Assessment Report on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Integrated Risk Management (IRM) Practices in Six Municipalities of the Ajara Autonomous Republic

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Acronyms

| EBRD | European Bank for Reconstruction and Development |
|---------|--|
| ED | Environment and Development |
| BSEA | Black Sea Eco Academy |
| CTVA | Common Tools for Vulnerability Assessment |
| ICCAMGR | Institutionalization of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation |
| | Measures in the Regions of Georgia |
| ISO | International Standardization Organization |
| KfW | German Development Bank |
| NALAG | National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Program |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| SDC | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| SFDRR | Sendai Framework Program for Disaster Risk Reduction |

Definition of Terminology

Adaptation – to adjust natural or anthropological systems to actual or expected climatic impacts or their results which might result in a reduction of damage or a chance to use a favorable opportunity (ISDR, 2009).

Climate Change Adaptation – strengthening the adaptation capacity of natural systems against the harmful effects of climate change and implementing measures for neutralizing these effects.

Climate Change Mitigation – limitation of CO2 emissions and strengthening of gas absorbers.

Disaster Risk – the potential loss of life, injury or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity (ISDR, 2009).

Disaster Risk Reduction – disaster risk reduction is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and, therefore, to the achievement of sustainable development (ISDR, 2009).

Early Warning System – an integrated system of hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction, disaster risk assessment, communication and preparedness activities systems and processes that enables individuals, communities, governments, businesses and others to take timely action to reduce disaster risks in advance of hazardous events (ISDR, 2009).

Emergency – is sometimes used interchangeably with the term disaster as, for example, in the context of biological and technological hazards or health emergencies which, however, can also relate to hazardous events that do not result in the serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society (ISDR, 2009).

Emergency Management – is also used, sometimes interchangeably, with the term disaster management, particularly in the context of biological and technological hazards and for health emergencies. While there is a large degree of overlap, an emergency can also relate to hazardous events that do not result in the serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society (ISDR, 2009).

Geological Hazard – originates from internal earth processes. Examples are earthquakes, volcanic activity and emissions and related geophysical processes such as mass movements, landslides, rockslides, surface collapses and debris or mud flows. Hydro meteorological factors are important contributors to some of these processes. Tsunamis are difficult to categorize: although they are triggered by undersea earthquakes and other geological events, they essentially become an oceanic process that is manifested as a coastal water-related hazard (ISDR, 2009).

Hazard – a process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards may be natural, anthropogenic or socio-natural in origin. Natural hazards are predominantly associated with natural processes and phenomena. Anthropogenic hazards, or human-induced hazards, are induced entirely or predominantly by human activities and choices (ISDR, 2009).

Integrated Risk Assessment – a broad concept that has various definitions by different agencies; e.g., the Asian Development Bank includes the integration of disaster risk mitigation in development projects, strategies and plans as well as a crossover between disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and the assurance of financial support for risk mitigation and management (ADB, 2014). The fundamental purpose of integrated risk management is to ensure that the risks to human health and the environment are brought to a minimum. According to ISO 31000, integrated risk management is a systematic process which encompasses a risk assessment component (risk identification, analysis, calculation) as well as risk operation (preparedness, response, recovery).

Natural Hazard – a process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. They are predominantly associated with natural processes and phenomena (ISDR, 2009).

Preparedness – the knowledge and capacities developed by governments, response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current disasters (ISDR, 2009).

Prevention – activities and measures to avoid existing and new disaster risks (ISDR, 2009).

Recovery – the restoring or improving of livelihoods and health as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and "build back better" to avoid or reduce future disaster risk (ISDR, 2009).

Response – actions taken directly before, during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected (ISDR, 2009).

Technological Hazard – originates from technological or industrial conditions, dangerous procedures, infrastructure failures or specific human activities. Examples include industrial pollution, nuclear radiation, toxic wastes, dam failures, transport accidents, factory explosions, fires and chemical spills. Technological hazards also may arise directly as a result of the impacts of a natural hazard event (ISDR, 2009).

Vulnerability – the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards (ISDR, 2009).

Executive Summary

The increased frequency of geological and hydro-meteorological disasters on the territory of the Ajara Autonomous Republic in the last few years have significantly damaged vulnerable buildingsstructures, infrastructure and the natural environment. Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are one of the most important challenges that the region currently faces. Therefore, the Black Sea Eco Academy (BSEA), Environment and Development (ED) and Bridge – Innovation and Development conducted the Climate Change Adaptation and Integrated Risk Management Practice Assessment in Six Municipalities of the Ajara Autonomous Republic study under the UNDP Inception Phase of the project: Strengthening Climate Adaptation Capacities in Georgia funded by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC).

The assessment of climate change adaptation and integrated disaster risk management practices in the Ajara Autonomous Republic and its territorial units was done on the basis of a review of the current institutional and legal framework and a review of documents (legal acts, policy documents, strategies, project materials, etc.) retrieved as a part of the activities of the research. Together with a desk review of the available documentation, an analysis was conducted of the information gained as a result of consultation meetings with stakeholders.

As a result of an institutional and legal framework assessment, it was revealed that there are no separate legislation and legal regulations on climate change adaptation in the Ajara Autonomous Republic and at the level of its municipalities (Batumi, Kobuleti, Khelvachauri, Keda, Shuakhevi and Khulo). It is imperative that the strategy or action plans to be developed in the future have a legal status so that projects implemented by various donors are successful and sustainable. As for disaster risk management, certain legal decrees are enacted although risk management and emergency response plans have not yet been developed. According to the decrees, the plans in the municipalities must be prepared by January 1, 2019. The assessment also identified the necessity for the formation of a unit responsible for climate change adaptation and risk assessment as there is currently no such position in the municipalities and so the various activities within the projects implemented by donors are unsustainable. As a result, municipality representatives are not well informed on the existing environmental issues in their municipalities with climate change and disaster risk reduction issues rarely included in the decision-making process.

A more detailed description of the issues revealed through the study is provided in the following report.

Introduction

Climate change is a significant problem for the natural environment and socio-economic development at the global as well as national levels which is confirmed by the increased geological and hydro-meteorological hazards in Georgia over the last decade. The vulnerability of the country is determined by its geographical position and natural conditions. Climate change adaptation is the most important challenge for the country's developing economy (USAID & NALAG, 2016).

Visible changes to the climate also noticeable on the territory of the Ajara Autonomous Republic are expressed on the Black Sea coastline by intensive water erosion, abundant humidity and the disasters caused as a result - freshets, landslides, floods and avalanches. The permanent rise of the sea level and intensified storms pose risk to the coastline infrastructure while freshets and landslides cause a loss of ground, the destruction of buildings and increase in number of ecomigrants. In addition to the climate related risks, the escalation of these processes is also caused by the increasing anthropomorphic influence on nature such as the broadening economic activity of the AR's population (UNDP, 2013).

1. Climate Change Adaptation and Integrated Risk Management Practice Assessment Methodology

This report describes the current practices related to climate change adaptation and integrated risk management in the self-governing city of Batumi and the self-governing communities/ municipalities (Kobuleti, Khelvachauri, Keda, Shuakhevi and Khulo¹) of the Ajara Autonomous Republic.

The overview of the climate change adaptation-related institutional and legal framework, local policy, strategies and plans, activities and projects were used for the assessment of climate change adaptation practices in the Ajara Autonomous Republic and relevant territorial units. The integrated disaster risk management assessment includes an overview of current risk assessment practices (risk identification, analysis, calculation) as well as risk operation (preparedness, response, recovery) practices. The information on climate change adaptation practices and integrated disaster risk management assessment is provided in Chapter 2. Conclusions and recommendations are provided in the last chapter of the report.

The assessment was based on the data from climate change adaptation and integrated disaster risk management research documentation as well as data provided during stakeholder consultation meetings.

2.1.1 Climate Change Adaptation – Legislative Framework Overview and Main Findings:

- A climate change strategy is prepared at the republic level; however, the adaptation processes described in the strategy are not fully implemented.
- A sustainable energy development plan is formed for the city of Batumi.
- Climate change adaptation concepts are prepared at a municipal level (Kobuleti, Shuakhevi, Keda, Khulo and Khelvachauri) which are one of the policy forming tools available to the municipalities. It is also worth mentioning that a climate change adaptation plan is developed for the Khelvachauri Municipality.
- There is no separate legislation on legal regulations for climate change adaptation for the autonomous republic nor its municipalities.
- Georgian local budgets consider climate change adaptation programs as infrastructural programs. The relevant measures do not get funding from the Management and Regulation program.

¹There is no difference between self-governing cities and self-governing communities in terms of authority and functionality (the only difference is in the name of the executive entity: the executive entity in a self-governing city is its mayor).

2. Climate Change Adaptation and Integrated Disaster Risk Management Practice in the Ajara Autonomous Republic

2.1 Overview of Legal Framework, Current Policy and Activities

2.1.1 Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change and disaster risk management issues in the Ajara Autonomous Republic are regulated by legislative acts, by-laws and international treaties. The mandates of local self-governments on the climate change adaptation and disaster risk management are defined in the Organic Law of Georgia - Local Self-Government Code² adopted in 2014. Respectively, the municipality is authorized to independently decide on any subject (including those that relate to climate change adaptation) that does not by law fall under the competency of any other government unit and if the decision does not go against any laws.

Georgia does not have a specific law in the field of climate change impact mitigation and/or climate change adaptation. Among the legislative normative acts relevant to these issues, the most noteworthy are the Law on Environmental Protection³, the Law on Atmospheric Air Protection⁴ and other legislative acts.

