



Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

Progress Report 2023

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 4

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Contents

Acronyms	2
1. Project Background.....	4
2. Executive Summary.....	7
2.1 Key Lessons Learned and Takeaways	11
2.2 Challenges for the 2024	12
2.3 Project results and activities	13
3. Project Factsheet	19
4. Implementation Progress	21
5. Project Outputs.....	23
5.1 Output 1.1: Capacity Assessment of DRR institutions carried out including the ones related to biological hazards (public health) & Output 1.4: Establishment of National Platform for DRR supported.	23
5.2 Output 1.6: New building codes according to Eurocode & national annexes prepared.	29
5.3 Output 1.7: Support national capacity development in risk assessments and emergency planning...31	
5.4 Output 1.9: National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan developed.....	37
5.5. Output 1.11: National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) formulated.....	42
5.6. Output 2.1: Seismic hazard monitoring strengthened	50
5.7. Output 2.2: Biological risk management with focus on prevention and preparedness used for medium to longer-term risk monitoring and evaluation.....	52
5.8. Output 2.3: Local risk assessment for LGUs supported (11 affected municipalities and then the remaining ones).....	58
5.9 Output 2.4: Local DRR Strategies & Local Civil Emergency Plans (LCEP) supported	77
5.10 Output 3.1: Cooperation with EUCPM and regional networking strengthened and sustained	81
6. Communication and Visibility	87
6.1 RESEAL Project Communication Activities.....	87
6.2 Media Relations.....	90
6.3 RESEAL on Media & Social media	90
6.4 Printing and other visibility materials.....	92
7. Provisional Expenditures (as of 31 Dec 2023).....	95
8. Updated Work Plan.....	97
9. List of Annexes	98

Acronyms

Acronyms	Institution
AAF	Albanian Armed Forces
AGS	Albanian Geological Survey
ASP	Albanian State Police
CADRI	Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CD	Capacity Development
CP	Civil Protection
COOP	Continuity of Operations Planning
COG	Continuity of Government
DPC	Dipartimento della Protezione Civile (Italian Civil Protection Department)
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DMC	Decision of Council of Ministers
EFAS	European Flood Awareness System
EFFIS	European Forest Fire Information System
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EUCPM	EU Civil Protection Mechanism
EASRCC	Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOC	Emergency Operational Center
ERCC	Emergency Response and Coordination Centre
EVCA	Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
FP&RS	Fire Protection & Rescue Service
GoA	Government of Albania
IGJEO	Institute of Geosciences
IIWG	Interinstitutional Working Group
IMCCE	Inter-ministerial Committee on Civil Emergencies
MSB	<i>Myndigheten för Samhällsskydd och Beredskap</i> (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency)
MoD	Ministry of Defense
MoIE	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSR	State Minister for Reconstruction

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDRRS	National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy
NRA	National Risk Assessment
NCPA	National Civil Protection Agency
NCEP	National Civil Emergency Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
RAPA	Regional Administration of Protected Areas
SEE	South-Eastern Europe
SMR	Sendai Monitoring Report
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TAC	Technical Advisory Commission
TESTA	Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations
ToT	Training of Trainers
ToR	Terms of Reference
LRA	Local Risk Assessment
LDRRS	Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy
LCEP	Local Civil Emergency Plan
LGU	Local Government Unit
LCPC	Local Civil Protection Commission
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UPT	Polytechnic University of Tirana
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

1. Project Background

RESEAL project officially started in July 2020, following the bilateral signing of the project document by the Ministry of Defense and UNDP. RESEAL project intends to support the efforts of the Government of Albania for improving the disaster risk management (DRM) system in the country. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen, Albania's DRM system and support country's efforts in becoming a fully-fledged member of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The project is also in line with promoting the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and is developed based on the Albania earthquake PDNA recommendations. Also, in light of the severe and acute public health emergency due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, measures related to risk preparedness and risk mitigation of biological hazards will be provided.

The RESEAL project has two major interlinked pillars:

- A. strengthening the DRM strategic and operational framework and capacities at central level, and
- B. support the development of local (municipal) DRR framework and local response capacities in harmonization with the national DRR system and legal framework in place.

RESEAL project has been developed as a comprehensive response to the needs for strengthening the DRM systems at all levels in the country. As such, in its entirety, the project contains a multi-level set of priorities around three components:

- 1) strengthening the DRR framework and capacities at the central level,
- 2) building DRR local level knowledge, planning and organizational capacities for prevention and response to disasters, and
- 3) supporting critical needs for DRR infrastructure.

The project mirrors several recommendations provided in the recent PDNA following the November 2019 earthquake, attempts to support the implementation of the new legislation on Civil Protection sanctioned in the recent Law 45/2019 "On civil protection" as well as takes into consideration the present momentum where the main government institution responsible for DRR policy and coordination is under a full redesign and overhaul, being at present in a the final phase of staffing and internal organization.

The project also takes into consideration the changing landscape of DRR assistance, where several international actors are coming into play, triggered by the last disasters or speeding up their plans in view of the fragility of the DRR system in Albania.

The process of capacity building, to cope with and mitigate disasters, is first a multi-stakeholder issue and solution, and second, it runs in a potentially risk-contained environment, where other disasters may occur along. Following the November 2019 earthquake, Albania is currently under the full impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020, while it had to cope with numerous fire disasters during the last summer. This incessant flow of unfortunate events has shown once again the necessity and importance of specific role plays of all governance levels, the important coordination and leading role of the central state and the indispensable role of local governments in the micro coordination, response and care for the communities as well as the existing deficiencies, gaps and shortages that exist in this continuum.

In view of the above, RESEAL project has identified, in agreement with the government counterparts, a well-defined niche that encompasses the soft assistance for enabling cross institutional dialogue for DRR,

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

integration of the DRR perspective into development, and the establishment of the DRR strategic, institutional and operational governance framework at both central and local levels, along with the necessity for capacity building for using these instruments. This is, however, still a wide area of action, and the project remains dynamically adaptable to the opportunities and limitations.

RESEAL project was preceded by two UNDP pilot interventions, contributing to the buildup of the above niche. The first pilot intervention aimed at carrying out a full institutional capacity assessment in terms of the DRR knowledge, roles and complementarities at the central level and the establishment of a National DRR Platform. Both above elements feed into the formulation and finalization of the National DRR Strategy as well as additional central level policy and normative documents that shape the national DRR framework. The second pilot implemented in the municipality of Lezha and aimed to, in line with the requirements of law 45/2019, develop a replicable methodology and approach for municipalities to have in place local DRR Strategies and Civil Protection Emergency Plans as well as capacities to consider DRR in development planning as well as mitigate and cope with disasters when they occur.

The contribution of 2 million Euro from the Government of Sweden and 250.000 euro from Government of Portugal has triggered UNDP to select, in consultation with government counterparts, the priority areas to be addressed from the broader RESEAL scope. Such priorities are in line with the pilot directions and focus on supporting the development of the national DRR framework, that is the National DRR Strategy and National Civil Protection Emergency Plan as well as build a representative, yet a solid local level experience in engaging local stakeholders for the development and adoption of local Disaster Risk Assessment, DRR strategies and civil emergency plans.

The RESEAL up to date outcomes and achievements in line with project document are as per following:

- 1) The National Civil Protection Agency is supported for capacity building, specifically in:
 - Preparation of strategic/planning documents for Disaster Risk Reduction at national and local level
 - Sendai Framework Monitoring Report for 2022 submitted.
 - Support in education and awareness campaigns for disaster risk reduction carried out in partnership with national and local institutions.
 - Study visit carried out in October 2023 in Portugal.
 - The presentation of three disaster risk management documents at the central level was completed from 1.11-6.12.2023 in 11 regions of the country.
 - Reports on "Strengthening Disaster Risk Management Capacities in Albania. Stakeholder analysis" and "Disaster Risk Management. Capacities Assessment" completed and endorsed by NCPA.

Regarding the DRR documents at the central and local level, developed through RESEAL project, outcomes are as following:

- 2) Municipal Disaster Risk Assessment, DRRR Strategy and Civil Emergency Plan documents for Lezha Municipality are prepared, endorsed, and approved by Lezha Municipality Council. All 3 documents in use by the Municipality of Lezha
- 3) National DRR Strategy and the Action Plan have been developed, endorsed by NCPA and national institutions and adopted by ***DCM no. 94, dated 22.2.2023*** "For the approval of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2023-2030 and its Action Plan." The national DRR Strategy has started the implementation and under monitoring by NCPA;

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- 4) Disaster Risk Assessment at the central level has been prepared, endorsed by NCPA and national institutions and adopted **by DCM no. 168, dated 24.03.2023** “For the approval of Disaster Risk Assessment at central level”.
- 5) The National Civil Emergency Plan has been prepared by updating the existing one, endorsed by NCPA and national institutions and adopted **by DCM No. 807 date 28.12.2023** “For the approval of National Civil Emergency Plan at central level”. The “Develop whole-of-government communications and notification standard operating procedure (SOP)” have been prepared.
- 6) The “Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Continuity of Government (COG) Plans in Albania” documents, as part of the National Civil Emergency Plan, are in process as well as a detailed planning and development of a field exercise for the testing of the National Civil Emergencies Plan, the Regional Civil Emergencies Plan and local Civil Emergencies plans of Fieri.
- 7) Albania became an effective full member of UCPM on January 1st,2023. Assistance and support provided for the membership and capacity building to enhance awareness on UCPM as well as training on UCPM legislation, implementing rules and overall procedures delivered. A detailed report on EUCPM membership compliance with findings and useful recommendations prepared and delivered to NCPA and civil protection system.
- 8) "Soft" and "hard" seismic equipment for the Institute of Geosciences purchased, as part of the national disaster risk management system. Strong motion stations sensors, civil construction works and related IGJEO's staff training provided and completed as a set of actions for the improvement of the Albanian Seismic Network translated into doubling national capacities on data collection and processing through the renovation of 10 existing stations and adding other 10 new strong motion stations.
- 9) A comprehensive analysis of the pre-university education curricula and informed recommendations for strengthening the integration of Disaster Risk Management knowledge, ultimately enhancing preparedness and resilience among students and communities conducted and a well prepare report delivered to NCPA including helpful findings and recommendations. Based on the report's recommendations, a Pre-University Education Institution Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Simulation Exercise in selected 12 Pre-University Education Institutions in 6 regions of the country is foreseen in close cooperation with NCPA, Ministry of Education and Sports.
- 10) Disaster Risk Assessments documents for six municipalities of Fieri region, namely the municipality of Fier, Lushnja, Roskovec, Divjaka, Patos and Mallakstra, prepared, endorsed by the established working groups and approved by the respective Municipality Councils and Fieri Prefect.
- 11) The Disaster Risk Assessments document for Fieri Prefecture prepared and approved by Prefect of Fieri.
- 12) The development of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for the 6 municipalities of the Fier region is ongoing and a team of experts is supporting all 6 established municipalities` working groups.
- 13) The preparation of the “Civil Emergency Plans of Fieri qark (region) and its six municipalities” is ongoing and selection process of the consultancy is at the final stage.
- 14) Knowledge and lessons learn of national processes and Fieri region model shared with other 11 regions and 55 municipalities in the country.
- 15) Several trainings and education programme focused on DRR prepared and delivered in close cooperation with NACP and national educational institutions at national and local level.

2. Executive Summary

This annual report summarizes RESEAL project implementation progress for the period January – December 2023.

During this year, project implementation followed the approved workplan during the 3rd Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting and related activities likewise moved ahead with the other ongoing processes. At the beginning of the year, during the PSC meeting a one-year no cost extension has been approved by the PSC's member to enable the project implementation and processes at national and local levels affected by delays on DRR documents approvals by national institutions as well as the ones related to the local pilot interventions affected by 2023 local elections.

The project has continued to support NCPA by further increasing and strengthening its staff capacities on developing, preparing, assessing and planning DRR strategic documents. NCPA staff has been actively engaged on the preparation of local disaster risk assessment processes and they have been part of several trainings and meeting organized at national and local level. It has been a learning by doing exercise as well as conducting, with the assistance of national and international experts, several trainings/exercises with respective departments of NCPA to enhance importance of NCPA and its role on coordination and effectively managing disasters in the country. Furthermore, assistance provided to NCPA to engage and strengthen the role and cooperation with Technical Advisory Commission (TAC), an advisory body headed by NCPA which advises competences on topics related to disaster risk reduction. Specific technical support given to Sendai Monitoring Report 2022 submitted, Albania is part of Sendai Framework and an annual report on the DRM progress and targets is required to be submitted by NCPA, national focal point on behalf of Albanian government. NCPA supported and assisted on the preparation and submission of 2022 Sendai Framework Monitoring (SFM)¹, the first one submitted after 2018. The technical assistance and support provided to NCPA has been useful to restore *Deslventar* system and validate several data by improving the data reporting structure for the national system. Considering several recommendations provided by experts within DRR strategic/planning documents on the importance of data collection and processing, NCPA is working on a national platform for data collection including all the 3 levels of civil protection in country. The national platform will be managed by NCPA and will grant access to all national and local entities/institutions responsible for DRR data reporting on disasters, losses and damage and will be integrated with *Deslventar* system.

A study visit has conducted in Portugal², selected after reviewing and assessing civil protection system of some of the main EU countries, which have a significant history in natural disaster emergency and similarities with Albania, in terms of the type of hazards with the highest risk. A team of representatives from NCPA and IGJEO visited Portugal following a shared and agreed programme prepared with Portuguese National Civil Protection Authority focused on National Disaster Management System, Emergency Response mechanism and National platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. During the study visit particular focus to and exchange of knowledges on the following topics:

- Membership of Portugal in UCPM and potential areas of cooperation
- Empowering National Platform following Portuguese model
- DRR Awareness Campaigns focus on communities and specific risks.
- Risk education into the education system

¹ <https://sendaimonitor.undrr.org/>

² A detailed information on the study visit below on the Output 1.1&1.4

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- Training Programs, curricula and methodologies
- Voluntary Structures and Network
- The completion of the established European Civil Protection Pool modules
- Any rescEU capacities established by Portugal.

At national level, the particular background accompanying project implementation during this year has been the finalization of the approval processes of the 3 main DRR national documents, namely Disaster Risk Assessment at the Central level Document, National DRR Strategy and Action Plan and National Civil Emergency Plan officially adopted by the Government of Albania. Recently approved NCEP will be followed by preparation of COOP and COG along with testing of prepared procedures and SOP-s involving all 3 civil protection levels. NCPA has been assisted and supported to enhance and increase capacity building as well as its expertise related to development and planning of strategic/planning documents.

Considering all the recent positive transformations of civil protection system that have led to the membership in EUCPM, from January 1st, 2023, officially full member of EUCPM, NCPA as the national coordinator of the system needs to be focus on further and continuously strengthening the CP system capacities, ensuring thus being a dignified, strong, and active member of the Mechanism. At this purpose a report on Compliance analysis for membership to UCPM of Albania was conducted. Among the several UCPM strengthening activities (adopting a new national strategy and national plan, reviewing the emergency plans, substantially enhancing operational capacities, infrastructure, and systems for early warning, prevention, preparedness, and response), two of them were identified as priorities to be implemented as part of the UNDP RESEAL project:

- a periodic assessment based on indicators of International Cooperation in CP and Disaster Risk Management under the EUCPM to ensure constant and guided capacity development in this direction.
- raising public awareness on EUCPM, and Disaster Risk Reduction and CP training with EUCPM policies and best international practices and identifying technical and institutional requirements for accessing the TESTA.

To substantiate the assessment, a desk review of documentation and a set of meetings were held with identified stakeholders that led to useful findings and recommendations. The report contains the main findings and recommendations on compliance analysis for membership to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) of Albania. It is part of a more comprehensive activity also including capacity building to enhance awareness of UCPM, and training on UCPM legislation, implementing rules and overall procedures. The technical and institutional requirements for accessing the Trans-European Services for Telematics between Administration (TESTA), as a pre-condition for using the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS), are identified and discussed in a separate report already delivered. A 3-days training delivered focus on EUCPM with participation of national and local experts providing important insights on UCPM legislation, implementing rules and overall procedures.

At the local level, the pilot intervention in Fieri region continued with the preparation of Local Disaster Risk Assessment documents for 6 municipalities and Fieri Prefect. All processes in Fieri region, in close cooperation with NCPA, followed the replication of national processes, lessons learned and knowledge sharing in line with approved national DRR documents. Following the DRR national process guidance, 7 working groups established, one per each of local government units, at prefecture and municipal level, assisted for the preparation of Prefecture and Municipal Risk Assessment documents for

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

6 municipalities namely Fier, Lushnja, Roskovec, Patos, Mallakastra, Divjaka and Prefecture of Fieri. Several meetings held within the working group and broader with communities and stakeholders, field visits conducted, rounds of comments and inputs provided with the aim to collect available and validated data in each of municipalities, necessary to assess risks and exposure. These exercises and processes have improved and increased local capacities of municipals` staff and those of te national subordinated regional offices invited and part of the preparation of the document. Prior to preparation of LDRA, Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA) has been developed for all 6 municipalities. As a participatory process developed for communities to become more resilient through the assessment and analysis of the risks they face and the identification of actions to reduce these risks. EVCA is an improved version of VCA. After the preparation of the final drafts, rounds of comments/discussions and public consultations, 6 LDRA documents has been adopted by Municipalities Councils and approved by Prefect of Fieri. Consequently, after the approval of municipal LDRA, the work followed with finalization of Prefecture Disaster Risk Assessment and approved by the Prefect Order. During the process of preparation of LDRA documents, has been actively engaged around 688 municipal staff, experts from national subordinated regional offices, private sector, civil society and communities. Several educational and awareness activities related to the work conducted in Fieri region has been delivered with the aim to raise information on the importance of understanding risks and being prepared for potential disasters locally. National processes and their lessons learned have been an important guidance and reference for the preparation of local DRR strategic/planning documents. Significant findings and sets of important recommendations for follow up actions have been provided for each municipality and prefecture as well as per other regional institutions/Offices related to DRR and civil protection issues concerning Fieri region territory. The LDRA documents prepared include a Consolidate DRR Report and six Specific Hazard Reports per 6 majors disasters risks affecting municipal territory, namely Earthquakes, Landslides, Wildfire, Floods from rivers, streams and dam failures, Technological, Biological. The Consolidate DRR Report is a synthetic report produced based on data and information provided in Specific Hazard Reports and summarize the main situation with concerning disaster hazards and recommendations developed to address these hazards per each of municipality and prefecture level. They provided a comprehensive and coherent picture of the disaster risk in each of municipalities and the region³. These processes included public consultation on LDRA, discussions with technical groups meeting for the establishment and operation of the local Civil Protection Commission and EVCA semi structured interviews in Fieri region by engaging actively around 840 participants (local experts, stakeholders, community, civil society etc) in more than 84 organized activities. 42 local civil protection staff from 6 municipalities and prefecture of Fieri trained on 6 training sessions with Civil Protection Commissions in 6 the municipalities of Fier Region and a Training of Trainers (ToT) conducted focus on Assessment of Risk and Vulnerability & Capacities.

The process of developing Local DRR Strategies and Action Plans 2024-2030 for 6 municipalities part of Fieri region started in mid-2023 immediately after the approval of LDRA and is ongoing the preparation of the first draft to be shared and discussed with key actors and stakeholders. Local processes will refer to the NDRRS and follow the same approach and logic as per national process for developing municipal DRR strategies. LDRRS will be developed with active participation of all municipals departments, stakeholders and local communities including national subordinated regional directorates. Special focus will be given to financial component of LDRRS by conducting in-depth assessment of municipal financial resources and state budget resources to municipalities dedicated to civil protection

³More details on LDRA process and data can be found on section related to Output 2.3

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

and more specifically to DRR. The process is expected to go through several rounds of comments, inputs, discussion and progress meetings at Mayors and technical level. The main purpose of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, which is the first strategic document prepared at municipal level in civil protection field, is to guide municipalities' future disaster risk management activities and investments in a comprehensive and inclusive manner based on LDRA documents and their findings. LDRA has identified the most relevant municipal natural and man-made hazards that could cause a disaster as well as analyzed and assessed the disaster risks per each of municipalities. It is the next natural step according to the disaster management cycle and the object of the local DRR Strategies is to envelop all disaster management activities and investments in order to plan for the risk reduction of the analyzed risks, prevent new risks from developing and manage residual risk. The first meetings conducted at Mayors and technical level by providing a detailed workplan and timeline for the process. All 6 working groups at each municipality has been established and started to work with the project's team of experts on data collection and required inputs to prepare the first draft starting with vision and objective of LDRRS. The preparation of the first draft and implementation of the agreed workplan is ongoing and the first draft of LDRRS expected by the end of February 2024.

Considering that the National Civil Emergency Plan was approved by the end of December 2023, and its importance as a reference for the local and prefecture civil emergency plans, the initial phase for the preparation of LCEP for 6 municipalities and prefecture of Fieri has recently started. The work on preparation of Local Civil Emergency Plans will be based on the approved NCEP and following the same approach of the national process, lessons learned, and recommendations provided on the national document for the prefecture and municipal level. Municipal and prefectural working groups will be established by the mayors' orders and work together closely on preparation of LCEP. The process includes tabletop exercise (TTX) and stimulation after the approval of the LCEP followed by dissemination and awareness activities with local operational structures, communities at administrative units and civil society.

The project has continued to pay important attention to education, awareness, promotion and information activities. Several communication activities organized, most of them in Fieri region, based on a communication plan prepared by the project office and NCPA's Department of Education, Awareness and Training on information, dissemination, awareness and educational activities related with the DRR and Civil Protection as part of "You are the civil protection" campaign launched by NCPA, with specific target on youth, gender and vulnerable groups. Local communities, gender and vulnerable groups, Pre-university education classroom, civil society and private sector has been targeted and actively engaged with the aim to increase NCPA, municipalities visibility and awareness on the importance of DRR and civil protection, with a special focus on risk understanding, preparedness, mitigation and response actions. Media training module prepared and hand overed to NCPA as an important tool to facilitate delivering media training for different and several target groups.

Visibility materials, print and audio/video, and useful information have been produced and disseminated together with NCPA during this year through many communication channels and means.

Regardless of the impressive progress and achievements by CP system in the country, as well as commitment and huge efforts of NCPA to support local government units on improving DRM in the territory, local capacities are still very limited and facing important gaps and needs. Municipalities and decision makers are slowly understanding the importance of civil protection and moving ahead with

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

establishing dedicated Directorate on civil protection and staff according to the obligation provided by the law 45/2019 ``on Civil Protection``. Financial resources and municipal budget availability for the DRM still very far away from covering the basic needs of municipal civil protection staff and operational structure. There are actions and steps taken by the government and NCPA mainly focus on 4% conditional budget which is disbursed by state budget to municipalities conditioned to be used only for DRM. Another important support provided by the state budget is through NCPA and call for project proposals open to all local government units for potential DRR related investments.

2.1 Key Lessons Learned and Takeaways

- Institutionalization of the process and system thinking approach on preparation and development of DRR strategic/planning documents at all levels is the foundation for the national and local ownership and a key element to deliver a very detailed, facts-based and reliable product.
- Disaster Risk Management tools and strategies are essential to better prevent disasters, protect populations and assets and financially manage their economic impacts;
- National and local capacities and level of understating on DRM has been significantly increased but still not enough to effectively manage and conduct DRM processes independently. Local government units not yet able to independently tackle disasters and plan DRR related investments based on the subsidiarity principle.
- Learning by doing along with practical exercises/drills/stimulations is the fastest and the best way for understanding the risk, knowledge share and getting acquittance with DRR concepts, preparation and planning and system thinking approach.
- Capacity development and coordination at all levels are key to succeed on mitigating ang taking appropriate actions to reduce disasters risks at all levels and building resilience. Special focus is needed for gender and vulnerable groups, the most affected people, during all 4 phases of emergencies in the country, namely *Prevention/Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery*;
- Inclusiveness, active participation and engagement of key actors and stakeholders during project implantation and all related process are crucial ingredients for useful and helpful deliverables and project`s impact to improve communities` livelihoods and provide as much as positive benefits to their economy and life.
- Information, awareness and education are essential and necessary for the civil protection in the country at all times and should be part of institutional planning at all levels by including continues DRR activities and campaigns involving everyone, by leaving no one behind especially gender and vulnerable groups as the most exposed and affected group during disaster;
- Financial resources and budget availability for DRR related activities/investments at all levels, sustainable investments and nature-based solutions are indispensable considering the national capacities, more frequent climate changes and country exposure;
- Training and capacity building is desperately needed at regional and local level for civil protection staff and operational structures along with municipal`s staff and expertise sustainability.

2.2 Challenges for the 2024

- Political will at all levels to further support civil protection system, by budgeting and implementing DRR priorities, strategic projects and recommendation from the adopted planning/strategic documents.
- National, regional and local institutional frequent changes and staff/expertise sustainability that impacts the development and implementation of national and local DRR planning/strategic documents;
- Full implementation of the adopted National DRR Strategy, the required financial resources and its monitoring at mid-to-long term, to ensure strategic projects per each of identified risks by national institutions are accordingly implemented and potential delays and/or implementation risks are tackled;
- Completion and strengthening of National Civil Protection Agency management capacities and expertise to cope with DRM and EU civil protection mechanism processes;
- Preparation of local DRR documents for the project's not-target local government units considering limited budget, human resources and level of expertise
- Financial resources and available budget for civil protection needed to civil protection sectors to fulfill basic needs and equipment along with financial resources required for the implementation of local DRR strategies.
- Communities and economic sectors engagement on decision making and consultation together with active participation on issues related to civil protection at all levels.
- Establishment of Civil Protection Directorates and the relevant staff for those institutions at the central and local level which have not yet been completed according to the law 45/2019 on Civil Protection.
- Capacity building of local government units, including relevant investments at local level, to effectively manage and conduct DRM processes as well as being able to independently respond and cope with disasters on their territory;

As the project is at its last year of implementation, a consultancy on follow-up actions and exit Strategy has started with the aim to increase the effectiveness of the RESEAL project and ensure the sustainability of project results and its long-term impact. A Final Report outlining the main achievements and results of the work will be prepared in close cooperation with NCPA and key actors and partners at all levels.

At the end of June, UNDP in collaboration with NCPA and Sida organized a roundtable with International Development Agencies and Partners on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Civil Protection system in Albania. The meeting focused on Disaster Risk Management system in Albania, the importance of civil protection, international cooperation and active engagement of all actors/partners as well as their contribution by supporting Albanian government on DRM and civil protection system in the country. The central role of National Agency of Civil Protection (NACP), significance contributions and efforts of international partners to assist Albanian government on increasing national capacities on DRM at national and local level by supporting National Civile Protection Agency (NACP) to meet the highest standards as full member of European Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and achieving Sendai framework targets` objectives. The General Director of Albanian National Agency of Civil Protection provided an introductory remark followed by the welcoming speech of Albanian Deputy Minister of Defense. NCPA provided a technical overview of DRM system in Albania by indicating its priorities (short, mid and long term) including international cooperation on civil protection and DRR framework.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

Considering the effective management of project activities, its achievements and results per outputs and the contribution of the UNDP RESEAL project to strengthen civil protection system in Albania, likewise the discussions held on the last Steering Committee regarding government co-financing, NCPA on behalf of Ministry of Defense has informed UNDP on willingness to joining forces and financial contribute to the RESEAL project. At beginning of January 2024, a financial agreement has been signed between NCPA and UNDP, contributing to following RESEAL`s project pillars:

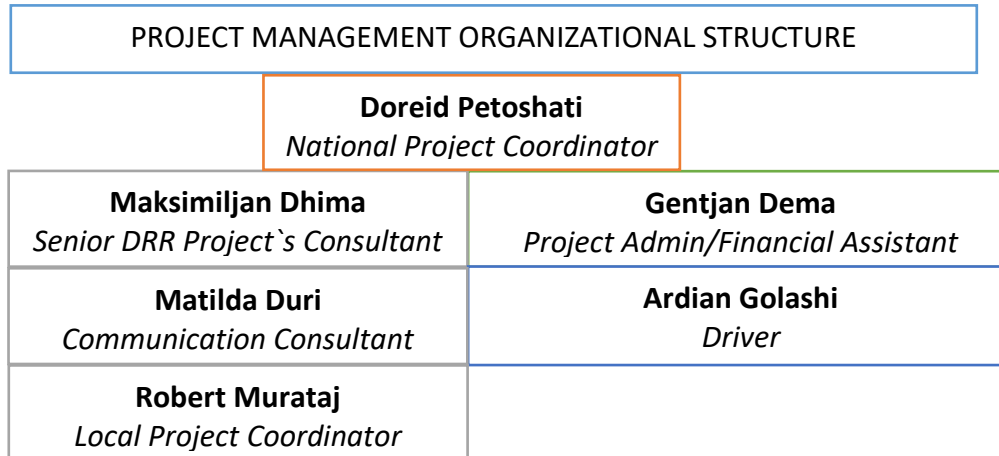
- Institutional capacity building.
- Enhancing emergency preparedness.
- Awareness and educational measures

2.3 Project results and activities

By end 2023, the following activities organized, and results have been achieved:

➤ Project management

Project management structure in place as per project document. The project team includes the Project National Coordinator, Technical DRR Consultant, Communication Consultant, Project Admin/Financial Assistant, Project Local Coordinator and a Driver. A project local coordinator has been hired to support project implementation in Fieri region. In total 41 external experts contracted in 2023, 23 men (56%) and 18 women (44%), as per consultancy services and technical assistance provided at national and central level.

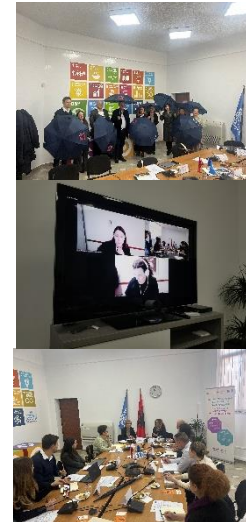


- The 3rd Steering Committee meeting held on 24th January 2023 to discuss on project progress 2022 and to address project implementation issues. Project board members has been informed

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

on implementation issues, challenges and approved the 2023 workplan and progress report 2023.⁴ The meeting focused on the following objectives:

- Progress and achievements of the project and presentation of Annual Work Plan 2023 and project implementation phases
- Endorsement of Project Progress Report 2022 and approval of Annual Work Plan 2023
- Approval of budget revision and No cost extension (1 year)
- Roundtables with donors and international partners
- Co-financial contribution by the Ministry of Defense
- Request from Fieri Prefecture, through NCPA to support on preparation of Prefecture Risk Assessment document.



After discussions, SC`s member endorsed the project progress report, approved the annual work plan and project`s one year no cost extension.

- Awareness raising information sessions in Fier Prefecture Municipalities, with the aim to inform, raise awareness, and educate young individuals about the risks, including fires, floods, and technological hazards, and the need for concrete actions in disaster prevention and management. Furthermore, these training sessions, by empowering the youth with knowledge and awareness, have taken a crucial step in fostering a proactive and resilient community, where young people are equipped to contribute actively to disaster prevention and response efforts in their respective regions. All activities have been promoted via Social Media communication channel.
- A training module on “Communication with the public and operational communication in cases of emergency” prepared and hand overed to NCPA. The didactic materials focused on effective communication with the public and media in the context of disaster reporting was prepared as well, focusing on disaster risk management as collaborative effort that requires the involvement of various stakeholders, including government and civil society.
- Production and printing materials of national and local DRR documents for dissemination, information, awareness and education purposes as well as other project`s visibility materials for implemented activities;

➤ At central level:

- The National Disaster Risk Assessment, including Consolidate Report and 6 thematic hazards Reports, prepared, delivered and endorsed by technical and political working groups. The document adopted by the government of Albania on March 2023 by the DCM.
- The National DRR Strategy and its Action Plan developed, delivered and endorsed by technical and political working groups. The document adopted by the government of Albania on February 2023 by the DCM and is the first ever DRR Strategy approved. National DRR Strategy and its

⁴ Please refer to Annex 13_Project Steering Committee Meeting 2023

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

Action Plan implementation started and NCPA is monitoring strategic projects` implementation from national institutions;

- National Civil Emergency Plan prepared, delivered and endorsed by technical and political working groups. The document adopted by the government of Albania on December 2023 by the DCM. The process conducted and technical assistance provided by the project included 19 organized activities, engagement and participation of 334 participants from all levels, 73.6 % men and 26.4% women, during all phases of the preparation of the document. Training provided to 13 NCPA staff on preparation of a national civil emergency plan and preparation of testing and exercises including scenarios from TTX to full scale testing.
- Several awareness and educational activities organized during project implementation in Fieri region. In close cooperation with NCPA, Ministry of Education and Sport and regional educational offices 6 awareness raising information sessions organized with the participation of 6 high schools in Fieri region, engagement of approximately 200 young students and more than 20 experts representing various institutions working with and in area of DRR.
- Seismic soft and hard equipment provided for Albanian Institute of Geoscience (IGJEO) and national seismographic network equipped with Seismic Accelerometer Sensors. Improvement of existing seismic stations with brand new kits and installation of 10 new ones national wide, including civil works. Training provided to IGJEO`s expert on new equipment and systems. The national serigraphic network capacities for strong motions have been doubled and IGJEO has a full national coverage in the most highly exposed areas accordingly to national risk assessment document, seismic thematic annex. Testing and integration into IGJEO`s soft system completed after delays faced concerning supplier contracts for new stations for the electricity and mobile network coverage.
- As a full member of EUCPM from January 1st, 2023, NCAP supported and 1 workshop on EUCPM introduction and a compliance analysis, including gaps, conducted for membership to Union Civil Protection Mechanism of Albania, capacity building to enhance awareness of UCPM, and deliver training on UCPM legislation, implementing rules and overall procedures. Final Report with finding and recommendations delivered to and endorsed by NCPA.
- An assessment conducted on the Integration of Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection in Pre-University Education Curricula aimed to support schools in raising awareness among children, school staff, and the community and preparing them to manage natural and civil emergencies and cope with their consequences. This study focused on the collaboration between the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA), the Ministry of Education and Sports (MES), and schools to develop a sustainable culture of safety and life skills necessary to prevent and manage various emergency risks. The report provided concrete and detailed instructions with the objective to assist schools in planning and developing emergency risk management plans and preparing them to respond to and mitigate the impacts of such events effectively. 8 categories of recommendations provided clustered into broader thematic categories to create a more streamlined logic model. Drill and stimulation activities focus on 6 major risks will follow up in selected 6 regions including 12 Pre-University Education schools.
- Assistance provided to NCPA on completion and submission of 2022 Sendai Framework Monitoring in Albania, the first one submitted from 2018. 3 meetings organized and several exchanges on enabling *Deslventar* and data validation required.
- Support and assistance provided to NCAP by increasing and strengthening its staff capacities on developing, preparing, assessing and planning DRR strategic documents. Preparation of national and local DRR strategic/documents processes has been a learning by doing exercise, with

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

technical assistance and guidance of national and international experts. Furthermore, a study visit conducted in Portugal, with a team of representatives from NCPA and IGJEO following a shared and agreed programme prepared with Portuguese National Civil Protection Authority focused on National Disaster Management System, Emergency Response mechanism and National platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. During the visit, by both Agencies it was discussed about bilateral support and the possibility of signing a memorandum of cooperation between the two civil protection authorities that will present the plans for cooperation, especially in the areas of increasing the capacities of personnel and the phases of preparation and response to civil emergencies in the respective countries.

