

“Towards the Inclusive Disaster Risk Management Strategy in Albania”.

Disaster Risk Management System

Capacity Assessment

ASSESSMENT REPORT

“Towards the Inclusive Disaster Risk Management Strategy in Albania”.

Disaster Risk Management System Capacity Assessment

Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Rationale for Disaster Risk Management System Capacity Assessment in Albania	6
3. Methodology and Process	7
3.1. Disaster Risk Management Capacity Development Methodology	7
3.2. Disaster Risk Management System Capacity Assessment Process	7
3.3. System Approach to Disaster Risk Management Capacity Assessment	7
3.4. DRM System Capacity Assessment Tool	10
3.5. DRM Capacity Analytical Framework	12
4. Results and Findings	15
4.1. Comparative Analysis by DRM System Capacity Areas	15
4.1.1. DRM SA 1 – Disaster Risk Identification	16
4.1.2. DRM SA 2 – Disaster Risk Reduction	16
4.1.3. DRM SA 3 – Disaster Risk Preparedness and Early Recovery	17
4.1.4. DRM SA 4 – Disaster Recovery Framework	17
4.1.5. DRM SA 5 – Disaster Risk Financing	18
4.2. Comparative Analysis by Sendai Priority Areas	18
4.3. Comparative Analysis by DRM Functional Areas	19
4.4. Comparative Analysis by DRM Capacity Levels	19
4.5. Analysis for DRM System Capacities Addressing Biological Risks	20
4.5.1. DRM SA 1 – Biological Risk Identification	20
4.5.2. DRM SA 2 – Biological Risk Reduction	21
4.5.3. DRM SA 3 – Biological Risk Preparedness and Response	21
4.5.4. DRM SA 4 – Biological Disaster Recovery Framework	22
4.6. DRM System Capacities in SDG Targets	23
5. DRM System Capacity Development Recommendations for Albania	24
5.1. DRM System Area 1 – Disaster Risk Identification	24
5.2. DRM System Area 2 – Disaster Risk Reduction	25

5.3.	DRM System Area 3 – Disaster Risk Preparedness and Response.....	26
5.4.	DRM System Area 4 – Disaster Recovery Framework.....	28
5.5.	DRM System Area 5 – Financing Disaster Risk.....	29
5.6.	DRM System Capacities against Biohazards and Pandemics.....	30
5.7.	Potential Framework for Post-COVID-19 Recovery Process.....	31
6.	Recommendations for developing DRM Strategy in Albania.....	32
6.1.	<i>Alignment with the National Strategies and SF DRR.....</i>	32
6.2.	<i>SF DRR Priority Action 1 – Understanding Risk.....</i>	32
6.3.	<i>SF DRR Priority Action 2 – Risk Governance.....</i>	32
6.4.	<i>SF DRR Priority Action 3 – Investing in Risk Management and Resilience Building.....</i>	33
6.5.	<i>SF DRR Priority Action 4 – “Building Back Better” Disaster Response, Reconstruction and Recovery Framework.....</i>	33
6.6.	<i>Prevention of New Risks.....</i>	33
6.7.	<i>Reducing Existing Risks.....</i>	33
6.8.	<i>Strengthening Economic, Social, Health and Environmental Resilience...33</i>	
6.9.	<i>Clear and Realistic Action Plan – with Timeframes, Targets, Indicators and Resources.....</i>	33
6.10.	<i>A mechanism to follow-up, assess the progress, report.....</i>	33
7.	Next Steps in Developing the DRM Strategy.....	34

List of Abbreviations:

DRM – Disaster Risk Management

DRM CA – Disaster Risk Management Capacity Assessment

DRM SA – Disaster Risk Management System Areas

DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction

DRRM – Disaster Risk Reduction Management

NCEP – National Civil Emergency Plan

NCPA – National Civil Protection Agency

NSDI – National Strategy of Development and Integration

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals

SF DRR – Sendai Frame for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNDP – United Nations Development Program

1. Introduction

Albania is vulnerable to several natural and man-made hazards and risks which include earthquakes, torrential floods, and forest fires. An earthquake of 6.4 on the Richter scale at a depth of 10km hit Albania on 26 November 2019 at 03:54hrs. The earthquake's epicentre was approximately 30 km west of the capital city of Tirana between the coastal town of Durrës and Thumane inland.. The strongest aftershock of 5.4M at depth of 13 km occurred off the Albanian coast on 27 November 2019.

As a result of the earthquake, a total of 222,778 people were affected in the country, of whom 50,614 were directly and 172,164 were indirectly affected. The earthquake caused 51 fatalities, at least 913 people were injured and first responders rescued 48 people from collapsed houses. Up to 17,000 people were displaced, due to the loss of their homes.

The earthquake was the strongest to have hit Albania in 30 years. It caused extensive damage in 11 municipalities, including the two most populous, urbanized and developed municipalities (Tirana and Durrës). The worst affected municipalities were: Shijak, Durrës, Krujë, Tirana, Kamëz, Kavajë, Kurbin and Lezhë.

The 2004 National Plan for Civil Emergencies (NCEP) is still the main document in the field of Civil Emergencies. The document reflects the experience of several possible risk phenomena, capacities and difficulties in coping with civil emergencies in Albania; summarizes information, which describes the most important factors and roles of all institutions and structures involved in all phases of civil emergencies management.

The National Civil Emergency Plan of Albania considers the following potential disaster risks that shall be taken into account for developing the internal capacities of the DRM system in the country:

1. Flood;
2. Earthquakes;
3. Forest Fires;
4. Landslides;
5. Isolation from Heavy Snowfalls and Avalanches;
6. Terrorist Attack;
7. Technological Emergencies

Experience of Albania and other countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia demonstrate the need for developing a systemic approach to managing potential disasters' risks. Government of Albania, in recognition of the threat natural disasters, pose to its development, has worked to strengthen its DRR capacities, often in concert with international organizations and conventions.

Reducing disaster risk is a cost-effective investment in preventing future economic losses and effectively managing disaster risks contributes to sustainable development. Since the adoption of HFA, Albania along with other countries and relevant stakeholders around the world have made progress reducing disaster risk at local, national, regional and global levels, leading to a decrease in mortality in the case of some hazards. Overall, the Hyogo Framework for Action has been an important instrument for raising public and institutional awareness, generating political commitment, while focusing and catalysing actions by a wide range of stakeholders at all levels.

HFA has provided critical guidance in efforts to reduce disaster risk and has contributed to the progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Its implementation has, however, highlighted a number of gaps in addressing the underlying disaster risk factors when formulating

goals and priority actions, for fostering disaster resilience at all levels and in ensuring adequate means of implementation. HFA's successor and the new global convention on DRR, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, referred to in the text as SF DRR, attempts to fill these gaps with an action-oriented framework that governments can implement in a manner that supports DRM and complements other development goals, all the while facilitating the identification of disaster risks, how they will be managed as well as guiding investments that will improve resilience.

At the global level, SF DRR, the present Framework, aims to achieve the following outcome over the next 15 years:

The substantial reduction of disaster risk for the lives, livelihoods and health as well as the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

The realization of this outcome requires the strong commitment and involvement of political leadership in every country at all levels for creating a conducive and enabling environment as well as implementing SF DRR and the country-specific tasks resulting from the Framework.

Achieving this outcome requires enhancing the implementation capacity and capability of developing and middle-income countries to face challenges, particularly mobilizing the international community to support the implementation of country-specific plans, in accordance with each country's national priorities.

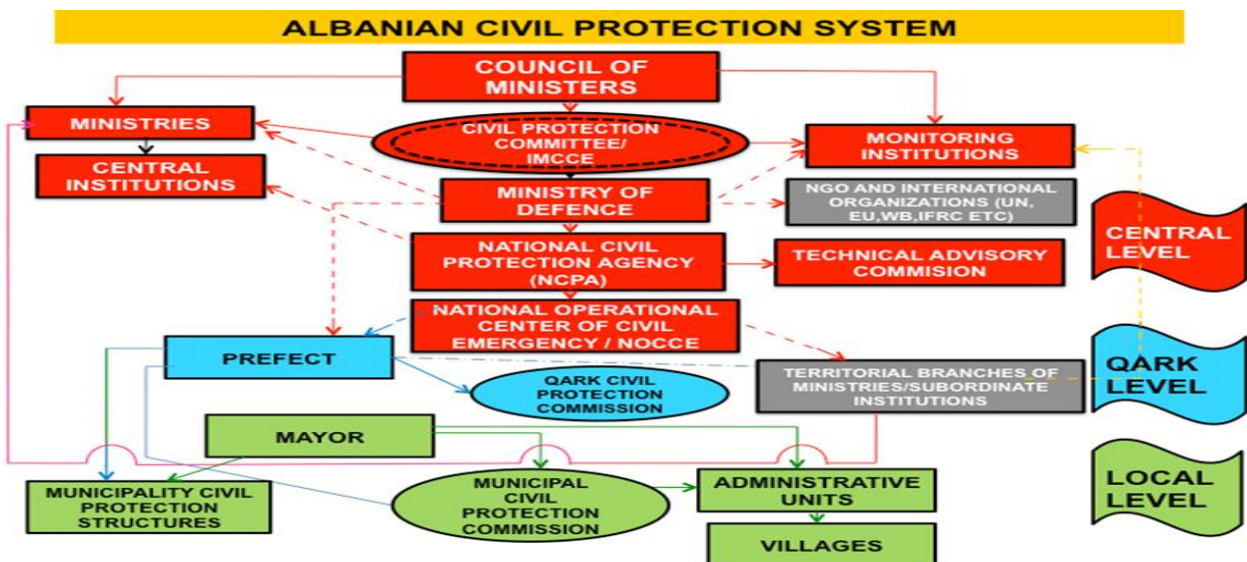
The Government of Albania has undertaken important steps in recent years to integrate DRR in development policies and programs to protect the country's development. Besides joining the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction, Albania is also a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has been producing national communications to UNFCCC. The Disaster Risk Management System Capacity Assessment process intends to support the Government of Albania in developing a comprehensive strategy for disaster risk management and reduction and strengthening the overall system of DRM in the country. It also intends to provide meaningful insights into the further process of developing the National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and strengthening the cooperation between national and international stakeholders of the DRM system in the country and also addressing the challenges of climate change adaptation.

2. Rationale for Disaster Risk Management System Capacity Assessment in Albania

The devastating earthquake in Albania in the fall of 2019 and a spread of COVID-19 coronavirus have had a deep and systemic impact on the economic and social development of the country. Such impact demonstrates an acute need for Albania to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy and action plan for building the resilience of the country against existing various risks and future potential shocks. Disasters do not recognize borders and usually have lasting and correlated chains of impact on different sectors of the economy and social groups. As such, the strategy for disaster risk management should also have a systemic approach, which engages all key stakeholders, sectors of the economy and also potentially vulnerable groups. In developing the suggestion for visualization of the DRM System in Albania, the following key documents were taken into account.

1. The Law NO 45/2019 on Civil Protection adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Albania,
2. UN Sustainable Development Goals: “[Transforming Our World - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)”
3. UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015 – 2030:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2157sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf>



The DRM-Albania System targets and objectives were aligned with the national strategies such as National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI), National Security Strategy and legislation and with the major international strategies for sustainable development and disaster risk management. The effective implementation of the National Strategy requires a certain level of capacities and potential in the country. The DRM Capacity Assessment and Development process is a logical and natural part of the process of developing the National DRM Strategy in the country. Through series of logical steps and application of the analytical framework, this process creates a strong basis for developing strategy and forming effective National Platform on DRM in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Methodology and Process

3.1. Disaster Risk Management Capacity Development Methodology

The DRM Capacity Assessment, which is the subject of this report, is a part of a wider DRM Capacity Development methodology in Albania. The DRM Capacity Development methodology is based on UNDP approach for capacity development, which was adapted by the World Bank for strengthening DRM Capacities in Armenia. The methodology was further enhanced applying system-thinking approach and reflecting increased biological hazards and pandemic. The DRM Capacity Development methodology, aligned with DRM System Areas and SF DRR, is sequenced logically with the following steps:

1. Engage DRM stakeholders in the DRM CA process;
2. Assess and identify existing DRM needs and capacities;
3. Prioritize DRM system capacity areas to address;
4. Implement DRM capacity development actions, specific activities targeted at building certain capabilities; and
5. Continually evaluate the results of each action and re-assess needs.