The Law on Environment Protection integrates issues concerning Georgia's international treaties and agreements like the Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biodiversity and the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution. According to the Law on Environment Protection (Article 15), the environmental protection planning system includes an environment protection action program which is formed at regional, local and departmental levels – however, the law also dictates that the rules for their preparation and periodic reviews must be defined by special legislation. The law does not specifically define the competencies of local selfgovernment as they relate to the environmental field. These are specifically defined in relation to the competencies of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (formerly, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource Protection of Georgia) (Article 13) – which in turn indirectly determines what limitations are applied to the decision-making ability of local selfgovernments. Thus, on the one hand, based on the Law on Environment Protection and, on the other hand, the local self-governance code, local self-governments have the right to prepare and

² https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/2244429

³ https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/33340

⁴https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/16210

approve any environmental protection action programs within their territory – including action programs directly concerning climate change and disaster risk management issues (USAID & NALAG, 2015).

Generally, in the field of climate change, Georgia is committed to the following international treaties:

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which Georgia joined in 1994;
- United Nations Climate Change Convention Kyoto Protocol which was ratified by the country in 1999 and
- Framework Convention on Climate Change, the so-called Paris Accords, which was signed by Georgia together with 177 countries on April 23, 2016.

Georgia's global commitments are ensured by national communications periodically presented to the convention secretariat. It should be noted that within the framework of Georgia's the Third National Communication, the Ajara Autonomous Republic Climate Change Strategy was drafted and represents a communication at a regional level. The strategy was developed in 2013 with the unified efforts and cooperation of the UNDP and the Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Division of the Ajara Autonomous Republic (together with a large group of specialists, central government bodies, the Batumi City Mayor's Office and other agencies from the Ajara Autonomous Republic). Within the framework of the strategy, project proposals were prepared that aimed at implementing specific measures to decrease the vulnerability of separate segments of the economy and natural ecosystems against climate change in the Ajara Autonomous Republic, decrease CO₂ emissions on the republic's territory and strengthen the sources for their consumption. The strategy does not have a legal status and represents a sort of report and a collection of recommendations concerning climate change and issues of adaptation (UNDP, 2013).

At the local level, the city of Batumi does not have a climate change adaptation plan regulation. In the framework of the Covenant of Mayors,⁵ the municipality implements measures in the direction of climate change mitigation based on the Batumi Sustainable Energy Action Plan approved in 2014. The implementation of climate change adaptation measures is not the exclusive authority of the municipality. Thus, the Organic Law of Georgia on the Local Self-Government Code does not mandate a municipality to undertake this function. However, according to Article 16, Paragraph 3 of the Code, a municipality is authorized to independently decide on any subject that does not by law fall under the competency of any other government unit and if the decision does not go against any law. The Municipality of Batumi expressed its readiness to carry out the institutional and systematic formation of adaptation measures with the help of a donor support.

It should be noted that climate change adaptation issues will be included in the Batumi Green City Action Plan to be prepared by the EBRD within the framework of phase II of the Batumi Buses project. In relation to this, the EBRD has announced a call for bids for the plan of preparation services.

⁵ In the framework of the EU's defined energy efficiency implementation priorities, the main driving force for the development and implementation of Batumi's energy sustainable development action plan is the municipality. In 2011, by signing the Mayor's Agreement, the city of Batumi joined the initiative to reduce greenhouse gases by a minimum of 20% by the year 2020 – an aim that has to be achieved in tandem with the city's social and economic development.

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Climate change adaptation measures (separately) are implemented by the Municipal Development Fund (riverbank enforcement activities) as well as the Municipality of Batumi which mainly entails the construction of drainage channels and catchment areas (within the framework of the KfW Bank's Utility Infrastructure Recovery project) as well as the recovery of current drainage channels and the maintenance and construction of new ones in parallel with infrastructural projects which are implemented by the Municipal Department of Amenities and Infrastructure.

Many adaptation projects are being carried out in the municipalities; however, due to the limited capacities, skills and insufficient legislative and institutional basis in local governments, communities and NGOs, the results and success of the implemented measures are not sustainable, the involvement of the local government in the decision making process becomes limited and, thus, the interests of the municipalities in relation to climate change adaptation are not included in various development or sectoral projects. It is also worth noting that municipality representatives are oftentimes ill-informed on the relevant conditions in their municipalities.

Even though the municipalities have limited financial, technical and human resources, certain initiatives and respective measures are still being implemented (see the full list of the projects in Appendix 1). For example, in 2016, with the financial support from the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the climate change adaptation concept project was prepared for the municipalities of Batumi, Kobuleti, Khelvachauri, Keda, Shuakhevi and Khulo as a part of the activities of the Institutionalization of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Measures in Georgian Regions project. The aim of the above-mentioned project was to support local government representatives with working in a coordinated manner on climate change adaptation and in planning and implementing relevant measures. In addition, it should be noted that the non-governmental organization, ECOVISION, prepared a climate change adaptation plan for the Municipality of Khelvachauri in 2016. The above-mentioned climate change adaptation concepts and plan do not have a legal status. The climate change adaptation plan for the Municipality of Khelvachauri is like the above-mentioned climate change adaptation concept; however, the recommendations/ measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation are described in more detail in the plan document as compared to the concept. Also, it is worth noting that neither of the documents has information on cost estimates/budgets for the implementation of their recommendations/ measures.

It can be said that separate legislative regulations on climate change which are directed by national or international requirements are non-existent at the municipality level in the Ajara Autonomous Republic.

Local municipalities prepare an annual document on climate change adaptation/prevention⁶ activity priorities based on which a budget is developed and the annual activities (landslide, flood protection, slope stabilization and other infrastructural projects) are implemented although the funds are written up as sub-program components of emergency management and public infrastructure recovery. All self-governments have municipal reserve funds for use when dealing

⁶ Climate change adaptation measures crossover with disaster risk mitigation/management measures.

with the results of disasters; however, additional funds are transferred from the central budget as necessary. The costs for implementing preventative measures are not included. Georgian local budgets generally consider environmental, climate change adaptation and disaster prevention programs as public utilities and assign them as infrastructural programs. Funding is not allocated for management and regulation programs which means that the municipalities can only undertake infrastructural functions in the environmental field and not management or regulation functions (USAID & NALAG, 2015).

Hence, the infrastructure projects that are implemented in the municipalities are not considered as climate change adaptation or risk mitigation projects. It should be noted that while working with the municipalities in 2010-2017 within the framework of the DIPECHO Disaster Risk Mitigation Support project, Oxfam and the Black Sea Eco Academy concentrated on shifting funds from the budget for disaster damage recovery to preventative measures. At the same time, around 60 mitigation projects were financed in Shuakhevi, Khulo and Keda of which approximately 30% were co-financed by the municipalities. Currently, these types of projects are often replicated in the municipalities.

Some brief information on the projects implemented in 2017 and planned for 2018 is given below:

- 1. Shuakhevi In 2017, several anti-landslide projects were implemented with a total cost of GEL 500,000. About 20 riverbank enforcement concentrated projects are planned for 2018 although the budget is not yet known.
- Khelvachauri GEL 1,086,145 was set aside for setting up gabions and slope stabilization walls (120 projects in total) in 2017 and GEL 56,435 for two drainage channels. In 2018, GEL 503,000 has been provided for setting up slope stabilization walls.
- 3. Khulo In 2017, 45 projects were implemented with a total value of GEL 589,908 (drainage, slope stabilization, firefighting water tanks). GEL 1,068,000 has been provided for an infrastructural project in the 2018 budget (river bed cleaning and gabion construction).
- 4. Keda In 2017, 60 projects were implemented with a budget of GEL 1,047,628 (drainage, gabions, slope stabilization). In 2018, 47 projects have been implemented with a budget of GEL 707,416 (slope stabilization).
- 5. Kobuleti In 2017, 48 projects were implemented with a budget of GEL 399,556 (gabions).

Disaster Risk Management

The Disaster Risk Mitigation National Strategy⁷ and its Action Plan⁸ are important documents in Georgia's disaster risk management policy. The basic legislative act, however, is presented in the Law of Georgia on Civil Safety⁹ whose initial version was approved on May 29, 2014. However, relevant changes were made to the law as a result of the merger between the State Security and Crisis Management Council and the Emergency Management Agency under Ministry of Internal Affairs. The law was adopted by Parliament on June 27, 2018, which is the main legal document regulating the emergency management and civil safety issues. The law includes the formation of a unified system that will encompass the executive government and its sub-divisions, legal entities of public law, bodies of the autonomous republic, district and local self-governments and organizations

⁷ http://gov.ge/files/469_59429_120118_4.pdf

⁸ https://www.matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/3547798

⁹ On June 27, 2018 the Parliament adopted a new version of the current Law on Public Safety (https://info.parliament.ge/#law-drafting/15562). The information provided in the report is based on the version of the law adopted on June 27, 2018 and which will be enforced on August 1, 2018.

working in the field of civil safety. The aim of the unified system is to provide prevention, preparedness, response and recovery measures in the case of an emergency with a view to the assurance of civil safety, the protection of structures of economic importance and the environment and the mitigation of physical damage. On the basis of decisions made by the Government of Georgia, local municipality units together with municipal entities perform duties such as: emergency risk management – the identification of threats, risks and impact analysis and based on this the preparation of emergency prevention measures and implementation, preparedness for and response to the incident/emergency; protection of the public, the environment and property from an incident/ emergency; the development of an incident/emergency warning systems, including an early warning system, undertaking recovery activities, preparation of an emergency management plan and other obligations.

2.1.2 Integrated Disaster Risk Management – Overview of the Legislative Framework and Main Findings:

- No disaster risk management strategy/plan exists at the level of the autonomous republic.
- Data on various threats are not collected systematically at the local level. There is no unified and systematic mechanism (regulation) for recording incidents and their results for a comparison and analysis of the damage caused by disasters which hinders decision making vis-à-vis recovery and accountability. The Government of Georgia will pass the Resolution on the Recording of Incidents/Emergencies and their Results by January 1, 2019 that will regulate the collection and recording of emergency situation-related information at the municipal and autonomous republic levels.
- There is no risk management system in place at the municipal level. The Ordinance on Developing the Rules for the Preparation of an Emergency Risk Management Plan will be prepared which will be the basis for developing a municipal emergency risk management plan. The same plan will mandate vulnerability assessment and risk scenario analysis/calculation at the local level which in currently not being done.
- The emergency response plans at the local level are outdated and need to be updated according to the Ordinance on Developing the Rules for the Preparation of an Emergency Management Plan by January 1, 2019. At this time, a municipal safety passport has been developed according to the Ordinance on the Approval of the Rules for the Development of the Municipality Safety Passport.

