Resilience Strengthening in Albania – RESEAL Project

Progress Report No. 3

January – December 2022

Sweden
Sverige

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DA COOPERAÇÃO
E DA LÍNGUA
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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
DPC	Dipartimento della Protezione Civile (Italian Civil Protection)
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
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
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	Myndigheten för Samhällsskydd och Beredskap (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
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
SEE	South-Eastern Europe
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TAC	Technical Advisory Commission
LRA	Local Risk Assessment
LDRRS	Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy
LCEP	Local Civil Emergency Plan
LGU	Local Government Unit
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
EUCPM	European Union Civil Protection Mechanism
UPT	Polytechnic University of Tirana
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WPI	Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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:

1) strengthening the DRM strategic and operational framework and capacities at central level, and

2) 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 209 earthquake, attempts to support the implementation of the new legislation on Civil Protection sanctioned in the recent Law 45/2019 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 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, 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 ongoing pilot aims 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 is being implemented in the municipality of Lezha and aims 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 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 2M Euro from the Government of Sweden and 250k 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, along a 2.5-year work plan, on supporting the development of the national DRR framework, that is the National DRR Strategy and National Civil Protection Plan as well as build a representative, yet a solid local level experience in engaging local stakeholders for the development and adoption of local DRR strategies and civil emergency plans.

Executive Summary

This annual report summarizes RESEAL project implementation progress for the period January – December 2022.

During 2022 project implementation followed the project`s approved workplan, during the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting, and related activities likewise moved ahead with the other ongoing processes. The particular background accompanying project implementation during this year has been the finalization of the processes and delivery of the 2 main DRR national documents, namely National Risk Assessment Document and National DRR Strategy and Action Plan. Both processes have been conducted by the National Agency on Civil Protection, fully committed and on top of them, with the assistance of RESEAL project`s consultants based on the respective Prime Minister Orders and following Sendai Framework guidelines, EU directives on civil protection as well as national regulations and Law 45/2019 on Civil Protection. The processes engaged a significant number of national and local institutions, part of interinstitutional working group, as well as a broader consultation with active participation of national and local stakeholders including more than 35 field visits. Both documents have been approved by respective, technical and political interinstitutional working group, endorsed by NCPA and are in the final process of approval by the Council of Ministers. These processes have shown national ownership intended as an effective exercise of all government's authority for the development of both documents, their policies and activities, including data collection, inputs and comments provided as reliable source. National processes and their lessons learn are an important guidance for the preparation of local DRR strategic/planning documents. Significant findings and sets of important recommendations for follow up have been provided for NCPA and other national institutions within Risk Assessment Consolidate Report and 6 thematic hazards reports prepared.

The Consolidate Disaster Risk Assessment Report is a synthetic report produced based on data and information provided in the six Thematic Reports prepared per 6 majors disasters risks in the country, namely Earthquakes, Landslides, Avalanches, Wildfire, Flood, Dam failure, Technological, Biological. This report summarizes the main situation with concerning disaster hazards and recommendations developed to address these hazards. It provided a comprehensive and coherent picture of the disaster risk in the country. According to the comparative analysis of the regions for the risks presented in the six thematic reports, the most disaster-prone regions in the country include:

a) Tirana, Vlorë, and Shkodër (high risk), followed by Fier, Elbasan, and Durrës (high risk).

b) Berat and Kukës (medium to high risk),

c) Korçë, Lezhë, Dibër, and Gjirokastër (medium risk) are less risky in terms of eight major hazards.

The process of developing National DRR Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030 started in 2021 and was finalized by the end of December 2022 including several rounds of comments and inputs provided by national institutions through e-acts government system. The main purpose of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in Albania (Strategy), which is the first strategic document prepared in Albania

in civil protection field, is to guide Albania's future disaster risk management activities and investments in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. 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 identified the financial frame of the planned activities, mission, vision and goals and described the Strategy's implementation monitoring system. During the preparation of this document a significant number of national and regional institutions, part of interinstitutional working group, has been engaged including a broader consultation with active participation of donors, partners and national and local stakeholders. 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 were 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 2026. 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. Total cost of the NDRRS is **USD 780,116,062** with financial gap of 50.14%[1] accordingly to the required resources and those already mobilized and planned for the time of Action Plan Implementation 2023-2030.