The DRM CA covers the aforementioned first three steps and provides a list of recommended actions to continue developing DRM capacities in the country. It is assumed that the DRM stakeholders will implement these DRM capacity development actions as a part of the overall DRM strategy in Albania as these actions are either a part of their missions or part of their development plans.

3.2. Disaster Risk Management System Capacity Assessment Process

The DRM CA process includes several steps which were implemented during 2020. The initial plan for the process assumed a series of workshops and stakeholder consultations. However, this plan was reconsidered due to the spread of COVID-19 Coronavirus. Several meetings were conducted online. However, the major event, the Stakeholder Analysis workshop was organized and conducted in Tirana in November 2020.

The DRM System Capacity Assessment Process included the following main activities:

- A. Review and analysis of major documentation and legal framework regulating DRM System in Albania
- B. Conducting DRM System Stakeholder Analysis
- C. Preparing the DRM System Capacity Assessment methodology and process
- D. DRM CA Workshop
- E. Analysis of the data gathered with finding and recommendations (Report)
- F. Report presentation and Action Planning

3.3. System Approach to Disaster Risk Management Capacity Assessment

During the DRM Capacity Assessment process, the System Thinking Method was used to understand the linkages and interconnections between the elements and functions of the DRM System, stakeholders and potential roles. The complex and multiple challenges DRM System faces today are multifaceted, complex, and interconnected. To understand them and address them effectively

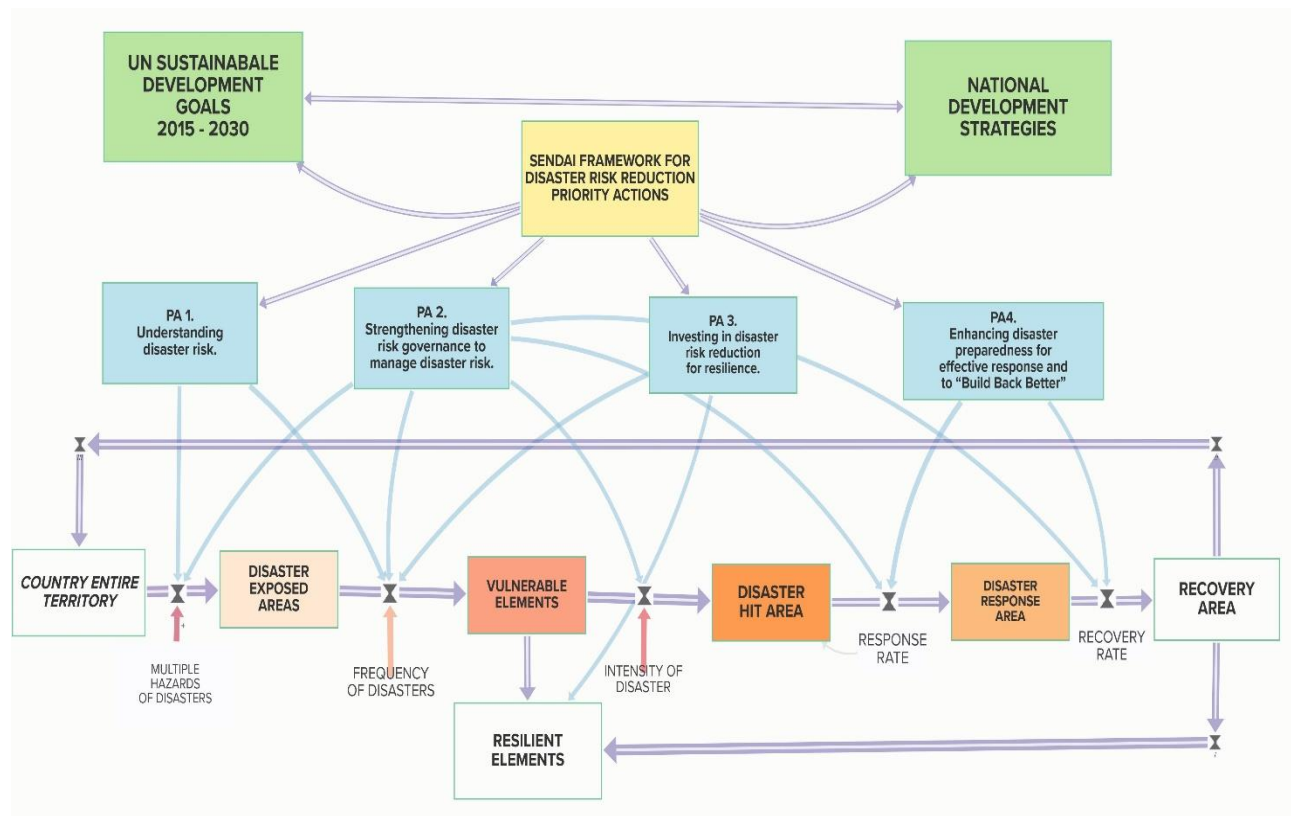
requires a holistic “systems” view. Many sustainability-related issues—climate change, desertification, disaster risk management, potable water shortage, biohazards and health crises, economic and social instability, and more—are the result of a non-systemic, fragmented, simplistic, and short-sighted world view that dominates in many instances. Recent decades, however, have seen a significant surge of interest in holistic ways of looking at reality with the associated development of multiple frameworks and tools which, all together, have been hailed as the emergence of a new paradigm. The combined result has been referred to as “systems thinking,” “the system approach,” or “the system view of the world.”

Systems thinking is a broad term used to represent a set of methods and tools that focus on systems, rather than parts, as the context for defining and solving complex problems, and for fostering more effective learning and design. At it’s best, the practice of systems thinking helps us to stop operating from crisis to crisis and to think in a less fragmented, more integrated way.

System definition applies to two or more parts interacting to function as a whole within some boundary. The elements and processes of a system interact and affect one another, often in ways, we cannot see. Additionally, in systems, the relationship between the parts matters. If elements or parts of the system are added or taken away, the behaviour of the system changes.

The chart below presents the DRM System Map for Albania – vision and objectives for the system and connections to the national development goals and international strategies.

Figure 1. DRM System Map – Vision for Albania



The System Map presents the vision for Disaster Risk Management, which has the main purpose to make the country more resilient and safe in the situation of multiple disaster risks.

Disaster exposed areas are the places in the country, where multiple hazards of disasters exist. However, what makes them more vulnerable are the elements of human economic or social life which are prone to the effect of potential disasters. As such, the **first task for the DRM** system in the country is **a) to understand potential hazards for disasters** in any given area and **b) to understand the vulnerability of elements** in a given area to be able **c) to minimize to exclude the potential negative effect of hazards**.

However, it is not always possible to exclude completely the risks of disasters, and thus, the country must be prepared for potential shocks and effects for negative developments, including natural, man-made disasters, epidemics (like COVID-19) and other potential threats. In the system map, the areas which suffer from disasters are shown as “disaster-hit area”. The objective of a DRM system is to be prepared for **d) immediate response actions** to minimize the direct impact of the disasters and **e) to be prepared for urgent recovery actions** to restore the minimum conditions for living and functioning. Another important function of the DRM system is **f) to prepare and implement the effective strategy for disaster recovery** to completely restore the impacted areas, ensuring a higher level of risk protection and possibilities for sustainable development.

All these objectives of DRM system are summarized in the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction”¹ adopted by the UN in 2015. The Sendai Framework stresses that “ ... Taking into account the experience gained through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action... there is a need for focused action within and across sectors by States at local, national, regional and global levels in the following four priority areas:

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk.

Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.

Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.

Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

All these priority actions are incorporated in the system map as guiding elements for the future disaster risk management strategy.

Operationalizing the vision of Disaster Risk Management System

Development of the shared vision for the DRM System is important to align policies and actions in the country. However, it is equally important to make the vision a guiding tool for future operations. As a reference point for operationalization of the DRM system vision, five key dimensions or functional areas for DRM are suggested:

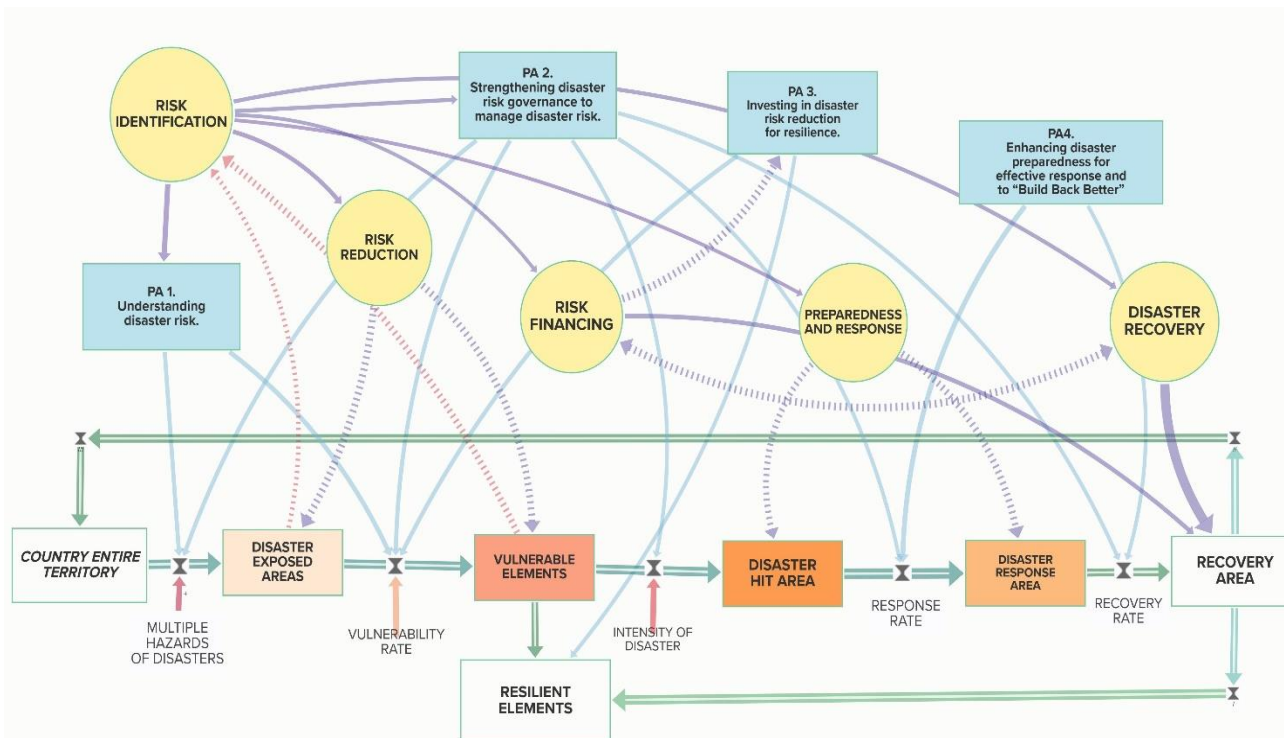
1. *Disaster Risk Identification – FA 1.*
2. *Disaster Risk Reduction – FA 2.*
3. *Preparedness for Disasters and Response – FA 3.*
4. *Disaster Recovery Framework – FA 4*
5. *Disaster Risk Financing – FA 5.*

¹ https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

The proposed dimensions and their functional peculiarities were introduced to the stakeholders during the online meeting. Following the meeting, an online survey was suggested to the stakeholders which helped to get their feedback and vision for needs and capacities of the DRM System in Albania and engagement of each stakeholder in the DRM system in the country.