The unified system is managed according to the National Civil Safety Plan that was adopted on September 24, 2015 which regulates the activities of administrational units for civil safety. The national plan regulates the activities of administrational units in the field of emergency management and civil safety. It determines the measures needed for protecting the population and the territory from emergency as well as the scale of the measures needed, the rules for the implementation of the measures and the main and auxiliary actors undertaking the activities. Its objective is to conduct and coordinate activities for all levels of government bodies for the purposes of solving issues relating to civil safety. The aim of the national plan is to ensure prevention, readiness response and recovery phases vis-à-vis emergency as well as the coordination of humanitarian activities. The achievement of the above-mentioned challenges and objectives according to the national civil safety plan must be based on emergency management and risk management planning involving governmental bodies at all levels. The National Civil Safety Plan determines relevant measures for all four phases of management (prevention, preparedness, response, recovery) as well as the main and auxiliary actors (17 emergency support functions).

Risk Assessment (Risk Identification, Analysis, Calculation)

Emergency are divided into two categories depending on their origin: natural and human induced (technogenic). The rules for the classification of incidents and emergency situations are defined by the Government of Georgia.

Systematic records of historical disaster events and risk identification data are not produced at the local level. There is no unified and systematic mechanism (regulation) for recording incidents and their results for the comparison and analysis of the damage caused by disasters which hinders decision making vis-à-vis recovery and accountability. The Government of Georgia must adopt resolutions that will regulate the collection and the recording of emergency related information before January 1, 2019. These are: Resolution on the Approval of the Rules for the Classification of Incidents and Emergencies, Resolution on the Recording of Incidents/Emergencies and their Results and the Resolution on the Approval of the Ordinance on Early Warning of Expected and/or Emerging Emergencies. Subsequently, the recording of information about incidents/emergencies will be mandatory for the national government as well as for the Ajara Autonomous Republic and its municipalities.

The non-existence of a unified and systematic mechanism for the comparison and analysis of data on disaster damages and losses hinders the decision-making process for effective recovery, accountability and risk assessment. Aside from this, the lack of a unified system for disaster damage/loss assessment goes against Georgia's commitments towards the SENDAI framework agreement for disaster risk reduction (SFDRR).¹⁰

It should also be noted that there is no unified methodology/approach for the assessment of various types of emergencies, vulnerability, risk exposure and risk assessment at the levels of the autonomous republic and the municipalities. The Government of Georgia adopted the Ordinance on Developing the Rules for the Preparation of an Emergency Risk Management Pla¹¹ on October 6, 2017 (the development and approval of which was mandated by the Law on Civil Safety) which defines the hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment based on which municipal risk management plans have to be prepared. This ordinance is used in the planning process of emergency (disaster risk) prevention, preparedness, response and recovery measures and determines the expected emergency risk identification, analysis and assessment procedures as well as other issues necessary for the preparation of a risk management plan. Further, the Ordinance on Developing the Rules for Preparation of Emergency Management Plan¹² was adopted on October 6, 2017. The plan must include preventive, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures which will be defined according to expected emergency scenarios. The map depicting the prediction of the results of expected emergency situations will be based on an emergency risk map, and risk assessment will be done according to the Ordinance on Developing the Rules for the Preparation of an Emergency Risk Management Plan.

¹⁰ Georgia has been a member of the SENDAI pilot project since 2015.

¹¹ https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/3824640

¹² https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/3824628

Based on the above-mentioned ordinance, the local self-governing bodies had to devise and approve emergency risk management plans (these currently do not exist in the municipalities) and emergency response management plans no later than December 31, 2018 in agreement with the Emergency Management Service. According to the rules, the risk management plan must be renewed no more than twice per year and immediately in the case of the appearance of a new threat. The response plan must be updated annually and immediately in the case of the emerging of a new threat and/or significant changes happening to the data reflected in the plan. Even though the legislation mandates the municipalities to implement this plan, this process remains suspended. The reasoning for this could be the reforms and changes being made to the legislation on emergency management, on the one hand, due to which co-implementation and monitoring have been suspended as well as the extension of the deadline for their development for the municipalities until December 31, 2018, on the other hand. Local self-government bodies have subsequently been unable to implement the plan.

It should be noted that the municipalities have older versions of response plans such as the natural and technogenic emergency response plans in the Municipalities of Batumi, Kobuleti, Shuakhevi, Keda, Khulo, Khelvachauri which for the majority were developed and approved in 2011. As mentioned above, the response plan must be based on the Ordinance on Developing the Rules for Preparation of the Emergency Management Plan.

In addition, the Government of Georgia must provide the following ordinances by January 1, 2019:

- Ordinance on Developing the Rules for Preparation of Natural Emergency Prevention Measures
- Ordinance on the Prevention of Oil and Oil-Product Leakage on the Territory of Georgia and the Approval of the Rules for the Liquidation of their Results
- Ordinance on the Approval of the Rules for the Development of the Municipality Safety Passport
- Ordinance on the Approval of the Rules for Implementing Mandatory Operations in the Case of Emergency

Risk Management (Preparedness, Response, Recovery)

Preparedness

Since the emergency management and civil safety fields in Georgia are centralized, each phase of emergency management, including preparedness, is regulated according to national legislation and regulations. The autonomous republic and its municipalities do not have separate legal acts for the above-mentioned field. Therefore, in terms of the legislative framework, they act based on national legislation.

Preparedness measures are divided into the following main directions: 1. Raising awareness and capacity, 2. Mobilization of necessary physical equipment (machinery, tools) and 3. Preparation of relevant infrastructure for timely and effective response.

In terms of planning the emergency preparedness measures and implementation, the most important document is the Law on Civil Safety which is further elaborated in section 5.1.1 of the report. The document defines the purposes for separate preparedness measures such as, for example, the command-staff and tactical-special and complex exercises as well as emergency management teaching, fire safety, etc. These are planned for Emergency Management Service response and responsible sub-divisions, various governmental bodies and the public.

The levels of emergency management are defined in the Law on Civil Safety as well as relevant responsible bodies and activities. Therefore, the planning and implementation of preparedness measures must also adhere to the same principles. The law defines the bodies responsible for the planning and implementation of relevant measures according to the various levels of emergency management, their authority and competence. They also define the rights and obligations of the public. It is worth noting that the law also ensures development of the emergency management plan as a planning document which defines preparedness of the members of unified system to implement their functions as well as creation and management of material reserves and human rights during main phases of an emergency management arisen during peace and wartimes.

The National Civil Safety Plan is also imperative for preparedness as one of the phases of emergency management in terms of regulating the rules for the execution of relevant activities. The document is a continuation of the Law on Civil Safety. This document describes the roles and obligations of each institution and governmental body in terms of planning and implementation of preparedness measures in more detail as well as containing a list of readiness measures, the rules for their execution and the frequency and length of implementation. One of the main aims of the plan is to ensure the readiness of each of the units of the emergency management unified system.

The civil safety plan is also important considering that it regulates the material-technical side of preparedness measure planning and implementation which is an important direction of the preparedness phase. According to the plan, the organization of material-technical assurance for preparedness measures must be done based on risk management and emergency management plans according to the probable scenario for the development of an emergency. The plan includes the main material-technical preparedness measures, relevant measures and, most importantly, the main and support units responsible for implementation. The execution of the relevant measures is done within the framework of emergency assistance function Nº12 according to the relevant levels of management described in the Law on Civil Safety.

The Georgian Disaster Risk Mitigation 2017-2020 National Strategy and its action plan is an important document in terms of preparedness. The document recognizes raising awareness and understanding risk as one of the main prerequisites of risk mitigation which in and of itself is a component of the emergency preparedness phase with the action plan dictating the relevant activities to be implemented nationwide, including the Ajara Autonomous Republic and its municipalities. An important part of the document deals with the development of reserves for emergency situations; specifically, it is important to have a reserve of materials needed for liquidation/recovery activities that would be necessary in the event of a disaster.

Within the framework of the current reforms in the emergency management field, relevant changes are being made to the legislation which, due to the centralized system of management, are reflected on the Ajara Autonomous Republic and its municipalities. For example, there are plans to change/decrease the current (local, regional/autonomous, national) practice of emergency management levels.

The implementation of authority and obligations in the field of emergency management at the municipal level, including planning and the execution of readiness measures, must in future be carried out according to emergency management and risk management plans developed at the

municipal level. As a result of the above-mentioned reforms of the Emergency Management Service and the changes to the relevant legislation, local municipal governments are unable to carry out necessary activities, including improving preparedness.

Response

Emergency response, like preparedness planning and implementation, is regulated at the level of the autonomous republic as well as the municipalities by the Law on Civil Safety and the National Civil Safety Plan. Like the emergency readiness phase, the implementation of this phase is also centralized. The autonomous republic and the municipalities do not have legal documents or normative acts relevant to response. Enforced by the above mentioned law, plan and parliamentary Ordinance on the Formation of Emergency Management Plan Development Rules dated October 6, 2017, the government of the autonomous republic and the local authorities are obliged to develop and approve emergency management plans based on which they have to plan and implement response measures and activities in times of emergencies and ensure the implementation of the rights and obligations of the relevant entities within the unified system including the creation and management of material and human resources.

Currently, the development, approval and implementation of the above-mentioned plan is not being done. The timeline for emergency services for the start of these processes is not yet known due to the current reforms being made to the system.

The Law on Civil Safety defines the authority of the national government, the autonomous republic and the municipalities and the rights and obligations of public and legal persons. It defines the response measures for emergencies and threats, and main terms and conditions for civil safety and emergency management response as well as primary response measures. Like other phases, the law also defines the units responsible for response measures according to the levels of the unified system (including the autonomous republic and municipal entities) and their authority and competency as well as the rights and obligations of organizations and the public.