At the final phase of the preparation of both documents, on October 2021, the project started the technical assistance for the preparation of the 3rd required national DRR document, namely the National Civil Emergency Plan. A team of national and international experts are supporting NCPA and Interinstitutional working group (IWG) established as per Prime Minister Order. Already concluded 2 meetings of the IWG, 2 missions of international experts conducted in the country for introductory meeting and stakeholder engagement including meetings and field visits at national and local level. The final draft expected by the end of April 2023. The updated plan will include Management Incident Command and ToR for the update, standardization and preparation of the required Standard Operation Procedures.

In parallel with the preparation of national DRR documents, the project, in close cooperation and communication with NCPA, after reviewing implementation approach and selection of pilot area based

[1] Strategic projects no. 17, 18, 19, 20 and flood project no. 9 with a total cost of 13,834,160 Lek (116,000,000 USD), although proposed and to be supported by the World Bank, have been considered as not financially covered. The amount above constitutes 17.83% of the financial gap. The strategic flood projects No. 1 and 2 proposed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade together create a financial gap of 50, 280,016 Lek (421,600,000 USD). These two projects extend over a period of 13 years (2019-2031) which is much longer than that of the Strategy Action Plan and therefore artificially creates an increase in the financial gap. However, it has been impossible for us to specify the cost and the financial gap only for the period 2023-2027 of these two projects, since this information was not available even from the Ministry of Education and Culture. The above-mentioned amount constitutes 64.8% of the financial gap. Filling only the gaps of the 7 projects mentioned above, with a total value of 64,114,176,000 ALL (537,600,000 USD) would reduce the total financial gap of the Strategy Action Plan to only 13,472,460,450 ALL or 14.5% of its total cost.

on technical criteria, started the implementation and related activities in the area of 6 municipalities part of Fieri Prefecture. A team of experts is supporting local authorities on the preparation of Local Risk Assessment documents per each of municipalities by actively engaging municipal staff, establishing dedicated working groups, to support and assist on preparation of Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment and Local Disaster Risk Assessment documents.

The kickoff local implementation was done in July 2022 during a high-level meeting at Fieri Prefecture with the Prefect and 6 Mayors. It was followed by technical meetings and other several ones with local actors, stakeholders already conducted, and very helpful preliminary findings provided by the experts of all actors involved on the preparation of this documents. The finalization and official approval of these documents is expected by the end of April 2023.

During the preparation of local disaster risk assessments at Fieri region, a team of students and professors from Worcester Polytechnic Institute joined project experts to support on data collection and introduction of innovative methodologies for data collection and validation, especially focused on gender and vulnerable groups. In cooperation with Prefecture of Fieri and Municipality of Patos, for 3 weeks more than 30 interviews, focus groups and games conducted with gender and vulnerable groups in Zharrza area, one of the most affected and exposed by technological risks, to collect field data and hear the voice of those most in need. Four innovative frameworks developed to analyze women`s perspective and role on DRR, namely *Boudet`s Framework for Public Perception*; *Moser`s Triple Roles Framework*; *Intersectionality Framework* and *Fracking Environment Justice Framework* have been successfully applied at Patos Municipality, Zharza area, with special focus on technological risk. Gender and vulnerable groups have been actively participated on providing useful data on preparation of Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA), which is a solution to measure community resilience. Based on EVCA`s 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. Training and education activities are foreseen and will be delivered for decision makers and all stakeholders at regional and local level on DRR, DRM and preparation of DRR set of strategic/planning documents.

This year on June 13th, Albania addressed the official request for full membership to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) and on November 18th, thanks also to the significant progress done within last 3 years including preparation of strategic/planning DRR documents, Albania government and the European Union signed, during an official visit of European Commissioner for Crisis Management Mr. Janez LENARČIČ in Tirana, the agreement on full participation and membership of Albania in the EUCPM. This is a great result for the country and RESEAL project will continue to provide technical assistance to the NCPA by conducting a compliance analysis for membership to Union Civil Protection Mechanism of Albania, capacity building to enhance awareness on UCPM, and deliver training on UCPM legislation, implementing rules and overall procedures.

The project has continued during this year to support NCAP by increasing and strengthening its staff capacities on developing, preparing, assessing and planning DRR strategic documents. 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.

