

"Strengthening Disaster Risk Management Capacities in Uzbekistan"

Newsletter. Issue 3, Summary of annual activities of 2012



Dear Friends!

We are proud to present the summary of annual activities of DRM Project in 2012 which was highly productive for the project.

This issue of the Newsletter provides a summary of activities, progress, achievements and efforts of the UNDP Project in great support and collaboration of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Uzbekistan during the 2012.

Hope you will enjoy reading it. Thank you!

Highlights of our project:

- July 2010 – launch of DRM Project in Uzbekistan
- Main Partner: Ministry of Emergency Situations of Uzbekistan
- Total Budget: \$ 1 715 000

In this issue:

- Youth is motivated for DRR
- UN Disaster Preparedness Group formulated UN help to Uzbekistan in case of a disaster
- A week for celebration of International Day for Disaster Reduction
- Community Preparedness for Earthquake Safety
- Mainstreaming DRR in schools and involvement of kids
- Community Preparedness for Earthquake Safety
- Visit to Russian Federation: lessons learnt and knowledge exchange platform established
- Capacity enhancement for effective training delivery
- Earthquake risk mitigation in Tashkent through capacity building and training of communities
- "Strengthening Earthquake Risk Mitigation Capacities in Uzbekistan" - DEPECHO VII
- The project highlights in media



PREPAREDNESS IS BETTER THAN RESPONSE

Youth is motivated for DRR

Youth of any society form nuclei for spreading knowledge taking actions for disaster preparedness and risk mitigation and management.

The first step towards involving youth into DRR was delivering a Learning Hour at the International Journalism Faculty of the Uzbek State University of World Languages on the topic of “Role of Media in DRR”.

The event created much needed awareness among the students and faculty on topics related to disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management. It is expected that knowledge so gained will be shared with other stakeholders.

Upon completion of the training an Essay Competition on the topic “DRR: Prevention Pays” was announced. Essays were evaluated by panel members on the basis of five criteria: **Comprehension; Organization; Conclusions; Creativity; Writing.**

Three winners of the essay competition—Matluba Turdalieva, Feruza Alikulova and Shakhnoza Abdulakhatova were not only provided certificates but also enrolled to the on-line training on ‘Basic Course on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Framework’ organized by the World Bank Institute (WBI), Washington, and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) of India.



Learning hour at the International Journalism Faculty of Uzbek State University of World Languages on April 25, 2012

UNDP Uzbekistan

ESSAY COMPETITION

Disaster Risk Reduction: Prevention Pays

In making disaster safe communities, media have an important role and a huge responsibility. The media can provide much needed impetus in risk mitigation and disaster preparedness of any country/society.

The aim of the proposed ESSAY COMPETITION is to create much needed awareness among the students and faculty on topics related to DRR/DRM.

Guidelines

Who is eligible to participate:
Students of the International Journalism Faculty of USUWL

Length and language:
- approximately 2,000 - 3,000 words (5-6 pages)
- Essays can preferably be in English, but Uzbek or Russian languages are also accepted

- Each essay must reflect the contestant's own research, writing and original thinking and references used.
- Essays must be typed. Times New Roman - 12 fonts, Microsoft word doc, single-sided, numbered pages with one-inch margins.
- Each essay must include a title page with the following information:
 - essay title
 - author's name
 - university and faculty name
 - contact number

Deadline:
10 MAY 2012

For winners:

Top 3 winners of the essay competition will be provided an opportunity to undergo on-line training on disaster risk management organized by World Bank Institute (WBI), Washington through National Institute of Disaster Management in India. The course is in English.

Essays will be evaluated on the basis of five criteria:

Creativity Writing Conclusions Organization Comprehension

Please send your essays to Shakhnoza Ikramova—shakhnoza.ikramova@undp.org



UN Disaster Preparedness Group formulated UN help to Uzbekistan in case of a disaster

During 2012 a new Disaster Preparedness and Response Group (UN DPRG) was established under the UN RCO. The Group has representation of all UN Agencies, National Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan and other humanitarian agencies working in Uzbekistan like MSF, ACTED etc.

Project's National Disaster Risk Advisor (NDRA) has chaired this newly formed "Disaster Preparedness and Response Group" which is a part of UN Country Team (UNCT). Number of meetings of the group were held with the purpose of capacity building of Group members and for discussion of DRM/DRR issues on national and international levels.

A simulation exercise on earthquake response preparedness was organized for the Group members in collaboration with the UN OCHA, Regional office, Almaty. Representatives of the Ministry of Emergency Situations participated in this exercise as observers.