Considering the response teams and material resources needed to deal with emergencies as well as the scope of the emergency, the following levels of emergency management are given in the Law on Civil Safety: a) national, b) autonomous republic, c) regional, d) local and e) structure-specific. It also covers the financing issue for civil safety, including preparedness and response, financed according to the level of management from the national, autonomous republic, regional or municipal budget and any other funds deemed appropriate by Georgian legislation. Emergency response and the rehabilitation activities are financed as per the rules of the Government of Georgia. Civil safety measures are financed by organizations with their own funds according to the authority and obligations given to them by the government whereas the educational and medical institutions are dependent on budgetary financing based on relevant target programs.

The National Civil Safety Plan regulates the activities of administrational units in the field of civil safety and determines the measures to be implemented for protecting the public and territories in emergency situations, their scope, rules for implementation and main and auxiliary implementing actors.

The aim of the plan is to conduct the activities of the executive government, the autonomous republic (in this case, Ajara), municipal units and organizations working in the field of civil safety,

including solving response-related challenges and cooperation in these matters from the executive government, its sub-divisional institutions, legal entities of public law, the autonomous republic, government workers in relevant municipalities – governors, administrations and municipal units – as well as public and legal persons.

According to the National Civil Safety Plan, response as well as prevention, mitigation and recovery measures are carried out by activating the 17 emergency assistance functions. Each emergency response function is carried out at the national level by the relevant ministry, their structural unit or a legal entity of public law with participation from supporting units and organizations as well as municipalities and the governor's administrations. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2017-2020 aims to form a unified system of disaster risk mitigation for strengthening capacity for disaster preparedness at national, regional (autonomous republic) and local levels as well as increasing the efficiency of threat response. The priority directions included in it and their implementation serve toward the improvement of disaster risk mitigation, aversion, decreasing their impact and results. To achieve these objectives, the improvement of material resource capacities (equipment necessary for crisis response, emergency supplies, transportation, communications and so forth) is defined. This must be carried out at all levels of the emergency management structure (including the autonomous republic and its municipalities).

Measures identified by the Action Plan for the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2017-2020 also serve the purpose of reducing disaster risks and strengthening capacities for response by the executive government (including the autonomous republic).

In terms of preparedness and response, it is important that Georgia approximates its law to EU legislation as part of the country's committments under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement and international standards. The Association Agreement calls for the development of cooperation in disaster prevention and response issues.

Based on the above, it can be concluded that Georgia's crisis and emergency response at national and local levels is systemic and centralized. The current legislation almost completely regulates disaster management as well as crisis and emergency response coordination and disaster preparedness. However, as this field needs constant refining and improving, many laws and plans are in the process of development with the aim of perfecting and strengthening disaster and emergency preparedness and response.

Recovery

Recovery activities are conducted according to the National Civil Safety Plan. Recovery activities take place by the end of the emergency response phase or straight after its conclusion. Recovery activities include:

Recovery of damaged transportation

- Fixing damages to communication networks and lines
- Organizing the recovery of electrical supply
- Recovery of necessary infrastructural units
- Creating conditions necessary for the well-being of the population
- Carrying out sanitation and disinfestation activities
- Protecting public order

- Carrying out measures ensuring the sustainability of functioning objects of vital importance
- Other measures included in the public safety national plan

Recovery work is performed by relevant government units and bodies of the autonomous republic and its municipalities with the participation of Georgian citizens, other persons on Georgian territory and organizations.

Overview of Institutional Framework, Current Policy and Activities

2.1.2 Climate Change Adaptation

The autonomous republic's government and the local self-governments are the executive and implementing authority in regulating climate change-related norms in the Ajara Autonomous Republic. The government's management components in the Ajara Autonomous Republic are: Autonomous Republic High Council, Autonomous Republic Government and Autonomous Republic Ministries and Agencies whereas local self-governance is implemented in the municipalities. The representing body of the self-government is the municipal council whereas the executive agent and the highest position within the municipality is the mayor. The mayor's office is subordinate to the municipal executive body which insures the implementation of the councilman/mayor's authority and which consists of structural entities that can in turn have sub-divisions which are determined by the relevant structural entity regulations and staff list from the council/mayor's office. The authority and duties of the Ajara Autonomous Republic are defined on the grounds of the Georgian Constitution and the acts that are based on the Constitution, including the Act on the Status of the Ajara Autonomous Republic and the Constitution of the Ajara Autonomous Republic (USAID & NALAG, 2015).

The Ajara Autonomous Republic, through its governmental sub-division, the Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Division, carries out a number of functions (e.g., relating to atmospheric air protection) which are directly related to challenges posed by climate change. Furthermore, the above-mentioned division does not have direct authority for development and/or implementation at the level of the autonomous republic over issues of climate change adaptation and/or a mitigation strategy/program. According to the division's provisions, its priority aims are: preservation of an environment that is safe for human; achievement, preservation and improvement of atmospheric air for human health and the natural environment; study of hazardous geological processes in the Ajara Autonomous Republic, prognosis of hazardous geological processes and the formation of an informational base. The division includes structural sub-divisions (including the Integrated Biodiversity and Environment Management Service, Geological Services and Land Management Services) and a legal entity of public law – the Ajara Forest Agency.

There is no structural unit in the city of Batumi that is responsible for climate change adaptation. Separate measures that respond to adaptation requirements are carried out by the municipality mayor's amenities and infrastructure division and the municipal policy services (which is implementing the KfW utility infrastructure recovery project). The above mentioned structural unit also coordinates communication with donors.

Local self-governments can play a significant role in environmental decision making at a local level – despite the fact that the authority of local self-governments in this manner is quite limited. The

2. 2.1 Climate Change Adaptation – Overview of Legislative Framework and Main Findings:

- The municipalities of Kobuleti, Khelvachauri, Keda, Shuakhevi and Khulo have formed climate change and sustainable development working groups. However, they do not have a legal status and, thus, are non-functional.
- In 2014-2016, the working groups attended climate change adaptation trainings and gained knowledge on dealing-adapting to climate change in their own municipalities. However, because of changes in staff, the institutional memory was lost.
- There is no relevant staff in the municipality which can regularly work on the issues of climate change adaptation and so the training and retraining of specialists is unsystematic and unsustainable.
- The non-existence of structural units responsible for climate change adaptation is determined not only by the lack of legal status, but also by the lack of technical and financial resources.

authority of local self-governing bodies on separate matters is shown in some of the environmental sectoral legislative acts. For example, according to Article 8, Paragraph "f" of the Georgian Law on Soil Conservation and Fertility Recovery-Improvement, in the interest of soil conservation and fertility recovery-improvement, it is prohibited to write-off any irrigation, drainage, riverbank enforcements, erosion, flood and anti-landslide structures without the consent of municipal bodies.

A structural unit responsible for climate change adaptation does not exist at the municipal level. The National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia, with financial support from USAID in 2012-2016, implemented the Institutionalization of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Georgian Regions (ICCAMGR) project which was responsible for the integration of environmental protection and climate change related issues into the agendas of local self-governments. Within the framework of the project, the municipalities of Kobuleti, Khelvachauri, Keda, Shuakhevi and Khulo will form climate change and sustainable development working groups/committees whose main tasks will be to coordinate communication between the local and central governments on issues of climate change and support the execution of functions set out by the organic Law on Local Self-government of Georgia in natural resource management, special planning and sustainable development. Also, within the framework of the project, municipal working groups and relevant governmental entities attended seven lectures of training sessions about climate change between 2014 and 2016. The aim of the training courses was to support local self-governments to deal with problems caused by climate change as well as relevant institutional arrangements.

It should be noted that the climate change and sustainable development working groups are nonfunctional since climate change issues are not within the mandate of the municipality; thus, there is no relevant staff and the number of specialists is insufficient. Most of the group members also changed due to staff turnover. The training/retraining of specialists is unsystematic and at that, only at the behest of international donors.

Disaster Risk Management

Risk Assessment (Risk Identification, Analysis, Calculation)

Identification, assessment and monitoring of various types of hydro-meteorological and geological hazards (like freshets, landslides, floods, avalanches) on the territory of the Ajara Autonomous Republic fall under the authority of the National Environmental Agency and its territorial body, the regional division of Ajara. The identified geological threats are registered in the annual bulletin of the National Environmental Agency by the autonomous republic and municipalities. This document is sent out to the emergency management services as well as the municipalities for them to plan and implement relevant measures.

The Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Division of the Ajara Autonomous Republic carries out the monitoring of landslide and erosion areas within the autonomous republic and the assessment of their dynamic as well as monitoring of landslideerosion processes in resorts and areas near resorts (Beshumi, Goderdzi, Chirukhi, Gomarduli, Gomi Mountain, Goma, Mtirala, Khino, Chaqvistavi) on the basis of which relevant anti-landslide recommendations are developed for the stabilization of the processes.

The Coast Guard Service of the Roads Department of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure is responsible for the monitoring of the coast in Ajara; however, due to a lack of necessary resources, continuous monitoring is not possible. Regime studies are carried out fragmentally along emergency areas where immediate riverbank enforcement measures need to be carried out.