Furthermore, assistance provided to NCPA to engage with Technical Advisory Commission (TAC), an advisory body headed by NCPA which advises competences on topics related to disaster risk reduction. TAC is composed by representatives of ministries, ministries subordinated structures and other national and local institutions. The level of representation is manager or specialist, who are covering and has competencies in civil protection and disaster risk reduction issues/field, on their respective institutions. This year meeting was focused on setting the priorities and prevention measures to disasters on different areas and during different periods of times based on the risks and country exposures.

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. The last report has been completed in 2018 by former civil protection directorate and from then no other progress reports has been delivered. First introductory meeting conducted with NCPA staff on required steps and required official data for the preparation of 2022 report and a follow up calendar jointly prepared to assist NCPA on completion and delivery of the 2022 SFM Report.

The project is supporting other institutions closely related with DRM and NCPA on providing technical inputs and using early warning systems. Significant support and assistance provided to Albanian Seismographic Network (ASN), under Albanian Institute of Geoscience (IGJEO) as part of civil protection system, by increasing and consolidating national capacities in monitoring, locating, publishing, and archiving of local earthquake's data and characterizing the natural seismicity of the country. Together with NCPA and IGJEO a need assessment document was prepared and set the priorities for the seismographic network. Based on it and thanks to the cooperation with another UNDP project using SDG funds, 10 existing strong motion seismic stations were renewed with brand new equipment and 10 new ones installed including civil works and all technical requirements. IGJEO is conducting the required tests and making the last appropriate arrangements before linking them with the internal real time system.

This year the project has continued to pay important attention to education, awareness, promotion and information activities. A detailed plan of communication activities has been prepared to support project office and NCPA on information, dissemination, awareness and educational activities related with the DRR and Civil Protection at all levels, with specific target gender and vulnerable groups. Several activities at national and local level have been organized with the aim to increase NCPA visibility and awareness among communities/private sectors on the importance of public consultation and information on topics related with civil protection, with a special focus on preparedness and mitigation actions.

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. An important focus was given to educational institutions and students` engagement on project`s activities by actively

engaging them on stimulations, thematic paintings and exhibitions. The project is assisting the research and academic national institutions focus on DRR and support was provided to Albanian Security Academy, together with UNDP Drini Project, on the 8th International Scientific Conference ``Security in the community in the context of extreme natural Phenomena and civil emergencies``, this year strongly connected to DRR and climate changes, and most importantly focused on the local level.

Progress meetings with NCAP and donors was held with the aim to discuss on Roundtable International Partners meeting as well as on follow up steps and potential other partners willing to join RESEAL programme.

Key Lessons Learn and Takeaways

- Institutionalization of the process on preparation and development of DRR strategic/planning docs at all levels is the foundation for the national ownership and a key element to deliver a very detailed, facts-based and reliable product. System thinking approach has been a tangible positive impact for the civil protection in the country.
- National capacities and level of understating on DRM has been significantly increased at all levels but still not enough to effectively manage and conduct DRM processes independently. Learning by doing is the fastest and best way for knowledge share and getting acquittance with DRR concepts and system thinking approach.
- Inclusiveness, active participation and engagement of all 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.
- 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;*

Challenges for the 2023

- Political will at all levels to further support civil protection system, implement DRR priorities and recommendation from planning/strategic documents, considering upcoming local elections 2023 and global economic situation affected by war inn Ukraine.
- National institutional frequent changes and staff/expertise sustainability that impacts the development and implementation of national and local DRR planning/strategic documents;
- Official approval of national DRR Strategy and its implementation at mid-to-long term;
- Preparation of local DRR documents for the project`s not-target local government units considering limited budget, human resources and level of expertise
- Community and economic sectors engagement on decision making and consultation as well as active participation on issues related to civil protection at all levels.

Considering the effective management of project activities with high expertise delivered on the achieved results per outputs and in view of the challenges for the next year above-mentioned, likewise with regard of the required time to finalize local DRR processes and documents in Fieri region, an additional time is required for the project implementation and its activities to complete the required remaining activities at both levels that will be affected significantly by external factors and events, especially local elections. Based on this and on the available remaining budget, a one-year project`s no cost extension proposal will be presented and discussed on the next Steering Committee, tentatively scheduled for 24th January 2023.