Inclusion of functional areas offers system stakeholders and decision-makers to better visualize and understand a) potential participation of stakeholders in DRM system and b) consider necessary capacities for the DRM system to be strengthened with particular stakeholders. The chart below presents the integration of DRM functional areas and key dimensions into the System Map.

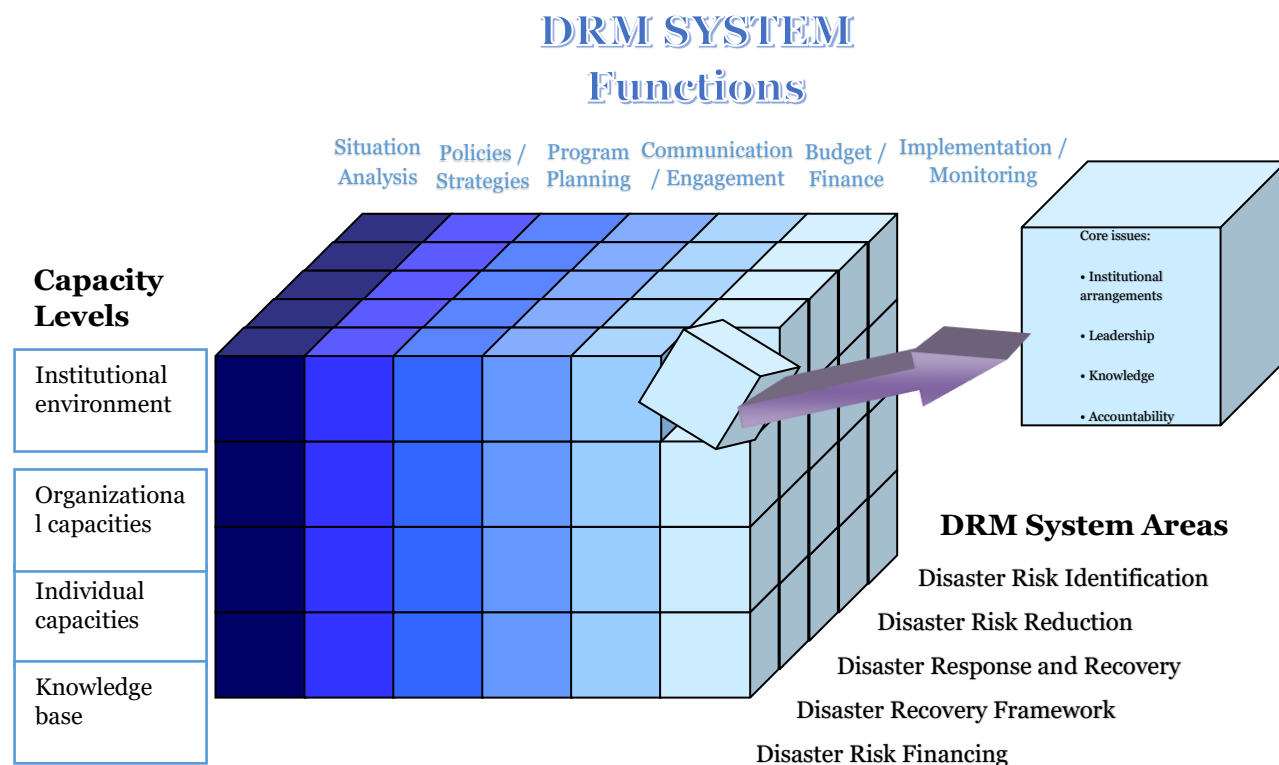
Figure 2. DRM System Map



3.4. DRM System Capacity Assessment Tool

In order to better understand the system connections and interrelations, the DRM System Capacities were assessed as a combination of multi-dimensional factors impacting the level of the development of a given capacity area. The multidimensional nature of DRM capacities are presented in Figure 2:

Figure 3: Multidimensional Nature of DRM Capacities



The assessment tool was the key instrument used in the assessment process, linking questions from the assessment questionnaire with four specific capacity dimensions:

Dimension A: DRM System Capacity Areas:

- CA 1 – Disaster Risk Identification;
- CA 2 – Disaster Risk Reduction;
- CA 3 – Disaster Response and Early Recovery;
- CA 4 – Disaster Recovery Framework;
- CA 5 – Disaster Risk Financing.

Dimension B: Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 (SF DRR) Four Priority Actions² includes four priority areas, each with a set of capacity targets for countries to develop:

- **Priority Action 1** – *Understanding Disaster Risk;*
- **Priority Action 2** – *Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk;*
- **Priority Action 3** – *Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience; and*
- **Priority Action 4** – *Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to “Build Back Better” in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.*

² In the report Four Priority Actions are sometimes referred to as Priority Actions

Dimension C: Functions of DRM Capacity include the capacity to (1) conduct a situation assessment, (2) develop policies and regulations, (3) undertake planning programs and projects, (4) engage stakeholders, (5) build a budget that will provide necessary financing, (6) implement actions, (7) monitor and evaluate the process and the results. These seven functions are considered the main capacities for managing disaster risks and implementing effective DRM programs.

Dimension D: DRM Capacity Levels indicate categories, or levels, that correspond with each capacity. There are four main levels: institutional, organizational, individual and knowledge base.

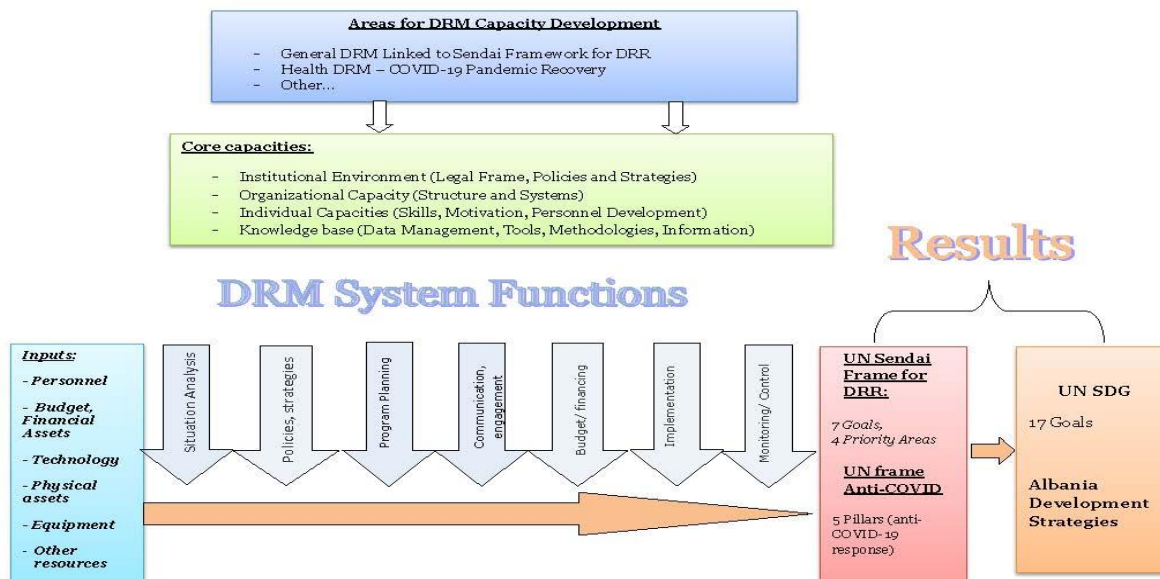
- First, there is the overarching **institutional environment and practices** within which structures and systems operate, they can either enable or constrain DRM capacity. The institutional capacity level refers to the policies, procedures and processes that countries have in place to regulate and plan as well as manage development, implement the rule of law, measure changes and conduct other functions of the state.
- Second, there are **organizational capacities, such as structures and systems**, which shape how various actors come together to perform given functions, such as implementing a policy or program. For example, policies operate within a system that can either facilitate or constrain the performance of required functions.
- Third, there are skills **individuals** possess, they can be technical or functional. These skills can range from technical, such as the ability to conduct geospatial analysis, to an individual's professional motivation.
- The fourth and final capacity category is **knowledge base**, which ensures existing data, tools, methodologies, information, training materials, etc. are stored so that accumulated knowledge is not lost.

In addition, the core capacities of the DRM System were also analyzed in line with the seventeen objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, the relevant DRM capacities were also analyzed in view of addressing current developments connected with the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus and potential biological hazards.

3.5. DRM Capacity Analytical Framework

The DRM Capacity Analytical Framework was developed to facilitate stakeholder discussion and bring attention to the roles of each DRM capacity area. The Framework outlines how functions relate and how capacity levels support the conversion of DRM system inputs, like staff and budget, into outputs, achieving DRM objectives. It also offers a view to links between each DRM capacity and how they will support the achievement of global development targets, such as SF DRR and SDG. See Figure 2 for a visual representation of the Framework.

Figure 4: Analytical Framework for DRM Capacities



The effectiveness and efficiency of converting inputs into outputs are highly dependent on multidimensional DRM capacities. Currently, the Government of Albania is in the process of developing a new strategic document for DRM, from 2021 to 2030. It is expected that the outcomes of the DRM CA process will inform Albania’s National Disaster Risk Management Strategy.

The main instruments of the DRM CA process, the assessment questionnaire and the assessment tool were developed based on this Analytical Framework. The Framework also guides the identification of future actions and the facilitation of communication with different stakeholders, all of which are integral components of the overall capacity development process.

For the Stakeholder Workshop, an Assessment Questionnaire was developed with a set of criteria and questions to be scored by participants. It contained cells for participants to provide comments about current capacities and make suggestions for future desired capacities for the period of 2021-2030. The Assessment Questionnaire is presented in Annex 2. The scoring system was suggested for the assessment process.

Figure 5: Scoring System for Assessing DRM Capacities

SCORE	DESCRIPTION
1	Achievements are minor and there are few signs of planning or forward action to improve the situation.
2	Achievements have been made but are incomplete, and while improvements are planned, the commitment and capacities are limited.
3	There are some institutional commitment and capacities to achieving DRR/DRM goals, but progress is not comprehensive or substantial.
4	The substantial achievement has been attained, but with some recognised deficiencies in commitment, financial resources or operational capacities
5	The comprehensive achievement has been attained, with the commitment and capacities to sustain efforts at all levels.

For the scoring system, low scoring capacity areas indicate improvements are needed and will therefore be prioritized for the current period of capacity development. Scoring DRM capacities for future periods of capacity development has proven helpful for generating meaningful discussion on capacity development targets and recommended actions for each area.

In order to better reflect the vision of DRM stakeholders on the priority capacity areas, the scoring system also assumed the application of “coefficient of importance”. Each score was multiplied by the importance grade applied to a given capacity. There were three importance grades used for the scoring: “1 – low importance, 2 – average, and 3 – high importance”. Such prioritization helped to better reflect the vision of the DRM system stakeholders and better identify the areas needs priority attention.