Information on historical data of various hazards is not systematically collected and stored in one database but is held across many

2. 2 .2 Integrated Risk Assessment Management – Overview of Legislative Framework and Main Findings:

- There are no specific governmental units at the municipal level responsible for risk mitigation and management issues.
- Within the framework of various projects around the municipalities (Kobuleti, Shuakhevi, Keda, Khulo, Khelvachauri), disaster risk mitigation groups are formed but they do not have a relevant legal status and, thus, do not function. In addition, the experience and knowledge gathered by experts within the project is lost due to staff changes.
- There is no specific unit in place that would be responsible for threat identification/database management/vulnerability/risk assessment/calculation.
- A local emergency situation management operational center was created on the basis of an order (09/01/2018) of the Batumi municipality mayor. Natural and technogenic emergency situation response bodies – emergency headquarters have also been created in the municipality.
- The non-existence of structural units responsible for climate change adaptation is determined not only by the lack of legal status but also by the lack of technical and financial resources.
- Damage assessment is carried out by sectoral experts of the locally formed commission; however, there is no governmental unit responsible for the assessment of damages and losses caused by disasters.
- Due to the non-existence of detailed threats, vulnerabilities and risk maps, the integration of hazards in various sectoral development plans is not possible while developing land use planning and during decision making.

entities. There is no integrated online database for various types of disasters in the autonomous republic and at municipal levels which would be updateable and accessible online. As mentioned above, the collection of data on natural hazards is done by the National Environmental Agency although the agency is mainly responsible for recording information about hazards (magnitude, intensity) and not for damage and losses. Information on damages and losses is recorded by the Emergency Management Service. According to Article 20, Recording of Incidents/Emergency Situations and their Results, of the draft Law on Civil Safety, the official statistical recording, analysis and state statistical reporting of incidents/emergencies is carried out by the Emergency Management Service whose implementation is mandatory for the autonomous republic and its municipalities' governmental units as well. The rules for recording and processing information on incidents/expected or occurring emergencies are set out by the Government of Georgia.

At this stage, the recording of hazards and the damages/losses caused by them is done by the relevant services of the municipality administration or at a higher level by a special committee formed of representatives from various governmental bodies with the collected information being stored in separate informational databases belonging to the involved governmental bodies and not within a unified database.

Within the framework of various projects over the last years, a disaster risk mitigation working group was formed. For example, in January 2015, as a part of the Mercy Corps Alliance of Lesser Caucasus project (financed by the SDC), permanent working groups were formed to deal with livestock disease control and disaster risk mitigation for all five municipalities of the Ajara Autonomous Republic. There were efforts within the project to produce hazard recording statistics; however, these hazards did not include disasters. In 2016, as a part of the Support for Disaster Risk Reduction for Institutions and Vulnerable Communities in Mountainous Municipalities of Ajara project and with the financial support from DIPECHO, disaster risk mitigation working groups were formed in the municipalities of Khulo, Keda and Shuakhevi. Within the framework of the ICCAMGR project, all municipalities formed climate change and sustainable development working groups/ commissions which take disaster/risk management issues into consideration. However, the abovementioned groups do not function due to a lack of relevant legal status.

Various types of small-scale maps are being developed by the National Environmental Agency at the central level. This means that the integration of hazards into various sectoral development plans while working on land use planning and during decision making is not possible. There is no assessment methodology/approach of various types of hazards at a local level which could be used as a baseline for threat assessment nor it is possible to find appropriate staff at the local level.

The situation is also similar for vulnerability assessment. The assessment of vulnerability is done only by separate NGOs within specific projects and using different methods or specially devised tools. For example, the organization Bridge – Innovation and Development developed a specialized tool, the Common Tool for Vulnerability Assessment (CTVA), which makes it possible to assess the vulnerability of local communities. However, due to the non-existence of a standardized methodology, these results cannot be compared, merged or used for risk assessment at a municipal level. As mentioned above, the Ordinance on Developing Rules for Preparation of Natural Emergency Prevention Measures regulates the hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment approaches which must be used in preparation of risk management plans for each municipality (until December 31, 2018).

The governmental bodies and relevant municipal services responsible to produce recordings for the vulnerability of various types of elements are listed below:

- Collection of information on the population, including the number and density of disabled persons and their families (sorted by age) falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Ajara at the level of the autonomous republic and the relevant services of the mayor's office/municipal structure at the local level.
- Collection of information on environmental characteristics (protected areas, agricultural land and others) falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture of Ajara and the Environmental Protection Division at the level of the autonomous republic as well as the relevant services of the mayor's office/municipal structure at the local level.
- Collection of information on economic activity falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Ajara at the level of the autonomous republic and the relevant services of the mayor's office/municipal structure at the local level.
- Collection of information on supply systems (water, electricity, natural gas and telecommunication supply infrastructure) falls under the Road and Amelioration Systems Management Department of Ajara at the level of the autonomous republic as well as the relevant services of the mayor's office/municipal structure at the local level.
- Collection of information on cultural heritage sites falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Ajara at the level of the autonomous republic and the relevant services of the mayor's office/municipal structure at the local level.

Based on the information given above, risk assessment practices are currently non-existent in the Ajara Autonomous Republic. The lack of technical, financial and human resources in the governmental units responsible for the regulation of risk assessment prevents the initiation of risk assessment processes at the local level. Hence, due to the above-mentioned barriers as well as the internal reorganization processes within the emergency situation management services, the preparation of emergency situation risk management plans has been delayed (until December 31, 2018).

Risk Operation (Preparedness, Response, Recovery)

In the cases of disasters and emergency situations, response forces come into operation which utilize material resources and emergency assistance equipment.

Until October 1, 2018, emergency response was provided according to the Law on Civil Safety's Article 69 entitled Temporary Rules for Incident/Emergency Situation Response Management per its area of effect, scale, volume of impact, necessary amount of response force and material resource at the following levels: autonomous republic level (if the crisis is happening within the regional boundaries) and local level (if the crisis is within municipal boundaries). According to the five-level emergency situation direction system, the following entities are responsible for planning and implementing preparedness and response measures within the Ajara Autonomous Republic and its municipalities:

At the level of the autonomous republic - Response to emergency situations is provided by the relevant authorities within the executive branch of the autonomous republic, municipal authorities and organizations located within their territories as well as emergency management firefighting and rescue teams that utilize the resources provided by the local organizations of the executive government, municipal organizations, and the Emergency Management Service if the area of the emergency situation does not go beyond the borders of the autonomous republic.

ocal Level - Response to emergency situations is provided by the relevant authorities within the executive branch of the municipal government territorial organizations, municipal organizations, organizations functioning within its borders as well as the Emergency Management firefighting and rescue teams that utilize the resources provided by the local organizations of the executive government, municipal organizations, organizations and the Emergency Management Service if the area of the emergency situation does not go beyond the borders of the municipality. The organizations for response according to the above-mentioned levels are:

- At the level of the Ajara Autonomous Republic, the Operational Center for the Emergency Situation Management Agency of the Autonomous Republic, the governmental body created by the head of the autonomous republic's government from representatives of relevant executive government institutions, municipal units, organization response forces and the fire department of the Emergency Situation Management Service will be responsible for the organization and coordination of response to expected or occurring emergency situations at the level of the autonomous republic. The Autonomous Republic's Operational Center activities are overseen by the head of the government of the Autonomous Republic or a person authorized by the head.
- Local level the Operational Center for the Emergency Situation Management Agency of the Autonomous Republic, the municipal executive unit, is a governmental body created by the mayor's office from representatives of relevant executive government institutions, municipal units, organization response forces and the fire/lifeguard department of the Emergency Situation Management Service which will be responsible for the organization and coordination of response to expected or occurring emergency situations at the local level. The Local Operational Center's activities are overseen by the mayor of the municipality or a person authorized by the mayor.

According to the legislation regarding public safety on handling emergency situations which considers preparedness and response, the highest and exclusive rights are given to the Emergency Management Service. Because of the centralized system, the Ajara Autonomous Republic does not have a separate Emergency Management Service. At the regional level, the function is performed by the Emergency Management Service of Ajara's head office. As for the municipalities, the function is performed by their relevant local division.

Each municipality has a firefighter-lifeguard department whose main responsibility is response measures. Early recovery efforts are financed by the local government reserve fund and if the accumulated funds are insufficient, the central government provides additional funds through the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure.

According to the Georgian Law on Civil Safety, operational centers for emergency response are formed for a certain period based on a specific expected or occurring emergency with consideration of the event's characteristics and scale. The head deputies of regional and local operational centers are the authorized personnel of the emergency service fire/lifeguard department. Prior to the formation of the operational centers, emergency response is carried out by response forces relevant to the unified system or the Emergency Management Service which is responsible for the development of a field operational center at a tactical level.

The plans for the inclusion of various fire departments and lifeguard services in fire extinguishing and emergency activities is developed and approved by the relevant division of the Emergency Management Service in cooperation with the municipality.

It should be noted that a local Emergency Management Operational Center was created on basis of the order (09/01/2018) of the Batumi municipality mayor. Natural and technogenic emergency response bodies – emergency headquarters – are also created in the municipality.

The local emergency headquarters is created by an order of the head of the Emergency Management Service. The local emergency headquarters is comprised of representatives from other members of the territorial divisions and national systems of the Emergency Situation Management Service. The local emergency headquarters is responsible for operational and technical organization and coordination for expected, occurring or developed emergency response. The local emergency headquarters is headed by an authorized representative from the Emergency Management Service.

In the interest of preparedness and response, in combination with the local divisions of the service, the government of the Ajara Autonomous Republic and the municipality councils have rights and responsibilities as well; specifically, on the basis of civil safety laws and the Ordinances on Rules for Emergency Management Planning and on Making Risk Planning Rules, they are required to create and adopt emergency management and risk management plans according to which they will plan and execute preparedness, response and other civil safety measures.

The Emergency Management Service also organizes training and retraining of response force as well as ensuring their constant preparedness. In addition, within the framework of civil safety, response forces and public training are provided by the Ajara Autonomous Republic and local governmental institutions and organizations within the span of their rights. Private organizations existing within the territories of the Ajara Autonomous Republic and its municipalities, whether educational or otherwise dedicated to fire safety and emergency action rules as well as fire safety standards and emergency situation prevention and response standard, will hold educational sessions in accordance with the rules established by the local institutions and the Emergency Management Service.