- A tour of 11 meetings at prefecture level including 55 municipalities and 151 local civil protection staff conducted in cooperation with NCPA to present and handover national DRR strategic/planning documents, share national processes knowledges and lesson learned and disseminate Fieri model and best practice package for preparation and development of local DRR documents.
- The significant results and continues progress of civil protection system in Albania is reflected in the 2023 World Risk Report, as the country is ranked on 76th, by having a substantial improvement in ranking from 2021 and 2022.⁵

At local level:

- Pilot intervention in Fieri region under implementation and 6 Local Disaster Risks Assessments (LRA) documents for 6 municipalities within Fieri region, namely Fieri, Divjake, Patos, Lushnje, Patos and Roskoveci prepared and approved by Municipalities` Councils and endorsed by Prefect of Fieri. A team of 16 key and not key experts supported respective municipal staffs and established working groups. An EVCA conducted to support the preparation of LDRA documents and summary of Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment per each of the risks provided to the established working groups. 26 meetings including face to face interviews and focus group organized in 26 administrative units with local communities and stakeholders.
- After the approval of 6 LDRA documents at local level, the work continued with Prefecture Disaster Risk Assessment document, prepared based on the six LDRA reports and approved by Prefect of Fieri at beginning of November 2023.
- Decisions of Municipalities Councils (DMC) and of Prefect of Fieri for the approval of LDRA are as following:
 - o Fier Municipality: DMC no. 54. Date 17.05.2023;
 - o Mallakastër Municipality: DMC no. 19. Date 24.04.2023;
 - o Roskovec Municipality: DMC no. 45. Date 27.04.2023;
 - o Divjakë Municipality: DMC no. 21. Date 28.04.2023;
 - o Lushnjë Municipality: DMC no. 49. Date 30.06.2023;
 - o Patos Municipality: DMC no. 38. Date 30.06.2023.
 - o Qark Level: Fieri Prefect Order no. 30 date 02.11.2023
- 26 meetings with local communities and stakeholders conducted and interviews realized with focus on EVCA preparation and accurate data collection that served as the baseline information for the exposure and vulnerability for the local risk assessment documents.

⁵ https://weltrisikobericht.de/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/WRR_2023_english_online161023.pdf

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- After approval of LDRA documents, the work continued with the development of Local DRR Strategies and Action Plans. First phase completed with high level kick off meeting and revision of Mayors` Orders on establishment of municipal working groups. Desk review of existing DRR documents and related studies 6 preliminary meetings conducted and “semi-structured” interview approach used in the meetings with the working groups at the municipal level to understand their capacities and their needs during the preparation of the strategy and a tailored workplan prepared as per municipal needs. A draft document structure shared with working groups members.
- The initial phase for the preparation of LCEP for 6 municipalities and prefecture of Fieri has recently started. The work on preparation of Local Civil Emergency Plans will be based on the approved NCEP and following the same approach of the national process, lessons learned, and recommendations provided on the national document for the prefecture and municipal level. Municipal and prefectural working groups will be established by the mayors` Orders and work together closely on preparation of LCEP. The process includes tabletop exercise (TTX) and stimulation after the approval of the LCEP followed by dissemination and awareness activities with local operational structures, communities at administrative units and civil society.
- Fire equipment and PPE for Region Administration of Protected Areas in Fieri and Vlora staff provided, considering the inputs and feedback from both prefecture civil protection offices and the request from National Agency on Protected Areas (RAPA) considering protected areas in these 2 regions highly exposed to wildfires, the importance of natural biodiversity sites and operationality of RAPA as one of the operation structures most engaged during wildfires.

Following are the major project`s achievements and results up to the end of 2023:

1. Legal support
 - ✓ Civil Protection & DRR related legislation and regulations reviewed and improved.
2. Institutional support and coordination
 - ✓ National Platform (NP) for DRR supported and assisted.
 - ✓ National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) build up supported.
 - ✓ National capacity on DRM at national, regional and local level increased and improved.
 - ✓ Roundtable with international partners and donors organized with the aim to discuss and coordinate efforts and work focus on DRM in the country and mobilize resources with focus to civil protection.
3. Strategic/ planning documents
 - ✓ National Risk Assessment document updated, developed and approved by GoA.
 - ✓ National DRR Strategy & Action Plan developed and approved by GoA.
 - ✓ National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) prepared, formulated and approved by GoA.
 - ✓ Local Disaster Risk Assessments conducted in 7 pilot municipalities including 1 prefecture. 7 Municipal Disaster Risk Assessment documents and a Prefecture Disaster Risk Assessment including respective Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (EVCA) prepared, developed and approved by municipals` councils and Prefect of Fieri.
4. Equipment supports for Albanian Seismographic Network (ASN)
 - ✓ New and existing strong motion broadband (BB) stations equipment, consisting of civil work, sensors, data logger, GPS antenna and kits improved, purchased and installed accordingly.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- ✓ Software purchased and data storage upgraded with the aim to facilitate preparation of micro-zonation studies and fast data collection as well as processing to prepare seismic hazard map.
5. Regional cooperation
- ✓ Support and assistance provided to NCPA on the process for membership to EU Civil Protection Mechanism. From January 1st, 2023, Albania is full member of EUCPM.
 - ✓ Gap analysis for membership to EU Civil Protection Mechanism of Albania conducted and recommendations and findings provided to NACP for follow up and improvements.
6. Trainings, education and exercises
- ✓ Trainings and education programme focused on DRR prepared and delivered in close cooperation with NACP and national educational institutions at national and local level;
 - ✓ Stimulations and tabletop exercise organized for discussion-based sessions on DRM stakeholder roles at all levels during an emergency and their responses to a particular emergency situation.

In financial terms, by end 2023, against the project budget, the received funding has reached a level of 100%, while expenses and commitments represent 75% of the total project budget.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

3. Project Factsheet

Project Title & Number	Resilience strengthening in Albania - RESEAL Project – ID 00118887		
Official Start Date & Duration	01 June 2020	30 June 2024	48 months
Contributions	Original Currency	USD Equivalent¹³	Received (amount & in %)
SIDA	SEK 20,000,000	2,310,341	2,310,341 (100%)
Government of Portugal	EUR 250,000	306,749	306,749 (100%)
Total Contributions		2,617,090	2,617,090 (100%)
Expenses (as of Dec 2023)	1,513,856 (58%)		
Unpaid Commitments (As of Dec 2023)	448,312 (17%)		
Target Groups	<p>The present project intends to support the efforts of the Government of Albania for improving the disaster risk management (DRM) system in the country. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen, Albania's DRM system and support country's efforts in becoming a fully-fledged member of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The project's target groups are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - national, regional and local authorities and institutions with direct and indirect involvement on civil protection and disaster risk management system. - Local communities with special focus on gender and vulnerable populations include the economically disadvantaged, racial and ethnic minorities, the uninsured, low-income children, the elderly, the homeless and those with chronic health conditions. - Public and Private economic sectors especially critical sectors to ensure continuity during disaster events 		
Final Beneficiaries	<p>The Project will directly benefit the reforming, modernization and increasing national capacities on civil protection and Disaster Risk Management system in the country. The senior beneficiary is the Government of Albania and its 3 levels of civil protection in the country as per Albanian Law 45/2019 on Civil Protection. The National Agency on Civil Protection and lines ministries dealing with civil protection (level 1), following level 2 and 3 respectively regional (Prefecture and county) and local level (Municipalities). The municipalities, the most important ones as the first tier of local government, citizens and local communities as service receivers and participants in decision making through inclusive and transparent decision-making processes to improve and mitigate disaster risk as well direct involvement on preparedness and response DRR local policies.</p>		
Implementing Agency	United Nations Development Programme in Albania (UNDP)		
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Albanian Ministry of Defense - National Agency on Civil Protection - Regional and local authorities (Prefectures, Counties and Municipalities) and development stakeholders - Central Government institutions and agencies such as: the PM Office, relevant line ministries such as Interior, Environment and Tourism; Infrastructure and Energy; Education, Sport and Youth etc., INSTAT, various Civil Society Organizations, International development agencies and donors etc. - Albanian Association for Local Autonomy & Association of Albanian Municipalities 		
Project Objectives	<p>The present project intends to support the efforts of the Government of Albania for improving the disaster risk management (DRM) system in the country. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen, Albania's DRM system and support country's efforts in becoming a fully-fledged member of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The project is also in line with promoting the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and is developed based on the Albania earthquake PDNA recommendations. Also, in light of the severe and acute public health emergency due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, measures related to risk preparedness and risk mitigation of biological hazards will be provided.</p> <p>The above objective will be attained through supporting the enhancement of and improvement of institutional coordination and cooperation in DRM system by further developing the DRR framework, providing direct support to key DRM institutions with a particular focus on the National Agency for Civil Protection, and delivering capacity building for strengthening preparedness and response capacities of the national, prefecture and municipal bodies.</p> <p>One key ingredient of the DRR legal framework and essential element for building-back-better (BBB) during recovery is the update of the Building Codes, an area within the focus of the present project.</p> <p>Considering the importance of regional cooperation in complementing national efforts for reducing risk, the project will support, during its entire duration, opportunities for capacity building and regional exchanges, contributing to Albania's aspiration to meet the criteria for joining the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.</p>		

¹³The USD equivalence is calculated as the sum of the received contributions, converted at the UN exchange rate of the month of disbursement.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

	<p>RESEAL project attempts to propose a comprehensive framework for addressing most of the identified needs and gaps of the country DRR system, and it comes with a high estimated, yet not exhaustive, overall cost. Realistically, it is hard to impossible that the overall level of the estimated costs could be met by potential partners within a single project/intervention. In this sense, RESEAL can be considered a document providing the overall framework of the needed assistance in the DRR sector.</p> <p>Practically, RESEAL has been divided in two Modules, taking into consideration the realistic resource mobilization limitations, prioritizing in the first Module the soft assistance related to the DRR framework and institutional coordination at all levels and leaving in a less probable second Module the hard assistance, covering tangible investment and equipment needs.</p>
<p>Expected results</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic/ planning documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National Risk Assessment document updated and developed. ✓ National DRR Strategy & Action Plan developed. ✓ National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) formulated. ✓ Local risk assessments conducted in 7 pilot municipalities including 1 prefecture. ✓ Local DRR Strategies & Local Civil Emergency Plans (LCEP) developed. ✓ Policy recommendations for mainstreaming DRR into local development plans developed. 2. Legal support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Review and improvement of Civil Protection & DRR related legislation ✓ New building code according to Eurocode including national annexes prepared. 3. Institutional support and coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National Platform (NP) for DRR supported and established. ✓ National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) build up supported. ✓ Increasing and improving national capacity on DRM at national, regional and local level 4. Equipment supports for Albanian Seismographic Network (ASN) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ New and existing weak motion broadband (BB) stations equipment, consisting of sensors, data logger, GPS antenna and kits improved, purchased and installed accordingly. ✓ Software purchased for facilitating preparation of micro-zonation studies and fast data collection and processing to prepare seismic hazard map. 5. Regional cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gap analysis for membership to EU Civil Protection Mechanism of Albania conducted and recommendations and findings provided to NACP for follow up. 6. Trainings, education and exercises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Trainings and education programme focused on DRR prepared and delivered in close cooperation with NACP and national educational institutions at national and local level. ✓ Stimulations and tabletop exercise organized for discussion-based sessions on DRM stakeholder roles at all levels during an emergency and their responses to a particular emergency situation.

4. Implementation Progress

<i>Summary of Project Implementation and Detailed Workplan 2024</i>	
COMPONENT 1	
Strengthening DRM institutional, policy and legal framework in Albania	
Output 1.1: Capacity Assessment of DRR institutions carried out including the ones related to biological hazards (public health)	Completed - Awareness, educational and information activities planned
Output 1.4: Establishment of National Platform for DRR supported	Completed
Output 1.6: New building codes according to Eurocode & national annexes prepared	To be replanned and budget revision required - <i>Proposed:</i> Purchase of mobile command vehicle and necessary basic equipment
Output 1.7: Support national capacity development in risk assessments and emergency planning	Completed <i>National Risk Assessment document, prepared, endorsed by NCPA and national institutions and adopted by Gov. of Albania with DCM, no. 168, date 24.3.2023</i>
Output 1.9: National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan developed	Completed <i>National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan developed, endorsed by NCPA and national institutions and adopted by Gov. of Albania with DCM no. 94, date 22.2.2023.</i>
Output 1.11: National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) formulated	Ongoing <i>National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) formulated, endorsed by NCPA and national institutions and adopted by Gov. of Albania with DCM no. 807 date 28.12.2023.</i> - Testing, simulation and exercise of the new adopted NCEP including 3 levels of civil protection and operational structures at all levels;
COMPONENT 2	
Strengthen Governance-based Institutional Capacity and Management Committee	
Output 2.1: Seismic hazard monitoring strengthened	Completed Purchase, Installation and testing completed
Output 2.2: Biological risk management with focus on prevention and preparedness used for medium to longer-term risk monitoring and evaluation	Completed
Output 2.3: Local risk assessment for LGUs supported	Completed - 6 EVCA prepared and endorsed by 6 municipalities namely Fier, Lushnje, Divjake, Roskovec, Patos and Mallakaster;

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 Local Risk Assessment documents prepared and adopted by municipalities councils of 6 municipalities, namely Fier, Lushnje, Divjake, Roskovec, Patos and Mallakaster; - Prefecture Risk Assessment document prepared and approved by Prefect of Fieri
<p>Output 2.4: Local DRR Strategies & Local Civil Emergency Plans (LCEP) supported</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of LDRRS per 6 municipalities; - Preparation of LCEP for 6 municipalities and testing and exercise of the new plans; - Educational, drills, stimulations and awareness activities on the new prepared local DRR documents at 12 pre-university education regions in Albania; - Awareness, information and dissemination of promotional materials and civil protection related activities
<p>COMPONENT 3 Sustain Albanian’s Regional & International Cooperation</p>	
<p>Output 3.1: Cooperation with EUCPM and regional networking strengthened and sustained.</p>	<p>Completed</p>

5. Project Outputs

5.1 Output 1.1: Capacity Assessment of DRR institutions carried out including the ones related to biological hazards (public health) & Output 1.4: Establishment of National Platform for DRR supported.

Contributing to Component 1 - Strengthening DRM institutional, policy and legal framework in Albania

Sub-activities (as per project document)

- Exchange visit to foster knowledge exchange and learning on DRM effectiveness and get insights of National Platform best practice.
- Development of training materials and school curricula (education programme) in schools in line with EU guidelines in Albania, including simulation/drills and awareness activities.
- Information, awareness and visibility activities and actions

Status	<i>Completed</i>
Year of the contract	<i>2023</i>
Consultancy	<i>Individual contract/Consultancy Service</i>
Contract milestones	
Milestones	Deliverable
Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sendai Framework Monitoring Report for Albania 2022 ➤ Assessing the integration of Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection in pre—University education curricula in Albania ➤ Study visit on October 2023 in Portugal focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Disaster Management System - Emergency Response mechanism - National platform for Disaster Risk Reduction ➤ Roundtable with international partners and donors ➤ Trainings and workshops on capacity building and DRM knowledge delivered - 2023
Methodology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>A desk analysis of the situation (secondary data) was conducted related to: School curricula in the pre-university education institutions; Simulation exercises conducted in the pre-university education institutions.</i> 2. <i>Semi-structured interviews were conducted with the respective stakeholders in the national, regional and municipality level with regard to: School curricula in the pre-university education institutions; SIMEX conduction in the pre-university education institutions.</i> 3. <i>Action Plan for school curricula full implementation in the pre-university education institutions.</i> 4. <i>The integration of the DRM curricula and SIMEX conduction in the pre-university institutions;</i>
Process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Analysis of the situation related to school curricula in the pre-university education levels conducted.</i> 2. <i>Based on the conclusions of the analysis on the levels of pre-university education that must include DRM school curricula, Action Plan for school curricula full implementation in the pre-university education institutions was developed.</i> 3. <i>Final report with findings and recommendations about the: Integration in the pre-university institutions of the DRM curricula; SIMEX conduction in the pre-university education institutions.</i> 4. <i>Awareness raising information sessions in Fier 6 Municipalities</i>

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

System Approach

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

Progress accomplished**1. Sendai Framework Monitoring Report for Albania⁶**

Albania is part of Sendai Framework and an annual report on the progress in the country is required by NCPA. The project provided technical assistance and support to NCPA to start the work for the completion of Sendai Framework Monitoring (SFM) in Albania, an online form to be completed by NCPA on annual progress related to DRR and Sendai targets in Albania. NCPA supported and assisted on the preparation and submission of 2022 Sendai Framework Monitoring (SFM), the first one submitted after 2018. The technical assistance and support provided to NCPA has been useful to restore *Deslventar* system and validate several data by improving the data reporting structure for the national system.

2. Assessing the integration of Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection in pre—University education curricula. ALBANIA.⁷

The DRR and civil protection in educational programs are vital for preparing communities, building resilience, promoting a safety culture, empowering individuals, and fostering sustainable development. Through a comprehensive analysis based on desk study, semi structured interviews, surveys, and focus group discussions, a final report prepared with findings and recommendations about the SIMEX conduction and the integration in the pre-university institutions of the DRM curricula. The report covered the following tasks:

- The first task of the consultancy was to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the curricula in all pre-university education institutions in Albania, including preschool education, primary education, lower secondary education, and higher secondary education. The objective is to assess the level of integration of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) knowledge within these curricula. This analysis will involve evaluating the inclusion and coverage of DRM topics across different subjects and grade levels, allowing for the identification of strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in the integration of DRM knowledge and competencies.
- Based on this consultancy's findings, collaboration has to be established with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MES) and the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) to develop an Action Plan. This plan will serve as a comprehensive guide, providing clear guidelines and strategies for effectively integrating DRM into the curricula of pre-university education institutions. Consideration will be given to each institution's specific needs and characteristics to ensure that the Action Plan is tailored to their requirements.
- To fully implement the obligations outlined in law 45/2019, "On civil protection," the Terms of Reference (ToR) prepared to develop school curricula. This ToR will serve as a framework for creating curricula that align with the requirements of different pre-university education institutions. Special emphasis placed on integrating DRM knowledge and skills across the curricula to enhance preparedness and resilience.
- In collaboration with the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA), the Ministry of Education and Sports (MES), and the General Directorate of the Fire Protection and Rescue Service, an analysis conducted to assess the current state of exercises and simulations. This evaluation examined the extent to which these exercises are carried out in school institutions, their frequency, and their coverage. The aim is to identify areas for improvement and enhancement, ensuring that the activities align with best practices and address the risks identified in Albania's risk assessment map.
- Terms of Reference (ToR) prepared for implementing various simulation exercises in pre-university education institutions. This includes the crucial step of integrating methodological instructions and manuals for education, training, exercises, and simulations within the TORs. These guidelines, knowledgeable by EU best practices and situated within the pre-university education system's methodological framework, serve as essential tools for

⁶ Please find the final report and related deliverables on *Annex 1_Output 1.1_1*

⁷ Please find the final report and related deliverables on *Annex 1_Output 1.1_3*

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

the National Civil Protection Authority (NCPA) in establishing national standards for education, training, and civil defense exercises. They will streamline continuous monitoring and periodic evaluation, resulting in improved policies and procedures in this domain. There will also place special emphasis on involving relevant stakeholders and allocating the necessary resources for the successful execution of these exercises, which includes ensuring the functionality of the school safety and health committee.

This research focused on the curriculum, specifically that of natural sciences and social sciences, throughout the pre-university education years (ISCED 0-3). The scope of the analysis was centered on investigating How, What, and Where the concepts related to and facilitating the youth and teaching staff in developing skills and competence in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Disaster Risk Management (DRM), and Civil Protection are present. This research explored how the curriculum empowers education in DRR and Civil Protection as concepts and processes.

THE MAIN FINDINGS BASED ON THE PROVIDED RESPONSES

These findings indicate areas where both Directors and Teachers share concerns and experiences related to disaster preparedness, including the presence of emergency plans, the state of infrastructure, the need for training, and the perceived importance of disaster-related factors.

1. Emergency Plans

Both Directors and Teachers were asked about the presence of an Emergency Plan in their educational institutions. Directors reported an overwhelmingly high percentage (97.9%) of institutions having an Emergency Plan, while Teachers reported that 72.1% of institutions have one.

2. Health, Safety, and Environmental Commission

Most Directors (96.8%) and Teachers (72.7%) stated that their educational institutions had established a Health, Safety, and Environmental Commission.

3. School Infrastructure: Emergency Exits/Stairs

The responses to Questions 13 and 11 regarding the presence of emergency exits/stairs in educational institutions reveal some significant findings. Most educational institutions do not have emergency exits or stairs.

Most directors (71.6%) reported that their educational institutions do not have emergency exits or stairs. Also, a significant majority of teachers (57.6%) reported that their educational institutions do not have emergency exits or stairs.

4. Self-assessed DRR/DRM Knowledge

Both Directors (49.5% good, 30.5% average) and Teachers (50.2% good, 28% average) provided self-assessed ratings of their disaster knowledge.

5. Frequency of Emergency Drills in school

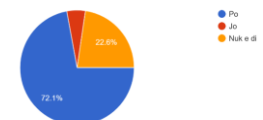
Both groups reported that emergency/preparedness drills are not conducted in their institutions. Since one of the objectives of this survey is related to organizing simulations and drills in schools, we will delve into a more detailed analysis of the responses from principals and teachers.

The responses to Questions 23 and 25 regarding the development and participation in emergency drills in educational institutions indicate the following:

For Directors (Question 23)

- A significant portion of directors (27.4%) reported that their educational institutions never conduct emergency/preparedness drills.
- Nearly half of the directors (48.4%) indicated that such drills are conducted sometimes.
- A substantial number (22.1%) reported that these drills are conducted often, suggesting moderate preparedness.

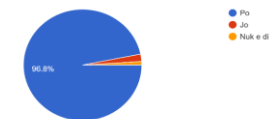
9. Institucioni arsimor ka një plan për emergjencat civile :
989 responses



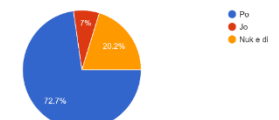
9. Institucioni im Arsimor ka një plan për emergjencat civile.
95 responses



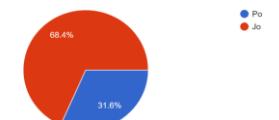
11. Institucioni im Arsimor ka ngritur Komisionin e Shëndetit, Sigurisë dhe Mjedisit:
95 responses



14. Institucioni arsimor ka ngritur Komisionin e Shëndetit, Sigurisë dhe Mjedisit:
975 responses



19. Kam marrë pjesë në trajnime në lidhje me riskun dhe menaxhir
95 responses



Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- A small percentage (2.1%) of directors reported that emergency drills are always conducted in their institutions.

For Teachers (Question 25)

- Among teachers, a majority (51.4%) stated that they have never participated in emergency drills (e.g., fire drills, earthquake drills) at their educational institutions.
- About one-third of teachers (33.3%) reported participating in such drills sometimes, suggesting that these drills are not consistently conducted.
- A smaller portion (10.4%) often participated in these drills.
- A very small percentage (4.9%) of teachers reported participating in emergency drills always.

Conclusion on Frequency of Emergency Drills in school

The responses highlighted several important points:

- As reported by directors, there is significant variation in the frequency of emergency/preparedness drills across different educational institutions. This suggests that they need to prioritize and improve their preparedness efforts.
- Among teachers, a substantial percentage have never participated in emergency drills, indicating potential gaps in their preparedness and knowledge of emergency procedures.
- The survey data points to a need for more consistent and regular emergency drill practices in educational institutions to ensure that directors and teachers are well-prepared for various emergency scenarios.
- Recommendation on Frequency of Emergency Drills in School
- Educational institutions should establish and adhere to a consistent schedule of emergency drills, including fire drills, earthquake drills, and other relevant scenarios.

Recommendation on Frequency of Emergency Drills in School

- Directors should ensure that emergency drills are conducted regularly, and staff, including teachers, should actively participate in these drills to familiarize themselves with emergency procedures.
- Training and educational programs on emergency response should be provided to teachers and staff to enhance their knowledge and preparedness.
- Regular drills can help identify areas requiring improvement in emergency preparedness plans, leading to more effective responses during emergencies.

Directors and Teachers recognized climate change (Directors: 39%, Teachers: 33.9%) and natural disasters like earthquakes (Directors: 36%, Teachers: 31.2%) as significant factors related to disasters and emergencies.

In summary, directors and teachers recognize the importance of climate change, natural disasters, human factors, socio-economic factors, lack of preparedness, land use and deforestation, public health, and pandemics as contributors to disasters and emergencies. However, there are some differences in their perceptions, particularly regarding the impact of climate change, population growth, and urbanization/globalization.

The analysis of the legal framework in Albania demonstrates strong support for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and civil protection in schools, with no identified gaps. The legal framework provides a robust foundation for implementing DRR measures across all pre-university educational systems and ensures accountability among various stakeholders.

A set of recommendations provided with the aim to enhance civil protection in Albanian education institutions (schools, kindergarten, etc.) by integrating it into curricula, classroom activities, extracurricular events, and training programs while emphasizing community collaboration and clear communication. There are eight categories of recommendations, clustered into broader thematic categories to create a more streamlined logic model.

Category 1: Curriculum Integration and Development

- Develop age-appropriate modules for civil protection in grades 7-9.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- Create specialized modules for upper secondary education (10-12 grades)
- Encourage cross-disciplinary projects on disaster risk reduction.

Category 2: Classroom Implementation

- Incorporate civil protection topics during caregiving hours.
- Develop specific teaching materials for students regarding disaster preparedness.

Category 3: Extracurricular and Awareness Activities

- Collaborate with local authorities, parents, and experts for extracurricular DRR and Civil Protection activities.
- Raise awareness on October 13, the Day of Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Conduct realistic disaster simulations at school and class levels.

Category 4: Educational Materials and Resources

- Provide schools with educational materials, posters, and videos on DRR and Civil Protection.
- Distribute informative resources on natural disaster risk management.
- Create informative videos explaining evacuation procedures.
- Produce informative videos and pamphlets with clear protection instructions during civil emergencies.

Category 5: Training and Capacity Building

- Train security officers in schools for emergency response.
- Conduct training sessions for safety commissions, involving parents and the community.
- Foster interdisciplinary projects on disaster risk management.
- Develop a comprehensive emergency module and plan.
- Establish accreditation and provide training for school staff.

Category 6: Coordination and Agreements

- Facilitate cooperation agreements between relevant agencies, ministries, and local authorities.
- Develop common guidelines for responsibilities, timelines, and monitoring.

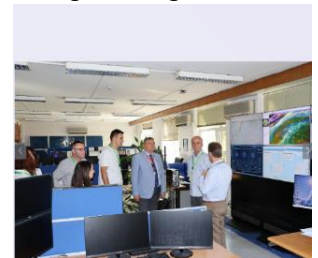
3. Study visit in Portugal on October 2023⁸



The Albanian delegation, consisting of high-level representatives from the National Civil Protection Agency and other civil protection actors, got acquainted with Portugal's approach to coordination and cooperation with regional and local authorities, and the involvement of interest groups in the management of disasters such as local communities, NGOs and the private sector⁹. The National Authority for Emergencies and Civil Protection in Portugal (ANEPC), part of the EU Civil Protection mechanism, is a recognized model for integrated and sustainable disaster management. The visit served as a platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices, strengthening the framework for disaster risk

reduction in Albania, at the central and local level. As members of the EU Civil Protection mechanism, Portugal has agreed to share its educational modules on forest fires, floods and earthquakes with the Albanian National Civil Protection Agency, thereby contributing to strengthening disaster management capacities in Albania. The Albanian delegation was introduced to the very effective and innovative Portuguese model for the training of firefighters at the National School of Firefighters in the municipality of Sintra. This model offers opportunities for replication in Albania to train firefighters and members of operational civil defense forces.

During the visit to the Portuguese Institute for the Sea and the Atmosphere (IPMA), the homologue of the Albanian Institute of Geosciences, it was discussed about the exchange of information between the 2 institutions, to improve the sharing of geoscientific data and to contribute to the improvement of disaster management. The Albanian delegation was



⁸ Please find the final report and related deliverables on [Annex 1_Output 1.4_1](#)

⁹ [Study visit in Portugal ANCEP post](#)

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

also introduced to Portugal's "Safe Village, Safe People" project, an initiative focused on protecting communities in urban/forest areas and raising awareness of fire prevention in regions prone to these disasters. The general director of the NCPA, Haki Çako, received the invitation from his Portuguese counterpart to discuss together with the Spanish counterpart, as a member of the EU Civil Protection mechanism, the possibility of participating in a trilateral exercise involving Spain, Portugal and Albania. This exercise aims to foster cooperation and knowledge sharing on best practices in emergency preparedness and response.

3. Roundtable with International Development Agencies and Partners on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Civil Protection system in Albania¹⁰



At the end of June 2023, UNDP in collaboration with NCPA and Sida organized a roundtable with International Development Agencies and Partners on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Civil Protection system in Albania. The meeting focused on Disaster Risk Management system in Albania, the importance of civil protection, international cooperation and active engagement of all actors/partners as well as their contribution by supporting Albanian government on DRM and civil protection system in the country. The roundtable yielded invaluable recommendations and identified key actions that will serve as a roadmap for strengthening cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders. These findings will provide essential guidance to the NACP and its partnering donors as they continue their efforts in enhancing disaster preparedness in Albania and working towards building back better.

4. Capacity building, knowledge and lessons learned shared with 11 Prefecture and 55 Municipalities



A tour of 11 meetings at prefecture level including 55 municipalities and 151 local civil protection staff conducted in cooperation with NCPA to present and handover national DRR strategic/planning documents, share national processes knowledges and lesson learned and disseminate Fieri model and best practice package for preparation and development of local DRR documents. All activities organized in cooperation with NCPA, 11 prefectures and NCPA regional

staff. During the meetings the following topics and documents shared:

- Presentation of National Disaster Risk Assessment document per risks profiles and related methodology an important aspect to be taken in consideration based on recommendations and lessons learned.
- Presentation of National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan and related methodology. The national document is an important guideline for the LDRRS and their processes. Recommendations and lessons learned of national processes shared.
- Introduction of Fieri model and implementation practice on preparation of Local Disaster Risk Assessment document and knowledge shared;
- Presentation of National Civil Emergency Plan and its methodology. Lessons learned and knowledge shared from the national process and recommendations provided by national and international experts.