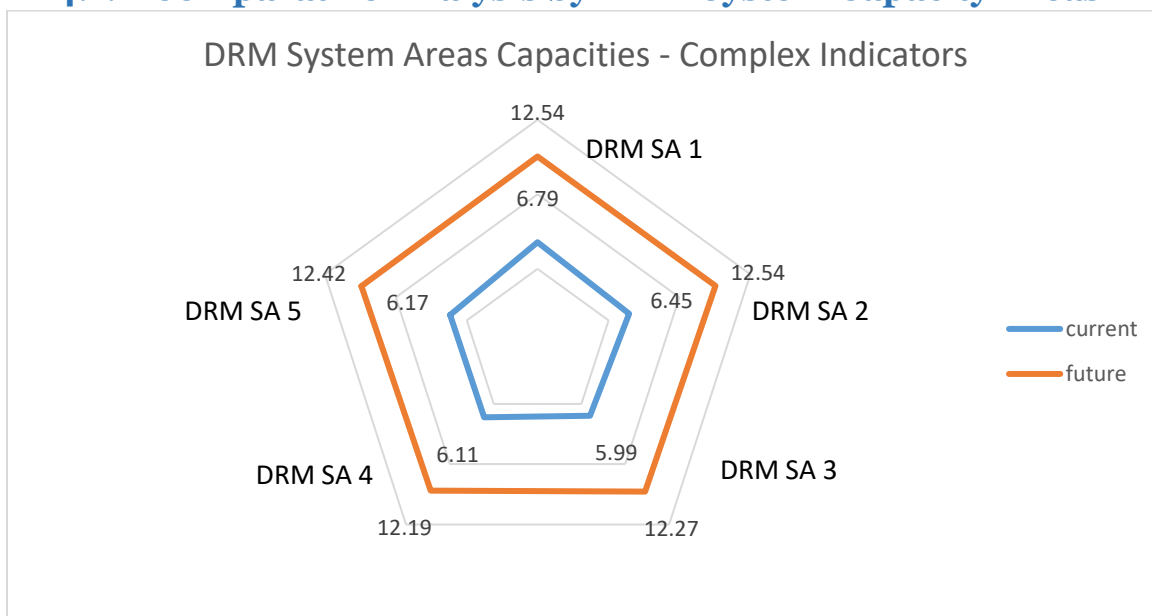
After the assessment questionnaire is completed, the capacity assessment analytical tool supports the analysis of the responses received and produces the initial results of the capacity assessment. This task is performed in MS Excel.

4. Results and Findings

The results of the DRM CA were analyzed in accordance with each dimension presented in the Analytical Framework. The first analysis, of three, was made following the Five DRM System Areas, including:

- DRM SA 1 – Disaster Risk Identification;
- DRM SA 2 – Disaster Risk Reduction;
- DRM SA 3 – Disaster Response and Early Recovery;
- DRM SA 4 – Disaster Recovery Framework;
- DRM SA 5 – Disaster Risk Financing.

4.1. Comparative Analysis by DRM System Capacity Areas

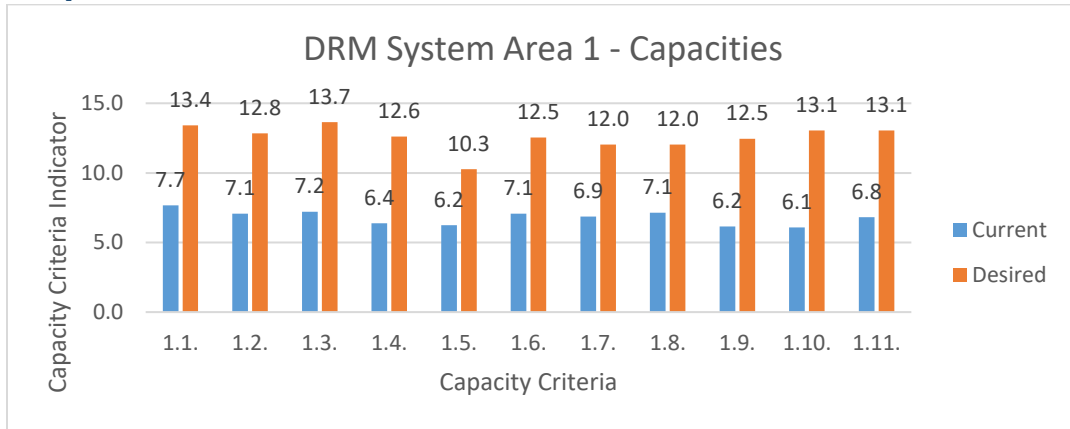


The lowest combined scoring was given to the current capacity level of DRM SA 3 – Disaster Response and Early Recovery, while the highest score was given to DRM SA1 – Disaster Risk Identification. Interestingly enough that the DRM SA 5 – Disaster Risk Financing was provided with an average score compared to other areas. It is important to highlight that during the preliminary discussions with some stakeholders, the financing for DRM system was mentioned as the neediest and priority area.

While the chart above provides a general combined view of all DRM System Capacities, the detailed analysis of components of each of the system area provides yet more information on the stakeholders' priorities and assessment of the situation.

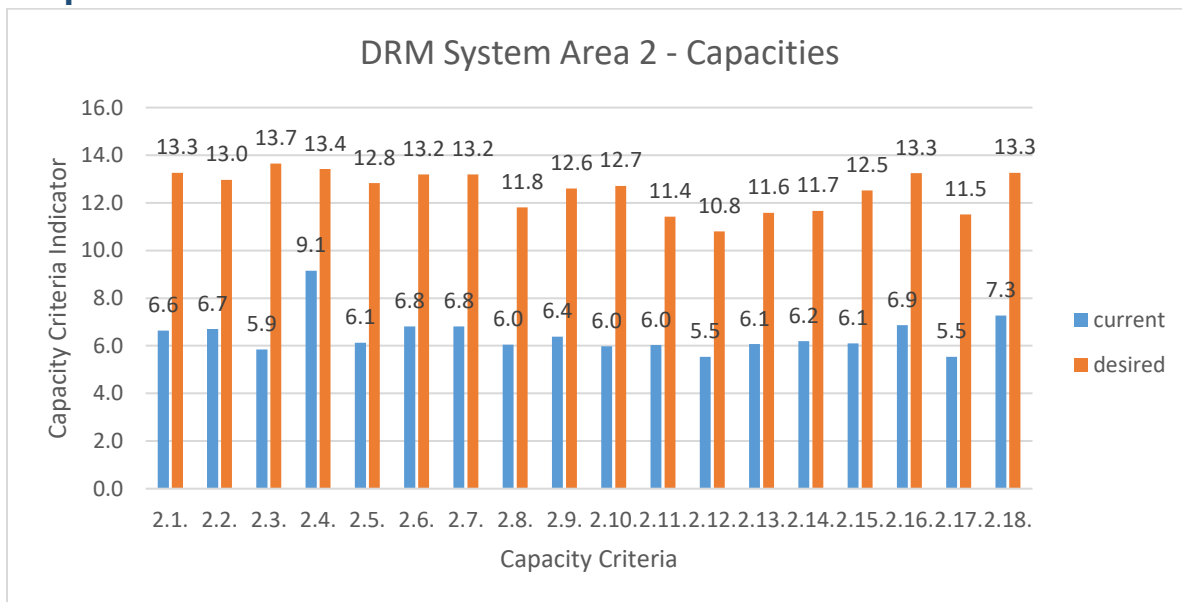
The detailed descriptions and definitions of assessment criteria are provided in Annex 1.

4.1.1. DRM SA 1 – Disaster Risk Identification



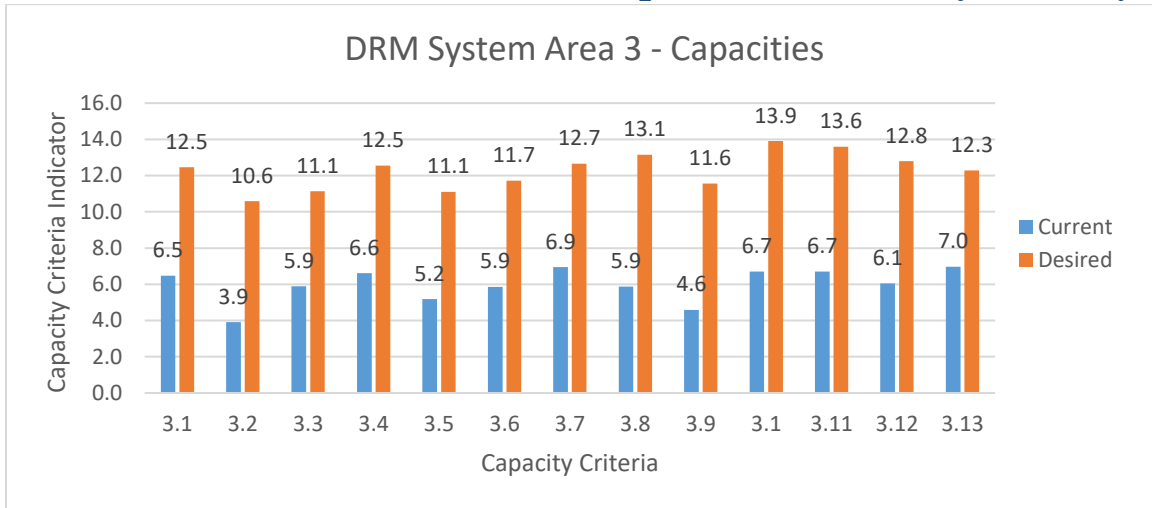
In this group, all criteria describing the capacities of the DRM System for disaster risk identification and assessed. The lowest scores for the current level of capacities are provided for the criteria 1.5, 1.9, 1.10. These criteria are considered as priority areas for future capacity building plan.

4.1.2. DRM SA 2 – Disaster Risk Reduction



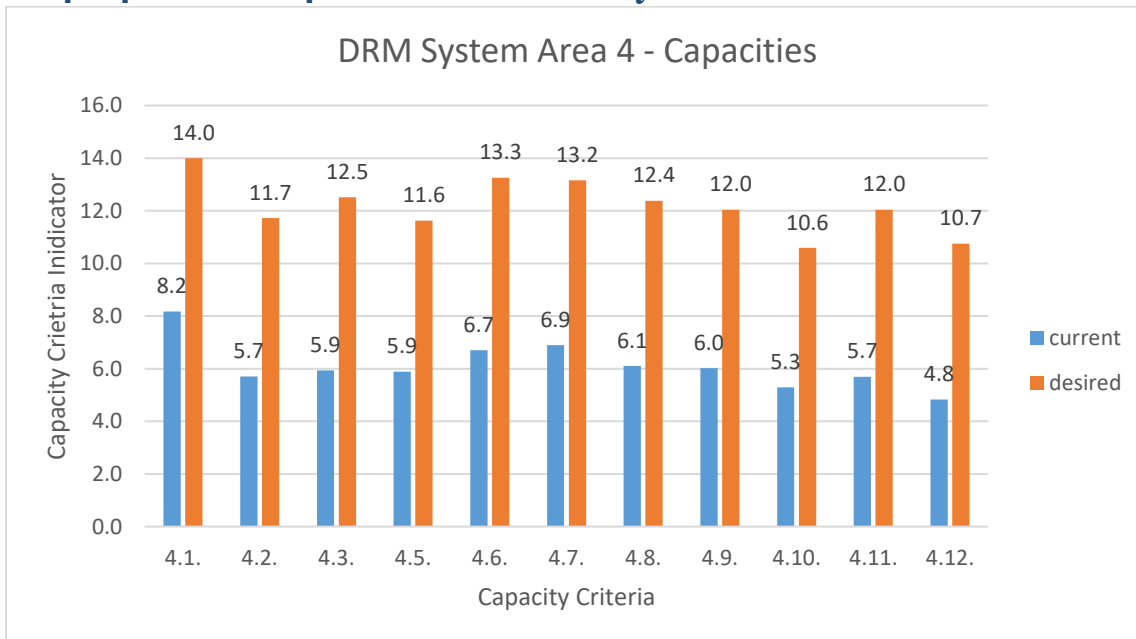
This group contains the largest number of assessment criteria among all categories. Respectively more areas for future capacity building plan are suggested under this category. The lowest-scoring for the current capacities are registered for capacity indicators 2.3, 2.12, and 2.17. Several criteria prioritized in this category also impact the preparedness for biological hazards and risks.

