

Reporting Agency: UNDP
Country: Armenia

STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT

No. and title: 00076016 / Strengthening of National Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction Capacities

Reporting period: January– December, 2013

I. PURPOSE

The project (00076016) is aimed at further enhancement and contribution to build a well-structured and effective DRR system in Armenia. Developed DRR capacities will enable to systematically address existing and emerging disaster risks in the country, maintaining inclusive and coordinated mechanism for risk identification, assessment and early warning, implementing risk reduction measures and increasing preparedness for effective response and recovery. There are three outputs in support of the project objective. These are as follows:

- Strengthened enabling environment for the implementation of the National DRR Strategy and HFA;
- Improved coordination and cooperation in disaster risk reduction;
- Integration of disaster and climate risk management into community, local, and municipal development.

Based on the decision of UNDP CO Senior Management 50,000 USD (committed in 2010 within the frame of DRR 3rd Phase project) was allocated for extension of the Project for six months period. The main purposes of the extension of the Project were to organize the participation of Armenian Delegation in 4th DRR Global Platform Meeting and possible mobilization of funds for the future Project. Due to the lack of funds in the beginning of 2013 the Project staff was decreased and only Project Coordinator was contracted and implemented all administrative and programmatic tasks until mid-July 2013.

In April 2013, BCPR approved the allocation of a total amount of USD 500,000 to support the continuation and implementation of project 00076016 “Strengthening of National capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction” during 2013-2015 years. Upon BCPR official confirmation receipt the relevant budget revision was conducted. The project is the continuation of the previous phases and aimed at building upon their achievements. It was co-funded by the UNDP national partner, the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MoES), introducing a cost sharing principle. Application of the new funding method was an evidence of MoES ownership of the project and its willingness to deepen its further cooperation with UNDP. This new funding mode was confirmed in the Minister’s official letter to UNDP RR proposing the extension of the project for another three years. It was also agreed to maintain the programmatic approach in order to ensure consistency of further undertakings and the sustainability of the project impact.

Main implementing partners of the project are the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia, DRR National Platform and Crises Management Academy of MoES.

II. RESOURCES

Total budget for 3 years (2013-2015) is \$936,867

Total 00076016 project budget for 2013: US\$ 316,867.00

TRAC 1 - USD 50,000.00

BCPR- USD 150,000

National Partner (MoES)-116,867

The Project received ASL allocation and the budget was approved in the ATLAS in September 2013.

III. RESULTS

Strengthening of National Disaster Risk Reduction Capacities- project (00076016) aimed at contributing towards building a well-structured and effective DRR system in Armenia ensuring its further enhancement and effective performance. Improved DRR capacities will enable the national structures in charge to systematically address existing and emerging disaster risks in the country, maintaining inclusive and coordinated mechanism for risk identification, assessment and early warning, implementing risk reduction measures and increasing preparedness for effective response and recovery.

Project activities include:

- Strengthened enabling environment for the implementation of the National DRR Strategy and HFA;
- Improved coordination and cooperation in disaster risk reduction;
- Integration of disaster and climate risk management into community, local, and municipal development.

The implemented activities based on the project AWP are presented below.