According to the National Civil Safety Plan, the Ajara Autonomous Republic and the municipality level preparedness events are provided by Georgian executive government institutions, governmental subordinate institutions, public jurisdiction legal persons, autonomous republic governments, municipal institutions and organizations working in the civil safety sector. According to the law, the Ajara Autonomous Republic and municipal institutions, in the interest of preparedness, has the authority over:

- Preparation of emergency prevention and response services by insuring the preparedness of the emergency management forces and the creation of material resources.
- In the interest of emergency prevention and response thereto, the training and retraining of response forces, state and local government institutions, organizations, officials of entities related to civil safety training and public training in accordance with training programs is

developed in cooperation with the agency.

 They are also required, within the context of fire safety, to organize anti-fire campaigns and educate the public regarding fire safety.

In terms of preparedness and response, the government of the Ajara Autonomous Republic, within the boundaries of its rights, can, in coordination with the agency:

- Create operations centers in accordance with their emergency response handling levels.
- Organize the overall preparedness and emergency response in accordance with the unified system.
- Prevent emergency situations, unified system preparedness, emergency response and restoration work organization as defined by Georgian law.
- Organize trainings.
- Organize the work of the relevant administrative territorial units and conduct cooperative work.

Regarding the rights delegated to municipalities in the same context:

- Create operational centers in accordance with emergency response management levels.
- Mobilize relevant response forces during emergency situations and organize their inclusion into emergency work as well as training of response forces and making sure they are on constant alert.
- Participate and organize responses to emergency situations and restoration activities.
- Organize trainings.
- Organize public awareness raising events in the field of public safety in accordance with the educational program agreed by the agency.

In terms of preparedness and response, the rights of the municipalities in the field of fire safety are to:

- a) Create fire emergency assistance divisions in accordance with the rules established by Georgian law in areas of the municipality where such divisions do not yet exist to fight fires and perform emergency assistance operations.
- b) Create relevant conditions for retrieving water any time of the year from artificial and natural water sources for firefighting equipment/machinery
- c) Organize fire protection of woodland and forest tracts and organize firefighting operations in case a fire starts within them.
- d) Provide easy access for firefighting vehicles and equipment within populated areas.
- e) Assist state governmental institutions in the dissemination of information regarding fire safety including organizing and conducting meetings with the general population.
- f) Educate the general population about fire safety rules and fire prevention.

According to the very same law, the local government institution may establish municipal fire safety/fire emergency assistance institutions. Such firefighting emergency assistance division creation and operation rules, their goals and missions as well as the cooperation rules with different firefighting divisions are defined by the local governmental representative institutions in accordance with the rules established by Georgian law.

According to emergency assistance function 17 of the National Civil Safety Plan, alongside with the special territorial sub-unit of the Emergency Management Service, the Government of the

Ajara Autonomous Republic and the municipality councils, the local bodies of executive authority, its state sub-agencies and legal entities under public law are also responsible for planning and implementing preparedness and response measures. For example, in the case of an emergency, patrol-inspectors of the Police Department of the Ajara Autonomous Republic under the Ministry of Internal Affairs might participate together with the Ajara Emergency Management Service within the scope of their mandate.

In terms of preparedness, at the level of the Ajara Autonomous Republic, the main actor is the main division of the Ajara Emergency Management Service which, on the basis of the Law on Civil Safety, the National Civil Safety Plan and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, annually conducts drills and trainings in schools and pre-schools during which the caretakers as well as the children learn about how to behave in the event of an emergency situation according to various rules and safety norms.

Due to the relevance and necessity determined by separate events, the department is planning to have similar drills and trainings, staff information activities and awareness raising for hotels in Batumi and other municipalities in Ajara. Evacuation plans are being prepared for them as well as consultations on fire hazard safety norms.

In terms of staff raising awareness and skills sets, the department's firefighter-rescuers often take part in trainings held inside the country and internationally, organized by the central apparatus, which determines the high quality of their preparation. At the same time, the department receives financing from the central budget for renewal and repair of its machinery and equipment although this is mostly for sub-divisions of the Batumi municipality. Despite this, it is preferable to have more financial resources and their mobilization to achieve the same on the scale of the autonomous republic in terms of machinery as well as equipment.

There are no unified trainings and drills either at the level of the autonomous republic or for municipalities for Emergency Management Service sub-divisions and executive government bodies. This is predetermined by the non-existence of relevant initiatives from the Emergency Management Service as well as other government institutions and local government bodies. There are almost no informational campaigns conducted for the population on subjects of emergencies, their prevention, preparedness and rules for behavior in the event of an emergency. To this effect, it is worth mentioning that in May of this year, the main division of the Ajara Emergency Management Service held practical trainings for the Shuakhevi and Khulo municipalities about forest fire prevention.

In terms of emergencies in municipalities, it is important to note that information on supplies and resources as well as machinery needed for response is recorded by the relevant administrations and these data are periodically updated and exchanged with the local division of the Emergency Management Service.

The Forest Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture is planning to set up forest fire response paths for highland municipalities and then for others as well which will help the administrational units to better prepare and respond to forest fires.

The Khulo Municipality Mayor's Office is developing/expanding drinking water infrastructure to include fire hydrants being placed in certain villages (e.g., Beshumi, Didachara). Water pumps

are also being installed as a part of village infrastructure development activities (Dzirkvadzeebi, Gorjomi). For better forest fire response, the municipality bought an off-road truck which, using a 12-ton water tank fastened to it, will be able to aid firefighters.

The Shuakhevi and Keda municipalities are setting up drinking water tanks in surrounding villages which, if necessary, can be used for firefighting purposes as well. However, there might be technical difficulties involved.

Due to the fact that three municipalities in the Ajara Autonomous Republic – Keda, Shuakhevi and Khulo – are characterized with a high mountainous landscape which makes it considerably more difficult for first responders to get to the emergency areas and hinders logistical support, it is very important for the above mentioned municipalities and villages within their administrational borders to have volunteer firefighting groups stationed locally which will be able to provide swift response to emergencies before firefighters arrive. This will significantly decrease negative impacts and make for a more timely and efficient response. It should be noted that all three municipalities show high interest for this possibility.

International and local organizations play an important role in improving the overall preparedness of the Ajara Autonomous Republic and its municipalities. In this respect, worth noting is the work done by the British organization, Oxfam, in cooperation with the Black See Eco-Academy in 2010-2017. Within the framework of the 4th phase of the DIPECHO financed disaster risk reduction project, volunteer firefighter groups were formed, trained and equipped in the municipalities of Keda, Shuakhevi and Khulo. Separate infrastructural projects were also implemented to strengthen community-level capacity towards disasters – water reserves and fire hydrants were put in place in some local villages. A disaster risk reduction resource center was established in municipal centers whose premises were used to train volunteers and raise awareness within the communities and among municipal staff in matters of emergencies, threats, prevention, preparedness and response. Since 2015, this task has been performed by the organization succeeding Oxfam, Bridge – Innovation and Development.

The Georgian Red Cross has done some important activity in terms of volunteering and expanding its net as well as creating reserves for emergency situations. Based on a memorandum signed between the Red Cross and the Government of Georgia, the organization is the main coordinating party for the activity of all involved international and national NGOs on a national level as well as that of the autonomous republic during an emergency situation. The organization's efforts are mainly concentrated on providing humanitarian aid during emergencies, supplying necessary resources and their distribution, monitoring of threats in times of peace and informing active NGOs within the country on its progress and results. These measures are also considered very important in terms of preparedness and response.

Strengthening preparedness capacities and raising measures conducted by the government as well as non-government organizations are fragmental, low-scale and non-systematic in nature. Apart from this, interventions implemented in this manner are unsustainable which is predetermined by limited financial resources and/or the non-existence of a regulating legislative or normative base. As for response to disasters and emergency situations arising at the level of the autonomous republic and its municipalities, the system is working successfully. The main power of the Emergency Management Service based on the Law on Civil Safety and the National Civil Safety Plan is the first response force. A timely response and emergency mitigation is done using the information gained from the fine-tuned, centralized and coordinated emergency informing system. If necessary, based on mutual understanding, the function of emergency support is also shared by the relevant institutions and their territorial sub-divisions, their additional support and machinery. Emergency management is successfully undertaken by the autonomous republic's operational center or a local operational center.

After the end of an emergency, a special committee is formed which consists of representatives from competent services for assessing the damage done to the administrational territory of the municipality. The estimation is presented to the relevant body of the executive government for review and commentary.

Despite the good functionality of response systems and mechanisms as well as the legislation connected to it, further development and optimization is necessary. It is also important to improve financial and logistical support.

As for recovery activities, they are performed by relevant government units and bodies of the autonomous republic and municipalities with the participation of Georgian citizens and other persons on Georgian territory as well as organizations. The recovery activity is preceded by an assessment of a threat and the caused damage/loss¹³ which is, as mentioned above, carried out by sectoral experts of the locally formed commission. However, there is no unified methodology or specific responsible governmental unit for the assessment of the economic damage (in various sectors) caused by disasters.

¹³ If after the assessment of damage the amount of funds to be reimbursed for damages or for the cost of the infrastructural project are more than GEL 20-25 thousand, then the effected families are relocated (the municipality buys a house or an apartment for them). If the cost is below GEL 20-25 thousand, then the implementation of an infrastructural project is planned (e.g., the establishment of slope stabilization walls, placement of gabions or drainage channels, etc.).

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1 Conclusions

3.1.1 Climate Change Adaptation

In light of all of the information provided in the sections above, it is obvious that Georgia does not have any type of legal documentation or regulation for climate change adaptation or mitigation at the national level or at the level of the autonomous republic/regional or municipal. There is no relevant law, concept and/or action plan in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture in terms of a main proponent for environmental protection or related policies and activities. Despite Article 15 of the Law on Environment Protection where it is stated that the environmental protection system includes an environmental protection action program conducted at regional, local and departmental levels, there is no law that regulates their development, frequency, planning and implementation. It does not describe or mention the competencies of regional administrations and municipal units in this field. At the same time, the documents on the authority of governmental structures at the relevant level do not include their authority and/or obligations on climate change adaptation and/or mitigation.