4.1.3. DRM SA 3 – Disaster Risk Preparedness and Early Recovery



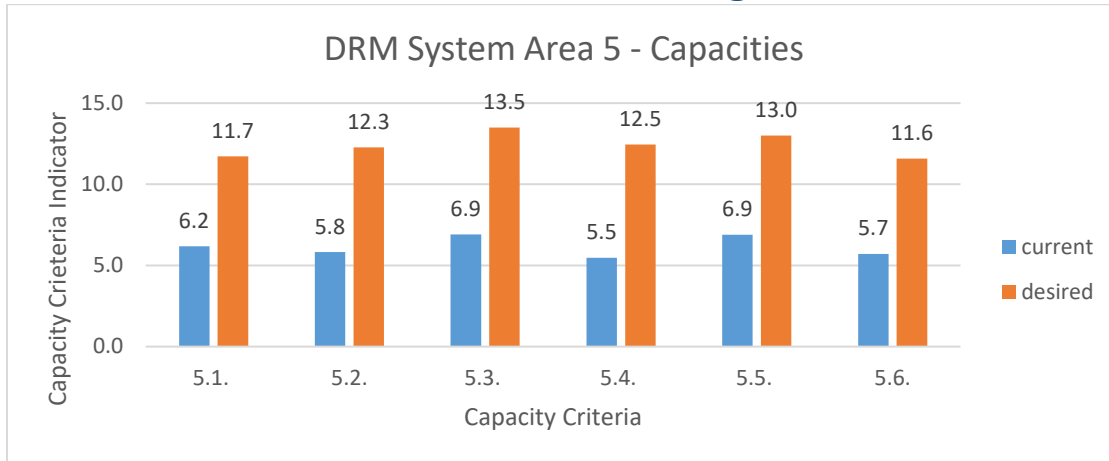
Overall, this capacity area scored the lowest among all categories. At the same time, the importance of criteria was scored very high. That means that participants of the assessment workshop highlighted preparedness of the DRM system for existing risks and hazards. The lowest scores are given to the current level of capacity criteria 3.2, 3.9, 3.5.

4.1.4. DRM SA 4 – Disaster Recovery Framework



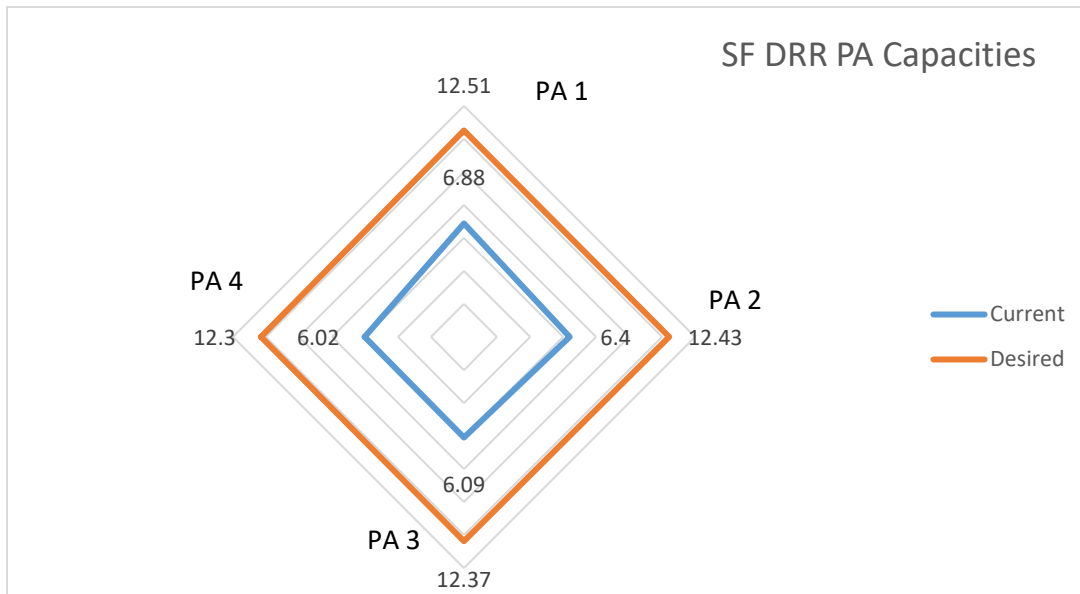
Disaster Recovery Framework is an essential capacity for the DRM system, which enables to effectively plan, mobilize resources and implement recovery strategies using “building back better” approach. It implies a system of various capacities at institutional, legal, organizational, and individual levels. The lowest scored current capacities include 4.12, 4.10, and 4.2.

4.1.5. DRM SA 5 – Disaster Risk Financing



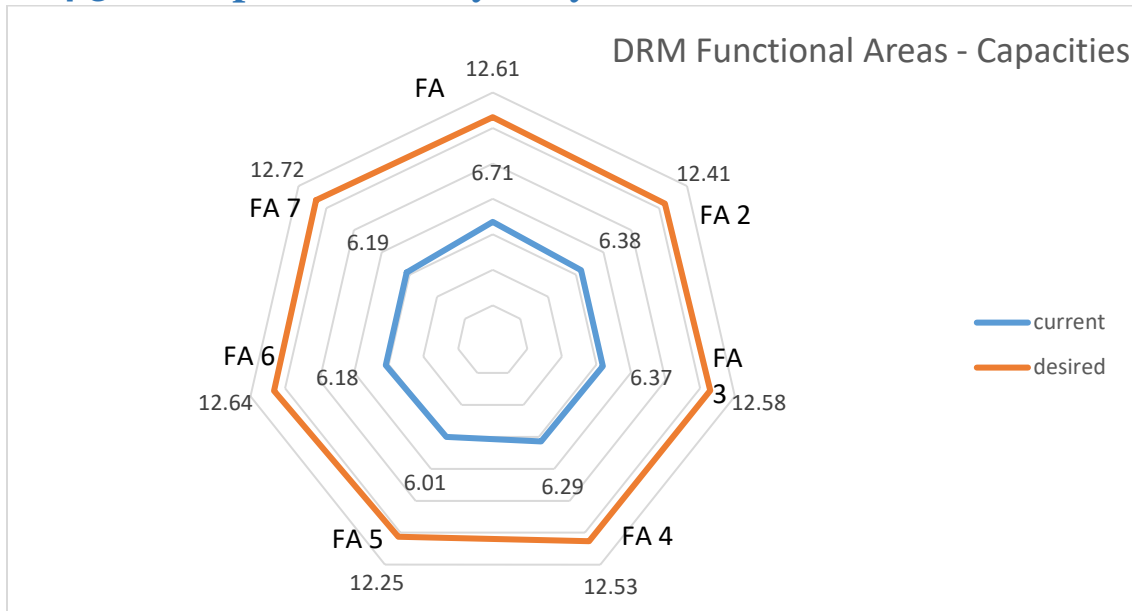
During the Stakeholder Analysis, a group of DRM Experts mentioned the low capacities for disaster risk financing in Albania. However, during the Capacity Assessment workshop, the overall rating for this area was among the top three. The lowest scores in this category were given to criteria 5.2, 5.4, and 5.6 of current capacities.

4.2. Comparative Analysis by Sendai Priority Areas



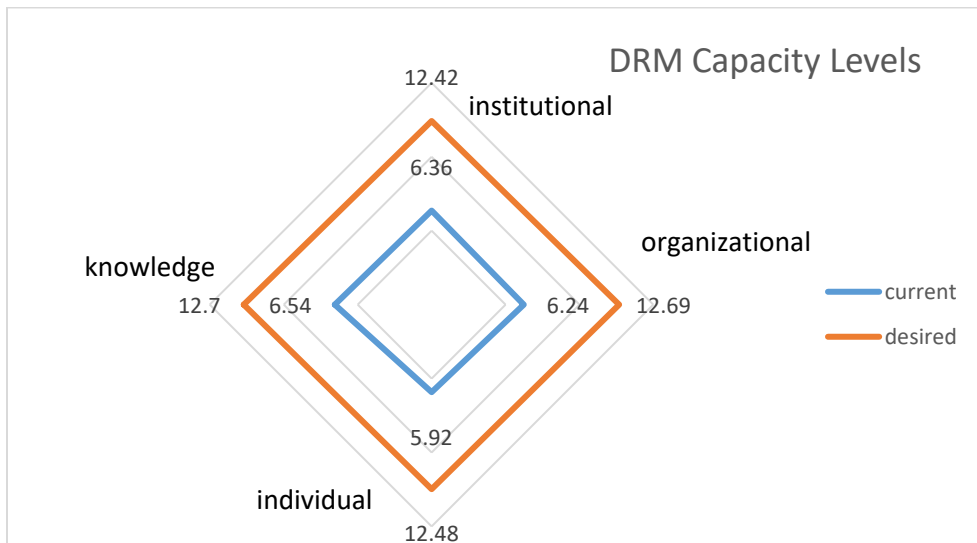
The current and future capacity criteria were assessed by Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Priority Areas. The lowest scores are provided for current capacities for Disaster Recovery Framework and Disaster Preparedness. Such results can be also connected with the recent earthquake in Albania in 2019 and the pace of implementation of recovery works. However, the response and recovery capacities were prioritized for future development. Another relatively 'weak' capacities were identified in the area of investments in DRR and resilience building.

4.3. Comparative Analysis by DRM Functional Areas



According to the results of the assessment, the DRM system functional areas are in a relatively balanced situation. A higher level of capacities is highlighted for system capacities to assess the situation, while the lowest level of current capacities is in managing budgets and financing. It is interesting to note the high importance provided to strengthening the system capacities for monitoring and controlling the DRM processes in the country.

4.4. Comparative Analysis by DRM Capacity Levels



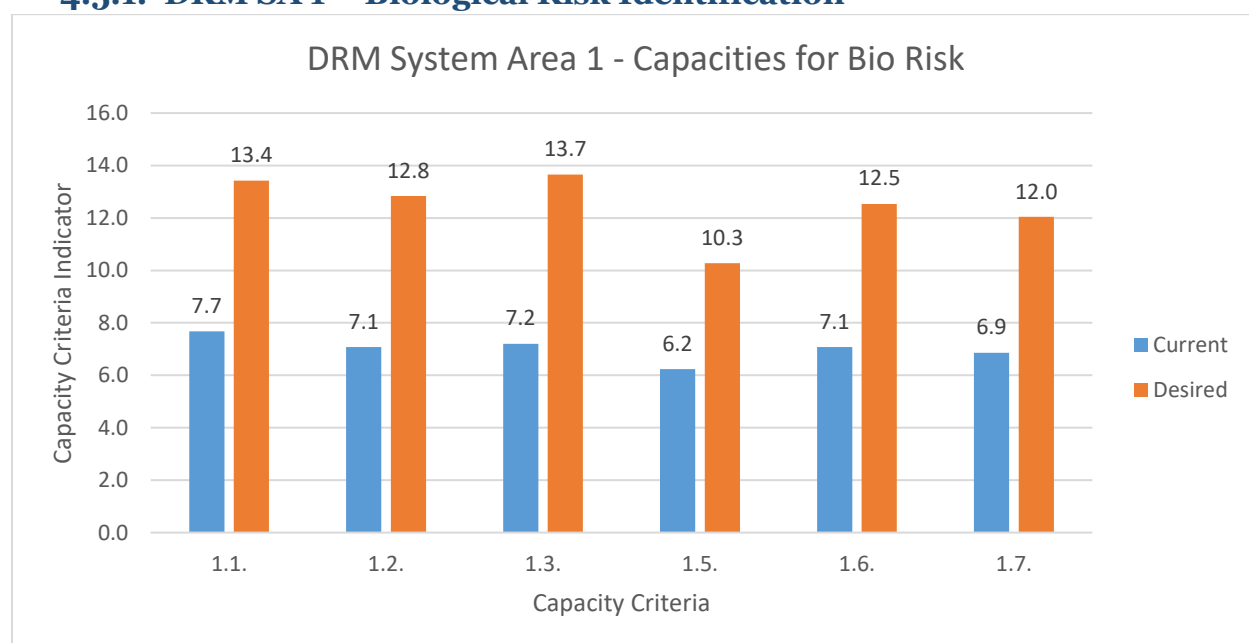
One of the important dimensions of the DRM system is the “level of capacities”. Certain capacities can be located at different levels, including institutional, organizational, individual and knowledge levels. The participants of the capacity assessment scored low the current level of individual capacities, thus suggesting focusing on human resource development in the future planning process.

4.5. Analysis for DRM System Capacities Addressing Biological Risks

The universal nature of the Sendai Frame for Disaster Risk Reduction allows applying DRM System capacity criteria for different types of hazards and risks, including the biological risks. Given the importance of developing the country capacity against biological hazards, a set of interconnected criteria was analysed to develop an insight on the existing capacities and also shed light to the capacity development needs in this regard.