1. Enabling environment for the functional National Platform for DRR, implementation of national DRR Strategy and HFA

- During February-March 2013 period the Project Coordinator provided assistance in development of the Armenian delegation participation agenda for the 4th DRR Global Meeting and tentatively schedule of the meetings. In this regard, teleconferences, discussions and meetings were held with UNISDR, UNOCHA, BCPR and other partners. The Project prepared the official announcement, trends of the topics that could be discussed and report on the achievements of past two years. The developed package was presented to the Minister of MoES for discussion and approval. In May 2013 the Armenian delegation participated in the 4th DRR Global Meeting. Meetings were held with Jordan Ryan, BCPR Director, Olav Kjørven, BDP Director, Minister of MoES of Kazakhstan, and Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Iran, representatives of international organizations head offices mainly UNICEF, SDC and OXFAM. Minister of ES take part in the Donors meeting organized by BCPR and provided official statement related to DRR achievements in Armenia and acknowledged the fruitful cooperation between the Government and UNDP. On May 20, 2013 a meeting was held between the Minister of MoES and Ms. Margaret Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of DRR aimed at to discuss possibilities for further strengthening and developing cooperation between Armenia (Government, ARNAP-DRR National Platform) and UNISDR. During the meeting the Minister suggested to make Armenia as model country for implementation of the Mainstreaming Adaptation and Disaster Reduction into Development (MADRiD) program and consider Crises Management State Academy (CMSA) as a regional educational center. The Minister invited Ms. Wahlstrom to Armenia and she accepted the invitation. BCPR organized donors meeting and the Armenian delegation was also invited. The topic of the meeting was “The role of the countries with disaster hazards in risk prevention and preparedness processes”. Handbook on LLRM Module and DRR Strategy Implementation was translated into English and published for presentation on UNDP stand during DRR 4th Global Meeting. Based on the meetings discussions, it was decided to translate into Armenian and Russian languages six educational modules of MADRiD leaders’ development program and involve in the training curriculum of CMSA for different specialists and managers.
- In March 2013, the Project Coordinator, Deputy Director of DRR National Platform and Rector of Crises Management State Academy of MoES participated in HFA 2 Conference organized by UNISDR in Almaty, Kazakhstan. During the Conference a cooperation agreement was signed between the DRR National Platforms of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.
- On October 22-24, 2013, DRR Project Coordinator, Rector of CMSA and Lecturer of CMSA had participated in the **Peer Learning Forum (PLF) for Central Asia & South Caucasus Region** on

Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into Development (MADRiD) in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Three presentations were made by the Armenian delegation: a) the progress of implementation of MADRiD program in Armenia, b) DRR mainstreaming into national policies and development programs both at national and local level; c) three main areas of particular attention in the context of strengthening the DRR capacities. Presentations were made on the following topics also: DRR and CCA Mainstreaming into Sectoral Development, the achievements towards DRR national strategy implementation, drawing clear links between the strategy implementation and existing development perspectives. The rector of CMSA stated on the readiness of the MoES to host the Leadership Development Forum 4 in Armenia which was preliminary planned to conduct in Almaty in March 2014. Based on the discussions and the interest of participants towards the Armenia experience it was agreed to conduct LDF 4 in Armenia in May 2014.

- On November 12-13 DRR Programme Coordinator and CMSA lecturer Artavazd Davtyan participated in Peer Annual Global Disaster Alarm and Coordination System (GDACS) Meeting in Brussels, Belgium. The purpose of the meeting was to review latest developments of GDACS and to discuss challenges and new trends related to information exchange, alerting, analysis and decision making in the early phase after major sudden-onset disasters. It was agreed to establish cooperation between GDACS and CMC Armenia, as well as to conduct GDACS Advisory Board meeting 2014 in Armenia. It was also agreed that the meetings will be chaired by the respective host country.
- DRR education Expert is recruited for development of educational concept and submission to the Government for approval. Concept is developed and circulated among the DRR players within the DRRNP. It is planned to conduct final discussion and approval with DRR Partners in 05 December, 2013. The final version will be submitted to the Government for approval.
- In the development strategy of Armenia for 2013-2025 prepared by the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Finance Disaster Risk Reduction was not included. Moreover, the risk which could influence the development of Armenia was observed only within the global financial crisis. UNDP DRR project raised the issue and as a result of joint long-term works with DRR partner organizations and the MoES developed package of respective recommendations and programs. As a result the disaster risk was also included as a risk factor that can affect on economic development and disaster risk management was included as an important factor and 3-4 projects were developed and presented.

1.1 Cooperation within the “Joining Efforts towards DRR Capacity building” concept

The Concept of the cooperation called “Joining Efforts towards DRR Capacity building” was suggested by DRR Project and accepted by the partner organizations. This cooperation aimed to avoid the duplication and overlapping of the projects/activities, ensuring information dissemination among the partners, making effective cost-sharing of the DRR related expenses and resource mobilizing. **110.000USD** was leveraged from other DRR stakeholders to promote efficient utilization of resources as a result of the mentioned initiative. As a result several DRR stakeholders have coordinated their efforts in relation to DRR field by ensuring more efficiency and holistic approach towards sustainable development. The above mentioned achievements were registered in 2013.

