

# Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Management in Tajikistan

Tajikistan is subject to a range of disasters, including earthquakes, floods, mudflows, avalanches, drought, and epidemics. Between 1997 and 2011, losses related to disasters exceeded \$US 353 millions. Given the impact of disasters on lives and the development of Tajikistan UNDP Tajikistan has been supporting the Government of Tajikistan in building capacities to manage risks since 2003 at the national and local levels. Key capacity building work over the last decade has focused on information management and analysis, search and rescue, and improving and expanding disaster risk management training for government officials and in the education system. These efforts funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, UK Government, Government of Japan, Swedish International Development Agency and from UNDP Tajikistan's own funds, are described on more detail below.

## Information Management and Analytical Center

The Information Management and Analytical Centre (IMAC) of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (main state structure for emergency management) was officially established in August 2005. UNDP Tajikistan supported IMAC's establishment through lobbying for the Center as a strategic capacity to improve disaster information management, ensuring a skills-based recruitment process for IMAC personnel, training, and development of a geographic information system (GIS), the formulation of a national risk assessment process, and computers and other advanced equipment. Currently, IMAC is a self-sustained element within the CoES with nine of core staff in Dushanbe and staff in CoES offices in three regions and two districts of the country comprising twelve core staff.



Training for IMAC staff

The main tasks of the Center are to collate, analyze, and disseminate data on natural hazards, conduct risk assessments, develop and promote the use of disaster statistics and overall improvement of disaster-related information management. The Center provides risk assessment services to the Government and external parties and develops hazards maps <sup>1</sup> (see the link below for IMAC developed maps of hazards). The National Disaster Risk Management Strategy calls for development of a hazard atlas for Tajikistan, a task in which IMAC is taking a central role. Funded with the financial support of SDC and UNDP, IMAC is a key contributor to the UNDP-supported Monitoring and Warning System reports managed by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade <http://www.medt.tj>. Today, IMAC is a self-sustained and well-established structure within CoES and the Government playing a key role in improving the management of disaster-related information.

## Search and Rescue Services

The nature of disasters in Tajikistan necessitates advanced local capacities to conduct search and rescue operations. These tasks are primarily the responsibility of CoES under the Governmental allocation of essential responsibilities. UNDP Tajikistan managed a series of capacity projects to building search and rescue capacities within the Committee. In 2010 and 2011, UNDP and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) constructed a SAR training field and other training facilities in Dushanbe to enhance the practical



USAR training practical sessions, 2011

<sup>1</sup> <http://untj.org/coordination-mechanisms/disaster-management/resource-page>



training for rescuers. A training programme administered by MSB provided theoretical and practical training according International Search and Rescue Advisory Group requirements. With financial support of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) a total of 4 SAR teams at provincial level have been established and trained. In addition, regional SAR team facilities were upgraded to provide training and lodging space. Up to date, the rescuers are able to deploy swiftly to the disaster sites using the provided equipment and trainings throughout the whole country.

## Disaster Risk Management Trainings

Tajikistan's post-independence disaster management training materials were largely based on those existing during the Soviet period, including a focus on civil defense from external attack. UNDP Tajikistan, with funding from SDC has supported the CoES Training Center to modernize disaster management trainings for CoES staff and for Government staff who are obliged to undertake courses in disaster management.

The training programme consisting of 16 modules has been fully updated, to be more focused on issues to natural hazards existing in country and include more modern interactive approaches and materials.

In 2011, an introductory course on disaster management for new recruits and an advanced course for middle level officers developed and approved and piloted by CoES.



Disaster Risk Management Training of Trainers, 2011

As part of efforts to improve training delivery, UNDP Tajikistan rehabilitated and reconstructed existing training facilities in Dushanbe and in key Districts such as Kurgan-Tyube, Hissar, Rasht, Bobojon Ghafurov and many more. Auditoriums and classrooms have been rehabilitated and computers and other training equipment and furniture provided. The CoES Training Center is currently capable of training up to thirty trainees of its own staff and other government employees in basic and advance disaster risk management using adapted training procedures and modern equipment.

Also in the education sector, UNDP in Tajikistan and the Government have worked to integrate disaster risk management into school and pre-school curriculums. A number of adapted training courses for upper and higher educational programs were developed and integrated. Workshops and trainings were also conducted for high school and university teachers on disaster risk management and the application of course materials. In parallel, support was also provided to conduct trainings for heads and nurses of kindergarten to ensure awareness raising amongst all levels of educational facilities.

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First Aid workshop for CoES trainers