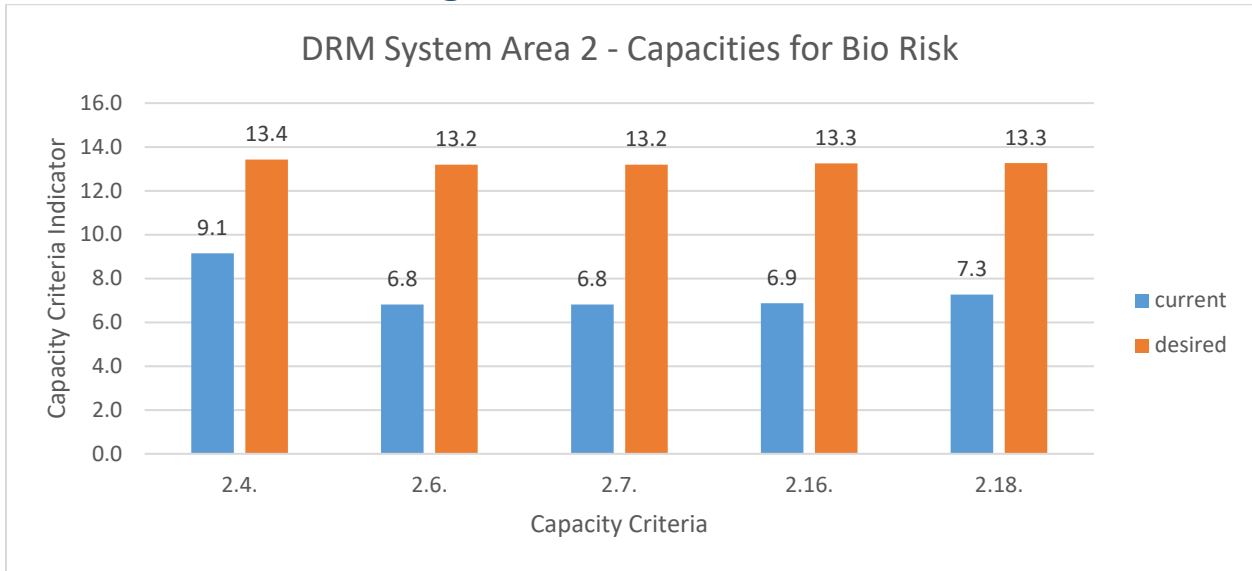
In all DRM System Areas set of capacity criteria were identified, which have clear relevance to biological risk identification and mitigation, response and recover. The current assessment provides the initial vision on the prioritization of some of the capacities, however, there is a need to further investigate the existing specific capacities in the country, with focus on the areas impacted more by the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus. In addition to the suggested set of DRM related criteria, other elements and factors shall be taken into accounts, such as response capacity of the health sector, the status of public health institutions, community preparedness and others.

4.5.1. DRM SA 1 – Biological Risk Identification



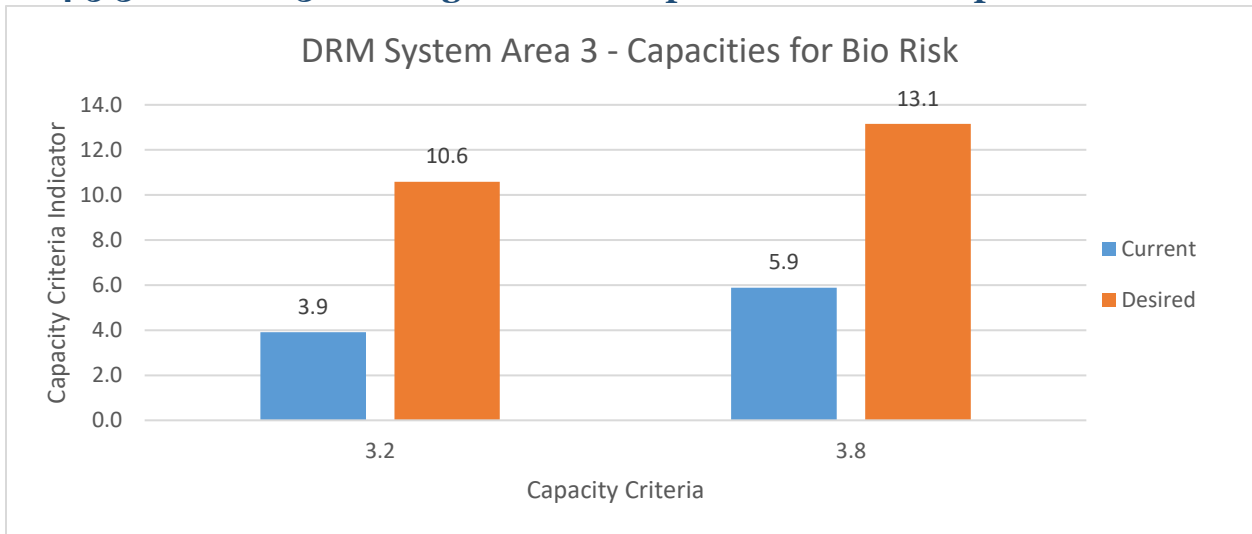
In the first area of the DRM system, six capacity criteria were identified, which are relevant for biological risk identification. The scoring for these criteria is presented in the picture above. The lowest criteria are 1.5 and 1.7, which require further analysis and attention. The first one calls for an adaptation of existing knowledge to the local circumstances and using community structures for spreading the knowledge on possible threats and hazards. The second priority area suggests paying attention to the incorporation of risk information in the local policies, procedures and plans, which is a prerequisite for a safe and sustainable development at all levels.

4.5.2. DRM SA 2 – Biological Risk Reduction



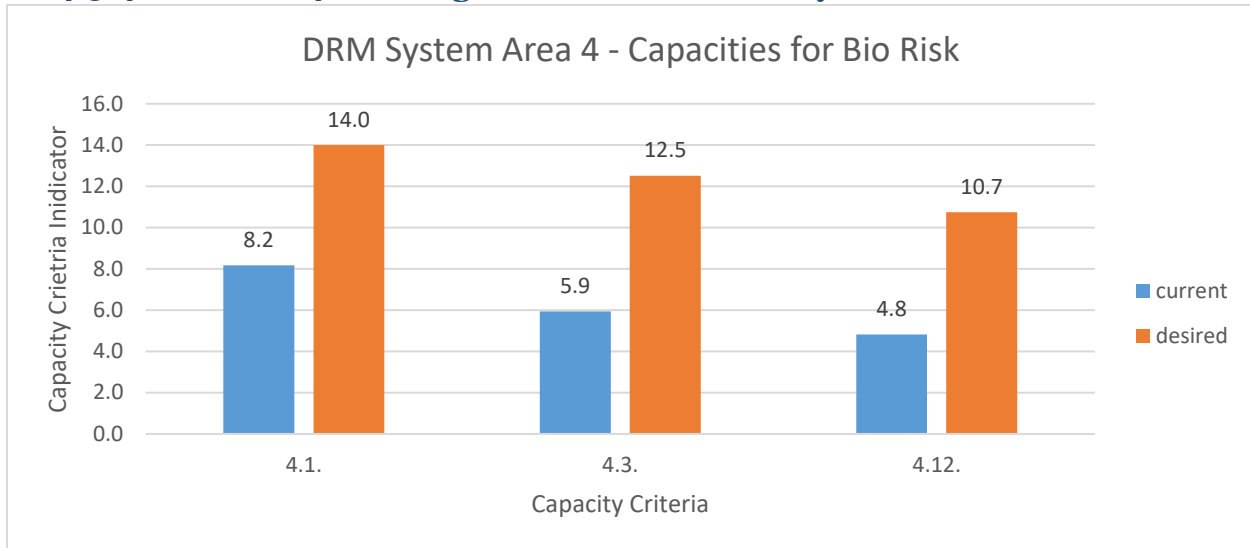
In the DRM System Area for risk reduction, a set of five criteria are suggested, among which the lowest scored are criteria 2.6 and 2.7. These two important criteria highlighting the necessity for adoption of targeted disaster risk management plans at all levels, with strict adherence to the standards and norms of safety and security and focusing on comprehensive resilience building, including health-related resilience.

4.5.3. DRM SA 3 – Biological Risk Preparedness and Response



The two important criteria are considered for biological hazard issues under the group of DRM System Area 3, Risk Preparedness and Response. The most important criteria highlighted by the participants of the assessment focuses on the need to have human-oriented approach in developing response and recovery measures for all vulnerable groups, especially for the people with specific needs and chronic diseases. Their needs must be addressed before, during and after the health disasters.

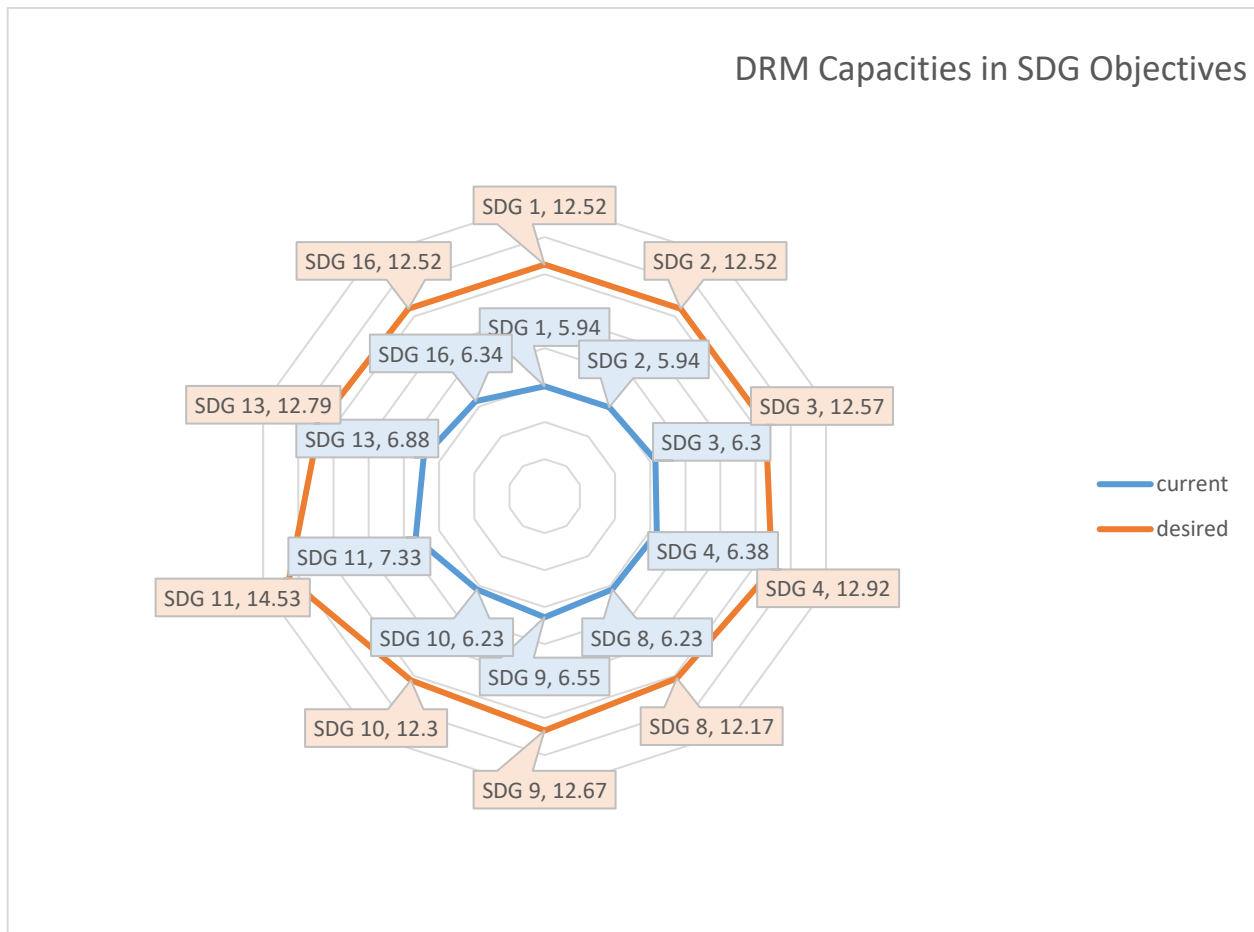
4.5.4. DRM SA 4 – Biological Disaster Recovery Framework



In the group of DRM System Area 4, Biological Disaster Recovery, the most critical aspect outlined by the participants is a need for psychological support to people during and after the disasters. Multiple assessments of the impact of COVID-19 coronavirus on the health and emotional status of population done in different countries, show that the mental and psychological health suffer much more than the physical health. In some countries, the number of people with mental health issues connected with the spread of coronavirus and restrictive measures ten times higher than the number of reported cases with the physical health problems, including the number of COVID-19 infected people. While the issue of post-disaster psychological support was boldly highlighted during the coronavirus pandemic, the need for such support is true for all kind of post-disaster recovery processes.