- The suggestion of the Project to joint approaches and resources in establishment of anti-hail nets in Tavush and Syunik regions was accepted by the World Vision and “Markets for Megri project” of CARD Armenia organizations. In April 2013, CARD, World Vision, DRR regional teams, DRR National Platform, DRR Project and communities have signed Memorandum of Understanding on implementation of anti-hail net project.
- Nets were procured in 2012 by DRR Project. The DRR NP had developed and localized metallic constructions to install anti-hail nets in Aygehovit, Tavush and Alvanq rural communities. It was a good opportunity for DRR NP to implement financial-economic activities. DRR national platform established local production by manufacturing metallic constructions for anti-hail nets installation by providing

qualified product with lower prices versus to import from the Italy with the cost of 158 Euro, while the DRR NP provides products of the same quality for lower price in 10 Euros.

- On August 2, 2013 the *Workshop on Joint Efforts for DRR in Gender* was held in Ani Hotel Plaza Conference hall, which was a result of the regular meetings and suggestions expressed by the DRR Project on cooperation concept mechanism aimed at to join the efforts and resources for the DRR activities. The workshop was jointly organized by MoES, UNICEF, OXFAM, DRR National Platform and UNDP DRR Project. Eighty representatives of different institutions related to gender and DRR participated in thematic group discussions and made presentations based on the responses of distributed questionnaires. ***Within DRR NP a Thematic Group on Gender in DRR was re established to coordinate joint activities and projects related to mainstreaming Gender into DRR.***
- Cooperation with German Red Cross (GRD), DRR NP, Crisis Management State Academy (CMSA) and DRR project was created aimed at establishment of Crisis Management Center (CMC) educational center in the CMSA premises. The official delegation from GRD visited Armenia and had meeting with the Minister of ES. Plan of action and location of educational center were presented and approved. It was agreed that GRD would provide technical support and expertise, DRR NP would be responsible for overall coordination, CMSA – for provision of CMC dispatchers’ trainings and re-trainings, DRR Project for provision of EDP equipment.
- A resilience building consortium was formed among Disaster Management Country Team (DMCT) members (UNOCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, Arm. RC Society, World Vision Armenia, CARD, OXFAM and HABITAT Armenia) under the auspices of DRR National Platform to introduce a common approach towards resilience building in Armenia. As one of the consortium first initiatives an ISDR “City resilience handbook for city mayors” was published locally in Armenian and distributed among all governing bodies of rural and city communities. From October 13 to 17 Community Resilience building project was launched in two rural communities of Nrnadzor and Karchevan of Syunik region (Meghri sub-region), a joint initiative of OCHA, UNDP, Center for Agrobusiness and Rural Development (CARD), DRR NP and CMSA. This particular project is one of the planned pilot joint undertakings towards introduction and testing of the mentioned common approach co-funded by UNOCHA, UNDP and CARD. Experts of the “LORE” rescue team was hired to conduct the community based assessments in close cooperation with UNDP Resilience expert. Also 25 specially trained masters’ students from the CMSA were engaged in practical exercises to learn and practice the applied methodologies and tools. In October 2013 UNDP signed MOU with CARD by emphasizing the cooperation directions mentioned above.
- DRR Project initiated the publishing of “Handbook for Local Government Leaders: How to Make Cities More Resilient” for heads of communities’ of Armenia. The first stage was organized and finance by the Project, involving the translation, editing, proofreading and designing of the material. Later the Project applied to partner organizations for cost-sharing of the expenses for publishing of 1100 copies of “City resilience handbook”. All partners agreed with the initiative of the Project to share the publication financial costs in the following distribution:
 - OXFAM 300 copies
 - UNOCHA 300 copies
 - “Markets for Megri” Project CARD-200 copies
 - World Vision Armenia – 300 copies
 - USAID PRPP-designing of the handbook
 - UNDP DRR Project allocated 2,200 USD for translation, editing and proofreading the handbook. The handbooks will be distributed to 915 communities of Armenia.
- With regard to the International day for Disaster Prevention on October 13, it was suggested and approved to have two month campaign with the involvement of all DRR stakeholders including DRR regional teams aimed at conducting various activities (educational contests, exhibitions, meetings etc.).