The Law on Environmental Protection, which is the primary document in the field of environmental protection in Georgia, describes the competencies of the relevant institutions and ministries although it does not describe the regional and local administrational authority in this field. At the same time, local self-governments are authorized to make independent decisions on any issue that is not directly under the purview of any other governmental body and provided that the decision does not go against any Georgian law. Due to the inexistence of relevant laws and regulations, also based on these two legal documents, we can only contemplate on what possible authority can be assigned to a municipality which obviously cannot function as a basis for any kind of systemic, periodical and continuous activity complex.

In the context of the Ajara Autonomous Republic and its municipalities, with the financing and support of international and national donors and partner organizations, a separate document was developed as a part of the activities of other projects which concern climate change adaptation (Ajara Climate Change Strategy, 2013; Climate Change Adaptation Concepts for the Kobuleti, Khelvachauri, Shuakhevi, Keda and Khulo municipalities as well as the Khelvachauri Municipality Climate Change Adaptation Plan). The documents have been prepared on a high-quality professional level; however, since they do not have a legal status, it is impossible to use them for planning and implementing the recommendations and activities provided within. In parallel with the fact that the autonomous republic as well as its municipalities are not working to introduce such practices and implement them, the non-use of similar documentation prepared in cooperation with various organizations results in the non-interest from these same organizations to provide similar assistance in future cases which reflects negatively on the possibility for future

cooperation and the international support, experience and the inclusion of additional experts which is very important in the development of regulations and the assurance of a high quality for the final product.

Since there is no legislation that would grant regional and municipal governments authority in the field of climate change adaptation and obligate them to carry out specific activities, the governmental bodies do not show initiative in this direction. Furthermore, financial restraints and bureaucratic subordination create additional barriers for them to initiate and implement such measures as well as in terms of decision making. For the same reasons, it is hard to sustain the infrastructural units, material assets and human resources created within the framework of projects implemented by international and local organizations since, for example, if they are passed to a municipality, the administration will find it hard to find a legal basis and financial resources to maintain them. However, it is worth noting that the leadership of the autonomous republic as well as the municipalities continually express their interest in supporting and implementing projects in this field, especially if there is additional funding provided by donors.

Adaptation projects conducted in municipalities are mostly fully financed by donors or with their co-financing. The results of projects implemented by local governance, communities and NGOs are not sustainable due to a lack of resources, skills and a legal basis.

3.1.2 Disaster Risk Management

Local municipalities annually prepare priority list and form relevant plans on natural hazards preventative measures on the basis of which the budget is drawn up and annual activities are carried out (landslide, flood protection, slope stabilization and other projects). Because climate change adaptation and emergency prevention measures are somewhat intersecting concepts, these funds are labeled as an emergency management and public infrastructure recovery sub-program component. The local budget considers environmental, climate change adaptation and isaster prevention programs mainly as utility-based programs and assigns them to infrastructural type of programs. Therefore, climate change adaptation measures are not separate measure categories. This is determined by a specific regulation mentioned above.

3.2 Recommendations

3.2.1 Climate Change Adaptation

- To update the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Ajara Autonomous Republic and have it legally approved.
- To develop and have Municipal Action Plans with relevant budgets (based on the Ajara Climate Change Adaptation Strategy) legally approved.
- To have the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Ajara Autonomous Republic and Municipal Action Plans integrated into the local thematic development documents; e.g., Disaster Risk Management Plans, Spatial Development Strategy, Agriculture Development Strategy, Rural Development Strategy, Tourism Development Strategy, Local Infrastructural Development Plans, etc.
- To assign staff units (both at the autonomous and local levels) with relevant functions and responsibilities for ensuring the collection and processing of information on climate change

adaptation, monitoring the compliance with action plans, their regular update, coordinated and effective cooperation among NGOs and the public sector as well as with the general population and the state apparatus.

- To carry out knowledge and skills development for specialists involved in climate changerelated activities to use modern approaches and equip them with special technical resources.
- ✓ To develop and implement information and awareness raising campaigns on climate change in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations to inform the general population about the impact of climate change and how to cope with the related challenges.

3.2.2 Disaster Risk Management

- To update the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for the Ajara Autonomous Republic and have it legally approved.
- To have the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for the Ajara Autonomous Republic integrated into local thematic development documents; e.g., Disaster Risk Management Plans, Spatial Development Strategy, Agriculture Development Strategy, Rural Development Strategy, Tourism Development Strategy, Local Infrastructural Development Plans, etc.
- To assign staff units (both at the autonomous and local levels) with relevant functions and responsibilities for ensuring the collection and processing of information on hazards, disaster risks, monitoring of the compliance with the action plans, their regular update with the respective representatives of the Emergency Management Service, coordinated and effective cooperation among NGOs and the public sector as well as with the general population and the state apparatus.
- To set up Disaster Risk Reduction Groups/Committees which, within their competence, will develop relevant recommendations for the local government in cooperation with a disaster risk reduction/management specialist as assigned by Sub-paragraph "b" of Paragraph 2 of Article 9 of the Civil Security National Plan.
- To carry out knowledge and skills development for the specialists involved in disaster risk reduction/management-related activities to use modern approaches and equip them with special technical resources.
- Starting from January 1, 2019, to initiate the systemic and electronic collection of different risk-related data as well as recording of incidents/emergencies and their results at the local level in accordance with the Ordinance on the Recording of Incidents/Emergencies and their Results.
- Before January 1, 2019, to develop Municipal Risk Management Plans and respective vulnerability evaluation and risk scenario analyses/calculations in accordance with the Ordinance on the Approval of the Rules for Emergency Situation Risk Management Plan Preparation. The documents should include respective budgets.
- Starting from January 1, 2019, to develop preventative measures documents for municipalities as required by the Ordinance on the Approval of the Rules for the Development of Natural Emergency Preventative Measures.
- Before January 1, 2019, to update emergency response plans as required by the Ordinance on the Development of Rules for the Preparation of the Emergency Management Plan.
- Starting from January 1, 2019, to develop municipal security passports as required by the Ordinance on the Approval of the Rules for the Development of Municipality Security Passports.
- In cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations, to develop and implement information and public awareness campaigns for informing the general population on the impacts of disasters, preventative and mitigation measures and emergency responses.

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Sources

SDC, 2014. Integrated Risk Management UNDP, 2013. Climate Change Strategy of Ajara USAID & NALAG, 2016. Guide to Climate Change Adaptation USAID & NALAG, 2015. Study of Environmental Protection and Climate Change Related Institutional Arrangement in Georgian Municipalities. Research of Current Status Law of Georgia on Public Safety, 2018 Law of Georgia on Environmental Protection, 1996 Law of Georgia on Atmospheric Air Protection, 1999 Organic Law of Georgia - Local Self-Government Code, 2014 Georgian Government Ordinance on the Approval of the Rules for Emergency Situation Risk Management Plan Preparation, 2017 Georgian Government Ordinance on the Approval of the Rules for the Emergency Management Plan Preparation, 2017 Appendix 1. Current and Planned Projects on the Territory of the Ajara Autonomous Republic

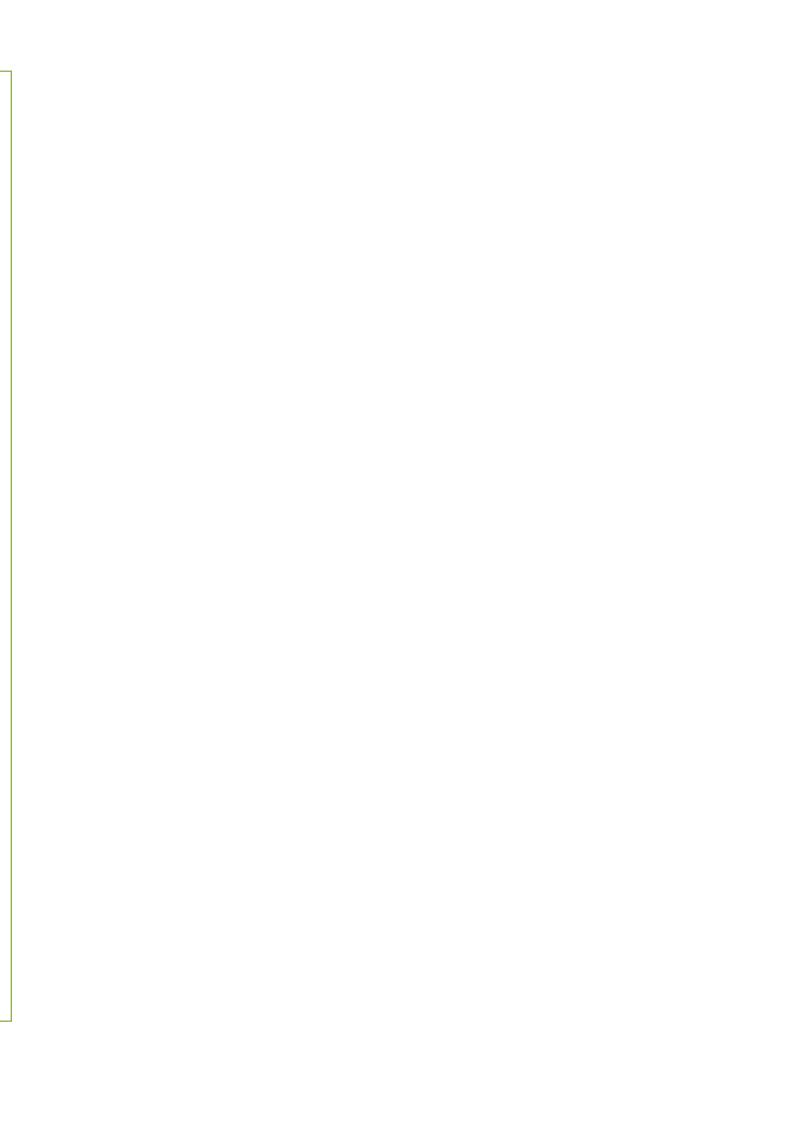
| Reasoning for project's success/failure | Out of the 12 project proposals only 5-10% were implemented. The reasoning was mostly because of a lack of local staff and financial resources. However, there are a number of projects that are planned to be implemented but the timeframe has been postponed (e.g., decreasing CO ₂ emission sources in the process of operating the new landfill in Ajara, measures from the Batumi transport sector – electric taxis). Also, the project proposal presented a few alternatives; hence, one of the alternatives is being implemented (e.g., changing to electric transportation in Batumi instead of converting public instead of converting public | Non-existence of qualified local staff that would have an understanding of current events in terms of climate change. Aside from this, the staff should have a clear understanding of adaptation and mitigation plan preparation, local population inclusion and implementation of planned activities. Frequent change in staff, non-existence of an institutional database. Existence of an informational vacuum. Locally active decision making persons do not see a clear connection between current social problems, biodiversity and climate change caused risks. |
|--|---|---|
| Project results | Climate Change Strategy for Ajara. Under 15 project proposals which aim to implement specific activities vis-à-vis climate change in separate segments of the economy and natural ecosystems in Ajara. | Climate change adaptation database assessment at a local level. Guide to climate change adaptation. Trainings for representatives of local governments. Climate change adaptation concept (in 6 territorial units of Ajara). Formation of climate change adaptation and sustainable development working groups. |
| Project activities | Study on the impact of current climate change on the economy and natural ecosystems in the Ajara region. Inventory of greenhouse gas emissions sources and absorption facilities at the region level. Consideration of the possibility of adaptation to climate change and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Preparation of a Climate Change Strategy for Ajara. Project proposal development, projects aimed at implementing concrete actions to reduce vulnerability to climate change in Ajara. | Climate change adaptation and impact mitigation by way of creating institutional and organizational capacities for local governments, popularization of climate change adaptation and impact mitigation issues at a local climate change adaptation problems into national policy, increasing the role of local governments in climate change adaptation issues in discussions and decision making processes at local, national and international levels and the assurance of the sustainability of local climate change adaptation related initiatives/measures. |
| Project aims | Review the current state of economy and natural ecosystems of Ajara, possible impact that climate change would have on them, planning possible activities. | Climate change adaptation in Georgian regions and mitigation of its effects at the local and national levels with the aim of the institutionalization of climate change adaptation and impact mitigation measures. |
| Financing/ implementing entity | day | USAID/ NALAG |
| Year of implemen- tation | 2013 | 2013-2016 |
| Location | Regional | Regional, municipal |
| Project Name | Climate Change Climate Change Strategy of Ajara /prepared in the framework of Georgia's Third National Communication to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change | Institutionalization of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Georgian Regions (ICCAMGR) |

