Protection Mechanism),
- Broader commitments to become a future member state of the EU and especially the objective for Albania to become a disaster resilient country.

Scope and structure of the document

The main purpose of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in Albania (Strategy) is to guide Albania's future disaster risk management activities and investments in a comprehensive and inclusive manner.

Vision

A safer, sustainable Albania, capable of reducing disaster risks and the effects of climate change, to prepare, cope and recover, integrated into all sectors with developed capacities to ensure prevention of new risks and management of residual risk, all of which contributing to strengthening resilience and therefore to achieving society's sustainable development.

Misioni

- To make coordinated efforts, ensure the cooperation and use of capacities and capabilities, technological, existing and new resources of all sectors and stakeholders, in order to protect the people's lives, livestock, property, cultural heritage, and the environment.
- To strengthen resilience at the national level through the establishment of effective, accountable, and comprehensive institutional structures of the civil protection system in order to increase preparedness and partnership for response, recovery and reconstruction.
- To strengthen community resilience by enabling, empowering, and supporting individuals, organizations, and communities to act for themselves and others, for the safety and well-being of all.

Strategic Objectives

- To manage existing risks and prevent new risks.
- To increase awareness, national knowledge and facilitate information exchange on disaster risk reduction and civil protection and creating resilient and sustainable communities with attention to people with disabilities, gender equality, and other vulnerable groups.
- Enhancing response capacities through building resilient infrastructures, fostering comprehensive industrialization, and fostering innovation.
- To promote policy coherence and the regulatory framework related to disaster risk reduction.
- To strengthen disaster risk management capabilities with the aim of membership in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EU CPM) in a short period of time, thus becoming an additional safety factor for the region and the EU¹.

Intervention areas and Implementation

The implementation of the Strategy is planned through defined key intervention areas, assessed as of most importance for future DRM investment.

Area 1:

Manage existing
and prevent new
risks

Area 2:

Strengthen
the response
capacities.

Cross cutting elements of NDRRS

To build that sentiment of accountability and ownership, the process of designing the Strategy was carefully tailored to also allow identification of cross cutting elements that need to be considered when Albania addresses DRR. The list below is not an exhaustive one when DRR cross cutting areas are in question, however it contains those most used, capturing the light on the horizontal links with other sectors.

- Relation to Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development Goals
- Sustainable Development Goals and DRR
- Climate Change Adaptation and DRR. Climate change variability and impacts
- Vulnerability groups and DRR:

The most vulnerable groups are made-up of:

- financially disadvantaged families,
- marginalized and socially excluded communities, including:
 - minorities
 - children,
 - members of the LGBTQ community,
 - the elderly
 - women,
 - and people with disabilities.

Evaluation and Updating

Based on the progress reporting biannually, starting with year 2024. An evaluation of the Strategy's implementation will be conducted by an external impartial institution upon the request of the coordinator, the NCPA. If so decided and evidenced within any of the Progress Reports and based on the conclusions of the evaluation a proposal will be made to the responsible minister to adopt the Strategy.

Following this proposal and according to Article 10, point 1, of Law No. 45/2019 on Civil Protection the National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction shall be reviewed, at least every five years, by the Council of Ministers, upon the proposal of the Minister of Defence.

SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS

- Some statistics and databases are available
- Staff prepared and ready to undertake new journeys in the field of education
- Significant human resources (teaching staff + students) willing to contribute to the field
- Institutions set up legal acts adopted and in process
- Management plans for protected areas.
- Institutions set up legal acts adopted and in process

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of necessary means from the national budget
- Massive displacement of the population in areas near water sources
- Low risk and response awareness and knowledge
- Insufficient investment in the necessary capacities and capabilities and lack of training and awareness
- Unclear roles and lack of knowledge and technical capacity in institutions
- Lack of curricula on disaster management

INTERNAL
FACTORS

OPPORTUNITIES

- National and international institutional support for involvement in projects and programs in the field of disaster risk management
- Intensification of scientific research in the field of disaster risk management
Improvement of EURO CODES to increase flood safety.
- Existing programs and trainings Implementing Sendai Framework
- Cooperation within and among institutions.

THREATS


- Illegal construction without criteria high intensity of construction in high risk areas.
- Lack of law on “Critical Infrastructure”
- Rules and regulations not implemented.
- Difficult and unreachable terrain to respond to certain disasters
- Lack of plans and legislation considering climate change.
- Local structures for civil emergencies still unconsolidated.

EXTERNAL
FACTORS

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan for Albania 2023-2027



As part of the development of the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, the Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction for the period 2023 to 2027 was developed as an act that operationalizes the implementation of the Strategy.

The amounts in the Action Plan refer to the indicative assessment of the financial frame of each activity or project implementation costs and are made on the basis of market research and the experience of the proponents.

The action plan refers to the management activities of a total of 6 risks defined for the purposes of drafting the Strategy until 2030. For each risk, several activities have been determined that will be implemented as a priority by the end of 2027. In addition to individual risk management activities, the Action Plan includes groups of activities that simultaneously affect the level of all or more risks at once: activities to strengthen disaster risk management.

Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan for Albania 2023-2027

Strategic projects related to multi-risk Disaster Risk Management

1. Further fulfillment of Albania's obligations as a member country of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EU CPM).
2. Strengthening the response capacities of the NCPA and operational forces through establishing of a new EU module "Team with unmanned Aerial Vehicles".
3. Full implementation and throughout the territory of Albania of the Unified Civil Emergency number 112.
4. Support for the establishment of a Civil Protection system in Albania.
5. Policies and legislation.
6. Developing priority Standard Operational Procedures of the CP system (UNDP RESEAL).
7. Supporting collecting and exchange of disaster loss data through DesInventar in the NCPA, ministries and central institutions, qark and municipality level (UNDP RESEAL).
8. Public education and awareness:
9. Strengthening preparedness capacities through the Civil Protection training programme.
10. Establishing and strengthening the wildfires early warning and notification system (JICA) .
11. Alb-Adapt - "Climate Services for a Resilient Albania".
12. Strengthening the Early Warning System.
13. IPA CBC STRATEGIC Albania, Montenegro, Italy/
14. Strengthen financial preparedness of the country through adopting a National Disaster Risk Financing Program.

15. Drafting of disaster risk assessment documents at park level.

16. Drafting and approval of the legal basis for critical infrastructure.

17. Strengthening emergency preparedness and response.

18. Improving Resilience of Critical Infrastructure and Public Buildings.

19. Strengthening Municipal Disaster Risk Management.

20. Improving Disaster Loss Data and Risk Information Management.

21. Rehabilitation of 16 stations of the hydrometeorological network provided within the World Bank project “ Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project “ (AL-DRMAP) and which were not rehabilitated within the PRO NEWS Program.

22. Strengthening the capacities of the FP&R Service; strengthening volunteerism; strengthening the monitoring capacities of NCPA, a system for collecting and protecting natural disasters loss data; support for the operational structures of the FP&RS in training and equipment.

23. Strengthening the preparedness capacities of operational forces through training and exercise.

24. Provide technical assistance to MTE for Chapter 27 - Writing and negotiations; and provide technical assistance to MTE to identify planning needs and support the implementation of strategic planning documents. Phase II, SANE 27.

25. Research, development and implementation of a National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan for Albania 2023-2027

Strategic projects related to earthquakes

1. Improving and restructuring of the Albanian Seismological Network.
2. Improving, updating and harmonizing the earthquake risk assessment methodology.
3. Database of structural properties of buildings.
4. New building codes according to Eurocode & national annexes prepared (UNDP RESEAL).
5. Reinforcement and restoration intervention in the cultural heritage facilities “Kalaja Kruja”.
6. Measures for the rehabilitation of cultural heritage sites.
7. Capacity building for seismic risk mitigation in cultural heritage sites through:
 - Training of masters in the field of restoration and transmission of knowledge on materials and traditional techniques in construction;
 - Compilation of manuals and guides for traditional building typologies;
 - Improvement of technical design standards in the field of restoration.
8. Strengthening the response capacity of operational Forces against earthquakes through the creation of a Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) module.
9. Drafting of Technical Regulations and Documents for Structural Evaluation and Recovery of Construction Works.

Strategic projects related to floods, surges and dam failures

1. Increasing the safety of river flood protection, through the rehabilitation / reconstruction of existing embankments and the construction of new structures.
2. Increasing the safety of irrigation reservoir dams, through rehabilitation / reconstruction of existing dams.
3. Flood risk assessment and early warning.
4. Drought risk assessment.
5. Mitigation, reduction of possible negative consequences of floods.
6. Integrated transboundary flood risk management in the Drin River Basin.
7. Increasing the safety of cultural heritage objects against the risk of floods - “Restoration and construction of a flood protection system of the Lead Mosque (Mehmet Pashë Bushatlliu) in Shkodër”.
8. Strengthening the response capacities of operational forces to floods by completing the existing the EU, FRB and FC floods modules.
9. Enhancing Flood Risk Management.



Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan for Albania 2023-2027

Strategic projects related to landslides, snowfall and avalanches

1. Reinforcement measures in cultural heritage objects - Site Management, Interpretation Plan, Design and Supervision of works in Kanina Castle, Borshi Castle and Spile Cave, Himare. Structural intervention for the reinforcement of the rocky slopes of Borshi Castle and Kanina Castle.

2. Identification of landslides throughout the country, based on standardized criteria and their reflection on a single map, as well as the creation of a national inventory for landslides, which contains all their data. Monitoring of the most potent landslides and the most dangerous for the community.

3. Geological-engineering zoning on a scale of 1: 10,000, for urban planning in the most populated areas of the country, as well as in areas primed for tourist developments.



Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan for Albania 2023-2027

Strategic projects related to forest fires

1. Strengthening the capacities for fire and flood protection of FP&RS in the context of strengthening the capacity of the homologue services of the Balkan region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey).
2. Improving the methodology for fire risk assessment in the territory.
3. Development of methodology for fire management plans at the local level.
4. Study on the needs for setting up the signaling and surveillance system.
5. Strengthening the response capacity of the operational forces to wildfires through the EU's "Ground Forest Fire Fighting" module.
6. Strengthening operational capacities for aerial firefighting.
7. Strengthening the technical capacities of the Fire Fighting and Rescue Service.



Strategic projects related to technological accidents

1. Setting up a laboratory for measuring Radon.
2. Expanding the radioactivity monitoring network.
3. Establishment of a data base for accounting, management and prevention of technical and technological risks, according to sectors.



Strategic projects related to infectious diseases

- 1. Developing methodology for biological risk assessment.**
- 2. Implementation of the biosafety and biosecurity regime through an effective national laboratory network.**
- 3. Establish a Public Health Emergency Operation Center at Institute of Public Health.**
- 4. Creation of curriculum and certification for national biosafety and biosecurity training.**