¹⁰ Please find the final report and related deliverables on [Annex 1_Output 1.4_2](#)

5.2 Output 1.6: New building codes according to Eurocode & national annexes prepared.

Contributing to **Component 1** - Strengthening DRM institutional, policy and legal framework in Albania

Sub-activities (as per project document)

- Preparation of national annexes, with focus on Package 2.1 (Reinforced Concrete building)
- Update National Guidelines for Eurocode implementation in Albania;
- Preparation of 4 sets of Designer Guides
- Support regional-based trainings of engineers in collaboration with Ministry of Infrastructure, NACP and Prefectures

Status:	Not started ¹¹
Duration of the contract:	n/a
Implementing partner:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NCPA ▪ Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy ▪ General Directorate of Standardization ▪ Institute of Construction ▪ Polytechnic University of Tirana ▪ IGJEO ▪ Albanian Association of Constructors
Contract milestones	
Milestones	Deliverables
<i>Baseline assessment on Eurocodes and national annexes in Albania</i>	Preparatory work conducted and Draft ToR prepared ¹²
<i>Preparation of national annexes, with focus on Package 2.1 (Reinforced Concrete building)</i>	n/a
<i>Update National Guidelines for Eurocode implementation in Albania</i>	n/a
<i>Preparation of 4 sets of Designer Guides</i>	n/a
<i>Support regional-based trainings of engineers in collaboration with Ministry of Infrastructure, NACP and Prefectures</i>	n/a
Progress accomplished	
<p>This output relates to the technical assistance that will be given to Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MoIE) for updating the building codes (20-year-old) according to Eurocode as well as the related national annexes. As the PDNA¹³ report highlights the urgent need to update Albanian building codes, including formalizing integration of the Eurocode, and that reconstruction be based on the build-back-better principle (BBB), with up-to-date standards and as per new building codes. A consultation process has started involving NACP, Institute of Construction part of Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy and other relevant actors in the field. As the first step, all partners agreed to conduct a baseline assessment on gaps and needs for Eurocodes and its national annexes. Preparatory work conducted and national background on Eurocodes and its Annexes assessed. Draft ToR on “National Consultant on updating the National Plan Document for Eurocode implementation in Albania” has been prepared and is ready to be published to start the required consultancy.</p> <p>A preliminary analysis has been carried out and it’s part of the ToR-s, according to which, the general duties of the consultant are:</p>	

¹¹ To be reconsidered to attention of the Project Board Member

¹² Please refer to **Annex 3_Output 1.6** for deliverables and activities.

¹³ PDNA Volume B, The Civil Protection & DRR Sector - <https://albania.un.org/en/46378-albania-post-disaster-needs-assessment-pdna-volume-report-february-2020>

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- Analyze the outputs of the assignments conducted in the framework of the component III of the World Bank Project “Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation”/AI-DRMAP in particular the National Plan - Guide Document: Adoption Process of Structural Eurocodes in Albania.
- Conduct a desk review and interviews with the main stakeholders in order to identify the actual situation regarding the state of art of building codes implementation in Albania.
- Identify the implementation stage of the Eurocodes in Albania vis a vi the Stages of adoption process of the National Plan - Guide Document Action Plan.
- Identify additional/complementary activities necessary for the full implementation of Eurocodes and seen in the light of the new National Disaster Risk Assessment, National DRR Strategy and the new National Civil Emergency Plan.
- Based on the international cutting-edge experiences and the new state of art of the Civil Protection System in Albania, draft a revised Action Plan for the full implementation of Eurocodes in Albania. In the above-mentioned Plan, the activities/measures must be specified with the respective approximate associated cost and the timeframes according to the:
 - Preparatory phase.
 - Translation Period.
 - Calibration Period
 - The period of coexistence

The process of adopting the Eurocodes started in 2010. Periodically, the Ministry, responsible for the construction sector in cooperation with the General Directorate of Standardization (DPS), have engaged various expertise for finalization and translation of all the parts of the Eurocodes. The complete package is composed by 10 Eurocodes, each of which has several parts, and have already been approved as Albanian Standards (SSH) by DPS:

- Eurocode 0 - Basics of Structural Design SSH EN 1990 – 1 part
- Eurocode 1 - Actions on structures SSH EN 1991 – 10 parts
- Eurocode 2 - Design of concrete structures SSH EN 1992 – 4 parts
- Eurocode 3 - Design of steel structures SSH EN 1993 – 20 parts
- Eurocode 4 - Design of steel and concrete structures SSH EN 1994 – 3 parts
- Eurocode 5 - Design of wooden structures SSH EN 1995 – 3 parts
- Eurocode 6 - Design of masonry structures SSH EN 1996 – 4 parts
- Eurocode 7 - Geotechnical design SSH EN 1997 – 2 parts
- Eurocode 8 - Design of structures for earthquake resistance SSH EN 1998 - 4 parts
- Eurocode 9 - Design of aluminum structures SSH EN 1999 – 5 parts

After the translation of the basic texts of the Eurocodes, MIE and DPS, have engaged local expertise including Polytechnic University of Tirana for the drafting of the National Annexes, a process started in 2019 and completed in 2021. This has been an important step towards full compliance on design and construction accordingly to Eurocodes.

In light of the above-mentioned work, the MIE in May 2023 has shared for comments and approval to all national institutions the draft decision "On the approval of the harmonized technical rules for the design construction works". The draft has passed all procedural aspects and it is expected to be approved very soon by the Albanian Government.

According to the draft decision, the approval of the Eurocodes is accompanied by a transitional period of 2 years, during which the old technical conditions coexist with the approved new Eurocodes. The transition period is an instrument that has to do with almost all the countries that have adopted the Eurocodes as the design and projection conditions for engineers to improve and update with the new conditions.¹⁴

¹⁴ Please refer to **Annex 3_Output 1.6** for the draft decision letter from MIE, Albanian version.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

5.3 Output 1.7: Support national capacity development in risk assessments and emergency planning¹⁵

Contributing to **Component 1** - Strengthening DRM institutional, policy and legal framework in Albania

Sub-activities (as per project document)

- Support a light version of the Multi Hazard Risk Assessment approval, through updating the national hazard/risk profile.
- Provision of training on risk assessment and emergency planning to central and local stakeholders

Status	<i>Completed</i>
Duration	<i>November 2021- December 2022</i>
Implementing Partner	<i>5 national consultants 6 international consultants</i>
Contract milestones	
Milestones	Deliverables:
Support a light version of the Multi Hazard Risk Assessment approval, through updating the national hazard/risk profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 Thematic Hazards Assessment Reports on six major risks in Albania as per Law 45/2019 prepared, delivered and endorsed by the NCPA. - National Disaster Risk Assessment Final Report, including a Consolidate Report and 6 thematic hazards reports, compiled and edited. - <i>The document and Annexes were approved by DCM no. 168, date 24.3.2023.</i>
Provision of training on risk assessment and emergency planning to central stakeholders	Presentation of the approved National Disaster Risk Assessment document, including lessons learn and knowledge share for 12 Prefectures and 61 Municipalities
Progress accomplished	
<p>National Disaster Risk Assessment document is the main technical document leading to the preparation of the National DRR Strategy and of National Civil Emergency Plan. The process of preparation and update of National Risks Assessment document has started in November 2021 and completed in December 2022, based on the Prime Minister Order no. 59 29.06.2021. The project fully supported this process technically and logistically from the fists step till the last comment reflected accordingly as well as approval phase. The document has been approved by DCM no. 168, date 24.3.2023. Following a short bio of the process including main findings and recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Consolidate Report and 6 Specific Hazards Reports delivered including findings and recommendation for the NCPA, institutions and actors of the civil protection system at all levels. This document is in line with Sendai framework, UNDRR, EU directives including some best practices of European countries. • Stakeholder engagement at national and local level including experts’ mission and field visits at national and local level at the most exposed and vulnerable areas per each of specific risks. 60 site visits per all risks meeting with community, stakeholders and economic sectors and 5 regional meetings (Vlora, Fieri, Shkodra, Durresi and Tirana) with local and regional authorities/actors conducted with the experts per all risks focused on presentation of the work and preparation of NRA report and get feedback from their experience and implementation of the old risk assessment document, likewise the needs and gaps of the system in order to address them accordingly at the national document. 	

¹⁵ Please refer to Annex 4_Output 1.7 for deliverables and activities.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- 6 dedicated trainings on preparation of NRA document and lessons learned from the process have been conducted by national risks experts with NCPA staff to strengthen and improve national capacities on conducting similar processes.
- 11 experts, 5 nationals and 6 internationals, contracted by the project involved in the process and assisted technically all established working groups per 6 specific hazard reports and Consolidate Report. The NACP acted as technical secretariate per each of the working groups and in close collaboration with project experts coordinated and facilitated the process. International experts accompanied by national colleagues conducted 2 missions in the country to get better knowledge of national context, meet with key actors and conducted site visits on the areas with major exposure to the risk in Albania.
- The Consolidated Disaster Risk Assessment Report is a synthetic report produced based on data and information provided in the six Thematic Reports. Additional analysis and synthesis were implemented to provide a comprehensive and coherent picture of the disaster risk in the country. As a method for analysis, a multi-risk assessment tool was selected, which helps to focus on complex and cascading risks associated with multiple hazards and vulnerabilities in a given area.
- The system thinking approach was applied for the analysis, which helped to create potential links and reveal interdependencies between different hazards and risks of disasters. As a result of analysis and synthesis, there was possible to develop comparative matrixes for eight major hazards (including six mandatory hazards established by the law) and their potential impact and implications for each of the twelve regions (qarks) of the country. For qarks, several potential disaster risk scenarios were developed and recommendations for priority capacity areas for disaster risk management are identified. The comparative picture of major disaster risks in Albania is presented in Figure 1.

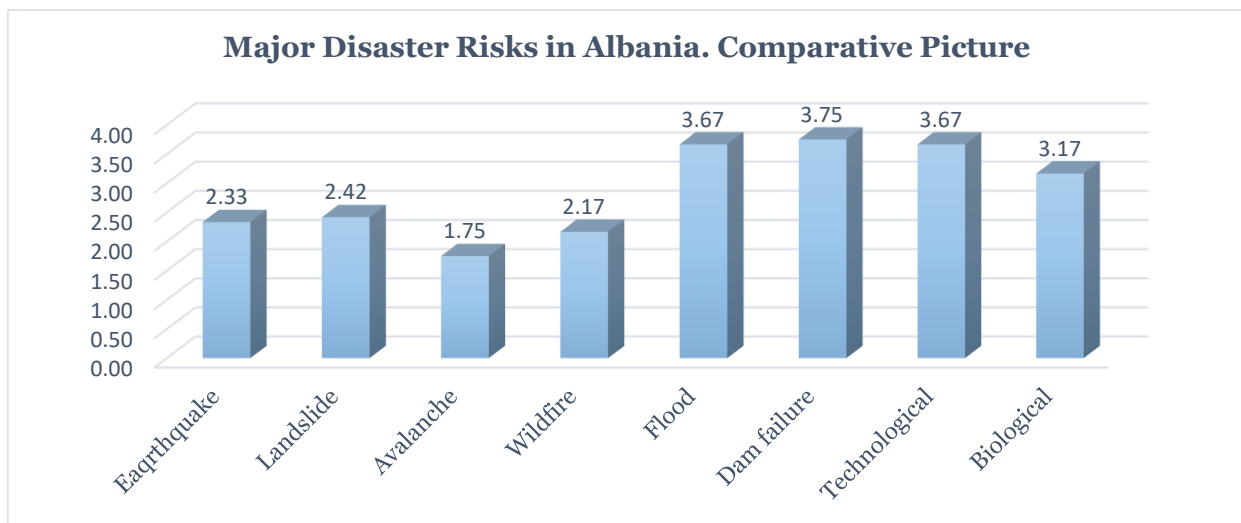


FIGURE 1. MAJOR DISASTER RISKS IN ALBANIA. COMPARATIVE PICTURE

The most critical disaster risks which have a high potential for a negative impact on the development of the country are dams' failures, technological, floods, and biological hazards, followed by landslides and earthquakes. The details of risk levels associated with each of the major hazards are presented in the thematic reports.

Besides the analysis of major risks in the country, the consolidated report also presents the analysis of cumulative risks of disasters per each region (qarks) of Albania. The comparative picture of multi-hazard risk exposure of the qarks is presented in Figure 2.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

Exposure of Qarks to Multiple Risks of Disasters /comparative analysis/

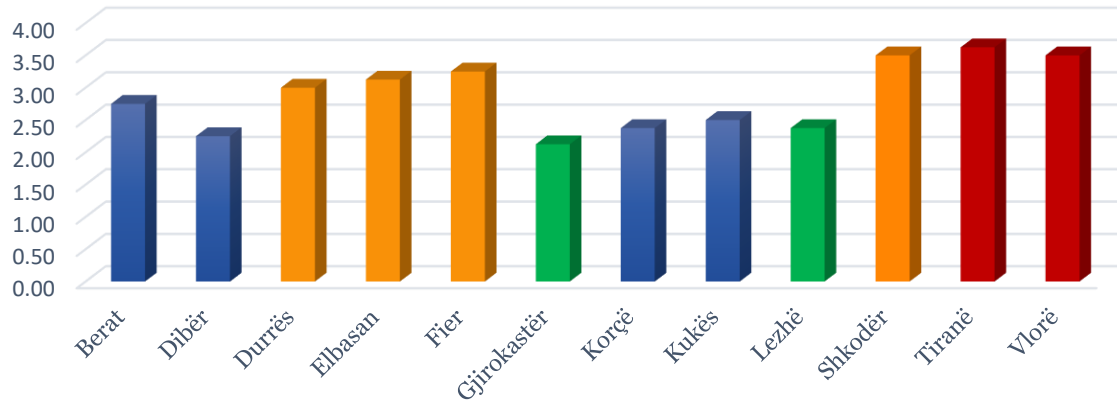


FIGURE 2. EXPOSURE OF QARKS TO MULTIPLE RISKS OF DISASTER IN ALBANIA

• **Summary of Main Hazards in Albania**

Based on the objectives of the Consolidated Report and using the methodology of multi-risk analysis a comparative review and scoring for main hazards and disaster risks presented in the six thematic reports was conducted. The following scoring system was used for the analysis.

Score	Risk Level
0.00 – 1.00	Very Low
1.01 – 1.50	Low
1.51- 2.00	Low - Medium
2.01 – 2.50	Medium
2.51 – 3.00	Medium - High
3.01 – 4.00	High
4.01 – 4.50	Very High
4.50 – 6.00	Extreme

The following trends in the country contribute to the increased vulnerability.

- The increased population and consequently increase in housing density and investment in agricultural and non-urban lands;
- Rural-to-urban displacement and urbanization pressure, concentrating people in unsafe urban areas;
- Degradation of natural resources (e.g., overgrazing of rangelands and overexploitation of forests);
- The still existing poverty and increasing numbers of poor people being exposed to hazards;
- Insufficient measures in disaster risk assessment and management and insufficient forecasting and prevention techniques;
- Lack of strict measures for environmental control;
- Weak institutional capacity and scarce resources to cope with mass disasters;
- Insufficient education and training of civil protect personnel and the population on protection and self-protect measures.
- Poor participation of local communities in disaster risk management;

Summary of the Main Recommendations

The recommendations provided in the six thematic reports were aligned with the important topics identified by the NCPA and other stakeholders.

A. Disaster Risk Mitigation

- Disaster risk mitigation must be a component of an Integrated National Disaster Risk Management Strategy. Mitigation measures shall be implemented according to the object category and acceptable intensity.
- Monitoring is an essential aspect to mitigate the potential impact of disaster hazards. Advanced monitoring methods and early warning systems allow for accurate predictions of upcoming events and can increase the effectiveness of preventive actions.
- Flood risk mitigation measures must be defined within the general framework of the River Basin Management Plan, which shall include the assessment of the potential impacts of investment projects on increasing or decreasing the probability of floods within the basin.
- Mitigation measures against gravitational risk include technical, biological, and proper spatial planning and zoning.
 - Technical measures provide active protection against the risk of dam failure, landslides and avalanches. They intervene with natural processes to either avoid the occurrence or to limit the extent and intensity. Technical measures have to be correctly installed, monitored and maintained to ensure proper functioning.
 - Biological measures to mitigate disaster risk are based on the forest stands and vegetation present along the affected slopes. Proper maintenance of these assets provides manifold protection against erosion, rock fall, avalanches and sliding. The protective forest is one of the central elements in mitigating gravitational hazards. Forests can protect whole villages and infrastructure from natural hazards. The protective forest has to be properly maintained and protected as these forest stands are often located in extreme locations.
 - Building protection is based on land use land planning and positioning new buildings outside hazard zones. In zones which are exposed to specific hazards, especially designed buildings will reduce the potential damage. Design, construction and materials have to be adapted to the local conditions and exposure potential.
- Wildfire risk mitigation should start with the preparation of mandatory Plan of measures for the prevention and management of fires in the forest/pasture fund.
- Effective reducing the wildfire risk in the protected areas and other forest/pasture lands may include opening new roads to increase road accessibility, opening new wildfire corridors, and thinning and spacing.
- Mitigation and preventive measures against wildfire can also assume tightening the legal framework and introducing higher penalties for intentional burning. This can be coupled with increasing the number of wildfire surveyors during the most dangerous seasons.
- Referring more specifically to one of the sectors where a number of technological hazards are present, such as the oil and gas sector, it is necessary to continue studies and assessments on the technical-technological condition of installations and pipelines for exploration, extraction, storage, refining and transportation of oil, gas and their by-products to enable the assessment of the technological hazard they pose to the economy, human life, property and the environment
- The risk owners are in most cases private entities operating based on licenses of the government. Strengthening the licensing system (legislation, used standards) and the compliance system (inspectorates) forces private entities to present the relevant risk assessments.
- Some of the risks can be reduced significantly by policies that separate risky technological installations from risk bearers, like people living in the surroundings, touristic attractions and vulnerable environmental assets. For example, by land use planning and other legal means.
- Acting on the basis of assessing technological hazards and related risk also requires planning the financial resources needed to enable integrated civil protection (and not merely financial resources for emergencies). Accepting that these financial resources may be considered relatively limited at both the

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

governmental levels, central and local levels, Insurance Agencies may need to be involved in this process, which will need to be addressed and find solutions based on main documents such as risk and vulnerability assessment, disaster risk reduction strategies and action plans (emergency plans).

B. Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Assessment

- The first step in the capacity building for future assessments of disaster risk in Albania shall be continued with the population of the DESINVENTAR database and the systematic recording of damages and loss of future disasters and similar events.
- Prepare the methodology and build capacities at the national and local levels for conducting disaster risk assessment at the regional and municipality levels.
- There is a need to further improve the establishment and functioning of the database for all disasters at the national and local levels. The identification of the data, access to it and further use shall be coordinated with the local, national and international stakeholders.
- Improvement of the data quality reported for disasters and emergencies at the local, qark and central levels is required.
- It is recommended to continue capacity building for the implementation of the EU flood directives and the procedures for preparation of the Flood Hazard and Risk Maps and River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan.
- It is recommended to prepare technical guidance on risk assessment of the critical infrastructure and for the housing sector.
- There is a need to prepare a new methodology for estimation of the wildfire damages including the loss of the ecosystem and other environmental damages.
- Strengthening of human resources is required especially in disaster risk assessment. Specific recommendations on HR and technical capacities for each thematic assessment are provided in the hazard-specific reports.
- Recognition of technological hazards in terms of the purpose for the assessment and reduction of technological risk, requires training and professional capabilities of staff engaged in risk assessment at the central and local levels, as well as in entities whose object of activity is the industrial sector, the energy sector and the transport sector (which are also part of the critical infrastructure), as well as the construction sector.

C. DRR Strategy Development

Recommendations for the DRR Strategy are provided for the national and local (regional and municipality) levels. The major recommendations for the DRR Strategy include:

- To develop a methodology and establish a permanent process for conducting a local risk assessment as a part of municipal planning for local level risk management.
- To prepare a methodology for forest management (including wildfire risk management), which provides separate considerations for national protected areas and areas owned by municipalities.
- Develop and implement comprehensive River Basin Flood Risk Management Plans for each of the areas identified by the current disaster risk assessment.
- Adapt and establish an innovative approach for governance of flood and drought risk management (EPIC Response).
- Consider development of the national program for seismic hazard assessment, which includes a safe and permanent earthquake monitoring, through a modern and dense network of seismological stations and strong motions, assessment of their consequences on the surface, soft soil behaviour and critical infrastructure.
- Consider the results of the risk assessment for land use planning and the development of new residential and industrial areas.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- To ensure technical support and human resource training of Regional Agencies for Protected Areas (RAPA) with the main focus on wildfire management (incl. preparation, preparedness, response, and recovery measures).
- To further strengthen the geo-information systems' capacities with NCPA and other relevant structures to better analyse the risk management at the local, regional and national scale.
- To continue upgrading and improvement of the early warning systems for all major disasters in the country
- To consider the development of the financial strategy for ensuring proper implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Local Action Plans.
- To undertake measures to increase awareness of disaster risk management within the key stakeholders of the DRM system in the country.
- Assessing the special interest in the context of current developments, the hazard situation and the corresponding risk related to technology in critical infrastructure and specifically in energy, is considered necessary to expand the scope of assessment within the project for Technological Risk Assessment in Albania, including perhaps in a separate project for “Critical Infrastructure Risk Assessment in Albania” focusing on energy infrastructure and cyber-infrastructure.
- Extending the technological risk assessment to risks induced by transport (road, rail, air and sea).
- Extending the overall risk assessment to *Natech risks* (Technological hazards induced by natural hazards).
- The overarching recommendation to reduce, mitigate, and ultimately prevent the main sources of biological risks Albania is currently facing is the critical need to invest in infectious Disease Surveillance, Prevention, and Education. This can be achieved through the following actions:
 - Train epidemiologists and public health specialists and employ them in the Albanian public health system.
 - Publish publicly available annual reports on all infectious diseases in Albania, similar to other countries, such as the data publicly available from the USCDC.
 - Invest in country-wide public health vaccination campaigns that include conveniently located vaccination clinics, remote vaccine campaigns and at-home visits, and media and marketing information about the safety and critical need for vaccinations to keep Albanians healthy.

Detailed recommendations for each of the major hazard-specific disaster risks are provided in the six thematic reports, which are part of the Consolidate Report.

5.4 Output 1.9: National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan developed¹⁶

Contributing to **Component 1** - Strengthening DRM institutional, policy and legal framework in Albania

Sub-activities (as per project document)

- Assessment on IPSIS viability at local level
- Support consultations for decision on stand-alone or mainstreamed DRR strategy
- Review and reformulate the draft national strategy for DRR in line with Sendai Framework 2015-2030 following a multi-hazard approach.
- Develop related Action Plan of the DRR Strategy
- Support DRR Strategy approval
- Capacity building on DRR Strategy adoption at all levels and monitoring instruments.

Status	Completed
Duration of the contract	December 2021 – October 2022
Implementing partner	Service Contract: Team composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Team leader - 3 DRR International Experts - 2 National DRR and Environment experts - 2 financial and administrative experts
Deliverable	National DRR Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030
Progress accomplished: <p>The main purpose of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in Albania (Strategy) is to guide Albania’s future disaster risk management activities and investments in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan is the flag document for the country and the leading document for the whole DRM system at all levels. It is considered among the key elements of a good DRR governance system. Albania has identified the most relevant national natural and man-made hazards that could cause a disaster and analyzed and assessed the disaster risk in the 2022 National Risk Assessment. It is the next natural step according to the disaster management cycle and the object of this Strategy to envelop all disaster management activities and investments in order to plan for the risk reduction of the analyzed risks, prevent new risks from developing and manage residual risk. The Strategy therefore describes the relation with the relevant international and national disaster risk reduction related documents, the present circumstances of the disaster risk management system in Albania, and the status, potential and gaps regarding each of the risks to be reduced with the guidance of this Strategy. The Strategy identifies the financial frame of the planned activities, mission, vision and goals and describes the Strategy’s implementation monitoring system.</p> <p>The Strategy addresses the most important hazards for Albania, in accordance with the National Risk Assessment (NRA).</p> <p>This document enables Government of Albania and NACP to identify its priorities in terms of reducing disasters risks in the country, and align them with the vision, goals, targets and key national policies priorities, such as NSDI, sectorial development plans, nationally determined contributions (NDC) and Climate Change Adaptation plans. In addition, the Strategy helps increase the shared understanding of Albania’s vulnerabilities, direct and indirect impacts, risk drivers to various assets, such as people, environment and infrastructure. Considering that disaster risk reduction is a shared responsibility, a truly inclusive and participatory strategy development process will be followed, to ensure that all voices – in particular those of the most vulnerable – are heard and that all expertise, knowledge, perceptions and contributions are taken into consideration. The national document National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030 was developed, delivered and endorsed by the NCPA, sent by the Ministry of Defense for Council of Ministers approval in December 2022 and approved by the DCM no. 94, dated 22.2.2023. It has been one of the most complex and important processes conducted in the field of civil protection with engagement and active participation of a wide number of actors, stakeholders</p>	

¹⁶ Please refer to **Annex 5_Output 1.9** for deliverables and activities

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

and partners at all levels. The document has the national ownership and has been prepared and fully supported by data and inputs provided by national representatives', part of the intern-institutional working group.

Sub activities completed:

- IPSIS viability at national and local level assessed and NDRRS approved by SASPAC;
- Consultations for decision on stand-alone or mainstreamed DRR strategy provided and supported.
- National strategy for DRR in line with Sendai Framework 2015-2030 following a multi-hazard approach reviewed and reformulated. Final document endorsed by NCPA.
- Action Plan of the DRR Strategy developed for 2023-2027 and recommendation for follow up a monitoring provided.
- DRR Strategy approval supported.
- Capacity building and learning by doing on DRR Strategy adoption at all levels and monitoring instruments provided.
- Presentation of the document and related national process, lessons learn and knowledge shared with 11 prefectures and 55 municipalities

The process for the development of the NDRRS is based on the National Disaster Risk Assessment document and developed in line with Sendai framework and EU Directives furthermore following best practices in the region and Europe. The NDRRS is the first ever strategic DRR document development and approved. The process followed the below steps:

- After the event of November 2019 and PDNA conducted one of the main gaps and findings was the lack of strategic/planning DRR doc as one of the most important documents for the country.
- Prior the start of the work for the developing NDRRS, a national process on preparation of National Risk Assessment document was conducted and final report delivered. The NDRA is the baseline and the most important facts-basis document on developing NDRRS;
- Establishment of Interinstitutional technical and political working group based (IIWG) on Prime Minister Order no.57 date 26.06.2021, on developing NDRRS. The technical IIWG WAS divided into 6 subgroups as per risks profile in the country. For each of the hazards a working group was established and each of the hazard working groups was represented by its' coordinator in the Inter-institutional Technical Working Group for Developing the Albanian National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy.
- NDRRS has been developed as a full comprehensive document including strategic projects per majors' risks in the country, an action plan and financial component by indicating sub-costs per each of risks strategic projects and total cost of the strategy and its financial gap. Total cost of the NDRRS is USD 780,116,062 with financial gap of 50.14% accordingly to the required resources and those already mobilized and planned for the time of Action Plan Implementation 2023-2030.
- The concept of the Strategy was to ensure the national and international disaster risk reduction concepts and frameworks were described. Each of the hazards were described and for each the gaps and opportunities as well as needs to sustainably reduce disaster risk were listed. The content of the Strategy being the following:
 - Introduction
 - Current situation and trends
 - Vision, Indicators and Policy Goals
 - Implementation strategy and Financial Frame
 - Cross cutting elements of NDRRS

Cross cutting elements of NDRRS

The concept of the National DRR Strategy is based around the main philosophy of DRR and that is to reduce identified risk, to prevent new ones from emerging and to manage the residual risk. To do so, as stated many times across the text of the Strategy, DRR cannot be merely a responsibility of the body responsible for civil protection in the Government of Albania but of the entire society. To build that sentiment of accountability and ownership, the process of designing the Strategy was carefully tailored to also allow identification of cross cutting

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

elements that need to be considered when Albania addresses DRR. The list below is not an exhaustive one when DRR cross cutting areas are in question, however it contains those most commonly used, capturing the light on the horizontal links with other sectors. All the elements listed below, and new ones that will emerge through the implementation of the Strategy, need to be taken into consideration when DRR projects are designed and implemented.

- Relation to Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development Goals
- Sustainable Development Goals and DRR
- Climate Change Adaptation and DRR. Climate change variability and impacts¹⁷
- Vulnerable groups and DRR

Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan for Albania 2023-2027

Disaster risk management is an extremely complex area and has a multi-sectoral effect on almost all aspects of life and development. It includes different policies that need to act in synergy in order to improve prevention, response and recovery activities.

As part of the development of the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, the Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction for the period 2023 to 2027 was developed as an act that operationalizes the implementation of the Strategy. For the remaining period of implementation of the Strategy, one more action plan will be developed, namely the Action Plan for the period 2028 to 2030.

The amounts in the Action Plan refer to the indicative assessment of the financial frame of each activity or project implementation costs and are made on the basis of market research and the experience of the proponents.

The action plan refers to the management activities of a total of 6 risks defined for the purposes of drafting the Strategy until 2030. For each risk, a number of activities have been determined that will be implemented as a priority by the end of 2027. In addition to individual risk management activities, the Action Plan includes groups of activities that simultaneously affect the level of all or more risks at once: activities to strengthen disaster risk management.

Impact indicators

Impact indicators, as adopted from the Sendai Framework and SDGs are:

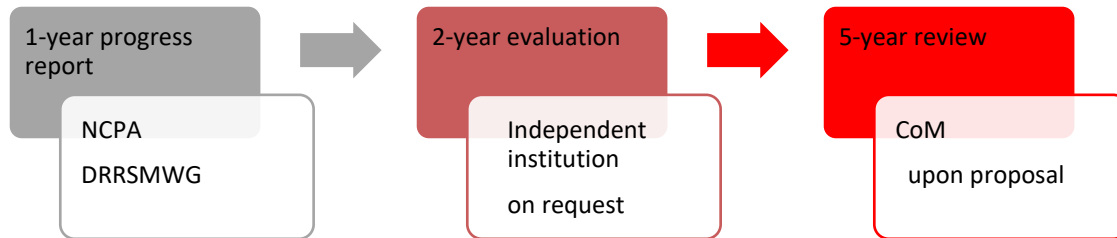
Indicator	Measuring unit	Baseline		Target	
		year	value	year	value
Substantially reduced number of directly affected people, aiming to lower the average figure per 100,000 population	No per. 100.000	2018	163.15	2030	Reduce the baseline value by 10%
Reduced direct disaster economic loss caused by disasters in relation to global gross domestic product	loss/ GDP	2018	0.36	2030	Reduce the baseline value by 5%

¹⁷ An excerpt from the Albania Revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING PROCESS



Monitoring and progress reporting

In order to achieve optimal implementation, rate the implementation process has to be regularly monitored and transparently reported on.

As is stated in Sendai Framework a substantial reduction of disaster risk requires perseverance and persistence, with a more explicit focus on people and their health and livelihoods, and regular follow-up.

The progress achieved by each of the relevant stakeholders will be monitored by the NCPA and the DRR Strategy Monitoring Working Group (DRRSMWG) on a yearly basis.

The Strategy's activities were chosen using the SMART guidelines (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely).

Evaluation

Based on the progress reporting biannually, starting with year 2024. An evaluation of the Strategy's implementation will be conducted by an external impartial institution upon the request of the coordinator, the NCPA.

The NCPA, based on the NDRRS Action Plan institutions' responsibilities for each of the strategic projects is monitoring and evaluating their respective degree of implementation. For the strategic projects that are not NCPA's responsibility, the latter requests such information from other responsible institutions.

Intervention Areas

Area 1: Manage existing and prevent new risks.

Area 1 will include activities that contribute to: research, innovation, and prevention construction as well as raising awareness, knowledge, and facilitating information exchange in service of disaster risk reduction and civil protection and promoting policy coherence and regulatory framework related to disaster risk reduction.

Area 2: Strengthen the response capacities.

Area 2 will include activities to strengthen the response capacities through the construction of resilient infrastructures, promoting comprehensive industrialization and innovation, and capacity and capability development to strengthening Albania's role within the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, which it officially started January 1st, 2023.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

NDRRS financial gap calculation in ALL					
<i>Total cost of strategic projects</i>	Official gap	Official gap 2019-2031 (Flood SP no.1+ no.2)	Official gap (2023-2027) (flood 1+2)	Real gap 2023-2027 corrected for (Flood 1+2)	Real financial gap (%)
A	B	C	$D=C*5/13$	$E=B-C+D$	$F=E/A*100$
93.036.641.493	77.586.636.450	50.280.016.000	19.338.467.692	46.645.088.142	50,14%

NDRRS financial gap calculation in ALL						
(By removing the excess part of financial costs (not included in the period 2023-2027) of 2 floods strategic projects no.1 and no.2 and 5 strategic projects supported by the WB)						
<i>Total cost of strategic projects</i>	Official gap	Official gap 2019-2031 (Flood SP no.1+ no.2)	Official gap (2023-2027) (flood 1+2)	Strategic projects costs no. 17, 18, 19, 20 and the one related with floods no. 9	Real gap 2023-2027 corrected for (Flood 1+2 and 5 strategic projects supported by WB)	Real financial gap (%)
A	B	C	$D=C*5/13$		$F=B-C+D-E$	$G=F/A*100$
93.036.641.493	77.586.636.450	50.280.016.000	19.338.467.692	13.834.160.000	32.810.928.142	35,27 %

5.5. Output 1.11: National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) formulated¹⁸

Contributing to **Component 1** - Strengthening DRM institutional, policy and legal framework in Albania

Sub-activities (as per project document)

- Establish an inter-institutional working group for leading the revision of NCEP.
- Support consultations with line ministries, prefectures and municipal level to gather feedback on features of new NCEP.
- Revise the existing NCEP based on feedback received supported by working group.
- Support consultation processes for validating the revised NCEP through to approval.