The main purpose of the campaign was to raise public awareness on the issue of Disaster Risk Reduction.

1.2 Cooperation within UNDP projects

- DRR Project jointly with UNDP GEF SGP Project implements “Rehabilitation of arable lands through construction of a drainage system in Lernantsk community of Lori region”¹. The Project aims to rehabilitate waterlogged agricultural lands of Lernantsk community of Lori region. The project envisages constructing a 2000-meter long open drainage system and hydro-insulating a 2500-meter long earth irrigation canal to ensure draining of the affected farmlands, while using the collected water for irrigation. As a result of the project implementation more than 80ha of waterlogged farmlands will be rehabilitated and sustainably used. Moreover, about 120 community households will get stable income (in average extra US\$1450 per households annually) through cultivation of potato and other crops. Special trainings on environmental awareness rising for Lernantsk and neighboring communities as well as local NGOs. **1700 m of drainage channel and 2300m water irrigation system was constructed.** Within DRR Project a local expert on drainage was recruited to support UNDP Armenia and GEF SGP Project in implementation of Project in Lernantsk community to organize construction and working with the project team the Expert provides necessary input in dissemination of DRR related public education and awareness messages. The project was developed and implemented based on the LLRM assessment results conducted in 2012 within DRR Project.
- UNDP CDP Project accepted LLRM as a common tool to identify the existing risks at the community level and consider them within the community development prospective. In connection with this, LORE rescue team conducted LLRM assessment in 4 targeted communities of Armavir region. DRR Project provided expertise in this matter. This cooperation could become as a good example for further synergy between UNDP projects.
- UNDP Gender focal point was involved in the working processes of Gender in DRR TG and provided expertise in relation to Gender in DRR. It is planned to conduct introductory trainings on gender mainstreaming into DRR within DRR NP and in cooperation with MoES and other partners. The purpose of the trainings is to introduce gender issues in more detailed and comprehensive way to involve gender concepts into projects in more efficient ways.

1.2 Cooperation and Coordination in Disaster Risk Reduction

- As a result of discussion and negotiations on further assistance providing to CMC, the Minister of MoES express willingness to allocate 48,500,000 AMD (119,458 USD) received from VivaCell-MTS CJSC for creating/establishing state **backup sever/datacenter. It was decided that the funds will** be transferred through DRR National Platform. The cost-sharing agreement with DRR Platform was signed in September 2013 for allocation of 119,458 USD to the Project budget for implementing Project component on upgrading the Crises Management Center server room of MoES.
- It was discussed and agreed with PPRD Information Management expert the work plan of trainings for the CMC staff. In the end of the March 2013 the training was conducted. In line with the training an assessment was conducted on CMC needs and special suggestions package was developed and presented to MoES for discussion and approval.
- During October 2013 a tender was announced for procurement of equipment for upgrading CMC server/backup center room based on the technical specifications prepared by the Project Datacenter Expert. Out of ten participated organizations six won competition by each LOT. Based on the official request from MoES the LOT 7 was not considered in the procurement process due to the insufficient funds in the Project budget. It is planned that equipment will be delivered before the end of this year.

¹ The total budget of the project is 75.000 USD. DRR project contribution is 2.000 USD, GEF – 50.000 USD and 23.000 USD – community contribution.

- Tender was announced for establishment of Lori regional CMC 911 call center and the equipment will be delivered by the end of this year.
- Data Center Architect, Drainage, GIS experts and LLRM expert were recruited and reports were accordingly submitted based on the deliverables.