4.6. DRM System Capacities in SDG Targets

Disaster Risk Management Capacities are closely linked with the targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Development of certain DRM capacities will strengthen the overall capability of the country for the implementation of the SDG objectives. In this connection, the most relevant capacities related to the specific SDG targets are grouped and analysed. The diagram below demonstrates the scoring of combined indicators of DRM capacities aligned for the respective SDG objectives.



It is interesting to note that the lowest scores in this dimension of capacities are given to DRM factors in SDG objectives 1 and 2. This finding indicates about the negative impact of potential disasters on the most vulnerable people. In case of disasters, the poor and vulnerable group of the population will suffer most. Thus, their interests must be taken into account while designing and developing new policies and programs to strengthen the resilience at the community level.

5. DRM System Capacity Development Recommendations for Albania

5.1. DRM System Area 1 – Disaster Risk Identification

The disaster risk identification and information sharing is the critical area for effective management of multiple disaster hazards and risks. The following capacities were prioritized by the participants of the assessment for the DRM system in Albania.

DRM CA	Bio Hazard	DRM System Area 1 - Disaster Risk Identification
Capacity Criteria		
1.4.	Bio risk	To promote real-time access to reliable data, make use of space and in situ information, including geographic information systems (GIS), and use information and communications technology innovations to enhance measurement tools and the collection, analysis and dissemination of data;
1.5.		To ensure the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, as appropriate, to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk assessment and the development and implementation of policies, strategies, plans and programmes of specific sectors, with a cross-sector approach, which should be tailored to localities and to the context;
1.9.	Bio risk	To carry out an assessment of the technical, financial and administrative disaster risk management capacity to deal with the identified risks at the local and national levels;
1.10.		To promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessments into land-use policy development and implementation, including urban planning, land degradation assessments and informal and non-permanent housing, and the use of guidelines and follow-up tools informed by anticipated demographic and environmental changes;
1.11.		To promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessment, mapping and management into rural development planning and management of, inter alia, mountains, rivers, coastal flood plain areas, drylands, wetlands and all other areas prone to droughts and flooding, including through the identification of areas that are safe for human settlement, and at the same time preserving ecosystem functions that help to reduce risks;

The following specific actions can be recommended for the DRM System to strengthen the Risk Understanding capacity at national and local levels.

- I. *To develop a vision and approach for the use of modern technologies, such as GIS system, drones, and IT systems in the identification of disaster risks at local and national levels;*
- II. *To develop an effective methodology and approach for Community-Level Risk Management (CLRM) to be applied in all locations of the country;*
- III. *To build the capacities of local stakeholders for an effective application of the CLRM in developing local strategies and initiatives;*
- IV. *To mainstream the disaster risk management in urban and rural development policies and planning processes;*

- V. *To build the technical, financial and administrative capacities of key stakeholders for risk-informed development;*
- VI. *To establish effective communication and information sharing system on disaster risk with the use of open source technologies and communication portals;*
- VII. *To apply the comprehensive “Understanding Risk” approach in the future DRM Strategy.*
- VIII. *Central and local level capacity building for conducting Risk Management Capability Assessment*

Conducting risk assessment in the central, local level and critical infrastructure.

5.2. DRM System Area 2 – Disaster Risk Reduction

The disaster risk reduction process requires the “whole of the society” approach to be effective in the process of building resilience at all levels. The existing and emerging threats and hazards require an agile Disaster Risk Management system to be in place to effectively address multi-hazard risks and ensure effective use of scarce resources of the society and communities. During the assessment, the following capacity areas were prioritized by the stakeholders of the DRM system in Albania.

DRM SA	Bio Hazard	DRM System Area 2 – Risk Reduction
		Capacity Criteria
2.3.	Bio-risk	To promote the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels, as well as in professional education and training
2.4.	Bio - risk	To promote national strategies to strengthen public education and awareness in disaster risk reduction, including disaster risk information and knowledge, through campaigns, social media and community mobilization, taking into account specific audiences and their needs;
2.5.		To mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors and review and promote the coherence and further development, as appropriate, of national and local frameworks of laws, regulations and public policies, which, by defining roles and responsibilities, guide the public and private sectors
2.9.		To establish and strengthen government coordination forums composed of relevant stakeholders at the national and local levels, such as national and local platforms for disaster risk reduction, and a designated national focal point for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.
2.10.	Bio risk	To empower local authorities, as appropriate, through regulatory and financial means to work and coordinate with civil society, communities and indigenous peoples and migrants in disaster risk management at the local level;
2.11.		To encourage parliamentarians to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction by developing new or amending relevant legislation and setting budget allocations;
2.12.		To promote the development of quality standards, such as certifications and awards for disaster risk management, with the participation of the private sector, civil society, professional associations, scientific organizations and the UN;

2.15.		To encourage the revision of existing or the development of new building codes and standards, rehabilitation and reconstruction practices at the national or local levels, as appropriate, to make them more applicable within the local context, particularly in informal and marginal human settlements, and reinforce the capacity to implement, survey and enforce such codes through an appropriate approach, with a view to fostering disaster-resistant structures;
2.17.		To strengthen the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and implement integrated environmental and natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster risk reduction;

A set of interconnected actions can be recommended to the NCPA to consider in the process of strengthening the overall capacities of a DRM system for disaster risk reduction.

- I. *To establish the effective National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, engaging all key stakeholders in the process of addressing multiple disaster risks in the country;*
- II. *Promote the development of local platforms on DRR in provinces and communities;*
- III. *To engage the parliamentarians in the DRM system governance, through initiating parliamentary hearings and participating in the legislative work to develop a supportive environment for disaster risk reduction;*
- IV. *To further strengthen the overall capacities of the DRM system in the country by clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all engaged stakeholders, enabling the DRM responsible agency (NCPA) for effective coordination of the DRM system and empowering local municipalities and private sector for effective engagement in local DRR activities;*
- V. *To increase awareness on DRM and engagement of the public and private sectors in the area by developing and implementing an effective communication and outreach campaign, delivering communication products tailored to the needs of specific audiences;*
- VI. *NCPA in cooperation with Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth will Develop and implement the methodology of integration of DRR in the general education system in Albania, to build the culture of resilience and preparedness for disasters;*
- VII. *To further improve building codes, macro-zoning, micro-zoning hazard maps, liquefaction maps and standards in the country, ensuring reinforcement of implementing capacity and strict adherence to the established norms and requirements to avoid the development of new risks.*
- VIII. *To further develop local DRR strategies in the municipalities as per requirements of Law 45/2019.*

5.3. DRM System Area 3 – Disaster Risk Preparedness and Response

Disaster preparedness and response is a critical capacity of the DRM system, which allows to effectively respond in case of any disaster, to mobilise local and external resources for the first reaction to save lives and protect livelihoods of local people. The effective preparedness and response assume coordinated efforts at community (local), national and international levels. The following critical capacity areas were highlighted by the stakeholders during the capacity assessment process.

DRM CA	Bio Hazard	DRM System Area 3 - Risk Preparedness and Response
		Capacity Criteria
3.2.	Bio - risk	People with life-threatening and chronic disease, due to their particular needs, should be included in the design of policies and plans to manage their risks before, during and after disasters, including having access to life-saving services;
3.5.		To strengthen the protection of livelihoods and productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;
3.6.	Bio risk	To promote and integrate disaster risk management approaches throughout the tourism industry, given the often heavy reliance on tourism as a key economic driver.
3.8.	Bio risk	To invest in, develop, maintain and strengthen people-centred multi-hazard, multi-sector forecasting and early warning systems, disaster risk and emergency communications mechanisms, social technologies and hazard-monitoring telecommunications systems; develop such systems through a participatory process; tailor them to the needs of users, including social and cultural requirements, in particular gender; promote the application of simple and low-cost early warning equipment and facilities; and broaden release channels for natural disaster early warning information;
3.9.	Bio risk	To establish community centres for the promotion of public awareness and the stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue and relief activities;
3.13.		To review and strengthen, as appropriate, national laws and procedures on international cooperation, based on the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance.

Based on the results of the assessment, the following actions can be recommended for DRM System in Albania.

- I. *To further develop and strengthen the effectiveness of the DRM early warning systems in the country, considering low-cost equipment and facilities;*
- II. *To strengthen the preparedness of local communities for potential disasters by establishing community DRR structures and forming local self-help groups to be activated during the disasters;*
- III. *To deepen the participation of local community members in addressing the risks of potential disasters by implementing participatory community-level disaster risk assessments;*
- IV. *To strengthen the agility of local economic, social and environmental infrastructure to ensure the continuity of their functioning in case of disasters;*
- V. *NCPA to find the appropriate way to further improve the legislative framework in the country to facilitate prompt international assistance in case of major disasters and catastrophes.*

- VI. *Developing TESTA (Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations) in order to ensure the capability to connect to the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) of European Commission.*
- VII. *Developing a joint radio communication system for emergencies*
- VIII. *Developing National Civil Emergency Plans; civil emergency plans in: ministries and central institutions; Prefectures; municipalities; critical infrastructure; state institutions and private entities in health, education, social welfare, culture, environment and tourism.*
- IX. *Develop and implement Disaster Management Information System/DMIS*
- X. *To enhance the investment in non-structural and structural measures against floods, forest fires and floods, especially equipment and investments in drainage and irrigation infrastructure system.*

5.4. DRM System Area 4 – Disaster Recovery Framework

DRM SA	Bio Hazard	DRM System Area 4 - Disaster Recovery Framework
		Capacity Criteria
4.2.		To formulate public policies, where applicable, aimed at addressing the issues of prevention or relocation, where possible, of human settlements in disaster risk-prone zones, subject to national law and legal systems.
4.3.	Bio risk	To strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including through community involvement, integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes, and access to basic health-care services, including maternal, new-born and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, housing and education, towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solutions in the post-disaster phase and to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters;
4.8.		To promote the incorporation of disaster risk management into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes, facilitate the link between relief, rehabilitation and development, use opportunities during the recovery phase to develop capacities that reduce disaster risk in the short, medium and long term, including through the development of measures such as land-use planning, structural standards improvement and the sharing of expertise, knowledge, post-disaster reviews and lessons learned and integrate post-disaster reconstruction into the economic and social sustainable development of affected areas. This should also apply to temporary settlements for persons displaced by disasters;
4.10.		To consider the relocation of public facilities and infrastructures to areas outside the risk range, wherever possible, in the post-disaster reconstruction process, in consultation with the people concerned, as appropriate;
4.11.	Bio risk	To establish a mechanism of case registry and a database of mortality caused by disaster in order to improve the prevention of morbidity and mortality;

4.12.	Bio risk	To enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial support and mental health services for all people in need;
--------------	----------	--

Post-disaster recovery is critical in the process of addressing the consequences of disasters and re-shaping the development processes in disaster-affected areas and communities. The future DRM Strategy shall focus on strengthening the institutional, legal and organizational framework for post-disaster recovery. In particular, the following actions can be recommended for future considerations.