Status	<i>Completed</i>
Duration of the contract	<i>August 2022-August 2023</i>
Implementing partner	<i>2 International consultants and 2 national consultants</i>
Deliverable	<i>National Civil Emergency Plan 2023</i>

Progress accomplished.



The NCEP developed through a broad consultation process and served as a practical resource during all stages of the disaster cycle, by drawing together and assigning roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, state or otherwise. The National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) has been articulated in the context of the Action Plan of the DRR strategy and as agreed by the Agency and experts this process started immediately after the approval of the National Disaster Risk Assessment document and National DRR Strategy. The below sub activities performed:

- Inter-institutional working group for leading the revision of NCEP established based on the Prime Minister Order no.58, dated 29.06.2021.
- Consultations with line ministries, prefectures and municipal level to gather feedback on features of new NCEP and field missions conducted at all levels.
- The existing NCEP revised and a new updated first draft prepared based on feedback received supported by working group and shared for comments.
- NCEP approval supported.
- ToR on drafting the Continuity of Operational Planning (COOP) and Continuity of Government (COG).
- ToR on conducting a gap analysis of current procedures to develop whole-of-government communications and notification standard operating procedures (SOP) and exercise them at the national, regional, municipal, and incident levels.
- Recommendations about the next NCEP document, National DRA, National DRR strategy, law 45/2019 and its bylaws.
- Recommendations about the new guidelines, regulations, manuals, and SOP to be developed in the country.
- Recommendations on the CE plans' development methodology and training programme.
- Carrying out a 2-3-day composed activity validating the new NCEP through a Tabletop Exercise preceded by a back-to-back seminar and finalized by the post exercise "hot debriefing".

The NCEP is an overarching plan, bringing together all Albanian and international stakeholders. The contribution of ministries, central and other institutions, non-government institutions, academia and the private sector is instrumental in plan design and effectiveness.

¹⁸ Please refer to **Annex 6_Output 1.11_** for deliverables and activities

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

The inter-institutional technical working group was established based on the Prime Minister Order no. 58 date 29.06.2021.

The following steps completed:

- The process conducted and technical assistance provided by the project included 19 organized activities, engagement and participation of 334 participants from all levels, 73.6 % men and 26.4% women, during all phases of the preparation of the document.
- Logistic and technical support provided to the NCPA and working group on preparation of the document and a broad consultation process with key and not key actors conducted at national scale;
- 17 individual meetings with stakeholders organized and information shared
- 2 tabletop exercises were conducted by engaging IIWG and other groups of interest
- Comments from e-acts analyzed and reflected accordingly into the final draft sent for approval to Council of Ministers.
- Tabletop exercises developed and conducted with participation of IIWG members, relevant partners/actors and stakeholders.
- Training provided to 13 NCPA staff on preparation of a national civil emergency plan and preparation of testing and exercises including scenarios from TTX to full scale testing.
- National Civil Emergency Plan prepared, delivered and endorsed by technical and political working groups.
- The final document officially approved by Decision of Council of Ministers on 28.12.2023.

Aims of the Plan

The National Civil Emergency Plan aims to:

- I. Assist the prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery from any adverse impacts from emergencies and/or disasters which may affect human life, property, cultural heritage, livestock, property, cultural heritage, and the environment.
- II. Provide conditions for public administrations, economic entities, and the population to transfer from ordinary living and working conditions to an emergency situation with minimal losses.
- III. To make provision for state resources in order to ensure public security and maintain the continuation of the national economy.

Specific objectives of the Plan

- I. Aligning with international and regional best practice.
- II. Present background information for all stakeholders to utilize common terminology, definitions, and concepts.
- III. Provide a plan with current and realistic functionality which is suitable for all stakeholders with a special focus on the most vulnerable groups¹⁹.
- IV. Provide a plan which will provide information for reducing the risk of hazards and protecting vulnerable populations.
- V. Present procedures and information for safe, effective, and efficient coordination of resources during emergency response.
- VI. Present context for transition to recovery post-emergency and assist government, business, and services continuity.

The Civil Protection System in Albania is composed of permanent and temporary structures at central, qark and municipality level. Through these structures, every ministry, agency or institution bears its specific role and responsibilities for all phases of emergency management cycle. These roles and responsibilities are frequently shared between two or more institutions that deal with issues such as, for example: water supply, excavation of

¹⁹ According to the National DRR Strategy, “the most vulnerable groups are made-up of financially disadvantaged families, marginalized and socially excluded communities including minorities and LGBTQ community members, women, children, elderly and people with disabilities”.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

canals, building support structures/walls, dikes, etc. To provide an accurate picture and to accomplish the best possible coordination of roles and responsibilities of all actors, where state and non-state institutions are included, these responsibilities are described in detail in each of the chapters dealing with each phase of the emergency management cycle.

SECTION 1: SECTIONS OF THE NCEP

I. Section 1: Essential and Civil Protection Technical Information

All hazards and multi-risk approach

The all-hazards approach is a comprehensive emergency preparedness framework that takes the full scope of emergencies or disasters into account when planning for response capacities and mitigation efforts. This means you are prepared for all-hazards or can adapt or scale accordingly.

This means pre-planned and tested structures, that can manage various risks and simultaneous emergencies, are put in place from national to local level.

All-hazards planning focuses on developing capacities and capabilities that can apply to the majority of emergency types and in the event of multiple emergencies occurring. Designing all-hazard and multi-risk plans is centered on systems, procedures and coordination- which can be applied however, whenever and wherever within the country.

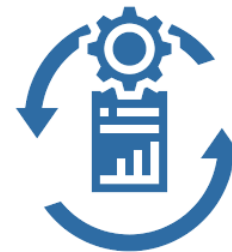
Cross-cutting themes in civil protection

There are two key concepts which have been implemented for global awareness.

- Leave No One Behind (LNOB)
- Do No Harm (DNH)

The following subtopics provide an overview of key cross-cutting themes in the field of civil protection.

- Gender
- Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Harassment
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
- Children
- Other marginalized groups



II. Section 2: Prevention and Mitigation

“Prevention” refers to activities and measures to fully avoid risks from existing and new disasters.

Examples include dikes and embankments that eliminate risks from floods, regulations of land use that prohibit building houses in high-risk areas, seismic engineering projects that ensure resistance and functioning of a critical building from every possible earthquake and immunization against vaccine preventable diseases.

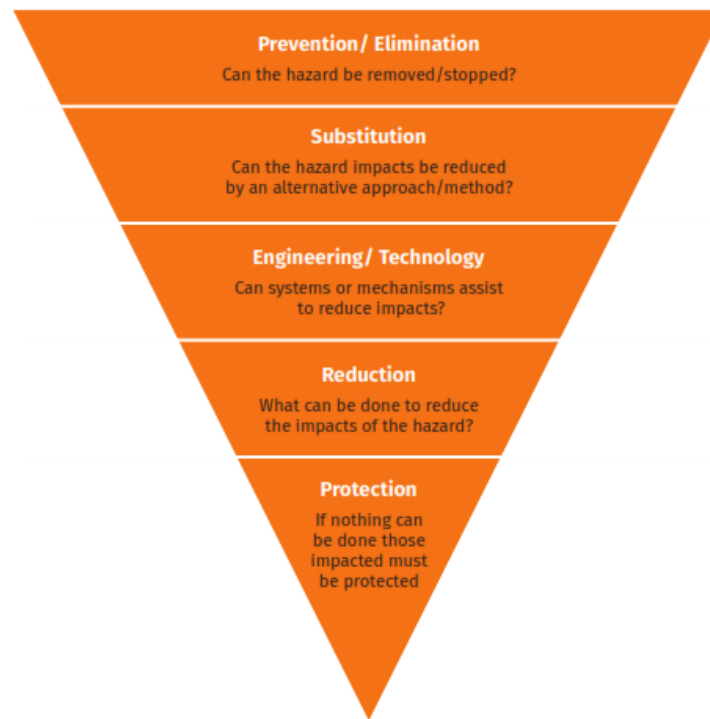
“Mitigation” refers to the reduction of limitation of negative consequences of a dangerous event. Mitigation measures include engineering techniques and risk-resistant buildings, as well as the improvement of environmental and social policies, or building public awareness.

Hierarchy of prevention/mitigation measures



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Hierarchy of prevention/mitigation measures



III. Section 3: 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.

The primary goal of preparedness is to avert the loss of lives and assets due to threats and emergencies. The key to preparedness is the establishment and strengthening of capacities of civil protection system and communities to anticipate, cope, and recover from the negative impacts of hazards and potential cascading disasters, (may be termed as resilience) which incorporates the following capacities:

- I. Increased level of awareness and enhanced capacity of communities against threats and impacts of all hazards.
- II. Communities equipped with the necessary skills and capability to cope with the impacts of disasters.
- III. Increased disaster risk management capacity of national and local civil protection system at central and local level, civil protection commissions at qark and municipality level, councils, offices, and civil emergency operation centers of all levels.
- IV. Comprehensive central and local preparedness and response policy plans and systems.
- V. Strengthened partnership and coordination among all key players and stakeholders.

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Seven key components of preparedness



IV. Section 4: Response

Response Overview and Best Practice

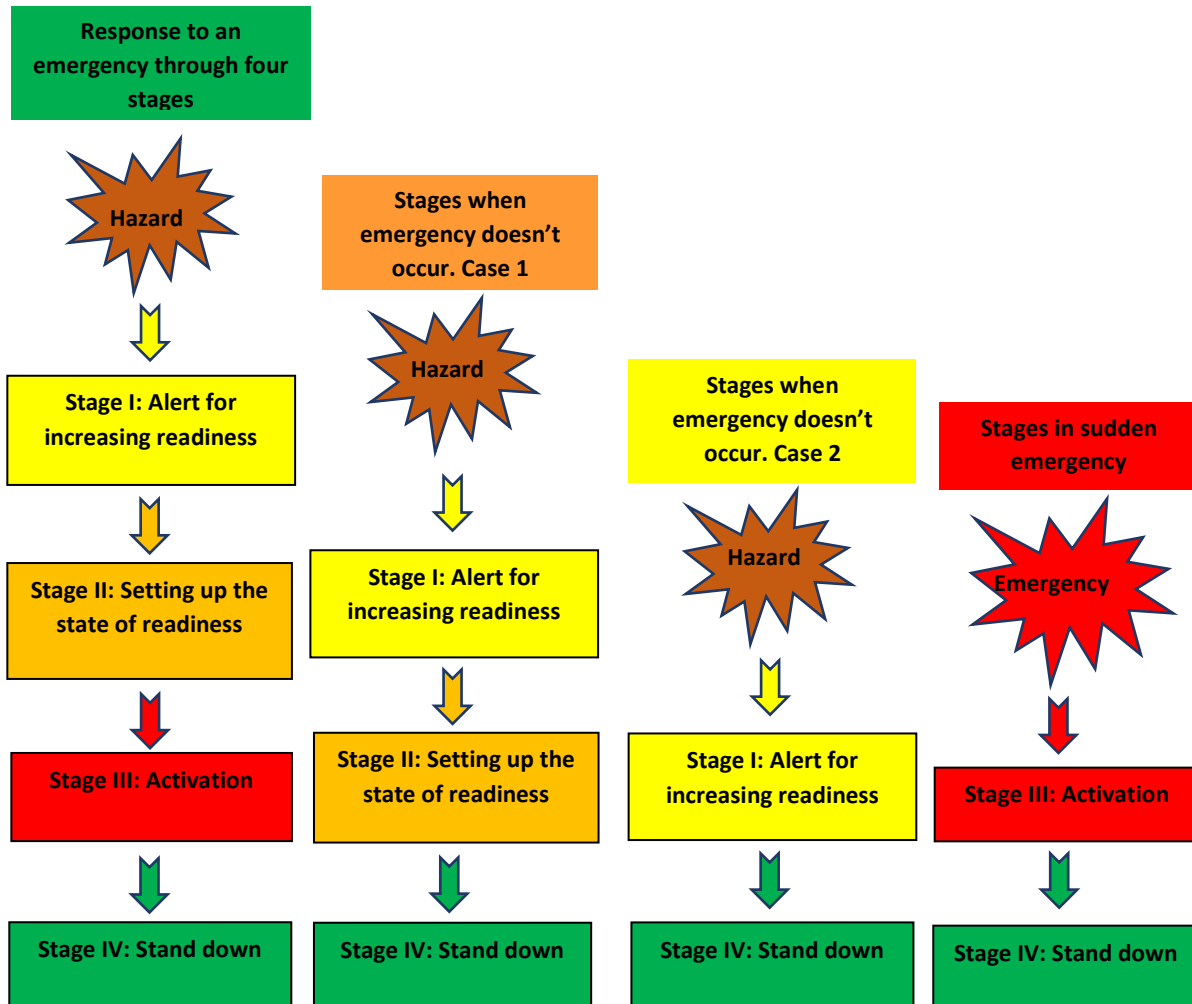
All aspects of response should be coordinated and controlled by implementing an Emergency Management System which allows all stakeholders to respond effectively and efficiently while working together.

The Emergency Response Continuum

An emergency/disaster occurs.

- I. As soon as possible there should be an awareness about the situation and information gathering starts immediately and continues uninterrupted.
- II. Authorities notified.
- III. The operational structures that go first to the scene, NCPA and other agencies are mobilized.
- IV. The operational structures that go first to the scene arrive and the messages are communicated.
- V. Data and information collection continues.
- VI. Activation of National Civil Emergencies Operational Centre (NOCCE).
- VII. Operational structures that go first to the scene and other agencies work together to resolve the situation.
- VIII. Continuous management of the risk from emergencies and putting into operation emergency operational centers.
- IX. If necessary, business continuity and immediate recovery are considered, and plans are implemented.
- X. Periodic monitoring and review by NCPA within the coordination system

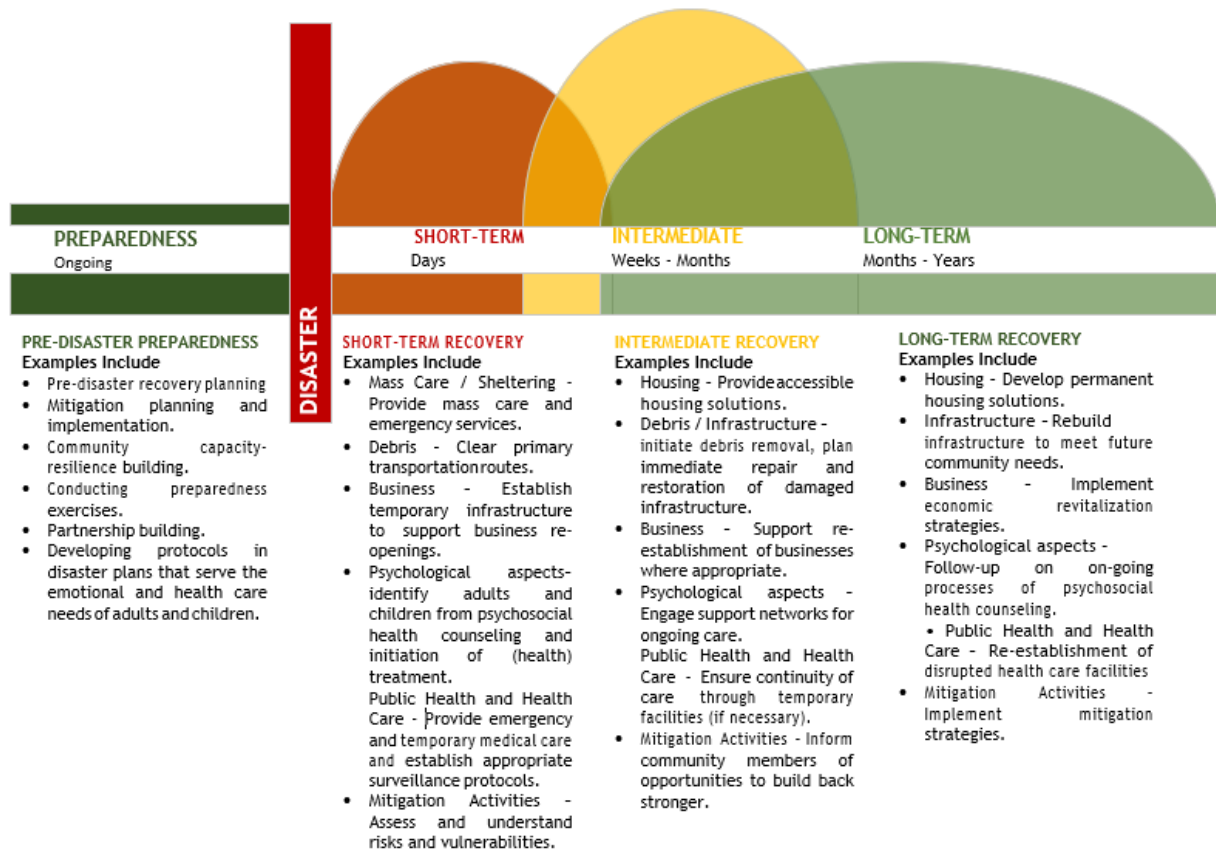
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I. Section 5: Recovery

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”/ “build to last” to avoid or reduce future disaster risk.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project



VI. Section 6: Training and Development

Discussion-based exercises

- Seminars.
- Workshops.
- Tabletop exercises (TTXs).
- Games.

Operations-based exercises

- Drills.
- Functional exercises.
- Full-scale exercises (FSEs).

RECOMMENDATIONS

As practically as possible, recommendations are based on observations, engagements and experiences in Albania, plotted against evidence, research, data and international or regional standards. Where subjective recommendations are stated, a rationale will be articulated.

Key Recommendation

As a general recommendation for the three key DRR documents, it is essential that the National Civil Protection Agency takes specific ownership and custody of these documents. Each document can be allocated to a specific directorate and focal points if necessary. The justification for this includes:

- I. A clear owner and point of contact for intra and interministerial coordination and communication is established.
- II. Future amendments and updates can be managed, controlled and communicated by the relevant focal point.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- III. The directorate/ focal point can collaborate to raise awareness, plan educative sessions and engage with ministries, agencies and organisations.
- IV. The specific directorate/ focal point can implement a tracking system for action points and monitor updated trends and research.
- V. The Agency can promote a disaster risk culture throughout all sectors of the Republic of Albania. This can only be achieved with collaborative partners spanning multiple sectors.



All stakeholders in the various civil protection projects must be commended in the vast amount of work completed. From an external viewpoint, it is felt that all of the past, current and future projects and workstreams require structuring under one framework as described in NCEP. This framework illustrates the connectivity between all of the four components and sub-components. It requires further discussion yet conforms with the current and future planning within the National Strategy. A decision

may be required between the interchanging of terminology including disaster risk, civil protection, and civil emergency. Law 45/ 2019 pertains to civil protection and closely aligns with EU doctrine. Disaster risk is more globally recognized and aligned. Both are correct and current terms but have different definitions and are different concepts.

Other recommendations provided for the following:

1. National disaster risk assessment recommendations (NDRA);
2. National disaster risk reduction strategy (NDRSS) recommendations
3. Law 45/ 2019 recommendations
4. Byelaw/ other legislative recommendations
5. Civil emergency plans methodology and training recommendations
6. Recommendations for additional planning in Albania
7. Training recommendations

Operational Recommendations

1. Incident Management System (IMS)
2. Additional IMS recommendations
3. National response and recovery coordination would be strengthened by aligning national ministries into emergency support functions
4. Recovery support functions
5. NCPA should create a position of private sector liaison to support integration of private sector partners in all phases of disaster management.
6. Private sector coordination would benefit from the creation of a business emergency operations center
7. NCPA should create a position of a volunteer agency liaison to support integration of nongovernmental organizations in all phases of disaster management.
8. Creation of a knowledge sharing & information management hub

5.6. Output 2.1: Seismic hazard monitoring strengthened²⁰

Contributing to **Component 2** - Strengthen Governance-based Institutional Capacity and Management Committee

Sub-activities (as per project document)

- Assisting IGJEO in drafting requirements, specifications and terms of references
- Acquisition of new weak motion broadband (BB) stations equipment, consisting of sensors, data logger, GPS antenna and kits
- Acquisition of strong motion stations equipment, consisting of sensors, data logger, GPS antenna and kits
- Acquisition of equipment and software for facilitating preparation of micro-zonation studies
- Inspection and preparation of station field sites
- Installation and commissioning of stations equipment and system

Status	<i>Completed</i>
Duration of the contract	<i>August 2022 – February 2023</i>
Implementing partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>ArkIT – IT equipment</i> ▪ <i>Lunitek srl – Seismic Portable Stations</i> ▪ <i>Sara srl – Seismic kit Stations</i> ▪ <i>Sterkaj shpk – Civil works</i> <p><i>In cooperation National Agency on Civil Protection (NACP) and Albanian Institute of Geoscience (IGJEO)</i></p>

Progress accomplished



The backbone of the Albanian Seismographic Network (ASN), managed by IGJEO, are the broadband weak motion stations, installed to cover the entire territory of the country and simultaneously to ensure a complete seismic monitoring of the active tectonic macro-structures in Albania. The aim of this action is focused on increasing and upgrading its capacities in monitoring, locating, publishing, and archiving of local earthquake's data and characterizing the natural seismicity of the country. Project office coordinated and organized 5 joint meetings with NACP and IGJEO to discuss on seismic department needs and gaps to be addressed with the aim to upgrade seismic equipment and data processing. Based on these discussions, IGJEO's seismic department prepared a gap and need assessment regarding seismic hard and soft equipment by showing priorities and urgent need to improve the system of existing sensors and installing new ones as well as

upgrading software system on data processing. The national seismographic network capacities for strong motions have been doubled and IGJEO has a full national coverage in the most highly exposed areas accordingly to national risk assessment document, seismic thematic annex. Testing and integration into IGJEO's soft system completed after delays faced concerning supplier contracts for new stations for the electricity and mobile network coverage.

Sub-activities performed:

- IGJEO assisted in drafting requirements, specifications and terms of references for seismic equipment
- New strong motion broadband (BB) stations equipment, consisting of sensors, data logger, GPS antenna and kits purchased and technical assistance provided
- Acquisition of equipment and software for facilitating preparation of micro-zonation studies
- Inspection and preparation of station field sites
- Installation and commissioning of stations equipment and system

This project activity covered in part by RESEAL project (40%) and in part of it by One UN SDG funds (60%) with the objective to ensure the maximum support to IGJEO seismic department on soft and hard equipment by

²⁰ Please refer to Annex 7_Output 2.1

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

improving existing network and densifying it with additional seismic stations for seismic monitoring, earthquake seismology and seismic emergency response in Albania, as a critical reaction, information and scientific infrastructure, operated and managed by IGEO.

The following results were achieved:

- The project has coordinated and organized meetings with IGJEO staff to discuss on seismic department needs and prepared a basic document.
- Joint meetings held with IGJEO and NACP high representatives to discuss on IGJEO seismic needs on hard and soft equipment. As the IGJEO is the primary and main data provider and information, especially the Shake map updated related to the seismic events in the country.
- A basic Seismic Needs and Gaps Assessment document prepared by IGJEO specialist and based on it, project's support on hard and software equipment (weak motion broadband (BB) stations equipment, consisting of sensors, data logger, GPS antenna and kits) will be provided.
- 10 site visits conducted in cooperation with NCPA and IGJEO experts at new selected locations and meetings organized with local authorities to agree on procedures and installation steps.
- IT, seismic portable stations, 20 seismic stations kits and accelerometer provided and handover to IGJEO. Civil works completed for 8 out of 10 stations.
- Training and technical expertise provided to IGJEO staff on use and installation of new equipment and User Manual delivered on maintenance.
- 10 existing stations renewed, and 10 new ones installed on the selected locations

5.7. Output 2.2: Biological risk management with focus on prevention and preparedness used for medium to longer-term risk monitoring and evaluation²¹

Contributing to **Component 2** - Strengthen Governance-based Institutional Capacity and Management Committee

Sub-activities (as per project document)

- Biological hazard risk assessment and mid to long term measures developed.
- Preparedness and response strengthened through business continuity plans and surge capacity plans for the health sector and other vital sectors that might be affected by the pandemic.

Status	<i>Completed</i>
Duration of the contract	<i>December 2021- December 2022</i>
Implementing partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prof. Assoc. Dr. Ilir Alimehmeti – National Consultant</i> • <i>Prof. Dr. Melissa Perry - International consultants</i>
Progress accomplished	
<p>Biological hazards are seen as a major source of risk that may result in emergencies and disasters. They cause significant loss of life, affect many thousands of people, have the potential for major economic losses. The management of risks due to biological hazards is a national and community priority. It has been recognized as part of the Sendai Framework and is globally addressed under the International Health Regulations (IHR). Biological hazards are of organic origin or conveyed by biological vectors, including pathogenic microorganisms, toxins, and bioactive substances. Examples are bacteria, viruses, or parasites, as well as venomous wildlife and insects, poisonous plants, and mosquitoes carrying disease-causing agents. These hazards are usually the result of a natural occurrence but can also result from deliberate or accidental release. Report on Biological Risk Assessment and Infectious Diseases in Albania has been prepared as integral part of National Risk Assessment document and was delivered to the NCPA after both approval from technical and political interinstitutional working groups. While biological hazards also pose a risk to animals including livestock, and to plants, the focus here is on human health. The consequences of a biological hazardous event may include severe economic and environmental losses. Depending on their scale, biological hazards can cause large outbreaks, epidemics, or pandemics either on their own or following a disaster.</p> <p>In Albania biological hazards were assessed for the first time in 2002-2003 by means of the UNDP Program on Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness conducted through the Ministry of Local Administration and Decentralization. This program included assessments, natural disaster preparedness planning, capacity building, technological support, and public awareness with the goal of strengthening both the general system of disaster management in Albania and pertinent institutional capacities at a national and regional level. A second valuable document is the “Strategic risk assessment of public health threats: narrative report”, published in 2019 by the Institute of Public Health in Albania supported by the World Health Organization Country Office in Albania, with the goals of providing a systematic, transparent and evidence-based approach to identify and classify priority risks, defining the level of national preparedness and readiness to mitigate each hazard, and guiding the implementation of a comprehensive and strategic risk assessment to inform preparedness and response plans. The goal of current biological hazard assessment is to contribute to disaster risk reduction by conducting an evidence-based update to both prior risk assessment reports, with special focus given to the COVID-19 pandemic that began in Albania in 2020.</p> <p>The process of the preparation of the document steps as per following:</p>	

²¹ Please refer to **Annex 8_Output 2.2_** for deliverables and activities

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- National and international biological experts were hired and worked on the preparation of the Biological (Pandemic/Epidemic) Risk Assessment, assisting the established working subgroup and NCPA on the preparation of this risk profile document, namely Report on Biological Risk Assessment and Infectious Diseases in Albania.
- Around 20 national experts from government institutions led by Institute of Public Health (ISHP), NACP's staff and members of working subgroup were actively engaged and trained on preparation of biological risk assessment document and its basic scenarios based on exposure, vulnerability and probability. Particular focus was given to gender and vulnerable groups affected.
- In light of the severe and acute public health emergency due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, measures related to risk preparedness and risk mitigation of biological hazard recommendations provided based on both experts' experience, international WHO guidelines and best practices.
- A detailed programme including meetings, site visits in the country was prepared by both experts in coordination with NACP and cooperation with Institute of Public Health and National Food Authority. 7 site visits conducted at regional infrastructures (Ports, airports, regional health structures) and big dairy producers/companies.
- Biological hazard risk assessment and mid to long term measures developed including findings and recommendations for national health authorities, NCPA and key other institutions;

The methodology for the biological risk assessment was developed through an in-depth and iterative process. First, a governance mechanism was established. A collaborative and participatory approach was set up to ensure close coordination with the leading agency for hazard management, the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA). This coordination was supported by the UNDP Albania Country Office, the Project Team, the International Expert, the interinstitutional working subgroup constituted by the Prime Minister Order nr. 59, date 29.06.2021, and other key stakeholders proposed during the first technical subgroup meeting for the biological hazards assessment held on February 25th, 2022. The policy and technical scope of the biological hazards risk assessment were defined. Specifically, it focuses on the factual evidence for the identification of biological risks in Albania. A data management plan was developed given that risk assessment is an extremely data-intensive process and conducting a national risk assessment involves accessing information from a wide range of stakeholders, including mapping agencies, scientific and technical ministries, universities, research institutions and the private sector. Operationally, four different complementary methods were employed:

- workshops with the interinstitutional working group,
- review of former studies, documents, and reports,
- face-to-face meetings and consultations,
- direct observations and visits.

Summary of Results of BRA document

Vaccination coverage:

Childhood vaccination coverage is essential for assessing vaccine preventable infectious diseases. Although data on vaccination coverage was repeatedly requested from the IPH, UNICEF and WHO, they were not made available to the project team. Thus, only general trends in vaccination coverage reported by INSTAT could be taken into account that refer to the IPH as source of the reported data.⁴ Importantly, there has been a steady decline in measles-parotitis-rubella vaccination coverage, decreasing from 96.3% in 2016 to 91.0% in 2020, while coverage by other vaccinations do not show any significant change. It is worth mentioning that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the routine immunization services worldwide,⁵ thus

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it is most probable that vaccination coverage in Albania has suffered additional reductions during 2021 and 2022.

Healthcare capacities

According to the information received by the representatives of the Operator of Healthcare Services, which

Tab. 4 Vaccine coverage, in %

Item	Years				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Infants, Immuniz. against:					
– Tuberculosis	99.2	99.0	99.1	98.9	97.9
– Diphtheria	98.7	99.0	99.8	98.6	98.5
– Tetanus	98.7	99.0	99.8	98.6	98.5
– Pertussis	98.7	99.0	99.8	98.6	98.5
– Measles- Parotitis - Rubella	96.3	95.7	94.1	95.0	91.0
– Poliomyelitis	98.3	98.9	98.7	98.6	98.3

Source: Institute of Public Health

is part of the interinstitutional working group, across 43 hospitals in Albania the total number of beds is 8478, of which 417 beds are emergency services beds, 642 are neonatology and prematurity beds and 33 beds are allocated to palliative care as shown in the following table. Moreover, as depicted, a total of 1818 general physicians or family medicine doctors, 2655 specialized medical doctors, 988 midwives, 12,324 nurses and 845 healthcare technicians are employed in the Albanian healthcare system.

Health Personnel in Albania (August 2021)					
Institution	GP	Specialist	Midwives	Nurses	Health technicians
Hospital / emergency	124	1568	670	5350	513
Residency medical doctors		600			
Healthcare centers	1538	252	302	6366	126
Institution of dependency	156	91	16	608	206
Teaching medical doctors		144			
Total	1818	2655	988	12324	845

Infection prevention and control in healthcare facilities

In a recently published cross-sectional study on a nationwide representative sample of health professionals in Albania working mostly in primary health care centers, through a structured WHO questionnaire on IPC,7,8 researchers have found crucial information on infection prevention and control in Albanian health care facilities, including the following:

- about 47% of health facilities did not have a designated focal point for IPC issues.
- the lack of one patient per bed standard was evident in more than one-third of health facilities (37%).
- the lack of an adequate distance between patient beds was reported in a quarter of health facilities (which was twice as high among health facilities in urban areas compared to rural areas).
- water services were continuously available only in about two-thirds of health facilities (63%).
- an adequate number of toilets (at least two) was evident in slightly more than half of the health facilities surveyed (53%).

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- one out of four of the health facilities did not have functional hand hygiene stations and/or sufficient energy/power supply.
- a completely adequate ventilation was evidenced in just slightly more than half of the health facilities (51%).
- four out of five health facilities always had necessary materials available for cleaning.
- about half (49%) always had available personal protective equipment.
- functional waste collection containers were available in nine out of ten health facilities, of which, four out of five were correctly labelled.

The authors concluded that “Policymakers and decision-makers in Albania and in other countries should prioritize investments regarding IPC aspects in order to meet the basic requirements and adequate standards in health facilities at all levels of care”.

Infectious disease incidence in Albania

In the study period, the representative of the IPH at the interinstitutional experts’ subgroup shared the IPH data on the incidence of some but not all infectious diseases during the last five years (2017-2021). These figures played an important role in selecting the most critical biological hazards whose risks are assessed below. While IPH reported to us that anthrax, viral hemorrhagic fevers and critical biological hazards, the data listed below do not support this claim, while revealing a high incidence of unspecified gastroenteritis.