Exchange of Letters with the Government of Uzbekistan: An "Exchange of Letters" has taken place between the Humanitarian Country Team and the Ministry of Emergency Situations about the assistance that the Humanitarian Country Team/RCO can immediately provide to the Government of Uzbekistan in case of an emergency.

UNDAF Mid-term review: The UN DPRG took active part in the UNDAF midterm review process through review and deliberations of targets and indicators of the UNDAF related to disaster risk reduction. Proposed changes have been agreed by the group and submitted for further reflection in the midterm review report.

UN DPRG Meeting : June 22, 2012



UN DPRG Meeting : August 24, 2012



A week for observation of International Day for Disaster Reduction

International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed throughout the world every year to highlight the importance of DRR activities and to create awareness on this topic.

This year's IDDR program in Uzbekistan has been conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in cooperation with the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan. A number of events devoted to IDDR were conducted from the 10th to the 13th of October with active participation of institutes and branches of the Academy of Science, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, UN agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.



10 October—Exhibition on DRR theme



4 October—Learning hour for UNDP CO and projects



10 October—Roundtable discussion on earthquake safe construction practices of private houses



5 October—UN Friday with university students in collaboration with UNIC



11-12 October—Simulation exercise on earthquake response preparedness and lessons learned in collaboration with UNOCHA Regional Office in Almaty



13 October—Celebration at the Ministry of Emergency Situations



13 October—Media Briefing for journalists at the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

Community Preparedness for Earthquake Safety

Practical Guidelines on Seismic Safe Construction practices

To achieve seismic safe construction practices, it is important to equip local masons and owners of individual houses with basic tips on earthquake safe construction practices. In collaboration with expert architects two practical guidelines on seismic safe construction were developed and published for individual constructors. First of the practical guidelines will provide tips on how to evaluate and take practical steps to strengthen a house with minimal expenses through the publication "Can your house withstand the earthquake?" and the practical guidelines "How to build a seismic safe house?" provides with hands-on tips for seismic safe construction of new private houses.

Both the Practical Guidelines were discussed in detail during the round table discussion regarding 'Capacity Enhancement for Earthquake Safe Construction of Private Buildings/Houses' organized by the Project in October 10, 2012. The round table was able to bring together practitioners involved in the construction industry, including engineers, architects, urban planners, contractors and builders.

To provide a wide publicity to this issue and to disseminate the Practical Guidelines, a special TV programme on national television was organized by the Project. What is very essential to note is that after the TV programme people query about seismic safe construction has increased. The TV programme has been televised several times since then, based on the demand of the local people.

It is heartening to mention that these efforts are resulting in creating much needed awareness among the community on these issues. The project team is now receiving enquiries on earthquake safe construction techniques. People are visiting the Project office to discuss and collect the Practical Guidelines on regular basis.

Both guidelines have been printed in Uzbek and Russian languages in 16000 copies with co-financial support from local insurance company "Kapital Sug'urta".



Mr. Saidiy, the expert architect associated with the development of Practical Guidelines during the TV programme



Mukhabbat opa from Kibray district came to the Project office to get this publication and discuss the issue of construction problems of her house.

Mainstreaming DRR in schools and involvement of kids

Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction DRR into school curricula or at least school activities focused on raising awareness among school children which provides a better understanding of disaster management for children, teachers and communities.

As part of Community Based DRR activities, the UNDP DRM project and the Institute of Civil Protection of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Uzbekistan conducted “Master class” for children on DRR. It included interactive role plays and case studies.

The “Master class” was devoted to the International Day for DRR which is celebrated globally every year. The topic was perceived by school children very well. Children expressed their knowledge gained at the “Master class” by their drawings.



Community Preparedness for Earthquake Safety

Documentary film “Basic rules before, during and after an Earthquake”

Taking into account the seismic vulnerability of the capital city of Uzbekistan in the aim of building a culture of preparedness and the behavior during natural disasters, the Project developed a documentary film “Basic rules before, during and after an Earthquake”. The film will be broadcasted through Uzbek National TV channels as well as will be disseminated among population (schools, makhallas, etc.) for increasing awareness and challenging community for preparedness to a sudden earthquake.



A Mobile phone application as a tool for emergency situation

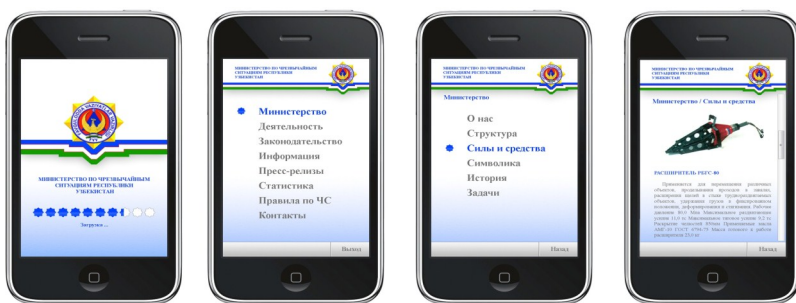
A special application for mobile phones was developed as part of Public Awareness Strategy aimed at increasing knowledge of community about disasters.