- I. To develop an institutional framework for post-disaster recovery focusing on addressing the needs of affected communities and people, applying the “building back better” principle.*
- II. The future post-disaster recovery framework shall guide the process of developing the relevant capacities of the key stakeholders for post-disaster needs assessment, resource mobilisation, effective recovery planning, implementation of programs and projects, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the recovery strategy;*
- III. NCPA to establish and maintain an effective database on disasters, disaster impact, damages and losses, and post-recovery investments made; Ministries, central institutions, Prefects, municipalities to develop disaster loss database and exchange information with NCPA., Institutions and private entities to provide data on disaster losses to NCPA.*
- IV. To adopt local methodologies for a post-disaster needs assessment to allow quick development of recovery plans;*
- V. In the respective legislation, national and local civil emergency plans, preparedness plans, contingency plans, Disaster risk management plans, clearly outline roles and responsibilities of DRM system players in the post-disaster recovery process;*
- VI. To develop policies and procedures for effective use of the public-private partnership approach during the post-disaster recovery process;*
- VII. To develop capacities for providing psychological and mental support to the disaster affected people, during and after the disasters, and also post-disaster recovery process.*

5.5. DRM System Area 5 – Financing Disaster Risk

Disaster risk financing is the cornerstone of the effective disaster risk management system in any country. While the large share of DRM system financing is provided by the state (as public goods), there is a growing engagement of private sector in financing the disaster risks with the use of various tools and methods. During the DRM system capacity assessment, the Albanian stakeholders outlined the following critical capacities for the system.

DRM SA	SFA - PA	DRM System Area 5 - Disaster Risk Financing
		Capacity Criteria
5.2.	2e	To develop and strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms to follow up, periodically assess and publicly report on progress on national and local plans; and promote public scrutiny and encourage institutional debates, including by parliamentarians and other relevant officials, on progress reports of local and national plans for disaster risk reduction;

5.4.	3b	To promote mechanisms for disaster risk transfer and insurance, risk-sharing and retention and financial protection, as appropriate, for both public and private investment in order to reduce the financial impact of disasters on Governments and societies, in urban and rural areas;
5.6.	3m	To promote, as appropriate, the integration of disaster risk reduction considerations and measures in financial and fiscal instruments;

In order to develop critical capacities for disaster risk financing, the following steps can be recommended.

- I. *To implement targeted awareness-raising strategy on the use of resources in DRM sector to increase public support and appreciation by the community members;*
- II. *To engage parliamentarians in the DRR National Platform to support the resource mobilization for the sector;*
- III. *To develop a strategy for effective engagement of the private sector in DRM with use of public-private partnership and effective methods for disaster risk financing, such as insurance schemes;*
- IV. *To consider disaster risk mitigation measures in all programs and projects receiving public financing or support (whenever it is applicable).*

5.6. DRM System Capacities against Biohazards and Pandemics

The universal nature of DRM System Capacities characterizes their applicability for different types of hazards and disasters, including biological hazards and epidemics and pandemics. The set of critical capacities of the DRM system, essential for effective identification, mitigation and preparedness for biological disasters are provided below. Since all these criteria are already discussed in the sections above, a conclusion can be drawn that all the suggested actions to strengthen the DRM specific capacities will ultimately contribute to building the resilience of Albania against biological hazards.

The table below presents the selection of DRM capacities relevant to biological hazards and their connection to the main capacity areas of the DRM system of Albania.

DRM CA		DRM System Capacities Related to Bio Hazard and Risk of Pandemics
	##	Capacity Criteria
1	1	To promote real-time access to reliable data, make use of space and in situ information, including geographic information systems (GIS), and use information and communications technology innovations to enhance measurement tools and the collection, analysis and dissemination of data;
1	2	To carry out an assessment of the technical, financial and administrative disaster risk management capacity to deal with the identified risks at the local and national levels;
2	3	To promote the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels, as well as in professional education and training

2	4	To promote national strategies to strengthen public education and awareness in disaster risk reduction, including disaster risk information and knowledge, through campaigns, social media and community mobilization, taking into account specific audiences and their needs;
3	5	People with life-threatening and chronic disease, due to their particular needs, should be included in the design of policies and plans to manage their risks before, during and after disasters, including having access to life-saving services;
3	6	To promote and integrate disaster risk management approaches throughout the tourism industry, given the often heavy reliance on tourism as a key economic driver.
3	7	To invest in, develop, maintain and strengthen people-centred multi-hazard, multi-sector forecasting and early warning systems, disaster risk and emergency communications mechanisms, social technologies and hazard-monitoring telecommunications systems; develop such systems through a participatory process; tailor them to the needs of users, including social and cultural requirements, in particular gender; promote the application of simple and low-cost early warning equipment and facilities; and broaden release channels for natural disaster early warning information;
3	8	To establish community centres for the promotion of public awareness and the stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue and relief activities;
4	9	To strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including through community involvement, integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes, and access to basic health-care services, including maternal, new-born and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, housing and education, towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solutions in the post-disaster phase and to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters;
4	10	To establish a mechanism of case registry and a database of mortality caused by disaster in order to improve the prevention of morbidity and mortality;
4	11	To enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial support and mental health services for all people in need;

5.7. Potential Framework for Post-COVID-19 Recovery Process

Given the importance of the immediate effective recovery after COVID-19 pandemic, several capacity criteria outlined above are suggested to be used for post-pandemic recovery. The main principle applied for the recovery process should be guided by the “Recovery Back Better” approach outlined in the UN Five Pillars for Pandemic Recovery. The post-pandemic Recovery Framework could be summarized in the following table.

Figure ... “Post-pandemic Recovery Framework. Building Back Better”

RISK IDENTIFICATION AND REDUCTION	FOCUSING ON COMMUNITY SOCIAL	SYSTEM APPROACH FOR RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION
-----------------------------------	------------------------------	---

AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of biological/health-related risk zones 2. Installing Early Warning Systems in communities 3. Biological Risk Reduction Education 4. Strengthening Resilience of the Health Sector 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing psychological support to community members 2. Implementing effective social protection measures 3. Implementation of an effective economic recovery plan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engaging stakeholders 2. Strengthening institutions and legal framework 3. Effective monitoring and evaluation system 4. Effective public awareness campaign.

It is recommended to consider building relevant capacities for the country to integrate biological risk management in the process of strengthening the DRM System in Albania.

6. Recommendations for developing DRM Strategy in Albania

The whole process of disaster risk management system capacity assessment is considered as a main preparatory step for developing the National DRRM Strategy for Albania for 2021-2030. The following ten essentials developed by a consideration of the worldwide experience in similar exercises can be recommended for Albania. In the process of developing the new DRRM strategy, the set of recommendations and actions suggested in the current report can be considered.

6.1. Alignment with the National Strategies and SF DRR

The future DRM Strategy shall be aligned with the national development plans and Sendai Framework for DRR. The system approach outlined in the current report can serve as a basis for aligning the future DRM strategy with these strategic documents. One of the ways to aligning the strategy is to consider the application of SF DRR Priority Actions in the content of the strategy.

6.2. SF DRR Priority Action 1 – Understanding Risk

The future DRM Strategy shall have a certain level of agility and flexibility to allow effective adaptation to the emerging needs, threats and new hazards. In this process, it is critical building the strategic capacity in the system for identification of new hazards and threats, and new risks which can jeopardize the development of the country.

6.3. SF DRR Priority Action 2 – Risk Governance

The successful implementation of the future strategy will highly depend on the effectiveness of Disaster Risk Governance. In this direction, building capacities of the key players of the DRM system

is an essential component of the future strategy. The current assessment and suggested actions can be considered as the core for the future DRM Strategy Action Plan.

6.4. SF DRR Priority Action 3 – Investing in Risk Management and Resilience Building

The future strategy shall outline new potentials for increasing the investments in the DRM areas and building resilience at all levels. It may consider revision and upgrading the existing legal and policy framework, new modalities for public-private partnerships and integration of risk mitigation measures into development plans and programs at all levels. The recommendations of the current report provided in the previous section can be further developed and expanded.

6.5. SF DRR Priority Action 4 – “Building Back Better” Disaster Response, Reconstruction and Recovery Framework

The main conceptual approach in this regard should be a provision of essential elements for disaster response actions and post-disaster recovery strategies. Several specific recommendations are provided in the previous section of the report.

6.6. Prevention of New Risks

Prevention of new risks of disasters is an essential factor in building resilience at the national and community levels. As such, the strategy shall provide main directions for the integration of risk-informed decision making in the planning and programming at local and national levels.

6.7. Reducing Existing Risks

Following the prevention of new risks, the next important quality is a reduction of the existing risks in the country. Development of new norms and standards, strict implementation of policies and requirements shall be in the focus of the new strategic document, alongside with the engagement of key stakeholders.

6.8. Strengthening Economic, Social, Health and Environmental Resilience

The ultimate goal of the future strategy on DRM shall be ensuring building resilience in economic, social, health and environmental dimensions, thus contributing to the process of sustainable development. The sector objectives shall be clearly outlined in the goals and objectives of the strategic document and incorporated in the relevant indicators to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of the strategy.

6.9. Clear and Realistic Action Plan – with Timeframes, Targets, Indicators and Resources.

The future DRM Strategy shall have an actionable plan of activities with clear timeframes, target and indicators to measure the achievements. It is also important to provide a very clear indication of the resources to be used for the implementation of the Strategy Action Plan.

6.10. A mechanism to follow-up, assess the progress, report

This is the key feature of an effective and agile strategy. It is important to establish in the strategic document the clear mechanisms and processes for assessing the environment and introducing the changes as necessary. The more specific details on the “process approach” to DRM Strategy will be outlined in the specific Terms of Reference for the development of the National DRM Strategy.

7. Next Steps in Developing the DRM Strategy.

The purpose of the DRM Capacity Assessment is to prepare the stage for and facilitate the development of the new Disaster Risk Management of Albania for 2021-2030. A current report is a useful tool in this process. It is important to build on the momentum created by the DRM Capacity Assessment done in November 2020 and continue the process of strategic planning in the country. The following steps can be considered in this process.

1. **Analysis of the results of the DRM Capacity Assessment** – the findings and recommendations of the current report can be discussed with the key stakeholders of the DRM system. These discussions shall lead to validation of the finding and adjustment of the recommendations to better fit the circumstances of the country.
2. **DRM Capacity Development Action Plan** – based on the results of stakeholder discussions, the DRM Capacity Development Action Plan can be developed and approved by the NCPA. In the future, it can become an organic part of the future DRM strategy.
3. **Engagement of Key Stakeholders in Strategy Discussion and development of the DRR National Platform** – there is a need to further expand and extend the engagement of the key stakeholders in the strategic discussion around the Disaster Risk Management system in the country. The development of the National Platform on DRR can be considered as an important milestone for the strategic planning process and overall capacity development. The NCPA can suggest a framework and process for engaging the stakeholders in developing the National Platform.
4. **Development of the DRM Strategy of Albania** – the strategy development shall be led by the NCPA with meaningful participation of all key stakeholders of the DRM system. Special attention shall be given to engagement of the local and provincial governments in this process and representatives of the private sector and civil society.
5. **Development of DRM Strategy Action Plan** – this must be an integral part of the new DRM Strategy in Albania. It is recommended to use the ‘process approach’ for both the strategy and an Action plan.
6. **Development of the Monitoring and Reporting System of the DRM Strategy** – the implementation of the DRM Strategy will be successfully managed if a proper monitoring and reporting system is installed in the process. This can be considered as an important step in building the strategic capacities in DRM in Albania.
7. **Official Approval** – Government Decision on the approval of the DRM Strategy and Action Plan will mark the successful conclusion of the strategic development process and the beginning of the implementation of the new DRM Strategy.