Infectious diseases	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	N	Incid./10 00000	N	Incid./1 000000	N	Incid./1000 000	N	Incid ./10 000 00 00	N	Incid. /1000 000
Viral hemorrhagic fever										
Hantan virus	8	2.8	3	1.0	4	1.4	2	0.7	8	2.8
CCHF	2	0.7	1	0.3	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Abdominal typho	3	1.0	15	5.2	14	4.9	1	0.3	0	0.0
Paratyphoid	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Non-typhoid salmonellosis	427	149.2	407	142.2	366	127.9	107	37.4	54	18.9
Shigellosis	395	138.0	432	150.9	363	126.8	116	40.5	130	45.4
Alimentary intoxication/infection	2199	768.2	2338	816.8	1809	632.0	721	251.9	735	256.8
Amoebic dysentheria	4	1.4	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unspecified gastroenteritis	85651	29922.5	78869	27553.2	82185	28711.6	27767	9700.5	61564	21507.6
Anthrax	30	10.5	5	1.7	17	5.9	6	2.1	1	0.3
Brucellosis	145	50.7	105	36.7	48	16.8	21	7.3	12	4.2
Visceral leishmaniosis	6	2.1	11	3.8	7	2.4		0.0	0	0.0
Cutaneous leishmaniosis	0	0.0	2	0.7	3	1.0		0.0	0	0.0
Viral encephalitis (WN)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
HIV	94	32.8	102	35.6	101	35.3	96	33.5	104	36.3
Tuberculosis	479	167.3	424	148.1	386	134.9	223	77.9	261	91.2
Flu	36907	12893.6	32405	11320.8	32349	11301.2	21077	7363.3	17887	6248.9
Common Cold (syndrome flulike)	93100	32524.8	112529	39312.4	113008	39479.8	63236	22091.7	85859	29995.2
Covid-19							58046	20278.6	89775	31363.2

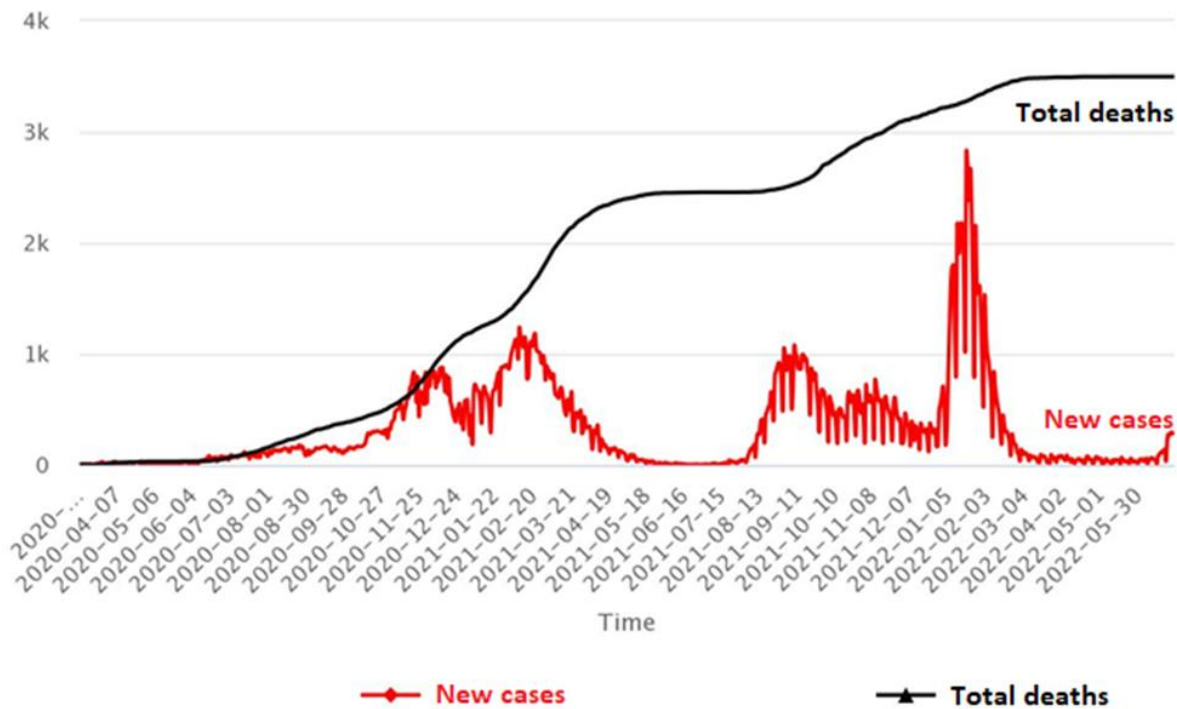
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Critical biological hazards

After consulting all former biological hazards risk assessment reports and experts in the Interinstitutional Experts Working Group, and conducting institutional in-person meetings, site visits, data analysis and literature review, five critical biological hazards were identified and assessed as being major biological risks that Albania is currently facing, and/or likely to be major threats in the immediate future:

- Ongoing COVID-19 pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2,
- Antibiotic resistance,
- Measles,
- Waterborne diseases caused by a variety of different pathogens,
- Emerging and re-emerging diseases.

SARS-CoV-2



However, these figures are most likely to be underestimates of the real health impact of SARS-CoV-2 as several studies have shown that, in the period between March 2020 and December 2021, Albania may have suffered up to 5.38-fold higher casualties due to COVID-19.¹² Such an under-reporting by the health authorities is also a key barrier to vaccine acceptance that has been shown to negatively correlate with COVID-19 deaths under-reporting and thus paving the way to further infections over time.

▪ Recommendations

Invest in infectious Disease Surveillance, Prevention, and Education.

The results of this BHRA in terms of what is known and what has been learned lead to some high-level recommendations in order to reduce, mitigate, and ultimately prevent the main sources of biological risks Albania is currently facing. The overarching recommendation is the critical need to **Invest in infectious Disease Surveillance, Prevention, and Education**. Doing this can be achieved through the following actions:

- Train epidemiologists and public health specialists and employ them in the Albanian public health system

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- Publish publicly available annual reports on all infectious diseases in Albania, similar to other countries, such as the data publicly available from the USCDC (e.g., https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_nd/index.html)
- Establish a country-wide task force that meets monthly and is responsible for combatting infectious diseases nationally including preventing infectious disease re-emergence
- Invest in country-wide public health vaccination campaigns that include conveniently located vaccination clinics, remote vaccine campaigns and at-home visits, and media and marketing information about the safety and critical need for vaccinations to keep Albanians healthy.
- Monitoring and reporting of infectious diseases in animals as well as surveillance of zoonotic diseases.
- Inclusion in the updated report of animal vaccination data as a potential source of zoonotic disease outbreaks.

5.8. Output 2.3: Local risk assessment for LGUs supported (11 affected municipalities and then the remaining ones)²²

Contributing to **Component 2** - Strengthen Governance-based Institutional Capacity and Management Committee

Sub-activities (as per project document)

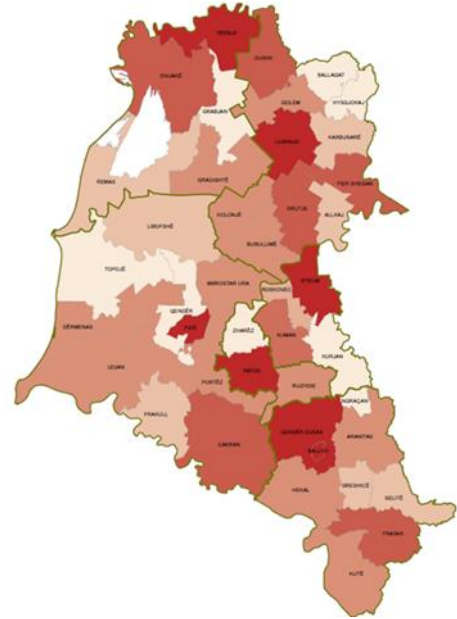
- Introducing local level and community participatory risk assessment replicating the methodology of pilot municipality
- Support development of pilot municipal local level risk assessment (LLRA)
- Present final LLRA methodology to relevant institutions for approval
- Extend support for developing LLRA to 10 additional earthquake affected municipalities.
- Expand LLRA to remaining municipalities
- Provide capacity building for independent LLRA undertaking.
- Identify pilot municipality and designate core team leading the process.
- Develop, through a participatory approach the pilot LDRR Strategy and LCEP
- Validate with relevant central and local institutions the LDRR and LCEP
- Support first wave expansion for LDRR and LCEP to 10 municipalities
- Support development and adoption of LDRR and

Status	<i>Completed</i>
Duration of the contract	<i>May 2021- April 2023</i>
Implementing partner	<i>Idra shpk -UTS-01 JV consultancy</i> <i>NCPA, Fieri Prefecture and Municipalities of Fieri, Lushnja, Divjaka, Patos, Mallakaster, Roskovec municipalities</i>
Deliverable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>6 Local Disaster Risk Assessment documents for 6 municipalities within Fieri prefecture, namely Fieri, Lushnja, Divjaka, Patos, Mallakaster, Roskovec and the Disaster Risk Assessment document of the Fieri Region</i> - <i>6 Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA)</i>
Progress accomplished	<p>Pilot intervention in Fieri region under implementation and 6 Local Disaster Risks Assessments (LRA) documents for 6 municipalities within Fieri region, namely Fieri, Divjake, Patos, Lushnje, Patos and Roskoveci prepared and approved by Municipalities` Councils and endorsed by Prefect of Fieri. A team of 16 key and not key experts supported respective municipal staffs and established working groups. An EVCA conducted to support the preparation of LDRA documents and summary of Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment per each of the risks provided to the established working groups. After the approval of 6 LDRA documents at local level, the work continued with Prefecture Disaster Risk Assessment document, prepared based on the six LDRA reports and approved by Prefect of Fieri at beginning of November 2023. Decisions of Municipalities Councils (DMC) and of Prefect of Fieri for the approval of LDRA are as following:</p>

²² Please refer to **Annex 9_Output 2.3_** for deliverables and activities

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- Fier Municipality: DMC no. 54. Date 17.05.2023;
- Mallakastër Municipality: DMC no. 19. Date 24.04.2023;
- Roskovec Municipality: DMC no. 45. Date 27.04.2023;
- Divjakë Municipality: DMC no. 21. Date 28.04.2023;
- Lushnjë Municipality: DMC no. 49. Date 30.06.2023;
- Patos Municipality: DMC no. 38. Date 30.06.2023.
- Qark Level: Fieri Prefect Order no. 30 date 02.11.2023



Main activities and achievements are as per below:

- 26 meetings including face to face interviews and focus group organized in 26 administrative units with local communities and stakeholders conducted and interviews realized with focus on EVCA and LDRA preparation and accurate data collection that served as the baseline information for the exposure and vulnerability for the local risk assessment documents.
- Gender and vulnerable groups have been actively participated on the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA), a solution to measure community resilience, conducted and based on its partial and preliminary findings, 66% of Fieri region population has a woman as head of family and 39,2% of the total population have at least on limited ability. All of them are highly exposed to the major disaster risks affecting their living areas.
- 84 activities organized with the participation of more than 840 key actors, local civil protection staff, civil society and stakeholders in 6 municipalities.
- Training sessions with Civil Defense Commissions in 6 the municipalities of Fier Regions were conducted. The trainings were conducted by experienced trainers, skilled and knowledgeable in both content and training delivery methods. Training sessions were offered according to a defined calendar, with the adequate logistical conditions.
- 6 Public Consultation meetings organized for the local Risk Assessment document of the respective municipalities. This process has followed all the necessary legal and administrative steps for consultation, including approval from the CEC since they happened during the election period. Publication links below:
 - Fier: [Public consultation in Fier](#)
 - Lushnje: [Public consultation in Lushnja](#)
 - Divjake: [Public consultation in Divjaka](#)
 - Patos: [Public consultation in Patos](#)
 - Mallakaster: [Public consultation in Mallakastra](#)
 - Roskovec: [Public consultation in Roskovec](#)
- Municipalities, Region and relevant civil protection commissions equipped with a consolidated framework and necessary knowledge to contribute to the reduction of disaster risks and with improved capacities to cope with possible disasters in the future. Results are also expected in

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

terms of increasing the local ability to recover through the use of a fruitful and integrated civil protection system;

- GIS systems set up and functional in the municipalities with integrated data of analysis and project conclusions related to risk assessment and coping capacities;
- The structures of the civil protection commissions established, functional and able to interpret and efficiently use the findings of the Project in terms of reducing the risk of disasters and increasing the coping ability;
- The project created a best practice including standard in local and regional level that can serve as a model for other municipalities and regions in Albania, to be followed and further replicated;
- The engagement of the public through EVCA meetings, resulting in increased awareness and active participation in disaster risk reduction efforts within each municipality.

Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA) for 6 municipalities of Fieri Region

EVCA in the six municipalities completed and part of Local DRA. The existing Mayors` orders on establishing the Municipal Civil Protection Commissions revised alongside their regulations, discussed with the respective working groups and the revised CPC approved as follows:

- Fieri Municipality: Mayor Order no.177, dated. 4.04.2023 “On establishing the Civil Protection Commission in Fieri Municipality”.
- Lushnja Municipality: Mayor Order no.75, dated. 8.07.2023 “On establishing the Civil Protection Commission”.
- Divjaka Municipality: Mayor Order no.71, dated. 7.03.2023 “On establishing the Civil Protection Commission”.
- Patos Municipality: Mayor Order no.166, dated. 30.08.2023 “On establishing the Civil Protection Commission in Patos Municipality”.
- Roskovec Municipality: Mayor Order no.149, dated. 23.06.2023 “On establishing the Civil Protection Commission in Roskovec Municipality”.
- Mallakastër Municipality: Mayor Order no.55, dated. 1.03.2023 “On establishing the Civil Protection Commission in Mallakastër Municipality”.

Developing the municipal Disaster Risk Assessment for the municipalities of the Fier Region (Qark) namely the municipality of Fier, Lushnje, Roskovec, Divjakë, Patos and Mallakastër.

In the framework of the project ‘Disaster Risk Assessment at the Local Level for the 6 Municipalities of Fier Region’, the EVCA exercise was conducted at the municipal level, focusing on the specific areas within the municipality and the most characteristic risks faced by the community. Thus, the analysis was provided for the municipality as a whole, focusing on the characteristic risks of each.

EVCA tools have been aligned with the Roadmap to Community Resilience to incorporate climate change, gender and inclusion and other considerations.



Institutional Analysis



Historical Calendar & Visualizations



Seasonal Calendar



Organizational capacity assessment



Mapping



Transect walks



Discussion Groups



Semi-structured interviews



Direct observations by experts



Secondary data

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

Concerning the analysis of the Institutional & Social Network, the following criteria were used:

- Disaster Loss database.
- GIS Capacities of the Municipality.
- Civil Emergency Plans.
- Disaster Risk Reduction Plans.
- Studies related to climate change.
- Preventive investment.
- Conducting damage assessment.
- Readiness Assessment.
- Seasonal action plans.
- Awareness-raising mechanisms and public information.
- Activities to increase capacities for civil protection.
- Providing a database on citizens and possible private entities to plan and engage in disaster prevention and coping.
- Collaborating with neighboring communities.
- Readiness of fire protection systems.
- Readiness of irrigation, drainage and flood protection infrastructure.
- Establishment of the Civil Emergency Operations Center in the municipality.

After assessing all the above mentioned EVCA tools/methods, a summary on Capacities and Vulnerability in Table Form was conducted for each of the six municipalities as follows:

- Table 1: Key Aspects of Vulnerability Identified.
- Table 2: Key Aspects of Identified Capacities.
- Table 3. Summary of Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment for Fire Hazards.
- Table 4. Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment for Technological Risk Summary.
- Table 5. Summary of Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment for Fire Hazards.

The administrative, technical and financial capacities resulted from EVCA analysis vary from municipality to municipality with an advantage of larger municipalities over smaller ones. However, EVCA analysis was complementary to the disaster risk assessment as they constitute a basis, in addition to the latter, on which the local strategy and civil emergency plan will be based.

Local Disaster Risk Assessment in the six municipalities of Fieri Region

Regardless the existing Civil Protection Commission, the service provider found necessary establishing technical working groups as follows:

- Fieri Municipality: Mayor Order no.782, dated. 10.11.2022 “On establishing and functioning of the technical group for the preparation process of the Disaster Risk Reduction strategic documents in Municipality level”.
- Lushnja Municipality: Mayor Order no.279/2, dated. 17.02.2023 “On an amendment of the Order no.279/1, dated 8.11.2022 “On establishing of the technical Working Group for the preparation of the Disaster Risk Assessment in local level”.
- Divjaka Municipality: Mayor Order no.367, dated. 5.12.2022 “On establishing of the technical group for the development of the Disaster Risk Assessment in the local level”.
- Patos Municipality: Mayor Order no.175, dated. 10.11.2022 “On establishing and functioning of the technical Secretariat in the local level for the preparation process of the Disaster Risk Reduction strategic documents in Municipality level”.
- Roskovec Municipality: Mayor Order no.279, dated. 18.11.2022 “On establishing and functioning of the technical Working Group in Roskovec Municipality for the preparation process of the Disaster Risk Reduction strategic documents in local level”.

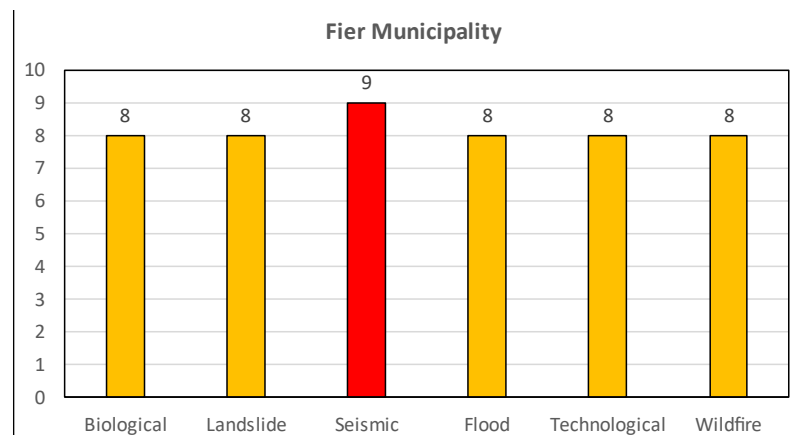
Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- Mallakastër Municipality: Mayor Order no.329, dated. 1.12.2022 “On establishing of the technical working group in the Municipality of Mallakaster for the project of Disaster Risk Assessment development in the local level”.

The Local Disaster Risk Assessment document consists of a summary report that highlights the conclusions of multiple risks and six special thematic risk assessment reports for each of the major risks provided for in the law. The specific hazards` reports for each risk are based on the data available for the municipality. The preliminary data were obtained from national institutions and then they were compared and enriched with data from local and regional institutions. During the process of summarizing the six special reports, a unified analysis was implemented to provide a comprehensive, coherent and comparative panorama of disaster risk in the territory of the municipality. Regarding the process and background of risk assessment in Fier municipality, this process is based on methodological documents and guidelines that AKMC has made available for risk assessment on a national scale and on documents advised by the EU, UNDRR, AFAD, NERAG, etc. In this context, the handling of risk assessment scenarios for some special fields (technological, biological) is done by adapting a mixed methodology: It refers to the Turkish methodology (AFAD) for risk assessment, while for the tables on the impact criteria uses the respective tables of the Australian methodology (NERAG) as a reference.

Below are some of the outputs of Fieri Municipality:

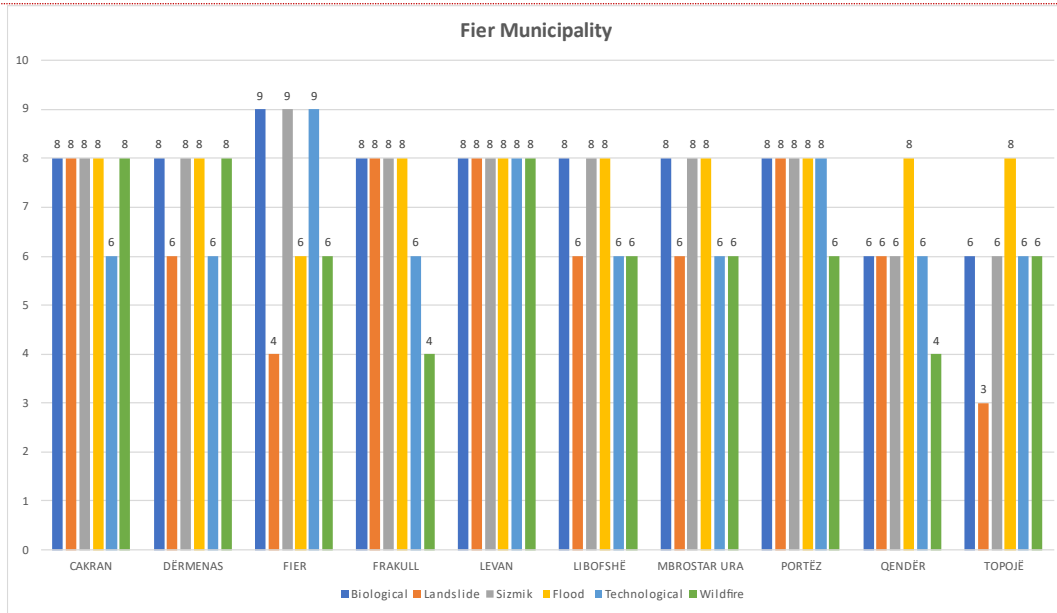
As a result of the analysis and summarized conclusions, it became possible to develop comparative matrices for the six major risks, as well as their possible impact on each of the administrative units of the municipality. As far as the administrative units are concerned, several possible risk scenarios were developed (with a comparative value of the time scenario with a return period of 100 years), as well as recommendations were identified for priority areas for improving local capacities for disaster risk management. Below is the comparative chart of the risks of major disasters in the municipality.



Risks of major disasters in the Fier municipality - comparative presentation

The value of average annual losses for the municipality of Fier (AAL-BF) is 41.2% of AAL-QF. It is recommended that 20% of this value be dedicated to the annual budget of the municipality for risk reduction/mitigation. The 100% AAL-BF value has been kept as a reference in the distribution of average annual losses for each administrative unit of Fier municipality.

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Multiple risk for Fier Municipality – Risk level

Findings: The findings of the risk analysis and assessment are summarized in the respective document for each risk and for each administrative unit of the municipality

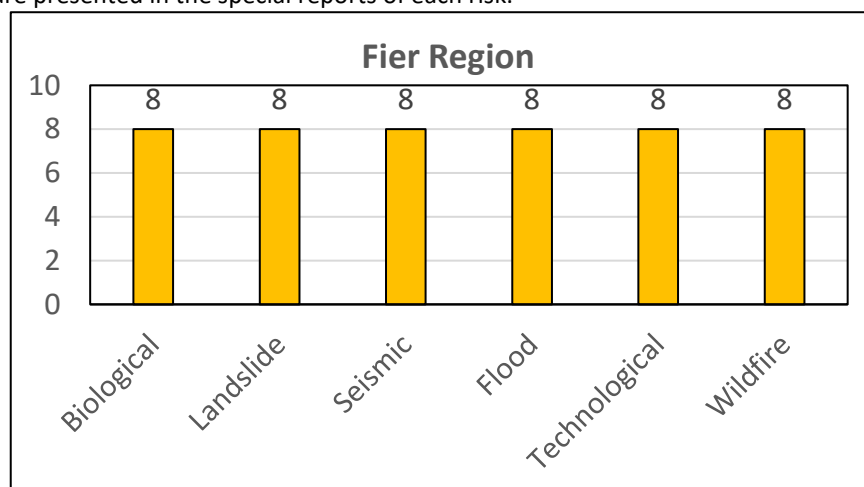
Recommendations: Are provided in detail for each risk. It is recommended that the conclusions of the risk assessment be taken into account in the preparation of the risk reduction strategy and in the improvement of regulations and other normative documents in the fields related to security, following the appropriate steps that will be defined in the strategy to do so the more useful the process of their implementation.

Disaster Risk Assessment in Fieri Region

Following the drafting of documents for the assessment, reduction and management of risk on a national scale, Fier Prefecture in coordination with NCPA and the municipalities of the region and supported by UNDP have carried out the disaster risk assessment process focusing on the six major disasters outlined in Law 45/2019 "On Civil Protection".

The regional risk assessment document consists of a summary report that highlights the conclusions of multiple risks and six special thematic risk assessment reports for each of the major risks provided for in the law.

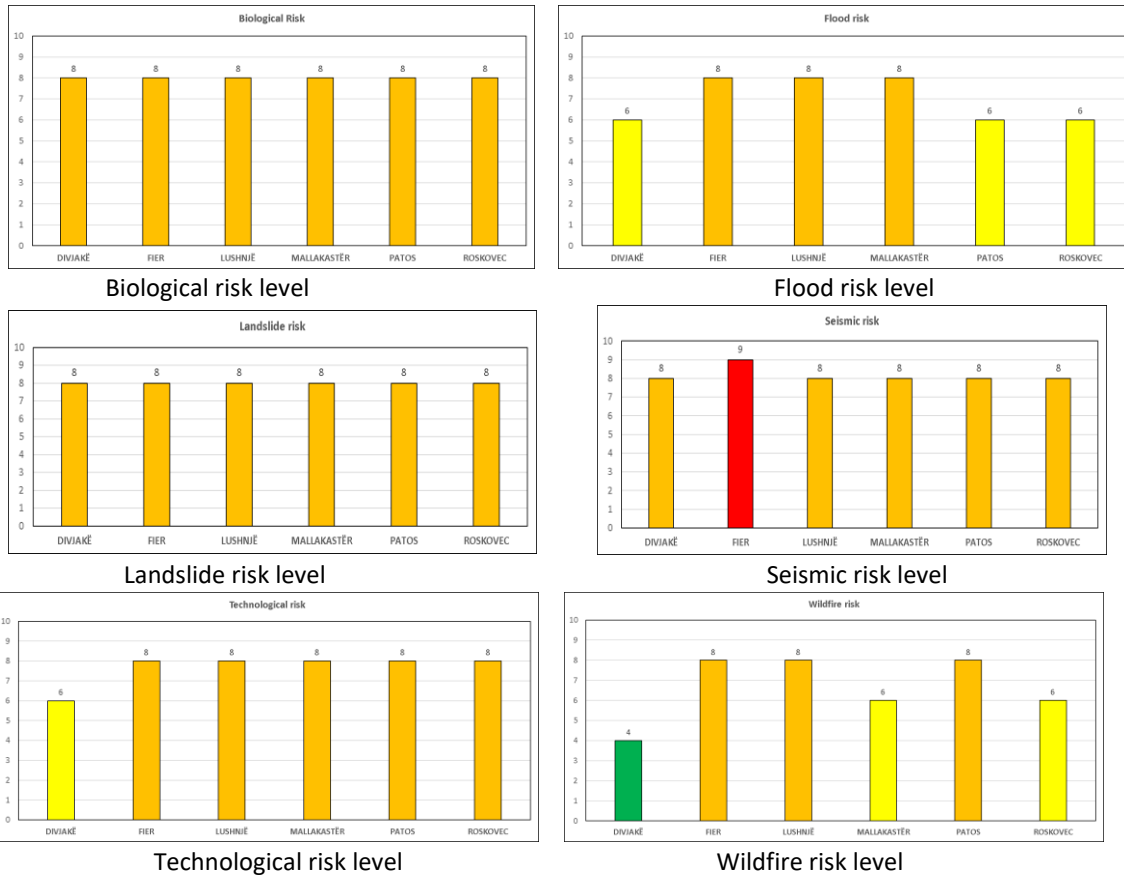
Referring to the assessment criteria, the references kept in mind and the unified risk assessment, in the territory of the region all risks appear with a high level of impact. Details of the degree of risk associated with each of the main hazards are presented in the special reports of each risk.



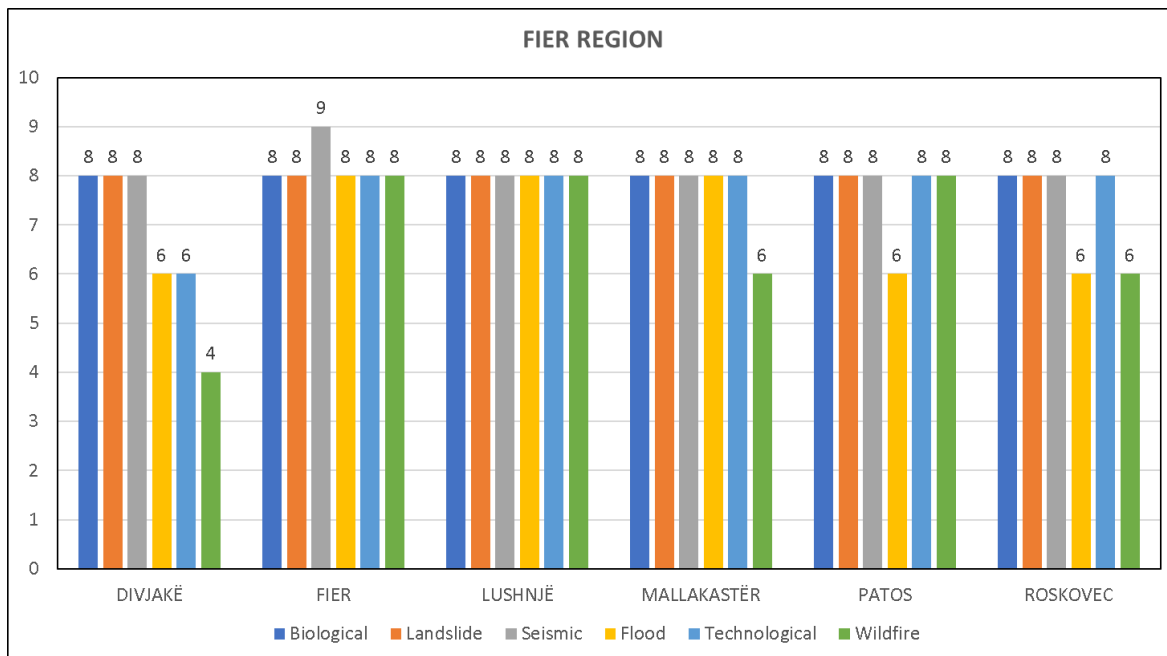
Risks of major disasters in the region- comparative presentation

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

In addition to the analysis of the main risks in the territory of the region, the summary risk report also presents the analysis of cumulative risks of disasters for each municipality of the region.



In order to assess the level of risk, a recurrence period of 100 years has been accepted for each risk. The following are the results of the multiple risk for the Fier Region.



Multiple risk for Fier Region– Risk level

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

Findings

The findings of the risk analysis and assessment are summarized in this document for each risk and for each municipality of the region. For comparison purposes, the following are distinguished:

All risk in the Fier region have the same level of risk. Referring to the economic cost, the risk that produces the most economic cost is the seismic risk, followed by the biological risk and the technological risk, while the risk that produces the lowest economic cost is the wildfire risk.

Referring to the multiple risk analysis, the municipality with the highest risk is the Fier municipality, while the municipality with the lowest risk is Roskovec municipality.

Recommendations are stipulated in detail in each of the 6 risks reports. Some of them are as follows:

Flood Risk – For each hazard that causes flooding in the territory of the municipality (river, lake or sea) it is necessary to specify the possible areas that can be flooded and the corresponding periods of their return.

Landslide risk – Biological measures are based on the forests and vegetation present along the affected slopes. Proper maintenance of these assets provides multiple protections against erosion, rockfall and landslides. Protected forests must be conserved and protected as they are often located in locations of extreme importance.

Wildfire Risk - Mitigating the risk from mass fires should start with the preparation of the mandatory plan of measures for the prevention and management of fires in the forest/pasture fund. Effectively reducing the risk of mass fires in protected areas and other forest/grassland areas can include measures such as opening new roads to increase road accessibility, opening new corridors against mass fires, such as and thinning of vegetation and creation of spaces. Measures to mitigate and prevent mass fires may also include tightening the legal framework and adopting higher penalties for deliberate arson.

Technological Risk - With reference to the oil and gas sector, it is necessary to continue studies and assessments on the technical-technological conditions of installations and pipelines for the search, extraction, storage, refining and transportation of oil, gas and their by-products, with in order to assess the impact they present to the economy, people's lives, property and the environment.

The training of Civil Protection Commissions in the municipalities and in the Prefect institutions



The training was conducted after the team's work to draft the DRA document as well as the EVCA in the six municipalities of Fier region and at the prefecture level. The project team created a dedicated agenda to carry out these sections during 28-29th September 2023.

The training was attended by representatives from all six municipalities of Fier district as well as persons responsible for civil emergencies at the region level.

Experts from different fields presented and discussed the modules conceived for this training, in accordance with the drafted agenda:

- Module I. Risk Assessment
- Module II. Disaster Risk Reduction and Sendai Framework 2015-2030
- Module III. Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment/VCA
- Module IV. Legislation and strategic documents in the field of civil protection
- Practical discussion on participants' experiences, reflections from DRA & EVCA exercise, challenges and difficulties in repeating this exercise, etc.

This training established a strong foundation for preparing communities for risk challenges and improving their response to potential disasters. The advantages of training, including the use of practical methods, new knowledge of risk assessment and the role of law, will help develop advanced and efficient programs in future emergencies. The role of such trainings is key to improving the preparation and reducing risks at the municipal and regional level.