Cell-phones are widely used by the population: students, school children, adults and even elderly people. Therefore, the Project decided to use cell phones as an effective tool for increasing public awareness about disasters and for forming a culture of actions during different natural and man-made disasters.

As you know majority of people are not aware about basic “Do”s and “Don’t”s in case of emergency, for example, earthquake and/or landslide affect in residential area. It is observed, very often, actions taken in a hurry during emergencies may result in injury and/or loss of human life. Considering these facts, this application has been developed. This special application will include detailed instruction of experts in case of emergency situations and emergency telephone numbers you can call to get emergency help and how to provide emergency medical aid for injured person in certain condition.

The application will even work in off-line form and is available at ANDROID MARKET, ISTORE and OVISTORE as well. The application is integrated with the web-site of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Uzbekistan.

Ссылка на Андроид Маркете: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.gio.mchs&feature=search_result#?t=W251bGwsMSwxLDEsImNvbS5naW8ubWNocyJd

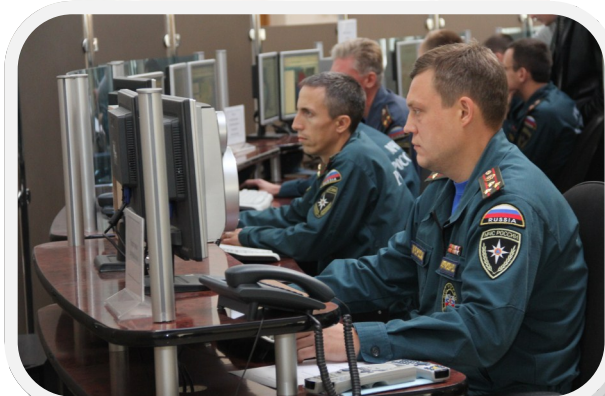


Visit to Russian Federation: lessons learnt and knowledge exchange platform established

In the aim of achieving exchange of risk management knowledge and creation of sustainable networks for dissemination of effective best practices and lessons learned in disaster risk reduction a Study Tour to EMERCOM of Russia (Ministry of Emergency Situations) was organized by the DRM Project jointly with OSCE in Uzbekistan.

The delegation visited Russian Federation was comprised of representatives of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Uzbekistan, UNDP and OSCE in Uzbekistan. The Delegation was able to study the experiences of leading institutions under the Ministry of Emergency Situation of Russia such as the Academy of Civil Protection, National Crisis Management Center, Moscow City branch of MES Russia, State Central airmobile rescue team, 179-Rescue Center of MES Russia and Russian Research institute of fire defense and other important branches of MES Russia.

During the visit joint trainings and seminars with involvement of high-qualified experts of Russia and Uzbekistan were discussed with the Academy of Civil Protection and other training sites of MES Russia.



Earthquake risk mitigation in Tashkent through capacity building and training of communities

It is a well established fact that prevention and preparedness for natural and man-made disaster risks reduction are key and much more cost effective in comparison of post disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation measures. Such measures help in preparing the communities for effective emergency management and result in saving precious human lives. The Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan has approved 'the Complex Programme on increasing preparedness of population for emergency situations caused by earthquakes' on 19 July 2011 in order to initiate earthquake risk reduction activities in the country.

In this context, number of training workshops were organized by the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) from December 5 to 10, 2012 for realization of the above said Programme for leaders of makhallas and directors of schools, kindergartens, colleges and lyceums of Tashkent city.

The training workshops were instrumental in providing to the participants an overview of the earthquake risk mitigation measures in general as well as with special reference to educational entities and makhallas. During the workshops importance of seismic safety of building of the educational institutions and living houses were highlighted. The role of the emergency medical services and firefighting services during the emergency situations/disasters were also discussed in details. Overall these workshops were able to bring together about 300 directors of educational institutions and makhalla leaders.



Head of Tashkent city community training center of the Ministry at the Academic Lyceum



Representative of the Institute of Seismology with his presentation for makhalla leaders



Exhibition of rescue service



Makhalla leaders



Emergency medical service during disaster—at lyceum



At the college "Cartography and Geodesy" - seminar for college directors

Capacity enhancement for effective training delivery

In its efforts to strengthen the capacity for effective delivery of trainings, DRM Project has been instrumental in equipping the Department of Emergency Situations of Tashkent City with modern equipment, which will be used in conducting on-site trainings with respect to preparation of community for tactics of primary rescue works in case of disasters. To strengthen the training of rescuers, the project has provided necessary modern rescue equipment for pilot rescue team in Tashkent to train the trainers in urban search and rescue techniques. The trainers so trained will further train the rescuers not only in Tashkent City but also in provinces of Uzbekistan.