2.1 Facilitate functioning of Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform

- DRR Project organized and financed the participation of the Director of DRR National Platform in the 4th DRR Annual Meeting in Oslo, Norwegian. The experience of Armenia in DRR field was presented. Two publications “LLRM Manual” and “DRR Strategy Implementation Guideline” were launched during the meeting.
- DRR Project provided DRR National Platform with 20,000 USD as a small grant (it is planned in AWP to provide additional 80.000 USD for the years of 2014-2015). This initiative of the Project will stimulate the capacity building, efficient functioning of DRR NP and ensure the sustainability of the Platform operation. As result of this initiative DRR NP established cooperation with Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development National Center (SME DNC) aimed at assisting in implementation of the joint project on “Resilient development of communities”. The main goal of SME DNC is to support the development of SME at the community level. It was agreed between DRR NP and SME DNC to conduct LLRM in 60 selected communities and based on the results of the assessment proceed with the SME projects. The objective of this cooperation is to identify the existing risks at the community level and consider them within the community development prospective. Total Budget of the project is 60.000 USD from which 15.000 USD is DRR NP contribution and 45.000 USD is SME DNC contribution.
 - The project was facilitated jointly with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of RA to conduct seismic risk assessment in six cities of Syunik region. Resource mobilization was done by DRR project and several donors were involved in that process. The overall management was transferred to DRR NP² for capacity building. The objective of the project is to conduct study on earthquake hazards and risk assessment aimed at evaluation of potential earthquake hazard and associated risk and losses, socio-economic impact of 6 cities (Kapan, Goris, Sisian, Megri, Kajaran and Agarak) of Syunik region based on the proposed earthquake scenarios. It is also planned to conduct assessment of possible landslides as a secondary event after the earthquake. Preliminary discussions were held with the Municipality of Kapan and Agarak. They approved the project and confirmed their readiness to make contribution. It is planned to organize official meeting with the representatives of regional administration and municipalities of the mentioned cities to finalize the project issues and clarify the total amount contributed by them.
- Within DRR NP a new thematic group aimed at capacity building of CMC was formed with the involvement of SDC, PPRD East Project, Rostelecom Company and DRR Project. Parties agreed to join the efforts toward the development of CMC concept, strategic development plan and software both for CMC and 911 call center.
- During the reporting period the Project Coordinator continued providing technical support to DRR National Platform in organizing works of thematic groups and development and presentation of 2013 Report.

Get Airports Ready To Disasters UNDP and DEUTSCHE POST DHL global programm

- UNDP jointly with the RA MoES and DEUTSCHE POST DHL aviation experts within the framework of “Get Airport Ready for Disaster” global project initiated a training program for Armenian airport management staff. This initiative focuses on training of airport staff, assessing the capacity of airports with the objective of increasing that capacity to handle the increases in flights, cargo and people that will

² The total budget of the project is 100.000 USD. The DRR NP contribution is 15.000 USD, Markets for Megri CARD project contribution is 10.000 USD, OSCE Syunik regional branch contribution – 8.000 USD and NAS–25.000 USD. The allocation of the rest 42.000 USD is going to be allocated from the municipalities’ budget and private sector by DRR NP.

materialize in the aftermath of a natural disaster. The overall objective of the GARD training is to strengthen the disaster risk management capacities of the airport and to increase levels of cooperation across all agencies and bodies involved in disaster planning and response. This is a part of global UNDP - DHL Programme financed by Government of Germany and it was conducted in 28 countries in the world and Armenia became the 29th country. The Project was presented to MoES and agreed with them after which they lead the process to conduct GARD assessment in Armenia. Preparatory meeting of GARD training was held in Yerevan on September 9-16, 2013. DHL experts had series of meetings with representatives of beneficiary organizations, mainly with MoES, Civil Aviation Department of RA and "Zvartnots" International Airport. The training format was identified and other related issues were clarified. On October 7-10, 2013 GARD training was conducted in the premises of "Zvartnots" International Airport. Forty participants from the beneficiary organizations participated in the training course, prepared GARD assessment reports and presented to the trainers'. The assessment report is in finalization stage. The assessment process supported in the establishment of good relationship and cooperation between the involved parties. It was suggested to conduct practical/simulation exercise to test the capacity and preparedness of Airport staff, MoES, Civil Aviation and other stockholders to deal with disasters.

Integration of disaster and climate risk management into community, local and municipal development programmes.