Training of Trainers

After training representatives from civil protection commissions in all six municipalities of Fier Region, including at the Region level, were identified the most suitable persons to undergo a 'Trainer Training'. The preparation of

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a team of trainers aims to strengthen the capacities of a key group of representatives, connoisseurs of the field, who will share their knowledge with local municipal staff in the future.

To make it possible to identify key persons, a document was drafted with the criteria for participation in the ToT. Also, the project team, in cooperation with representatives at the Regional level, identified those persons who are assessed as having a key role in processes related to risk assessment as well as vulnerability and capacity. At the end of the selection process, representatives at the municipal and county level were identified, who were invited to join the training of trainers.

ToT took place in Tirana on October 5, 2023. Since the participants in ToT were persons who have passed the technical training conducted with representatives from all six municipalities and those at the Regional level, the Agenda for ToT was adapted in such a form that it can also increase the capacities of these participants in delivering trainings in the future. Thus, the main points on the agenda were:

- Context of VR (Timeline; Evaluation criteria; Impact rating and the likelihood level of occurrence)
- Identifying risk (data collection; Building models of exposure, vulnerability, risk and capacity; (The scripts);
- Analysis and risk assessment. VCA. Treatment and reduction of risk;
- Assessing risk in the future;
- Training Needs Assessment - why it is important and how it is performed - Group exercise;
- Conceptualization/design/update of the training program; Group exercise on the steps of conceptualizing and organizing a training;

Team Leader, Prof. Markel Baballëku, discussed with the participants about the fire situation created in Pine Poro, Fier. Prof. Stavri Dhima, a member of the team, addressed the issue of oil zones and the importance of using technological reservoirs for monitoring them. In the section dedicated to biological risk, Mr. Ilir Alimehmeti included an analysis of the current situation of the pandemic and discussed ways to monitor and manage such situations in the future. Fire risk expert, Prof. Elvin Torromani, addressed concrete aspects of fires, including the issues of quality and quantity of risk. The flood expert, Mr. Alban Doko, discussed the occurrence of floods and stressed the need for effective prevention measures. The rest of the training relied on the information and preparation needed to develop the vulnerability and capacity assessment process. At this point, the training focused on a few key elements.

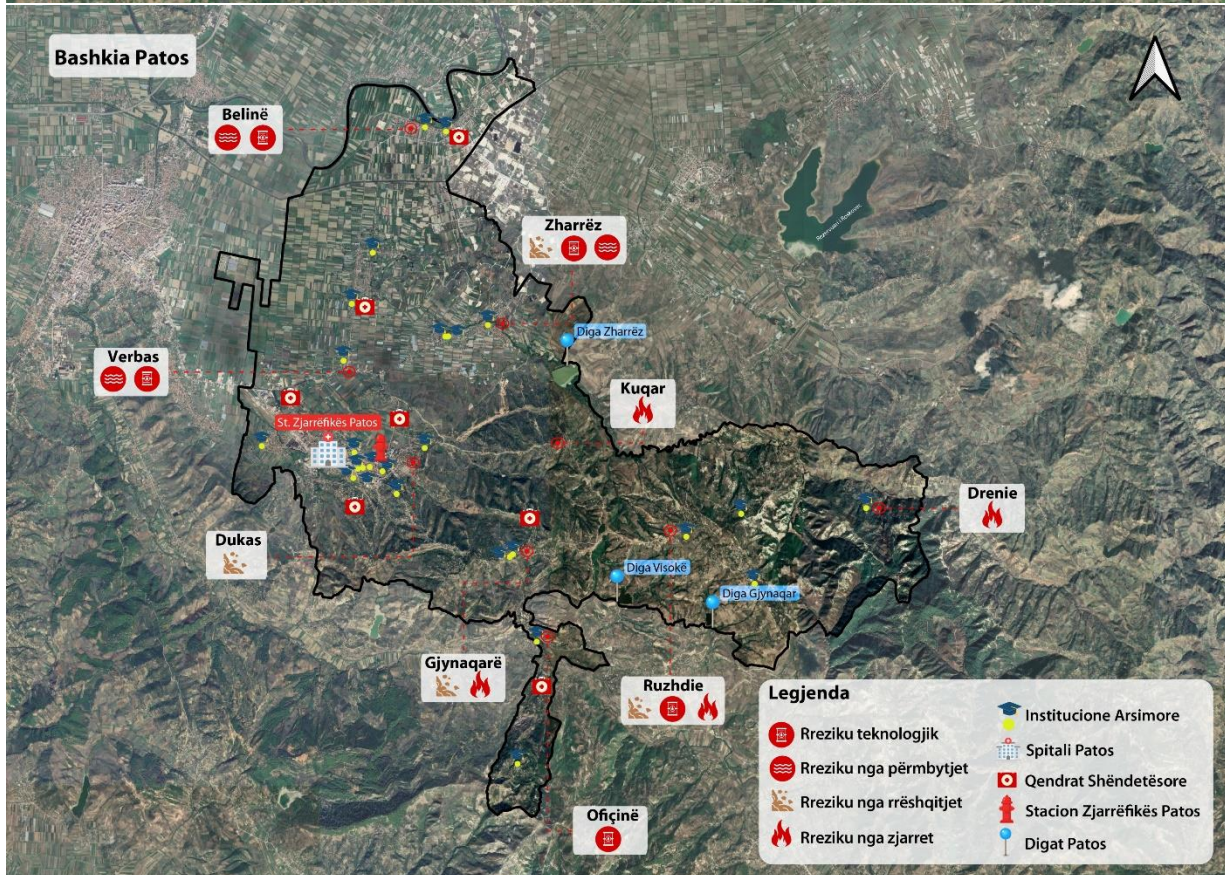
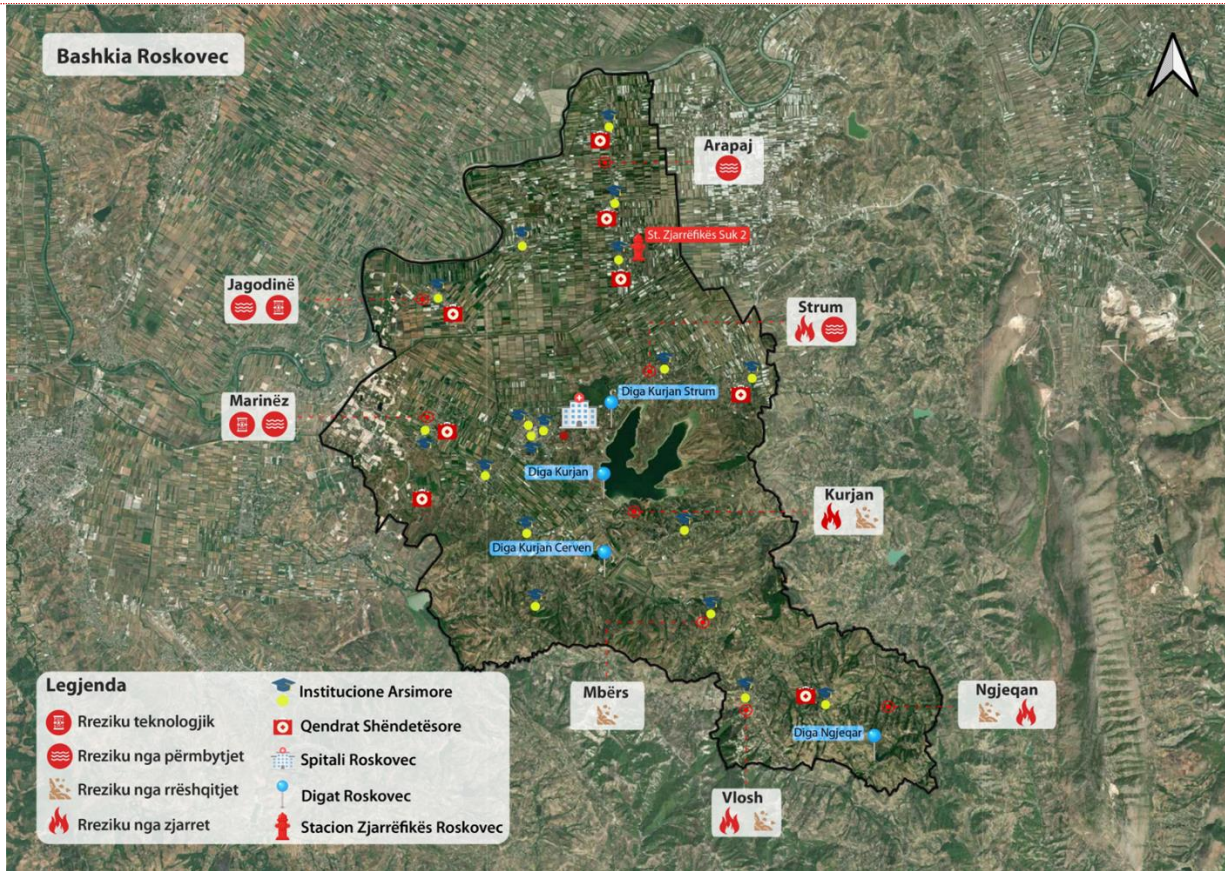
This training provided a strong foundation for the trainers regarding risk and disaster management, preparing them to help communities be more prepared and resistible to potential challenges.

The group selected to train also gave feedback and discussions that served to situations on current and future natural hazards. This ensured that the entire training session had interactivity and quality. In total, 12 representatives are already ready to make the coaching body, who will share their knowledge on the following, with the staff joining their teams or even the existing ones, to advance the risk reduction process.

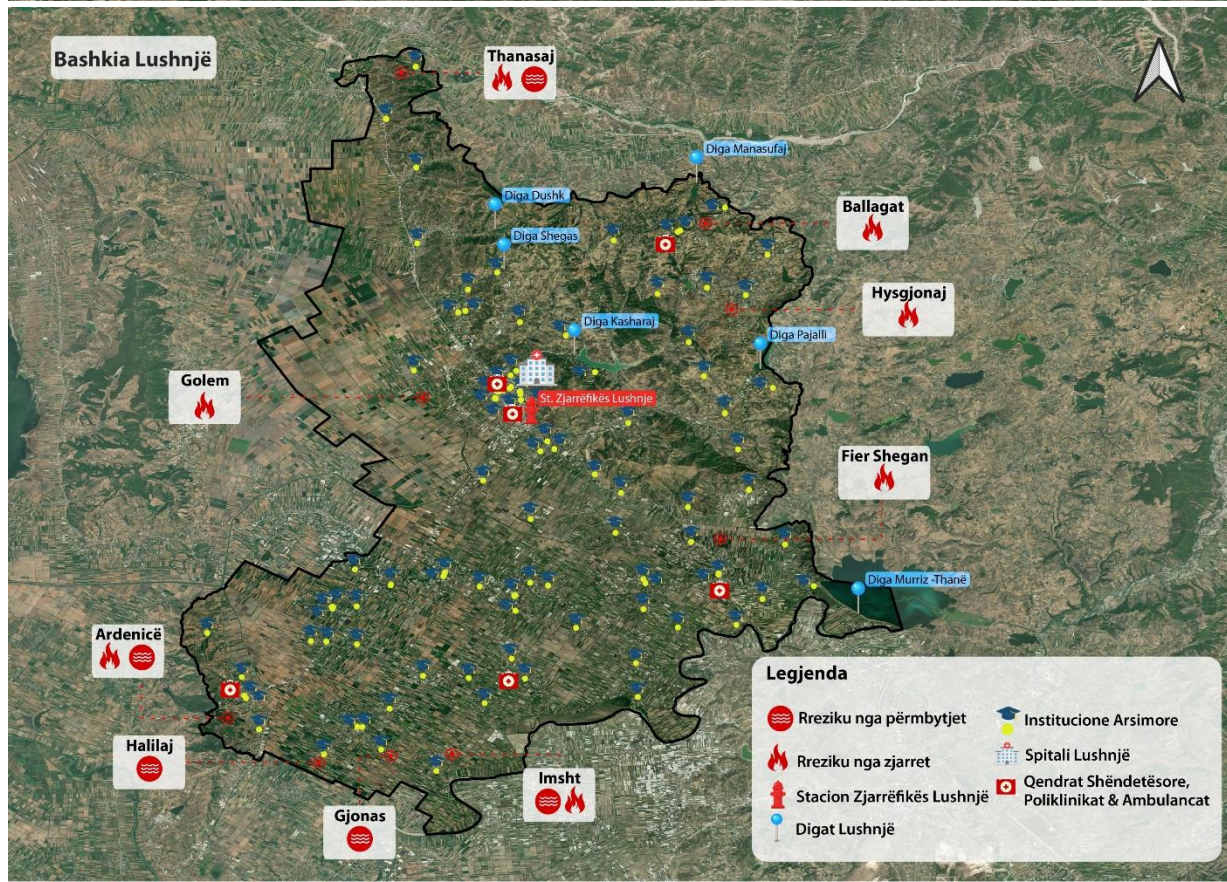
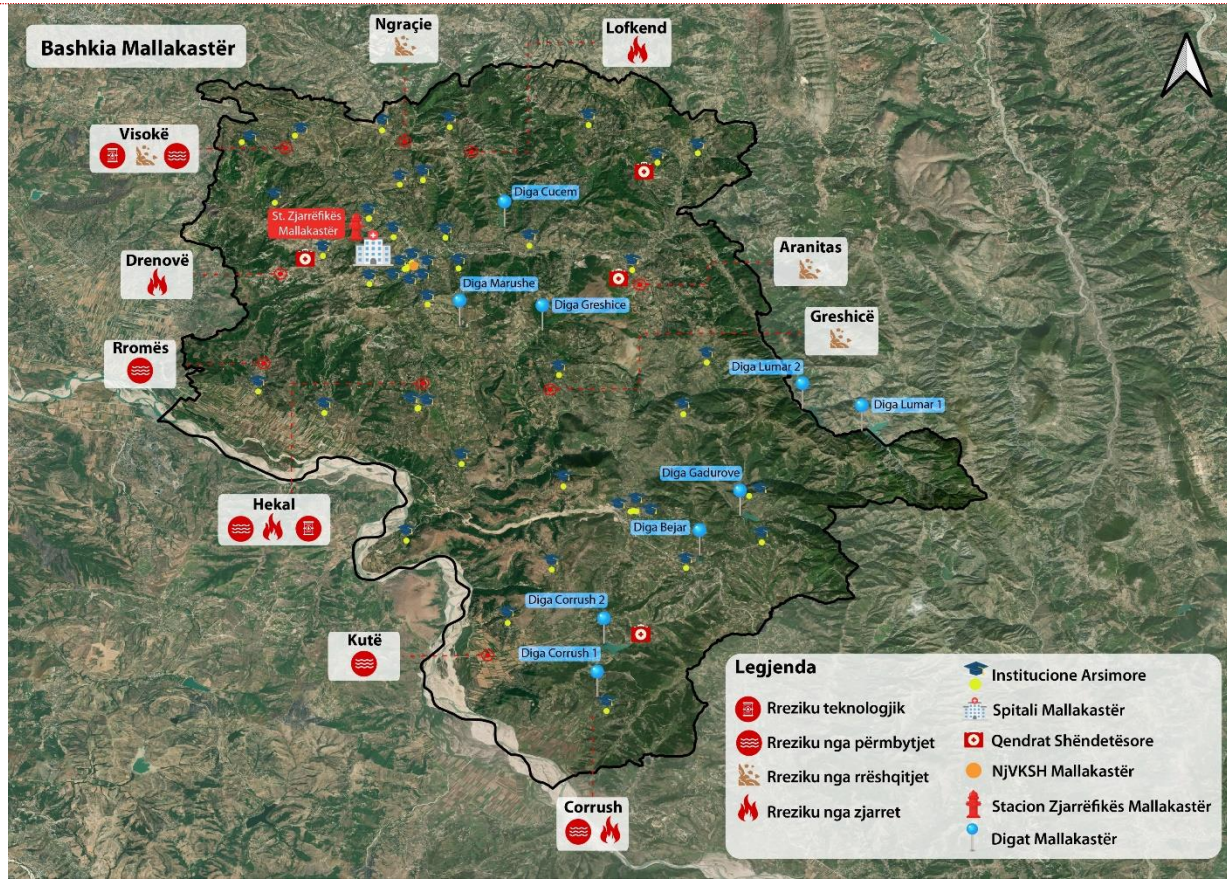


Following the comprehensive maps of risks and critical infrastructure per each of municipalities:

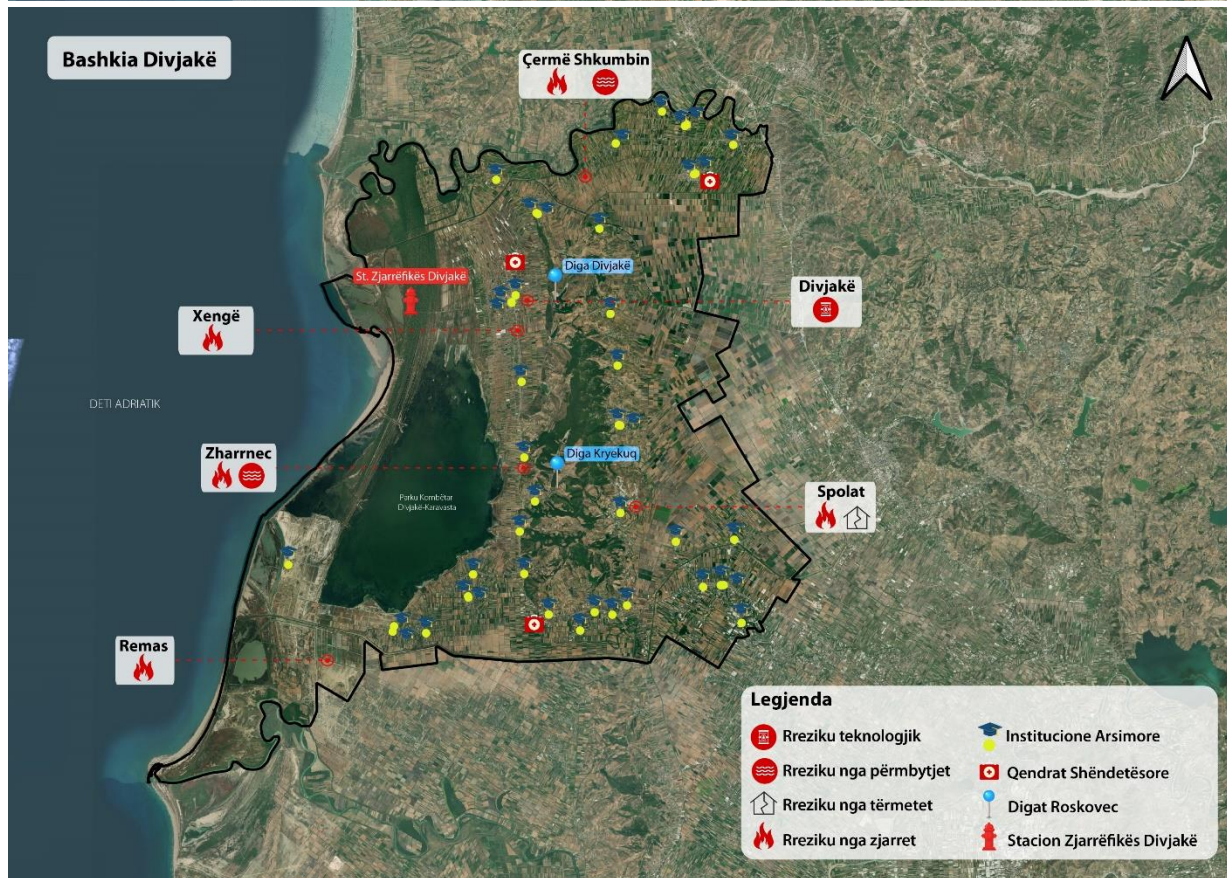
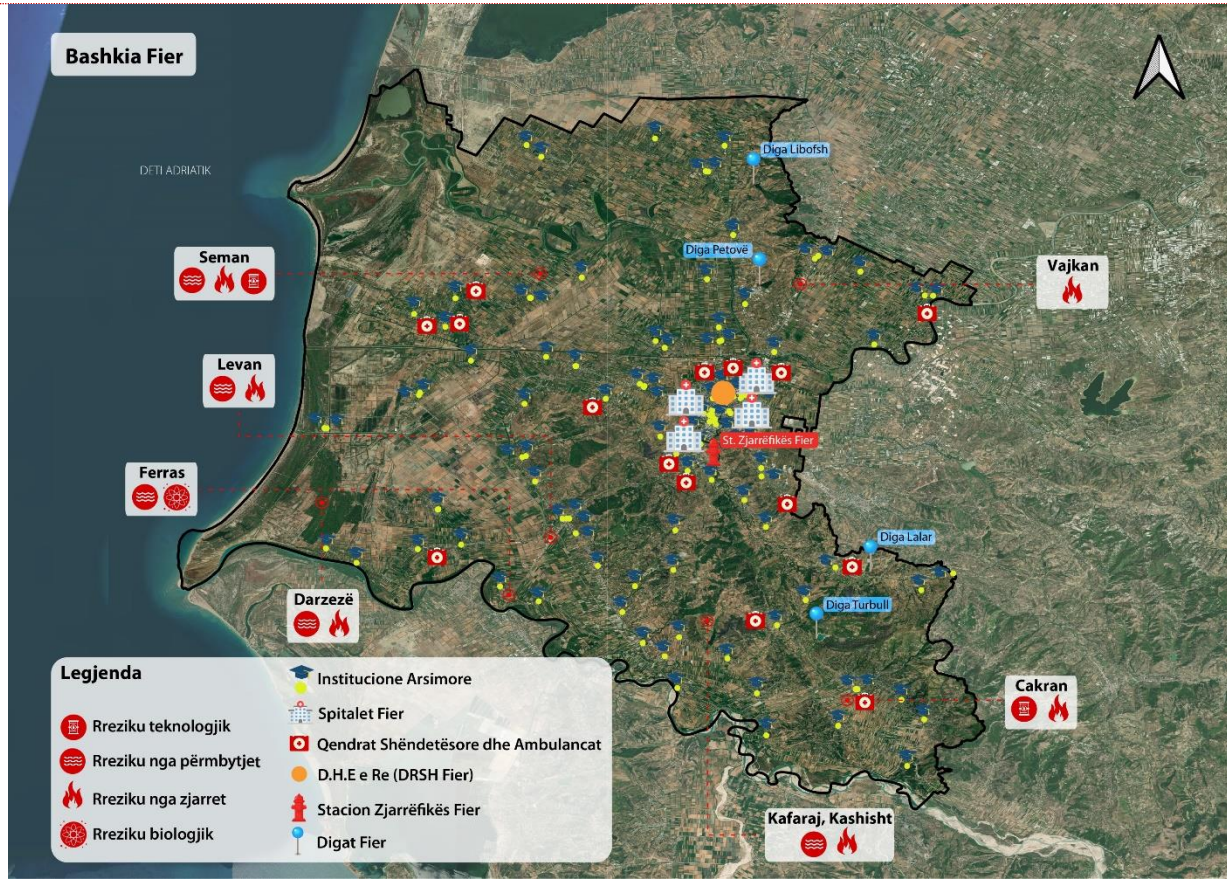
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 **Main findings and recommendations****Findings**

The findings of the risk analysis and assessment are summarized in this document for each risk and for each municipality of the region. For comparison purposes, the following are distinguished:

All risk in the Fier region have the same level of risk. Referring to the economic cost (**Error! Reference source not found.**), the risk that produces the most economic cost is the seismic risk, followed by the biological risk and the technological risk, while the risk that produces the lowest economic cost is the wildfire risk.

Referring to the multiple risk analysis (**Error! Reference source not found.**), the municipality with the highest risk is the Fier municipality, while the municipality with the lowest risk is Roskovec municipality.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the conclusions of the risk assessment be taken into account in the preparation of the risk reduction strategy and in the improvement of regulations and other normative documents in the fields related to security, following the appropriate steps that will be defined in the strategy to do so the more useful the process of their implementation. After performing the risk analysis and assessment, the issues that require special attention are listed below.

In accordance with the provisions of article 65 "Budget of municipalities" and letter b of point 2 of article 22 "Ministry and central institutions" of law 45/2019 "On civil protection" and following the findings of the risk assessment, it is instructed that fund - 4% of the municipality's budget and 2-4% of the budget of ministries or central institutions that own assets or develop activities in the territory of the municipality - to be taken into account during the drafting of the local strategy in projects and programs for risk reduction. The strategy may envisage projects with different implementation deadlines, but it is advisable to take into account the distribution of losses, territorially and according to risks, during its drafting. Because the needs are higher than the possibilities, projects that combine financial support from different donors with partial financial support from the municipality itself or central institutions are advised. The same procedure above is instructed to be used for other users of critical and public infrastructures located in the territory of the Fier region.

The institution of the Prefect of the Fier region can play an important coordinating and supervisory role both during the drafting of strategies of municipalities for risk reduction and in the implementation of strategic projects.

In this context, the Prefect of the Fier region takes multiple roles:

- 1) Coordinates common issues of the municipalities of the region by promoting projects that mitigate those risks that have similar extent and impacts (or of the same nature) in the respective territories (e.g. for the mitigation of seismic or biological risk)
- 2) Coordinates similar issues with neighboring counties by promoting joint projects that mitigate those risks that have cross-border extent and mutual impacts/consequences, keeping in mind in this context the local documents as well as national ones for risk assessment and mitigation;
- 3) Can promote and facilitate institutional coordination between region municipalities, central government, AKMC and various local and international donors;
- 4) Promotes and can monitor the drafting of documents for the assessment and reduction of risk for critical infrastructures located in the territory of Fier region and which are owned/used by central/regional or private public bodies;
- 5) Encourages, supports and monitors those projects that have as their primary focus early warning and increasing public awareness;
- 6) Monitors the implementation of risk reduction strategies in the municipalities of the region and coordinates the work with the central institutions as well as gives its own contribution to the possible solutions.

For those risks that affect territories in some municipalities or that the administrative boundaries do not affect, it is important to prioritize coordination with neighboring municipalities to develop activities, to design projects and take joint steps, such as for assessments of the existing situation as well as for possible risk reduction. For example, for similar typologies of constructions or assets that are located in the territories of different municipalities, interventions to reduce vulnerability can be treated uniformly.

Monitoring, early warning, notification and alarm systems in the territory of the municipality – essential aspects for the possible reduction of consequences from dangerous events. Today's advanced methods enable accurate

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predictions of future events (especially floods, fires and landslides) and can increase the usefulness of preventive measures. Monitoring of critical and public infrastructures as well as certain typologies with high vulnerability - Dams, TAP, linear infrastructures (road, energy, water supply), Heavy Industry, etc., which may be affected by multiple risks - should be done in coordination with AKMC and the owners of critical infrastructures and in harmony with the instructions given in the documents drawn up on a national scale.

Recognition and recording – Recognition, recording and priority treatment of areas affected by multiple risks, (e.g. informal constructions) those near the coasts that may be flooded, may be simultaneously or sequentially affected by landslides, earthquakes, those near technological works can be simultaneously or successively affected by infectious diseases, fires and earthquakes, etc., those in foothills and valleys that, in addition to being affected by landslides and/or fire, can also be affected by earthquakes and floods. The periodic recording and monitoring of these areas would, on the one hand, create a valuable database for deeper analysis and, on the other hand, help in more useful preventive measures to reduce the risk. Works and assets located in high-risk areas (separate or multiple) require increased attention. For these works, it is recommended to carry out a special risk analysis by treating them grouped and/or separately, keeping in mind the multiple risk. For example, an informal building built next to an industrial line, a slope with a slide or in an area subject to flooding should be evaluated taking into account the requirements for reducing the seismic risk.

Critical Infrastructure – The more self-renewing (resilient) critical infrastructure is, the fewer the consequences of risks and the more manageable the disaster situation. For any sector that manages critical infrastructure, it is necessary to develop a risk assessment at a finer scale. Referring to Article 43 of Law 45/2019 "on civil protection", a disaster risk assessment must be carried out for any critical infrastructure, public or private, owned or in use. For risk assessment and management of critical infrastructure works - classified into cellular units (hospitals, schools, dams, stations, etc.) and linear units (roads, water supply, sewers, power lines, etc.) - cooperation and coordination between local and central institutions, as often these works on the one hand have national sectoral dependencies and on the other hand extend to the territory of the municipality. Because of the importance of their operation in disaster situations and because of the risk they carry, critical infrastructure works require careful risk assessments to take into account the interdependent and chain consequences produced by collapse, damage on a scale of different or from their malfunction.

Also, it is important to identify and take the necessary measures to mitigate the risk in critical infrastructures that are single or primary and that perform the connecting function between residential areas or areas of primary importance of the municipality. For example, single road bridges that connect residential areas need to be assessed and the necessary measures taken to reduce the risk of their collapse due to various hazards such as earthquakes, floods or landslides.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 31 "Decentralized structures of institutions and central structures of civil protection" of Law 45/2019 "On civil protection" and following the findings of the risk assessment, it is necessary for the municipality to coordinate the activity with the decentralized structures of the central and regional institutions of civil protection in order to recognize the risk for the critical infrastructures found in the territory of the municipality and to draw up joint plans for its reduction.

Flood Risk – For each sound that causes flooding in the territory of the municipality (river, lake or sea) it is necessary to specify the possible bands/areas that can be flooded and the corresponding periods of their return. It would directly affect the reduction of the risk of the unit under consideration. These clarifications should be included in the general framework of the basin management plans and in the general local plans and will serve for the assessment of possible impacts and consequences in development projects.

Landslide risk – Includes technical and biological measures, as well as appropriate spatial planning and zoning of the municipality's territory. Technical measures affect to avoid events or to limit their scope and intensity. Technical measures must be implemented, monitored and maintained to ensure proper functioning. Biological measures are based on the forests and vegetation present along the affected slopes. Proper maintenance of these assets provides multiple protections against erosion, rockfall and landslides. Protected forests must be conserved and protected as they are often located in locations of extreme importance. Building protection is based on land use, land planning and the construction of new buildings outside landslide risk areas. Specially designed buildings in exposed areas help reduce potential damage. Design, construction and materials should be adapted to local conditions and exposure potential.

Seismic risk – Referring to the seismic risk study of IGJEO on which the drafting of this document was based, the risk in the territory of the municipality is 2-3 times higher than the risk predicted in the previous map of 1979. The exposure in the territory of the municipality also appears diverse due to the dynamics of economic

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development. As a result, the seismic risk in the territory of the municipality appears relatively high. Increased attention is required in: territory planning and in the granting of construction permits (the appendix provided in the seismic risk document can also help); management and supervision of construction activity; the detailed verification of the existing state of the building stock, in particular the critical infrastructure and buildings with a high degree of vulnerability, in order to take remedial measures to reduce the seismic risk.

Wildfire Risk – Mitigating the risk from mass fires should start with the preparation of the mandatory plan of measures for the prevention and management of fires in the forest/pasture fund. Effectively reducing the risk of mass fires in protected areas and other forest/grassland areas can include measures such as opening new roads to increase road accessibility, opening new corridors against mass fires, such as and thinning of vegetation and creation of spaces. Measures to mitigate and prevent mass fires may also include tightening the legal framework and adopting higher penalties for deliberate arson. These may be associated with increased numbers of wildfire assessors during more dangerous seasons.

Technological Risk – With reference to the oil and gas sector, it is necessary to continue studies and assessments on the technical-technological conditions of installations and pipelines for the search, extraction, storage, refining and transportation of oil, gas and their by-products, with in order to assess the impact they present to the economy, people's lives, property and the environment. Owners of assets that produce technological risk in most cases are private entities that operate based on national licenses. Strengthening the licensing system (legislation, standards used) and the compliance system (inspectors) obliges private entities to submit relevant risk assessments. Some of the technological risks can be significantly reduced through policies that separate risky technological installations from risk bearers, such as people living in the surrounding areas, tourism and vulnerable environmental assets, e.g., through land use planning and other legal measures. In order for actions to be based on the assessment of technological risks and related risks, it is necessary to also plan the financial resources needed to enable an integrated civil defense (not just financial resources for emergencies). Acknowledging the fact that these financial resources can be considered relatively limited at the governmental, central and local level, it may be necessary to involve the Insurance Agencies in this process, which will have to address the issues and find solutions based on the documents main, such as risk and vulnerability assessment, disaster risk reduction strategies and action plans (emergency plans).

Instructions for the future improvement of risk documents on a local or national level

It is recommended to generally follow the methodology given for risk assessment in the document JRC Science for Policy Report, "Recommendations for National Risk Assessment for Disaster Risk Management in EU," 2021" and the references given in this document as for the multiple risk as well as for specific risks. Likewise, it is advisable to take into account updated versions of this document or other similar documents for risk assessment that do not create contradictions with these documents. In all cases, the methodology and criteria used for risk assessment is instructed to be in line with the SENDAI framework;

Based on this methodology, the risk assessment process is divided into five stages:

- a) Risk assessment context;
- b) Risk identification;
- c) Risk analysis;
- d) Risk assessment;
- e) Risk treatment.