Similarly, the Institute of Civil Protection has been equipped with **model of dangerous entity and relief map of the Republic of Uzbekistan** with neighboring countries. The model and map will be used as a demonstration material during training of rescue specialists.



It is expected that all such efforts will result in enhancement of overall capacity of the Ministry of Emergency Situations to effectively train the community, rescuers and government officials involved in such activities.

Additional resources mobilized for “Strengthening Earthquake Risk Mitigation Capacities in Uzbekistan”

Additional funds were mobilized from the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) with the purpose of strengthening earthquake risk mitigation capacities in Uzbekistan. The funds in the amount of 100 000 Euro have been mobilized through DIPECHO VII and UNDP in Uzbekistan allocated additional 76 888 Euro. It is expected that with the additional resources earthquake risk mitigation capacities of the MES will be enhanced. With these funds facilities will be created for training of MES officials and awareness rising of the community.

UNDP Project “Strengthening Disaster Risk Management Capacities in Uzbekistan”

The project highlights in local media

Learning hour for students of Uzbek State University of World Languages, International Journalism Faculty on the topic “Basic concepts of disaster risk reduction and role of media

<http://www.undp.uz/ru/news/print.php?id=1683>

<http://europeandcis.undp.org/blog/2012/11/15/disaster-risk-reduction-how-the-media-can-and-should-help/>

<https://undp.unteamworks.org/node/281407>

Study Tour to Russian Federation

<http://www.lenta.uz/?page=heading&id=all&pg=2>

http://amchs.ru/http://amchs.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=120&Itemid=84

<http://news.rambler.ru/16311741/>

http://www.aloqada.com/News/2012/11/11/delegaciya_uzbekistana_posetila_rossiyu_dlya_obmena_opytom_v_oblasti_upravleniya_riskami_stikhiynykh_bedstviy

http://vesti.uz/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=33464

<http://www.uzdaily.uz/articles-id-13335.htm>

<http://www.undp.uz/ru/news/story.php?id=1754>

<http://www.world-news.uz/news/105739/>

<https://twitter.com/search?q=Делегация%20Узбекистана%20посетила%20Россию&src=typd>

http://www.aloqada.com/News/2012/11/11/delegaciya_uzbekistana_posetila_rossiyu_dlya_obmena_opytom_v_oblasti_upravleniya_riskami_stikhiynykh_bedstviy

UN Friday “DRR and Media”

<http://un.uz/en/news/144-un-friday-marks-the-international-day-for-disaster-reduction.html>

<http://un.uz/ru/news/144-un-friday-marks-the-international-day-for-disaster-reduction.html>

<http://www.facebook.com/unicntashkent#!/media/set/?set=a.368506179899286.89570.161613297255243&type=1>

<http://fkr.uz/posts/okno/9505.html>

<http://www.uzdaily.uz/articles-id-12867.htm>

<http://news.uzreport.com/uzb.cgi?lan=r&id=101430>

<http://www.12news.uz/news/2012/10/04/%D0%B2-%D1%83%D0%B7%D0%B1%D0%B5%D0%BA%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B5-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%B4%D1%83%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8E-%D1%81%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B6%D0%B5%D0%BD/>

IDDR—Exhibition on DRR; Roundtable discussion on Seismic Safe Construction practices; UN Simulation exercise;

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=29273>

IDDR – Media Briefing at MES

<http://www.12news.uz/news/2012/10/16/мчс-узбекистана-проведено-28-командно-ш/>

<http://axborot.uz/podrobno?novost=http://news.olam.uz/society/12497.html>

<http://news.rambler.ru/15946225/>

<http://www.uzdaily.uz/articles-id-12996.htm>

<http://news.olam.uz/uz/society/12497.html>

<http://uza.uz/uz/society/24113/>

<http://www.12.uz/ru/news/show/opshestvo/11601/>

Practical guidelines on Seismic Safe Construction

<https://undp.unteamworks.org/node/269588>

<https://undp.unteamworks.org/node/290557>

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=29736>

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=29737>

<http://www.12.uz/ru/news/show/opshestvo/11601/>

Project Site

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***We will be glad to answer
your questions, share
experience, accept
support and just keep in
contact with you!***

*Those who work the
Disaster Management way,
live to work another day.*



***“We cannot eliminate
disasters, but we can
mitigate risk. We can
reduce and we can save
more lives” – Ban Ki-
moon, United Nations
Secretary-General***