- Documentary films were developed by Art Sight LLC on effective usage of anti-hail nets in the rural communities of Tavush region, that 90% of vine yards were survived after establishment by DRR Project of anti-hail nets. Two films were developed: one for 5 minutes length was about the Aygehovit community and the second for 7 minutes length was on overall project activities on anti-hail nets, impact of the Project, Aygehovit and Tavush communities after hail and harvesting in Aygehovit community. The films were presented to the Prime Minister of RoA by the UN RR.
- In April 2013 based on the results of the meetings/discussions between Project, World Vision and OCHA it was decided to select Stepanavan as a pilot city for localization and piloting the resilience model. During September 2013 a field trip was made with OCHA Adviser and World Vision Armenia representative to meet the mayor of Stepanavan city. The main objective of the visit was to present and discuss the city resilience campaign for testing resilience concept in the city. Mayor approved and agreed to pilot city resilience concept and project in Stepanavan. He also confirmed the readiness for the contribution in implementation of the respective project activities.
- During the reporting period LORE rescue team was contracted on the competitive bases for conducting LLRM assessment and piloting "Community Risk Certificates" developed by the Project in the selected 12 communities of Armenia. The Project coordinator and LLRM expert made several monitoring visits aiming to participate in the activities implemented by the LORE rescue team. Based on the assessment results, recommendations were presented on DRR mainstreaming into community development plans.
- On October 4-5, 2013 two days training on Testing of the LLRM Training Modules was organized for the students of Crises Management State Academy. 25 students participated in the lectures and on practical works conducted by the Project Coordinator and LLRM Expert.
- From October 28 to November 2, 2013 ToT training was jointly conducted with World Vision and OCHA for DRR regional teams, community leaders and local NGOs aimed at mainstreaming DRR into local development and presenting community resilient concept. 80 representatives of beneficiary organizations participated in the training and the action plan for 2014 was drafted. The Action plan will be finalized, discussed with DRR Regional teams and DRR main stakeholders and will be disseminated. It will also serve as bases for DRR players to support further capacity building of DRR Regional teams.

- As a result of joint projects with the World Vision Armenia organization and DRR Project the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) was included in the amendment process of law on territorial administration. Amendment in the law is done by the Government of RA and sent to NA for approval. Based on this amendment DRM is mainstreamed into community development plans as a main priority direction. By the experts of the MTA LLRM toolkit is considered as a methodology and common tool to support the community administration in mainstreaming DRR into development of sectoral plans. LLRM methodology was presented in MADRID PLF and UNDP DRR Projects of Kirgizstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan expressed interest to paste the same methodology in their regions at the community levels. DRR Strategy Implementation Guideline and LLRM Methodology publications were presented in the 4th DRR Global Platform in Geneva, PLF in Almaty and EF DRR in Oslo.
- During the reporting period the Project Coordinator with LLRM expert made regular monitoring field visits to the Project sites based on the AWP activities.

Staff management: Starting from February 2013 UNDP NDRA has been working for UNOCHA.

In the beginning of 2013 due to the lack of financial resources the project staff was decreased and overall project implementation was done by the Project Coordinator until mid-July 2013. In the mid of July 2013 the project new staff was recruited and the Project Coordinator was upgraded to DRR Programme Coordinator.

IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN

Proceed with the approved AWP activities for 2014 year.

V. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

As of 10 December 2013

Project 00076016

Activities	Planned Budget in USD	Revised budget	Expenditure as of 30.12.2013	Balance	Utilized
Activity 3: Enabling environment for the functional National Platform for DRR, implementation of national DRR strategy and HFA	\$6,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.0	0	100 %
Activity 4: Cooperation and Coordination in Disaster Risk Reduction	\$14,000.00	\$204,458.0 0	\$201,867.00	0	100 %
Activity 5: Integration of disaster and climate risk management into community, local and municipal development	\$3,000.00	\$54,500.00	\$54,500.00	0	100 %
Activity 6: Project Management	\$27,000.00	\$47,500.00	\$47,500.00	0	100 %
Total for Project 00076016	\$50,000.00	\$316,867.0 0	\$316,867.00		100 %

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