In the first stage of this process, the criteria for the impact of the risk are determined in four main categories:

1. Human impact; 2. Economic impact; 3. Environmental impact; 4. Political-social impact.

For each of the four categories, it is required to determine the level of impact and the corresponding criteria. It is recommended that the levels of impact and the corresponding criteria be determined by unifying decisions by the relevant governing institutions, but in the absence of their determination, for most of the risks, the impact criteria given in the "Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience, Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection: "National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines", Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience, 2020", while for specific risks (depending on the relevant similarities) documents from other countries can be used, one of which is Turkish state document "Technical assistance to the disaster and emergency management presidency (AFAD) in strengthening the institutional capacity and improving the disaster and emergency management system";

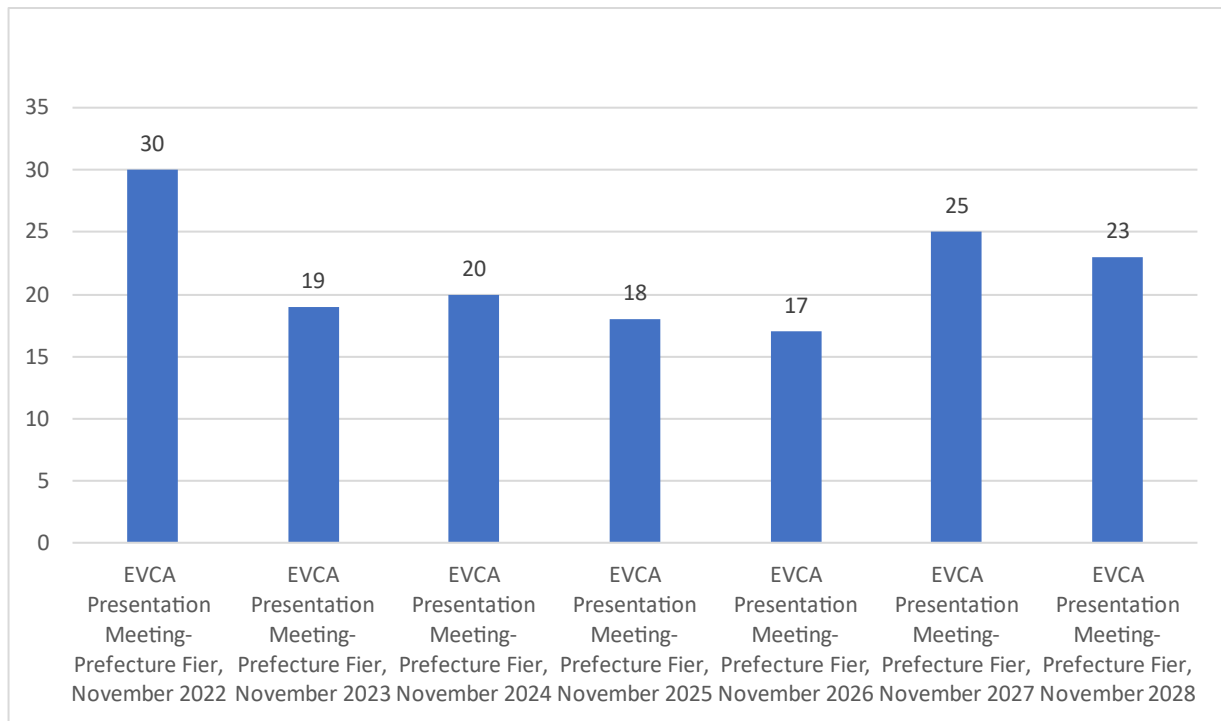
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For a closer assessment of each risk and then the assessment of the corresponding economic losses, it is necessary to define the unified criteria, measurement units for the elements of exposure and the respective prices/values per unit. For the definition of the criteria and for the measurement units, the above-mentioned documents can also serve as a reference, while for the prices/values, it is necessary to determine them at the national level and take into account possible fluctuations that can be obtained from special regional or local factors;

When cellular data exists for the components of risk (risk, exposure and vulnerability), it is advisable to use platforms that perform integrated risk assessment, which in a dynamic and self-processing form can provide results for specific areas of the territory of the administrative unit/municipality or the region.

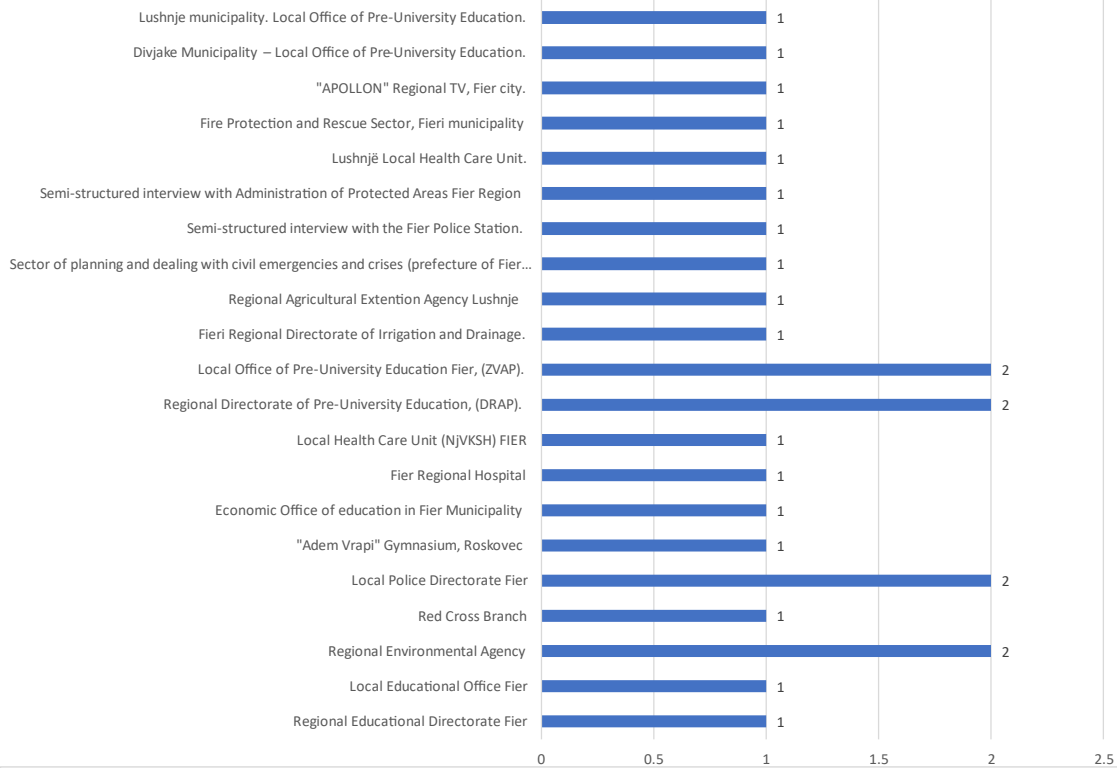
Below charts show the engagement of key actors, stakeholders and local communities on the preparation of both documents EVCA and LDRA per 6 municipalities. More specifically:

- Institutions and participants met during the EVCA semi-structured interviews
- Meetings with stakeholders in all 6 municipalities

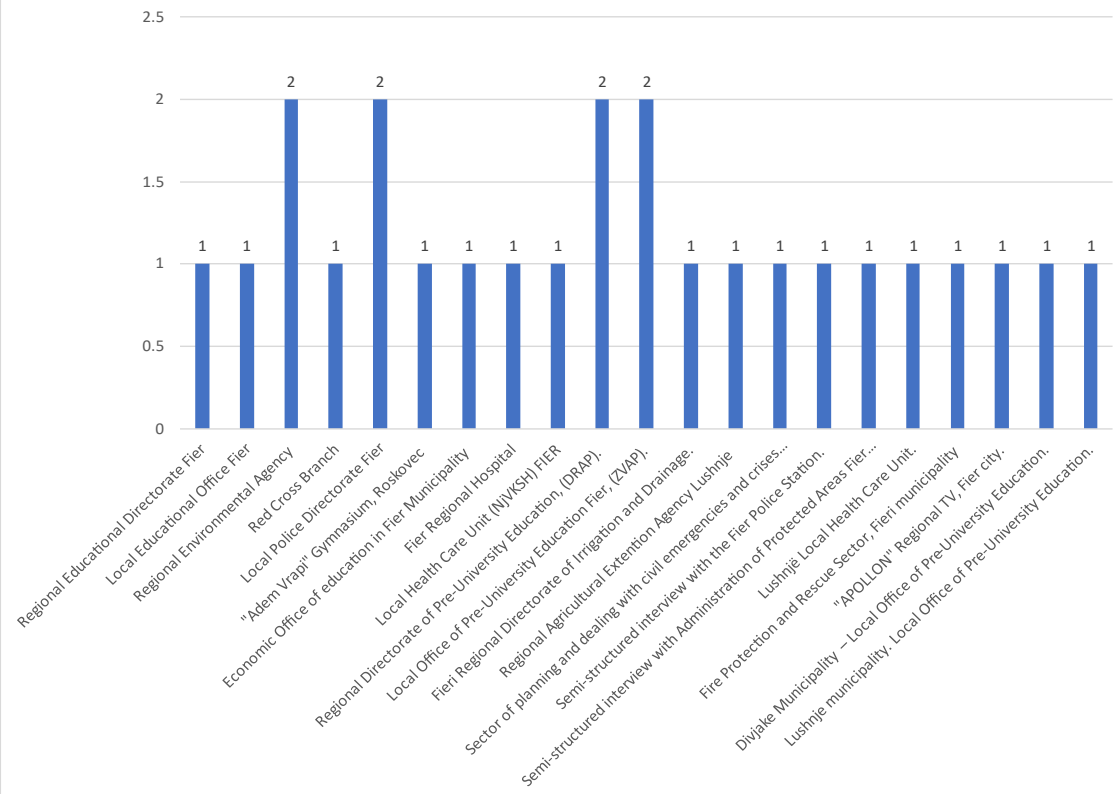


Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

Institutions and participant met during the EVCA semi-structured interviews

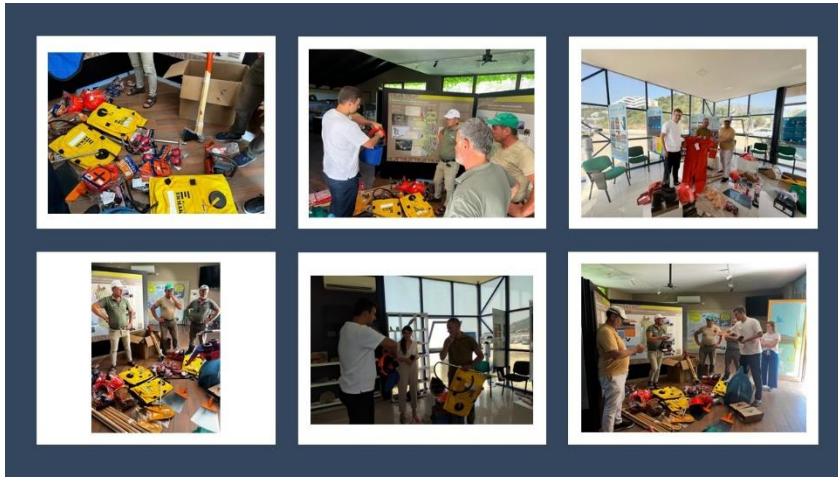


Institutions and participant met during the EVCA semi-structured interviews



Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

3. Fire PPE and related equipment for Regional Protected Areas in Fier and Vlora



Fire equipment and PPE for Region Administration of Protected Areas in Fieri and Vlora staff provided, considering the inputs and feedback from both prefecture civil protection offices and the request from National Agency on Protected Areas (RAPA) considering protected areas in these 2 regions highly exposed to wildfires, the importance of natural biodiversity sites and operability of RAPA as one

of the operation structures most engaged during wildfires. The PPE and other provided equipment have been useful for both RAPAs to tackle wildfire situations nearby protected areas, especially for RAPA Fier during the huge wildfires in Pishe Poro protected area at the end of September 2023.

4. Awareness raising information sessions in Fier Prefecture Municipalities

Equipping young generations with the necessary information of disaster and their impact

Number of Schools Participated: Six high schools.

Number of Students: Approximately 200 young students

Number of Experts Involved: More than 20 experts representing various institutions.

Methodology: PPT presentations, distribution of informative materials, quizzes and students engaged in meaningful conversations about the risks associated with disasters and their role in facing the challenges present in their respective regions. These initiatives as part of the local risk assessment process, in the Fier Prefecture, conducted by the National Civil Protection Agency (AKMC) with support from the UNDP RESEAL project. The primary aim was to inform, raise awareness, and educate young individuals about the risks, including fires, floods, and technological hazards, and the need for concrete actions in disaster prevention and management.

By empowering the youth with knowledge and awareness, these training sessions have taken a crucial step in fostering a proactive and resilient community, where young people are equipped to contribute actively to disaster prevention and response efforts in their respective regions. This activity was promoted in social media.

The following high schools actively participated in the training sessions:

- "Mustafa Hoxha" High School in Cakran, Fier;
- High School "10 Korriku" in Dushk, Lushnjë;
- "Miti ZOI Zaka" High School in Divjakë;
- "Hajredin Fratari" High School in Fratar, Mallakastër;
- "Adem Vrapi" High School in Roskovec;
- "Sotri Capo" High School in Zharrëz, Patos

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

The training sessions received official prior approval and support from the Ministry of Education and Sports and Regional Directorate of Education in Fier Prefecture.



5.9 Output 2.4: Local DRR Strategies & Local Civil Emergency Plans (LCEP) supported

- Local DRR Strategies and Action Plan for 6 municipalities part of Fieri region, namely Fieri, Lushnja, Divjaka, Patos, Roskovec, Mallakaster

Status	<i>Ongoing</i>
Duration of the contract	<i>November 2023-May 2024</i>
Implementing partner	MetroPOLIS and Co-PLAN JV consultancy <i>NCPA, Fieri Prefecture and Municipalities of Fieri, Lushnja, Divjaka, Patos, Mallakaster, Roskovec municipalities</i>
Progress accomplished	
<p>The following meetings were organized during the inception phase:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Kick off Meeting between UNDP-RESEAL and MetroPOLIS & Co-PLAN team 10.11.2023. 2- Kick off Meeting between UNDP-RESEAL, National Civil Protection Agency MetroPOLIS & Co-PLAN team; 13.11.2023, 3- Kick off Meeting with Municipalities at the Prefecture of Fier (Presence of UNDP Representatives, Swedish Embassy Representative, National Civil Protection Agency, Prefect of Fier, Mayors of the 6 Municipalities, MetroPOLIS & Co-PLAN team); 18.12.2023 4- Meeting with working group at the municipality of Fier. 19.12.2023 5- Meeting with working group at the municipality of Patos. 19.12.2023 6- Meeting with working group at the municipality of Lushnje. 20.12.2023 7- Meeting with working group at the municipality of Divjake. 20.12.2023 8- Meeting with the working group at the municipality of Mallakaster. 21.12.2023 9- Meeting with the working group at the municipality of Roskovec. 21.12.2023 <p>These meetings supported the preparation of the inception report and tailoring of work plan.</p> <p>The inception report has been prepared on 24.12.2023 describing all the activities carried out in the initial phase of the contract implementation. The main points of the Inception Report are:</p> <p>Based on the interviews it was understood that in all municipalities it was necessary to revise the “Orders of the Mayors” for the formation and functioning of the local civil protection commissions. This came because of two main factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the commissions had left their position in the municipality or other institutions; therefore, they had/have to be substituted. • The working groups did not integrate all the necessary sectors required for the Preparation of the strategy. <p>Thus, the template for the revised composition of the Civil Protection Committee was prepared for the six municipalities. This revision intends to have a more comprehensive composition of the CPC to ensure a suitable body for the local strategy development. The Planning and Civil Protection Sector is not in place in all the six municipalities. These structures vary from directorate (Fier) to experts in charge also for civil protection issues (secondary responsibility).</p> <p>As part of the inception report, a preliminary analysis of municipal resources, especially of the civil protection sector / department was made. The working groups in the six municipalities were asked about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the civil protection sector has offices, have a dedicated vehicle; have any type of innovative, high tech resources, such as for example Drones or Sensors. • Databases on Disaster Loss and DRR. • Early Warning Systems, Community Engagement and Volunteers. • Financial Situation of Municipalities. <p>Strategy Content and Process</p> <p>The DRR Strategy should be seen as an overarching strategy with all other sectors of municipal competence. Therefore, it is important that during the initial phase, all municipal strategies or plans to be reviewed, including but not limited to: General Local Territorial Plans, Housing Programs, Social Protection Plans, Environmental Strategy, Local Economic Development Plan, Roma and Egyptian Communities Integration Plan, etc. Once the documents are analyzed and reviewed, the results will be presented to the municipality. To support the review process, interviews will also be conducted with key municipal staff, as well as stakeholders (institutional and</p>	

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

non-institutional), to better understand the different priorities. Besides local documents, National Strategies focusing on DRR, Climate Change, Social Protection will also be consulted in a thorough stock-taking process.

Following that, one of the first elements of the DRR Strategy is the process for developing the Vision and the Strategic Objectives of the Municipality. These will be conducted through:

- Participatory vision and objective setting with the municipal working group
- Participatory vision and objective setting with the MCPC and municipal staff
- Participatory vision and objective setting with the community

As part of the process of the vision making, to make things more concrete, a list of high-level possible projects will be developed. Additionally, the participatory visioning will be preceded by a SWOT and Problem Tree analysis. Through the SWOT exercise we will co-design the traditional ‘strengths-weakness-opportunities-threats’ table, and subsequently draw a SWOT matrix, coupling all components together and drawing conclusions respectively.

The problem tree analysis will be designed separately for each of the hazards, by articulating:

- The core problem: i.e., what is the main exposure problem for the specific hazard
- The roots of the problem: i.e., which are the causes and how they are connected to each other
- The effects, i.e., what is the impact (and how extended it is)

The articulation of the strategic objectives will be done in ‘SMART’ mode, i.e., objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound. Once the objectives are set, measures will be detailed to achieve the set objectives. It is important to note that the measures will be organized in a similar manner to the National DRR Strategy, therefore orienting measures according to the 6 main risks in the territory. Besides this, measures should be organized for each risk according to the disaster risk reduction cycle, hence focusing on:

- Prevention
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery

Based on municipal capacity assessment, it is evident that municipal structures need to build capacities in all four aspects of the cycle. Additionally, measures can be soft (ie. Policy; institutional; regulatory; awareness; information; capacity) or hard (directly focusing on infrastructure investments). The prioritization of the measures again will be conducted through a participatory process with focus groups, MCPC and municipal staff. Once the measures are composed and prioritized, they will be integrated into an action plan. The action plan will define periods of implementation, implementing/responsible institutions, actors that need to be involved, risks of implementation as well as potential sources of financing. The Strategy will also be complemented with a monitoring and reporting chapter. In this sense, a series of indicators will be developed that aim to support the municipality in monitoring the DRR situation on a yearly basis as well as monitoring the implementation of the strategy. The monitoring indicators will also serve for the purposes of reporting to other institutions such as the prefecture and the National Civil Protection Agency. These indicators will be based on the SENDAI framework monitoring targets and will facilitate the design of the Civil Emergency Plans in the later stage.

As per ToR requirement, special attention will be paid to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Nature Based Solutions and Gender and Vulnerability issues.

Work Plan: The work-plan has been tailored to fit with the municipal characteristics as well as their needs, based on the preliminary analysis from meetings with municipalities and literature review. The work-plan is linked to meet the demands of the project and deliverables in due time.

Deliverable	Activity	January				February				March				April				May			
		W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1			
2.1	Draft Strategy	Preparation of the Draft Strategy																			
		2.1.1 Training of Municipal Working Groups																			
		2.1.2 Mayors Meeting at the Prefecture level																			
		2.1.3 Preparation of Vision, Strategic Objectives																			
		2.1.4 Consultations at Administrative Unit Level																			
		2.1.5 Community Consultation of Draft Strategy																			
3.1	Final Strategy	3.1.1 Training of Municipal Staff																			
		3.1.2 Mayors Meeting at the Prefecture Level																			
		3.1.3 Focus Groups																			
		3.1.4 Community Consultation																			
		3.1.5 Preparation of the Final Strategy																			
		3.1.6 Presentation at the Local Council																			
Training 61 Municipalities																					

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

Community Engagement

Meetings at the Administrative Unit Level. These meetings will be organized with small groups of citizens to discuss Vision, Strategic Objectives and possible (bottom-up) projects from the community. Additionally, it will serve as a basis to consult and validate projects ideated from the working group. Meetings in all administrative units will be organized during the first weeks of February.

Presentation of the Draft Strategy to the Community will occur in two main moments, once the draft strategy is ready, and once the final document is ready. Thus, the first meeting will occur during the period 15-23 March 2024. Meanwhile, the second community consultation meeting will occur during the period 20-30 April 2024.

The other form of community engagement will be with focus groups. These will be organized together with the municipal working groups focusing on different hazards:

- Focus Group 1: Biological, Technological and Forest Fires
- Focus Group 2: Flooding, Earthquakes, Landslides

The focus group will be composed of local experts, community members, representatives of organizations operating in the area, representatives of academic institutions, representatives from the business community. The aim of the focus groups will be to discuss on specific projects and solutions related to the above-mentioned grouping of risks. Focus groups will occur during the period 01-14 April 2024.

Working Group and Municipal Civil Protection Commission Capacity Building

Based on the evaluation of needs of municipalities, the following training programs are foreseen as necessary:

1. Preparation of DRR Strategies (Municipal Working Group and Municipal Civil Protection Commission) – End of January
2. Financing DRR (Municipal Working Group) – End of February
3. Project Proposal Writing (Municipal Working Group) – End of March

Meanwhile, two trainings will be organized at the National Level, with 61 Municipalities, focusing on Preparation of DRR Strategies at the local level. These trainings will be organized jointly with the NCPA and UNDP – Reseal.



- Local Civil Emergency Plans (LCEP) for 6 municipalities part of Fieri region, namely Fieri, Lushnja, Divjaka, Patos, Roskovec, Mallakaster and Prefecture of Fieri

Status	<i>Ongoing</i>
Duration of the contract	<i>n/a</i>
Implementing partner	<i>NCPA, Fieri Prefecture and Muniaplities of Fieri, Lushnja, Divjaka, Patos, Mallakaster, Roskovec municipalities</i>

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

Milestones

Deliverables

Progress accomplished

The initial phase for the preparation of LCEP for 6 municipalities and prefecture of Fieri has recently started. The work on preparation of Local Civil Emergency Plans will be based on the approved NCEP and following the same approach of the national process, lessons learned, and recommendations provided on the national document for the prefecture and municipal level. Municipal and prefectural working groups will be established by the Mayors` Orders and work together closely on preparation of LCEP. The process includes tabletop exercise (TTX) and stimulation after the approval of the LCEP followed by dissemination and awareness activities with local operational structures, communities at administrative units and civil society.

ToR “Developing the Civil Emergency Plans of Fieri qark (region) and its six municipalities have been completed. The respective call has been published and selection process ongoing. The main objectives of the consultancy are:

- Assist the Fier Prefecture and the six municipalities of Fier, Lushnja, Roskoveci, Divjaka, Patos and Mallakastra in the process of developing the Regional and the six Municipal Civil Emergency Plan documents in close cooperation with the Inter-Institutional Working Group established in the Prefecture, the Inter-Institutional Working Group in the municipality, the NCPA and UNDP RESEAL Program.
- To foster participation and inclusive mechanisms for the development and validation of the Regional CEP and the six Municipal CEP-s.
- To strengthen the overall emergency management system in the Fieri region by supporting the process of development of the CE plan in the region and in its 6 municipalities.

The main outputs of the assignment as per below:

- The Civil Emergency Plan in the six municipalities of Fier region.
- The Civil Emergency Plan in the Fier region.
- A 2-day composed activity validating the new Regional and Municipal CEP through a Tabletop Exercise and a back-to-back seminar and finalized by the post exercise “hot debriefing”.
- A post-exercise report by bringing together the information from the debriefings, the directing staff, and observers.



Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

5.10 Output 3.1: Cooperation with EUCPM and regional networking strengthened and sustained²³

Contributing to Component 3: Sustain Albanian’s Regional & International Cooperation

Sub-activities (as per project document)

- Conduct gap analysis for membership to EU Civil Protection Mechanism of Albania;
- Identify technical & institutional requirements for accessing the TESTA;
- Capacity Building to enhance awareness on the Union civil protection mechanism;
- Support the roadmap preparation for the establishment of TESTA system;
- Development of training materials and education programmes in line with EU guidelines;

Status	Completed
Duration of the contract	December 2022- September 2023
Implementing partner	International Consultant

Progress accomplished

As a full member of EUCPM from January 1st, 2023²⁴, NCPA supported and 1 workshop on EUCPM introduction and a compliance analysis, including gaps, conducted for membership to Union Civil Protection Mechanism of Albania, capacity building to enhance awareness of UCPM, and deliver training on UCPM legislation, implementing rules and overall procedures. Final Report with finding and recommendations delivered to and endorsed by NCPA.

All the contract objectives were completed as follows:

Inception report

	24-30	1-7	8-14	15-21	22-28	29-4	5-11	12-18	19-25	26-2	3-9	10-16	17-23	24-30	31-6	7-13	14-20	21-27	28-3	4-10	11-17	18-24	25-1	
0 Initial mission			Mis																					
1 UCPM compliance analysis																								
Desk analysis of existing legislation and docum.																								
Definition of stakeholder																								
Inception report																								
Conduct Semi - structured interviews																								
Direct observations																								
Additional indicators in the compliance model																								
Development of benchmarks for the indicators																								
Final report on UCPM compliance analysis																								
2 Awareness toolkit																								
Define objectives and content																								
Develop toolkit																								
3 Training																								
Define objectives and content																								
Develop training materials for policymaker																								
Develop training materials for experts involved in operations																								
Deliver training course																								
4 TESTA																								
Technical & institutional requirements for accessing the TESTA																								
5 Legislative and organisational amendments																								
NCPA staff requirements for fulfilling the obligations of a UCPM																								
Amendment to the structure and organization of NCPA																								
Amendment to the law 45/99 On Civil Protection																								
7 Final Workshop																								
Planning the event																								
Preparing presentation of assignment results																								
Conducting the workshop																								Mis

Self-Compliance tools for compliance to UCPM

Under the European Neighborhood Policy - Civil Protection Project (ENP-CP, 2020-2022) a model for self-assessing UCPM compliance and bringing ENP-CP partner countries (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia) closer to the UCPM was developed. It consists of 84 indicators, structured along 15 elements in the areas of disaster prevention, preparedness, and response. To allow the model to be used by Albania, a UCPM Participating State, the whole set of indicators was reformulated.

The same 3 categories adopted by ENP-CP model were retained: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response. The total number of elements was increased from 15 to 20 (6 in Prevention, 7 in Preparedness, and 7 in Response). The total number of indicators increased from 84 to 217 (64 in Prevention, 67 in Preparedness, and 86 in Response). The new

²³ Please refer to Annex 11_Output 3.1 for deliverables and activities

²⁴ DCM no. 714 date 11.11.2022 on Approval In principle of the EUCPM agreement by Albanian government

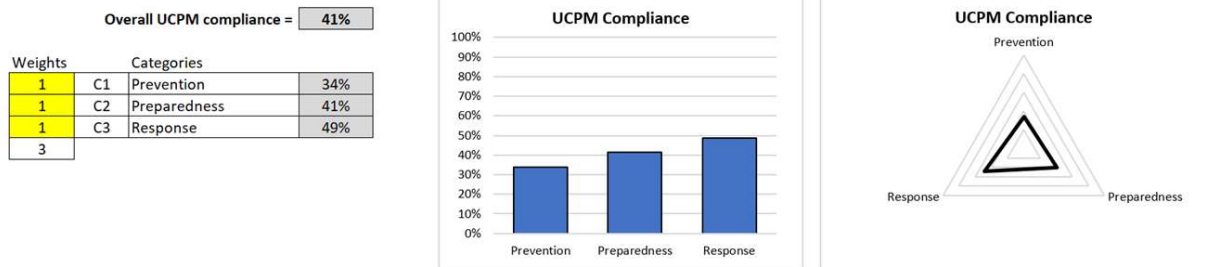
Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

indicators are strictly linked to the implementation of UCPM activities, providing a tool to measure the actual degree of Albania participation to the UCPM. Among the new indicators, is the implementation of TESTA in Albania, ensuring thus the connection with CECIS.

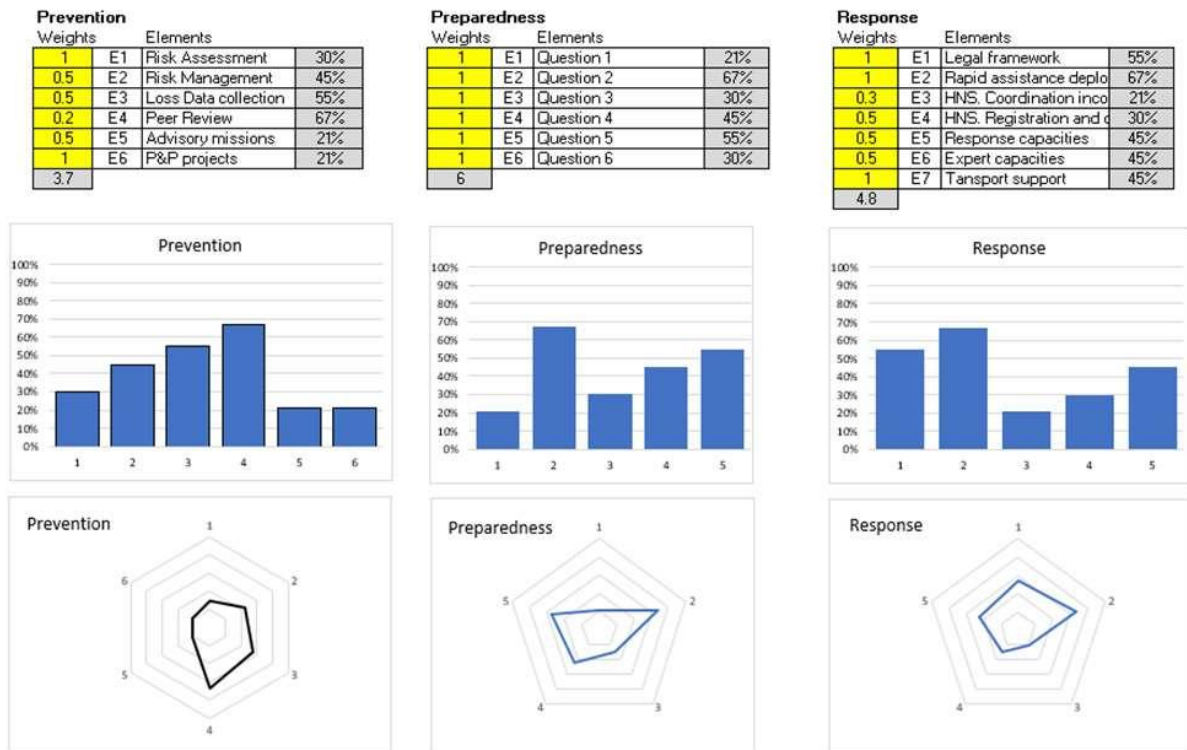
The level of compliance of each indicator is defined as the assessed level of development of the indicator over the level of maximum development of the indicator. The evaluation scale can be defined by the user among three different pre-defined evaluation scales. Weights can be introduced by the user to give more or less importance to each indicator, element, and category.

To support self-assessment, a digital tool was developed. The tool is composed of 4 XLS files: three for the separate assessment of Prevention, Preparedness, and Response and one for the output. The latter one contains overall compliance and a breakdown of compliance for category, in numerical and graphical form.

RESEAL Project: A self-assessment Model for UCPM Compliance based on Indicators



Example of overall UCPM compliance and compliance for the 3 categories



Regarding the formulation of concrete and measurable benchmarks for some of the indicators, Albania very recently joined the mechanism. There is not, therefore, a “history” of UCPM activities on which the benchmarks’ calibration can be based. In agreement with NCPA, it was then decided to concentrate on the establishment of the new indicators, postponing the benchmarks’ calibration after some concrete UCPM experience takes place. It is recommended for NCPA to conduct both the UCPM self-assessment and the

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

monitoring of activities' implementation on a regular basis and to have a focal point in charge of organizing it and making sure that the results are integrated into relevant national structures and processes.

Based on the recently developed ENP-CP set of categories, elements, criteria, and sub-criteria, conduct a UCPM compliance desk analysis of the situation, on the degree of their fulfillment.

In the report, findings and recommendations related to each of the 15 meetings conducted are provided. The 13 recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation 1: It is suggested to implement minor adjustments to the Civil Protection law at the next law revision to take into account the Albania membership to UCPM. Specifically, it could be added: i) the mechanism for deployment of the ECPP, ii) the role of NCPA as coordinating body of the Albania participation to the UCPM, iii) the role of NCPA as reporting body to UCPM on risk assessment and risk management capability. It is also suggested to consider the possibility of declaring the state of natural disaster in case of international emergency.