| Climate change adaptation plan for the Khelvachauri, Ambrolauri and Dedoplistskaro Municipalities. | In the process of implementation. | Municipality buildings were assessed, and recommendations were prepared with the aim of introducing energy efficient standards. Selection of 19 municipal buildings with the aim of their recovery using energy efficient technology. | In the process of implementation. |
|--|--|---|---|
| Development of a climate change adaptation plan for a few Georgian municipalities (Khelvachauri, Ambrolauri, Dedoplistskaro). | Procurement of 40 units of diesel and 10 units of electric buses. | Creation of municipality building database. According to the criteria, selection of 1 multi-story apartment building and 29 public/municipality buildings for preparation of energy audit and future implementation of energy efficiency measures. Offering of investment schemes for financing energy efficiency measures in the aforementioned buildings. The project also includes a conceptual framework, policy and measures for sustainable urban development planning. | Preparation of Integrated Sustainable Urban Transport Systems Development Plan for Batumi and other municipalities of the Ajara Autonomous Republic. Development of a detailed feasibility justification and functional plan for the development of low emission transport in Batumi. Direct capital investment in sustainable urban transportation development of a detailed feasibility justification and functional plan for sustainable transportation development of a detailed feasibility justification and functional plan for sustainable transportation development of sustainable transportation policy formation at the national level. |
| Mitigation of climate I change and its negative results or development and implementation of adaptation measures. | Improvement of the Batumi transportation infrastructure. | Construction of energy efficient buildings. Implementation of energy efficient recovery in pilot buildings. | Supporting the development of sustainable and integrated municipal integrated municipal transportation systems in the Ajara Autonomous Republic and Batumi the establishment of sustainable the establishment of green urban of green urban development policies pand mechanisms. |
| ADA/Georgian Red Cross, ECOVISION | EBRD | KFW | UNDP/GEF Ministry of Environment and Natural Resourced Protection of Georgia; Batumi Municipality |
| 2016 | 2015-2019 | 2016-2017 | 2015-2019 |
| Khevachauri Municipality | Batumi | Batumi | Batumi |
| Climate change Adaptation Plan - Khelvachauri Municipality | Development of Transportation Infrastructure | Development of the Energy Efficiency Framework for the City of Batumi Municipality Buildings | Integrated Sustainable Transport for Batumi and Ajara |

| ΣL |
|--------------------|
| SDC/Mercy Corps |

| Non-existence of qualified staff at the local level, frequent change of staff and a lack of financial resources. Existence of an informational vacuum. Locally active decision- making persons do not see a clear connection between current social problems, biodiversity and climate change caused risks. | | Placement of fully automated and global net operated climate and agro-climate stations (8 of them) for research and early prognosis. To ensure the solution of municipal, public safety, ecological, tourism problems. |
|--|---|---|
| Increase capacity of communities in relation to disaster mitigation, readiness and response. Creation of volunteer groups in communities. Retraining and equipping volunteers. Registration and training of lobbyists at the municipal level. Creating disaster risk reduction groups. Implementation of disaster risk reduction groups. Implementation of mitigation projects with participation of municipalities. Working with the municipality to shift the budget from disaster caused damage recovery, to preventative measures. Development and periodic update of a simple tool for assessing willage vulnerability. | | Thanks to the project, it will be possible to warn the user (one month prior) about the possibility of storms, floods and landslides. This information will be available online using a special application for tourists. The government of the Ajara Autonomous Republic, municipal services, Ministry of Agriculture and Public Safety Services are interested in the prior prognosis. |
| Strengthening the local population living in a disaster risk zone in terms of disaster mitigation, readiness and response as well as advocacy with the central and local authorities in order to introduce disaster risk reduction into the education system and inclusion of disaster risk issues in state plans and policy documents. | Support for inclusive education for young children. Working with specialists. | All stations work non-stop and the information is gathered at special sites. |
| Reduce the vulnerability of the population living in disaster risk zones and increase their sustainability towards disasters. | Disaster risk mitigation with inclusive approach for kindergartens, nurseries and special school pupils in disaster risk measures. | Business interests, providing service for farmers, municipal services, tourism, ecological services, public safety services, research services. |
| DIPECHO/ Oxfam, Bridge, Black Sea Eco Academy | DIPECHO/ Save the Children | j-group global (Israel), Ior Forest (Georgia), Batumi State University, Batumi Mayor's Office |
| 2010-2018 | 2010-2017 | 2015-2016 |
| Mountainous Municipalities of Adjara (Khulo, Keda, Shuakhevi) | Mountainous Municipalities of Ajara (Khulo, Keda, Shuakhevi) | Batumi, Mtskheta, Tbilisi |
| Support of Disaster Risk Mitigation to Strengthen Institutions and Vulnerable Communities in the Mountainous Municipalities of Ajara (Khulo, Keda, Shuakhevi) | Disaster Risk Mitigation with Inclusive Approach for Kindergartens, Nurseries and Special School Pupils | Placement of fully automated and global net operated climate and agro-climate stations (8 of them) for research and early prognosis. To ensure the solution of municipal, public safety, ecological, tourism problems. |

| Support of rural development and diversification in the Khulo Municipality. | Optimal use of Keda Municipality local resources and potential for rural development. | |
|--|---|---|
| Implementation of climate change adaptation measures within the framework of the pilot project. | Implementing climate change adaptation measures within the framework of the pilot project. | Improved quality of disaster risk management mechanisms through increased capacity at the MRDI and better coordination between MRDI, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MEP) and local authorities. Men and women of the project region have reduced risks from disasters as a result of preventive measures. |
| Establishment and functioning of the local development group. Formation of a development strategy based on LEADER approaches by local development group. Improvement of business management knowledge and skills in local beneficiaries (potential sub-grantors) as well as improvement of their productivity, service visibility and sustainability. Local beneficiaries will initiate rural development projects that will be financed from the Rural Development Fund. | The following are planned to be implemented within the framework of the project: Establishment and improvement of the Keda Local Action Group (LAG). Development Strategy for Cender and Youth Aspects for the Keda Municipality through a participatory method. Implementation of innovative projects (through subcontractors and strategies) to strengthen economic and investment opportunities in rural areas, to support inclusive economic growth and to promote the welfare of local communities. | Apply a risk prioritization methodology in the project region. Improve the capacities of MRDI staff and local authorities involved in the application of the risk prioritization methodology. Apply CBA methodology for prioritization of preventive measures to be implemented at the Supsa, Kintrishi and Chorokhi watersheds. Define and implement preventive measures. |
| Improving employability and living conditions by rural economy diversification. | Diversification of local economic activity, attracting investments for the Keda Municipality and support of competitive agricultural and environmental practices through strategic planning of rural development. | Improve quality of disaster risk management mechanisms. Reduce risks from disasters as a result of preventive measures. |
| EU/Czech Republic Caritas | Caucasus Environmental NGO Network CENN | SDC |
| 2017-2020 | 2017-2020 | 2014-2016 |
| Ajara, Khulo Municipality | Municipality of Keda | Guria (Lanchkhuti); Ajara (Khelvachauri, Kobuleti, Khulo, Keda) |
| Support of Rural Development and Diversification in the Khulo Municipality | Optimal use of Keda Municipality Local Resources and Potential for Rural Development | Prevention Project on the Supsa, Kintrishi and Chorokhi Watersheds |



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