Recommendation 2: There are no specific comments on the National Strategy and the Action Plan. The only recommendation is to carefully plan and prioritize projects' implementation because NCPA and the whole CP system, could be overwhelmed by the number of activities, also considering the need to monitor the effective UCPM compliance of the projects' outputs and the need to liaise all the projects' results with UCPM.

Recommendation 3: Awareness initiatives on UCPM activities and processes and UCPM objectives, requirements, and opportunities should be implemented within the Agency. UCPM legislation should be shared within the Agency.

Recommendation 4: Awareness initiatives on UCPM activities and processes and UCPM objectives, requirements, and opportunities should be implemented for the Albania CP system.

Recommendation 5: The exchange of information about UCPM activities between the Directorates of the Agency must be strengthened. As an example, UCPM Training program is managed by the Directorate of Training and Information Technology. At the same time UCPM National Training Coordinator is the Director of International Cooperation and Projects (The website of EU Expert Exchange program shows Mr. Dorian Aliko as well). Having the National Training Coordinator in a different Directorate creates unnecessary additional complexity in internal coordination. As a matter of fact, the Directorate of Training was not informed about the Albania quota in training for 2023 and couldn't plan the participation to UCPM training. Transferring the National Training Coordinator to the Education, Training and Information. Technology Directorate under the condition that everything will be under the supervision and coordination of the Director of International Cooperation and Projects, seems a logical solution. Similarly, the UCPM legislation relevant to the different Directorates should be disseminated to the Directorates.

Recommendation 6: NCPA should draft, jointly with the operational forces, a roadmap for UCPM module establishment, registration, and certification. The roadmap should include strengthening of operational capacities, access to resources for module strengthening, and prioritization of the teams to be registered. It is suggested to prioritize the establishment of the modules based on the existing capacities. It is also suggested to register the most developed existing capacities in CECIS, under additional capacities, and to start the procedure for module certification as soon as the modules have sufficient experience. The process of certification must go through NCPA. Specific UCPM funds are also available to adapt existing resources when they are made available for the voluntary pool (ECPM). It is reputed that, now, the only capacities that could be certified are the ones of the AAF and maybe EMS.

Recommendation 7: In view of Albania membership to UCPM, to facilitate the implementation of the processes, it is suggested to take into consideration the possibility of unifying the procedures, at least after the appeal for international assistance.

Recommendation 8: Because participation to UCPM requires ensuring rapid response capability in international emergencies, a clear financial mechanism should be defined in advance, establishing the institution covering the costs of the international deployment. Costs could be covered by NCPA with a specific fund or by each involved institution. In the latter case, the institutions must have a specific budget for international deployments.

Recommendation 9: To ensure rapid response capability in international emergencies, administrative and financial capabilities must be strengthened, allowing specific faster procedures and/or predefining formats and simplifications for DCM, establishing arrangements in advance.

Recommendation 10: Information on UCPM training courses, exercises and Expert Exchange program should be better shared internally and externally to NCPA. There is also the need to understand the quotas for Albania participation in

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

UCPM training courses. A plan for Albania participation to such activities should be drafted, including procedures and participation prioritization. On this, specific recommendations were provided in previous deliverables.

Recommendation 11: Because an efficient, 24/7, operational center is a requirement for UCPM membership, if the contact point for ERCC is maintained at NOCCE, it is suggested to strengthen the English-speaking skills of NOCCE staff. In addition, NCPA needs to prepare and send to AKSHI the documentation for the authorization to set the IT tools to be used at NOCCE. Once the IT tool is activated, NCPA staff need to be trained again. There must be ownership and maintenance of the IT equipment at NOCCE. It seems that, now, there are no adequate skills at NCPA for the maintenance of IT equipment. If maintenance cannot be implemented internally, it must be outsourced. Recommendations on TESTA are summarized in a separate chapter of this report.

Recommendation 12: It is suggested to establish arrangements with IGEO to support the maintenance of the monitoring and EW systems as part of the domestic and UCPM obligation to have in place efficient monitoring and EW systems.

Recommendation 13: Communication issues between EMS and NCPA should be solved. To facilitate communications with EMS and the Health sector, NCPA should have at least one health risk expert in its staff. Deployment arrangements and funding mechanisms for rapid deployment should be agreed between EMS and NCPA. Solutions for licensing the Civil Emergency Volunteer Center must be found.



Report on TESTA/CECIS implementation in Albania the main conclusions of which are:

- Now that Albania is part of the UCPM, TESTA implementation is becoming an urgent matter as it is a prerequisite to access CECIS, the system used to share information among all the PSs' contact points and the ERCC. Email communications between ERCC and Albania contact point are always possible, but this will be highly inefficient and will prevent Albania from being a fully-fledged member of the UCPM.
- According to (DCM) No. 673, dated 22.11.2017 "On the reorganization of the National Information Society Agency, amended by Decision no. 36, date 24.1.2018, by Decision no. 448, dated 26.7.2018, by Decision no. 872, dated 24.12.2019 AKSHI is in charge for the hosting of the TESTA infrastructure/gateway in a designated Data Room / Data Centre. AKSHI will be signing the TESTA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DG-DIGIT needed to have access to TESTA.

While the main recommendations are:

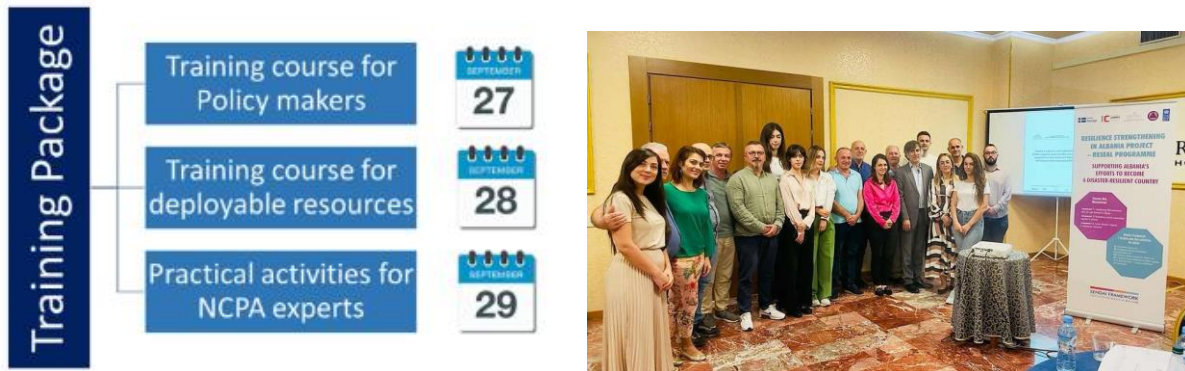
- Contact the National Agency of the Information Society (AKSHI) to:
 - Remind that pursuant to the DCM N. 91, dated 9.2.2022 "On the approval of the national plan for European integration 2022-2024" NCPA is supporting institution for TESTA/CECIS implementation under Chapter 27 "Environment and climate change".
 - evaluate, together with AKSHI, the possible modalities of NCPA support for TESTA/CECIS implementation, based on duties assigned to NCPA by DCM91/22.
 - assess, jointly with AKSHI, the TESTA implementation and running costs.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- offer the possibility to financially contribute to TESTA implementation, if appropriate.
- Assess the physical and not physical infrastructure in place to connect the actual NCPA premises (or the National Operational Centre for Civil Emergency) with the TESTA Entry Point in Albania. Evaluate additional needs in case the actual capacity is not adequate.
- Consider in the design of the new NCPA facility a new physical and not physical infrastructure to connect NCPA with the TESTA Entry Point in Albania.

Training package on UCPM

The training package on UCPM legislation, implementing rules, and overall procedures was prepared and delivered to participants from 27 to 29 October 2023. The objective of the training package was to raise awareness on the main UCPM programs and activities in the different Albanian stakeholders and to present the UCPM programs and activities from the Participating State (PS) point of view. To this end, specific attention was given to highlighting opportunities and implications of Albania participation to the UCPM, and to providing information on how to effectively participate to the different programs and activities. The role of the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA), as the coordinating body of the domestic and international UCPM activities, was also properly highlighted throughout the whole training. The training package, including the Inter-institutional Workshop, was about 20 hours long, organized in three days.



A feedback questionnaire was prepared and distributed to participants. All who answered considered the training useful for their work, with about 30% of grade 4 and about 70% of grade 5 on a scale ranging from 1 (not useful) to 5 (useful). The interests of participants mainly concentrate on UCPM framework, response capacities, training, exercises, and international emergencies. Direct observations confirmed that the interest and participation of attendees were excellent. All groups engaged in discussions and practical activities. Interpreters were crucial in reducing the language barriers. The questionnaire also highlighted a clear interest in deepening the UCPM knowledge and directions were identified by participants.

UCPM awareness toolkit

The UCPM Awareness Toolkit was developed to raise awareness on UCPM actions and programmes in Albanian institutions at the central and possibly local level (prefectures and municipalities). Citizens are not considered a target group for this Toolkit. The Awareness Toolkit is composed of several info sheets. Each info sheet is devoted to a specific UCPM action or programme and describes the main features of the action or programme, including information on the benefits and procedures to apply for EU support. The format of the info sheet was standardized, allowing, at the same time, flexibility in text content. The colors are like the ones used by UCPM. Logos of NCPA is included as well as links to additional information on the action.

In addition to the template, three examples of info sheets were developed and delivered to NCPA: i) Prevention and Preparedness Call for Proposal (KAPP project, 2023), ii) Exchange of Expert Programme, and iii) Transport and Operation Support. The info sheet for the 2023 KAPP project is shown as an example in the following. Simple language for effective communication was used.

The image shows a template for an 'INFO SHEET' for a UCPM action. It is divided into several sections:

- TITLE OF THE UCPM ACTION**: A box for the main title.
- UCPM DESCRIPTION**: A box for a detailed description of the action.
- FIGURES**: A box for key statistics or data points.
- TEXT**: A box for additional information or context.
- PICTURE**: A box for an image related to the action.
- REQUIREMENTS**: A box for the conditions for EU support.
- WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?**: A box for the target audience.
- APPLICATIONS**: A box for the submission process.
- NCPA LOGO & CONTACTS**: A box for the National Civil Protection Agency's logo and contact information.
- WEBSITE OF UCPM ACTION**: A box for the project's website.

Below the template, three examples of completed info sheets are shown:

- EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS PROGRAMME**: Includes figures like 2,137 total number of experts, 242 national, 148/152 countries participating, and 37/52 countries invited.
- 2023 KAPP CALL FOR PROPOSAL**: Includes figures like 3/3 calls for proposals, 400 total number of proposals, 1,000 total number of experts, and 85% of proposals received.
- TRANSPORT AND OPERATION SUPPORT**: Includes figures like 75% of proposals received, 100% of proposals received, and 75% of proposals received.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project



6. Communication and Visibility²⁵

Attention during project implementation has been given to communication and visibility. An annual detailed communication plan was prepared with the aim to raise information and awareness among community, beneficiaries, users, group of interest and stakeholders. A set of activities was organized to increase project activities visibility and support NCPA on communication matters related to DRR and Civil Protection. Several communication channels and others communication tools/visible materials printed accompanied project activities and disseminated at national and local level. The project applies a policy of its branding and identity with all partners and service providers implementing the project activities.

6.1 RESEAL Project Communication Activities

1. Preparation of the training module on “Communication with the public and operational communication in cases of emergency”

In close collaboration with the NCPA’ Training and Communication Directorate the training module on “Communication with the public and operational communication in cases of emergency” was prepared. The didactic materials focused on effective communication with the public and media in the context of disaster reporting was prepared as well, focusing on disaster risk management as collaborative effort that requires the involvement of various stakeholders, including government and civil society. Key components of the training module include:

Strategic Communication Frameworks: The module introduces comprehensive frameworks for communicating with the public and media, especially tailored for disaster reporting contexts. These frameworks are designed to facilitate clear, concise, and accurate dissemination of information during various phases of a disaster.

Collaborative Disaster Risk Management: Recognizing disaster risk management as a multi-faceted endeavor, the module emphasizes the importance of collaboration among diverse stakeholders. This encompasses government institutions at all levels, civil society organizations, and local communities, ensuring a coordinated and effective response to emergencies.

Role of Media in Disaster Management: A significant portion of the module is dedicated to the media's role in disaster situations. It explores how media professionals can contribute before, during, and after a disaster, highlighting the criticality of timely and responsible reporting.

Skill Enhancement for Media Professionals: The primary objective of the NCPA training module is to equip media professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in Disaster Risk Management. This involves training in areas such as crisis communication, ethical reporting, and audience engagement during emergencies.

Public Awareness and Preparedness: An integral part of the module focuses on strategies to raise public awareness about potential disasters and preparedness measures. This includes the development of educational content and the use of various communication channels to reach diverse audiences.

Emergency Response and Relief Communication: The training also covers protocols for issuing effective warnings during disasters, and strategies for communicating critical information related to response, relief, and reconstruction efforts. This ensures that both the public and relevant agencies are well-informed and can act promptly.

²⁵ Please refer to [Annex 12_Communication and Visibility](#) for deliverables and activities

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

Practical Exercises and Case Studies: To enhance learning, the module incorporates practical exercises and case studies, allowing participants to apply theoretical knowledge in simulated scenarios. This hands-on approach is crucial for developing practical skills in emergency communication.

The NCPA's training module on "Communication with the Public and Operational Communication in Cases of Emergency" prepared with project support, is a comprehensive educational tool designed to empower media professionals and stakeholders in disaster risk management. Its emphasis on collaboration, practical skills, and strategic communication equips participants with the tools necessary to effectively manage and communicate during emergency situations, ultimately contributing to greater resilience and safety in communities. Media trainings will follow based on this module.

The project has used various communication tools/means to promote its activities and raised awareness on civil protection system and actors in Albania. All activities have been accomplished in coordination with UNDP Communication Office and NCPA Communication Department and civil protection local government units' offices.

Main activities carried out as part of project implementation at national and local level:

- In January, the project communication consultant attended a meeting with NCPA communication specialist aiming at coordinating the media training programme and update the training program.
- Several meetings with project's experts working on the local disaster risk assessment process in 6 municipalities of Fier Prefecture, aiming at discussing on preliminary findings and on communication and visibility materials produced to raise awareness about this process and encourage participation from all stakeholders;
- For the project interventions at local and central level the media training is planned. Several meetings with NACP and UNDP Comms team to finalize the agenda and start working on the training materials and identified local and national journalists. 4 media training planned in Fier, Shkodra, Korca and Tirana.
- In February 2023, the Government of Albania adopted the new National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030). The project communication consultant, in close collaboration with UNDP Comms team and NCPA:
 - Prepared the Press Release in both languages
 - Prepared social media posts
 - Disseminated the PR with media & monitor media coverage
 - Prepared Minister of Defence video message
- Preparation and design of leaflet/booklet of the approved national DRR documents by provide comments and improvements on images and infographics selected to visually convey key information and statistics.
- A communication action plan on promoting the Disaster Risk Reduction Activities in Fier region developed and shared with counterpart;
- A well-designed communication action plan, which can help to promote Disaster Risk Reduction activities at the local level by increasing community engagement and participation, prepared in close cooperation and following consultations with the local responsible authorities in Fier;
- In March the Government of Albania adopted the National Risk Assessment document. A set of communication materials, posts and video tools prepared and disseminated in both languages using a mix of communication channels;
- The project's activities, in coordination with the National Civil Protection Agency and the UNDP Albania Communication Unit, promoted through various communication channels. This involved promotion of the project's activities and outcomes to raise awareness and engage key stakeholders, through creating engaging and informative content and social media posts.
- In May, several meetings organized with the National Civil Protection Agency (NACP), Fier Prefecture and Regional Education Directorate on preparation of a series of information sessions targeting high school students in the Fier prefecture. The objective of these sessions was to raise awareness about Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) among the youth and encourage community engagement and participation in DRR

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

initiatives. The feedback received during these consultations played a crucial role in shaping the content and format of the information sessions.

- In June, approximately 200 young students from various high schools in the Fier, Patos, Mallakastër, Divjakë, Lushnjë, and Roskovec municipalities participated at 6 info sessions and discussed on the role of young people and their contribution to preventing disasters. These training sessions involved the active participation of more than 20 experts from the National Civil Protection Agency, Fier Prefecture, UNDP, firefighting services, and emergency responders from six municipalities. Through presentations, informative materials, and quizzes, the students engaged in meaningful conversations about the risks associated with disasters and their role in facing the challenges present in their respective regions.
- By the end of June, the project supported a roundtable organized by the Albanian National Agency of Civil Protection (NACP), gathering international development partners who are actively supporting the Albanian government's endeavors to strengthen the Civil Protection system in Albania. A press release, along with social media posts prepared and information shared on the outcomes of this productive roundtable. Furthermore, a 3 minute - video highlighting the achievements of the Albanian National Agency of Civil Protection prepared, showcasing the significant steps and achievements made in disaster risk management and civil protection in the country.
- In August, a blog highlighting the project's activities both at the national and local levels prepared. This blog showcased the collective efforts of project and partners in the preparation of key strategic documents, including the National Disaster Risk Assessment, National DRR Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030, Fieri Prefecture Risk Assessment (covering the Prefecture and 6 Municipalities), and National Civil Emergency Plan. The blog designed for the UNDP Albania channels of communication featured selected photos capturing various project activities, as well as quotes by key actors involved.
- UNDP project's webpage section updated as per project progress and completed activities and in line with UNDP policy on transparency and information, as a critical source of information for both the media and our valued partners.
- In September, a drafted the concept note and the agenda for the media training prepared and proposed to NCPA for the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day.
- In collaboration with the project's local coordinator, a set of social media posts created on the preparation of LDRA documents and related meetings in Fieri Prefecture and municipalities.
- The 3-days workshop focusing on UCPM legislation, implementing rules, and overall procedures, which took place in September, promoted and press release along with series of social media posts prepared. A media monitoring report conducted, showing media outlets accurately disseminated the information provided in the press release and social media posts in both languages.
- In October, a comprehensive media training module with a strong theoretical foundation prepared and developed based on didactic materials with focus on effective communication with the public and media in the context of disaster reporting. Disaster risk management is a collaborative effort that requires the involvement of various stakeholders, including government and civil society. The media holds an important role before, during, and after a disaster. The primary objective of the NCPA training module is to empower media professionals to enhance their performance in Disaster Risk Management. This involves disseminating crucial information to the public, raising awareness about disaster risks and preparedness, issuing timely warnings during disasters, and providing information related to response, relief, and reconstruction efforts.
- Short video-s produced, and social media posts prepared to actively promote the significance of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and highlighting the project contribution and partners` efforts in strengthening DRR measures in Albania in partnership with NCPA.
- The study visit in Portugal, involving a high-level delegation from the Albanian civil protection system, led by the General Director of the Albanian National Civil Protection Agency, received extensive exposure and visibility on media by widely publicized in Portugal among NCPA's counterparts and in Albania. Social media channels affiliated with UNDP and the National Civil Protection Agency (NACP) and a Press Release in both languages, prepared and shared by reaching a broad and diverse audience.

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

- To mark the 4th anniversary of the Albania earthquake, UNDP Albania organized an awareness & promotion campaign on social media and the RESEAL Project joined. Set of information and project's achievements contributing to the region's recovery and preparedness prepared, shared and posted. engaging social media posts to commemorate the event.

6.2 Media Relations

Effective media relations have been a crucial component of the project's success, primarily in establishing and maintaining relationships with key media entities at both national and local levels. These efforts significantly raise awareness about the project and its partners' work, thus contributing to the overall goals of the project. The national communication expert has conducted a series of productive meetings with journalists across the country, particularly focusing on the region of Fier. These interactions were crucial in promoting the support RESEAL project offers to enhance the national disaster risk management system. Media plays an indispensable role in strengthening disaster risk reduction. Our proactive approach in media relations highlights the project commitment to using these partnerships to amplify the project's impact and reach. It ensures that crucial information is not only communicated effectively but also reaches a wide and diverse audience. Frequent contact with media representatives offers the valuable opportunity to understand their needs and concerns. This allows the project to address them effectively and provide the necessary support to meet mutual objectives.

In addition, these media engagements play a significant role in promoting and enhancing the visibility of the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA). Notable interactions include meetings with Aurora Sulce, a TV Producer at A2CNN, Blerta Tafani, author and journalist at the Albanian Public Television and Etleva Xhajanka from ATA. Furthermore, meetings in Fier with local journalists, who serve as correspondents for several national media outlets, have been pivotal. These collaborations are key in ensuring that our initiatives are not only visible but also resonate with the public and stakeholders.

6.3 RESEAL on Media & Social media

Project activities has been continuously disseminated and shared using wide and different communication channels. Following project's activities in media and social during 2023:

Facebook:

- <https://www.facebook.com/PNUDSHQIPERI/posts/pfbid02D99QeCEi7943FjZqsYjdtHrsdK4BwPhdUYhuVa6KyptoaQmPLWedhttPTxEoH9Tul>
- <https://www.facebook.com/PNUDSHQIPERI/posts/pfbid0TXqgKeDSuXQhfg5fkQnEh2dqDyeYVdsNNeDTCWVTCsvxtKdMnb5yEHZ9UgYJ4JzCl>
- <https://www.facebook.com/PNUDSHQIPERI/posts/6063387557053303>
- <https://www.facebook.com/PNUDSHQIPERI/posts/6085999718125420>
- <https://www.facebook.com/PNUDSHQIPERI/posts/6179500095442048>
- <https://www.facebook.com/PNUDSHQIPERI/posts/6220434361348621>
- <https://www.facebook.com/UNDPinAlbania/posts/pfbid02A8CnSuCYFMmcEy5btr81WdEQdtFyYnw3TWBZqeSjdqLHCuTpRcpE1bPPgKtpTtWjl>
- <https://www.facebook.com/UNDPinAlbania/posts/pfbid0WmNAnXs4dN1EqGngE3fUtonvnKyifNF7fU3JcZXwe8axhEMNww28N6guM3oNtXUpI>
- <https://www.facebook.com/UNDPinAlbania/posts/pfbid022CnzQpu7162o2kd7CtmGD6BvnjNjq5RUmpNnfQCZfvDJCw4GNfZtAjEuKFSgtDN2I>
- https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0dukwd4PST9TSsFjBCewzDZupwuDVJyAa8FzcDQHjieoyBCsD1igF42qQkEF9RJ3fl&id=100064768238440

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- <https://www.facebook.com/UNDPinAlbania/posts/pfbid02ZSiC97FrvnmqJyUJXKCGMFEoorRgKeJuknLBvAzadeRiTHZ4HRRYAqSo3mjHPcyAl>
- Escola Nacional de Bombeiros – Portugal:
<https://www.facebook.com/escolanacionaldebombeiros/posts/pfbid0Arr3gmWFLQvMNHVQNaHSXUSfcEbz73FdSvGpoCsAxT3sSpfvs4cNnU82pvJKNuDhl>
- Autoridade Nacional de Emergência e Proteção Civil:
<https://www.facebook.com/AutoridadeNacionalEmergenciaProtecaoCivil/posts/pfbid02WkefYjP28SficWbgrSiegGmTs2Fz22DK1YAkhcGe3mjmHSFpBWdZ6JLQGk44YasSl>
- <https://www.facebook.com/UNDPinAlbania/posts/pfbid026sEfPoC9Csb4Qt6E1f3iAPTzKAVjc34Ft2XyrDt7xSeTdkAGjXNmr5B7XER3ZyRQl>
- https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid03pyzL2ag5LAKyBUfLqLuK5LtudHJ1J84TzCRFA849NAYw7t89eC1MU6ko5CRPNvEI&id=100064768238440

Instagram:

- https://www.instagram.com/p/CmWsi9Qt2SD/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
- https://www.instagram.com/p/Clv-4ZwtcR7/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
- https://www.instagram.com/p/CqXmiXTtyRx/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
- https://www.instagram.com/p/CpKvkEftXWC/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
- https://www.instagram.com/p/CrtDbcJNmAu/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
- https://www.instagram.com/p/CuHPu8kN3ic/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
- https://www.instagram.com/p/Cttk5z_NNhB/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
- https://www.instagram.com/p/CyQvIG_oBL5/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
- https://www.instagram.com/reel/CyV_NqEtwqN/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

Twitter:

- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1604896608960843781>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1604898280386793478>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1599411326060990466>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1617825687792152577>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1617832296522088448>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1630205193877946368>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1630200761454870528>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1630199312016723969>
- https://twitter.com/MonicaMerino_D/status/1630211243305738243
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- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1641008824151601152>
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- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1682774387731079169>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1674702470696534019>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1674720259457122304>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1674714298474479616>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1674715269187371009>

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- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1671098060670205954>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1706971642457628933>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1707009667732267295>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1712808465133982138>
- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1728749511978143785>
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Blog:

<https://www.undp.org/albania/stories/building-more-resilient-albania?fbclid=IwAR1oV35bOXGOqOgbDwg8XELZwX57BPbbdqenXUnr1riC6vGLrDBz mh540GQ>

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RESEAL in Media

- ATA: <https://ata.gov.al/2023/02/22/miratohet-strategjia-kombetare-per-zvogelimin-e-riskut-te-fatkegesive-natyrore/>
- ATA: <https://ata.gov.al/2023/02/27/strategjia-e-re-kombetare-per-zvogelimin-e-riskut-nga-fatkeqesite/>
- TV KLAN: <https://tvklan.al/rendesia-e-miratimit-te-strategji-se-kombetare-per-zvogelimin-e-riskut-nga-fatkeqesite/>
- SCAN TV: <https://scantv.al/gati-planet-emergjente-per-fatkeqesite-natyrore-hyn-ne-fuqi-strategjia-kombetare-per-zvogelimin-e-riskut/>
- METEOALB: <https://meteoalb.com/strategjia-kombetare-per-zvogelimin-e-riskut-te-fatkegesive-natyrore/>
- ELBASANINEWS: <https://elbasaninews.tv/strategjia-e-re-kombetare-per-zvogelimin-e-riskut-nga-fatkeqesite/> ATA: <https://ata.gov.al/2023/06/30/plan-kombetar-mbeshtetur-nga-undp-per-mbrojtjen-nga-fatkeqesite-natyrore/>
- ATA: <https://en.ata.gov.al/2023/09/27/eu-supports-strengthening-of-civil-defense-system-in-albania/>
- <https://ata.gov.al/2023/09/27/be-mbeshtet-fuqizimi-i-mbrojtjes-civile-ne-shqiperi/>
- Albania Post: <https://albanianpost.com/be-mbeshtet-fuqizimin-e-mbrojtjes-civile-ne-shqiperi/>
- Albania Daily News (Print)
- ATA: <https://ata.gov.al/2023/10/11/mbrojtja-civile-vizite-studimore-ne-portugali-per-menaxhimin-dhe-parandalimin-e-riskut-nga-fatkeqesite-natyrore/>

6.4 Printing and other visibility materials

During project activities several visibility materials has been printed and produced with the aim to increase visibility of project's activities and information/awareness actions. The following visibility materials produced:

- a) ``Protecting your home during wildfires`` brochure
- b) Project leaflet, Notebook, Umbrella, Pen, T-shirt, Hats, Bags, Calendar with project logos and DRR content

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project



The project team has been invited and participated on Sweden in Tour, “Pop-up embassy” fair together with partners and businesses to promote local economy, gender and meet people, businesses and institutions who together make up the strong relationship between the two countries. Another important activity has been the site visit in Divjaka

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

National Park to exchange and talk to the park administration on needs and gaps for an effective management of the park and prevention of potential disasters that might affect habitats and biodiversity. The importance of local cooperation with Divjaka municipality and local firefighter brigade to mitigate risks and provide well-structured and safe guide tour for tourists.



Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

7. Provisional Expenditures (as of 31 Dec 2023)

RESEAL Project	Total Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures	Commitments	Total Expenditures + Commitments	Realization vs budget in %
		Jun 20 - Dec 21	Jan - Dec 22	Jan - Dec 23			
Project Management and Running Costs							
1. Human Resources	240,067 ²⁶	41,861	88,288	77,028		207,177	86%
2. PR Communication staff and Visibility	94,374 ²⁷	1,928	11,280	27,396	34,710	75,315	80%
3. Travel	11,880	125	1,924	2,518		4,567	38%
4. Equipment and supplies	58,500	6,290	5,851	16,588		28,729	49%
5. Office running costs	102,000	5,686	17,510	42,559		65,755	64%
6. Other Project Management (conf/workshops, audit, evaluation, translation, etc.)	40,000	4,407	25,491	8,230		38,128	95%
Total project management and running costs	546,821	60,297	150,344	174,319	34,710	419,671	77%
PROJECT ACTIVITIES							
OUTCOME 1 - Strengthening DRM institutional, policy and legal framework in Albania							
Output 1.1: Capacity Assessment of DRR institutions carried out	25,000		3,861	20,189		24,050	96%
Output 1.4: Establishment of National Platform for DRR supported							
Output 1.6: New building codes according to Eurocode developed	200,000						0%
Output 1.7: Support national capacity development in risk assessments and emergency planning	240,000		228,041		11,000	239,041	100%
Output 1.9: National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan developed	200,000		158,660	16,100	25,000	199,760	100%

²⁶ Contribution 225,000 SWE + 15,067 POR

²⁷ Contribution 70,000 SWE + 24,489 POR

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

Output 1.11: National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) formulated	160,000		68,188	29,324	61,600	159,113	99%
SUBTOTAL Outcome 1	825,000		458,749	65,614	97,600	621,963	75%
OUTCOME 2 - Strengthening disaster preparedness capacities at all levels							
Output 2.1: Seismic hazard monitoring strengthened	134,410 ²⁸		52,536	6,735	21,000	80,271	60%
Output 2.2: Biological risk management with focus on prevention and preparedness used for medium to longer-term risk monitoring and evaluation	45,000						0%
Output 2.3: Local risk assessment for LGUs supported & Output 2.4: Local DRR Strategies & Local Civil Emergency Plans (LCEP) supported (11 affected municipalities and then the remaining ones)	840,000		176,745	226,797	261,794	672,335	80%
SUBTOTAL Outcome 2	1,019,410		229,281	233,532	282,794	745,606	74%
OUTCOME 3 - Sustain Albanian's Regional & International Cooperation							
Output 3.1: Cooperation with EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) and regional networking and knowledge sharing strengthened and sustained	32,000			29,581		29,581	92%
SUBTOTAL Outcome 3	32,000	0	0	29,581	-	29,581	92%
Subtotal Project Activities / Outputs	1,876,410	0	688,030	328,727	380,394	1,397,151	74%
Total Project Activities	2,423,231	60,297	838,375	503,046	415,104	1,816,822	75%
UNDP Management Fee	193,858	4,824	67,374	39,940	33,208	145,346	75%
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	2,617,089	65,121	905,749	542,986	448,312	1,962,167	75%

²⁸ Government of Portugal contribution

Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

8. Updated Work Plan

ACTIVITIES PER OUTPUT	2024											
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
COMPONENT 1: Strengthening DRM institutional, policy and legal framework in Albania												
Output 1.1: Capacity Assessment of DRR institutions carried out & Output 1.4: Establishment of National Platform for DRR supported												
Output 1.6: New building codes according to Eurocode & national annexes prepared												
Output 1.7: Support national capacity development in risk assessments and emergency planning	Completed											
Output 1.9: National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan developed	Completed											
Output 1.11: National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) formulated												
COMPONENT 2 - Strengthening disaster preparedness capacities at all levels												
Output 2.1: Seismic hazard monitoring strengthened	Completed											
Output 2.2: Biological risk management with focus on prevention and preparedness used for medium to longer-term risk monitoring and evaluation	Completed											
Output 2.3: Local risk assessment for LGUs supported (11 affected municipalities and then the remaining ones)	Completed											
Output 2.4: Local DRR Strategies & Local Civil Emergency Plans (LCEP) supported (11 affected municipalities and then the remaining ones)												
COMPONENT 3: Sustain Albanian’s Regional & International Cooperation												
Output 3.1: Cooperation with EUCPM and regional networking strengthened and sustained	Completed											

9. List of Annexes

Annex 1	Output 1.1: Capacity Assessment of DRR institutions carried out including the ones related to biological hazards (public health)
Annex 2	Output 1.4: Establishment of National Platform for DRR supported.
Annex 3	Output 1.6: New building codes according to Eurocode & national annexes prepared.
Annex 4	Output 1.7: Support national capacity development in risk assessments and emergency planning.
Annex 5	Output 1.9: National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan developed.
Annex 6	Output 1.11: National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) formulated.
Annex 7	Output 2.1: Seismic hazard monitoring strengthened.
Annex 8	Output 2.2: Biological risk management with focus on prevention and preparedness used for medium to longer-term risk monitoring and evaluation.
Annex 9	Output 2.3: Local risk assessment for LGUs supported.
Annex 10	Output 2.4: Local DRR Strategies & Local Civil Emergency Plans (LCEP) supported (11 affected municipalities and then the remaining ones)
Annex 11	Output 3.1: Cooperation with EUCPM and regional networking strengthened and sustained.
Annex 12	Communication and Visibility
Annex 13	Project Steering Committee meeting 2023
Annex 14	Project`s IC Deliverables