By end 2022, the following 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 and a Driver (cost sharing)[2]. This year a communication consultant joined the project team to support project implementation and all the communication activities as per prepared work plan.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	
Doreid Petoshati *National Project Coordinator*	
Maksimiljan Dhima *Senior DRR Project`s Consultant*	**Gentjan Dema** *Project Admin/Financial Assistant*
Matilda Duri *Communication Consultant*	**Ardian Golashi** *Driver*

- The 2nd Steering Committee meeting held on 13th May 2022 to discuss on project progress 2021 and to address project implementation issues. Project board members has been informed on implementation issues, challenges and approved the 2022 workplan and progress report 2021.[3]

- Production and printing of project visibility materials for project activities

[2] The project`s driver and vehicle are on cost sharing with another UNDP Project to maximise resources mobilisation and cost effectiveness
[3] Please refer to **Annex 13_Project Steering Committee Meeting 2022**

- **At central level*:***

  - The National Risk Assessment, including Consolidate Report and 6 thematic hazards Reports, prepared, delivered and endorsed by technical and political working group as well as NCPA. The document sent by Ministry of Defense to Albanian Council of Ministers for official approval.
  - The National DRR Strategy and its Action Plan prepared, delivered and endorsed by technical and political working group as well as NCPA. The document sent by Ministry of Defense to Albanian Council of Ministers for official approval. National DRR Strategy and its Action Plan ***cost for all risks is 93,036,641,493 ALL, with a financial gap of 50,14%***[4]not covered by state budget and/or ongoing projects from other not-states entities;
  - National Civil Emergency Plan process started and ongoing. The first 2 international experts missions conducted in the country and 2 technical inter-institutional working group (IIWG) meetings organized, as well as the first draft presented and shared for comments. A Tabletop exercises developed and conducted with participation of IIWG members, relevant partners/actors and stakeholders.
  - Several awareness and educational activities organized including DRR International Day celebration. A detailed plan of activities has been prepared to support project office and NCPA on information, dissemination, awareness and educational activities related with the DRR and Civil Protection at all levels, with a specific attention to gender and vulnerable groups. In cooperation with communication sector at NCAP, a very accurate training plan on DRR developed and 4 DRR trainings sessions with journalists are scheduled to be held in 4 regions, Fieri, Shkodra, Korca and Tirana.
  - 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. The national serigraphic network for strong motions has been doubled and IGJEO has a full national coverage in the most highly exposed areas accordingly to national risk assessment document, seismic thematic annex. All required equipment and civil works have been completed and a testing phase by IGJEO`s experts is ongoing. (Cost sharing assistance in cooperation with SDG Acceleration funds)
  - NCPA supported and assisted to develop and design the official webpage www.akmc.gov.al. The official webpage finalized and approved by AKSHI (Albanian National Agency of ICT) and www.akmc.gov.al officially in use by NCPA and basic communication equipment purchased.
  - Support provided, in cooperation with UNDP Drini basin project, to 8th International Scientific Conference ``Security in the community in the context of extreme natural Phenomena and civil emergencies`` this edition strongly connected to DRR and climate especially at the local level.
  - Albania became full EUCPM member on November 18th and the agreement entered into force on January 1st, 2023. A selection process started to hire an international expert to support NCAP and provide a compliance analysis, including gaps, 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.

[4] *Strategic projects no. 17, 18, 19, 20* and flood *project no. 9* with a total cost of 13,834,160 Lek (116,000,000 USD), although proposed and to be supported by the World Bank, have been considered as not financially covered. The amount above constitutes 17.83% of the financial gap. The strategic flood projects No. 1 and 2 proposed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade together create a financial gap of 50, 280,016 Lek (421,600,000 USD). These two projects extend over a period of 13 years (2019-2031) which is much longer than that of the Strategy Action Plan and therefore artificially creates an increase in the financial gap. However, it has been impossible for us to specify the cost and the financial gap only for the period 2023-2027 of these two projects, since this information was not available even from the Ministry of Education and Culture. The above-mentioned amount constitutes 64.8% of the financial gap. Filling only the gaps of the 7 projects mentioned above, with a total value of 64,114,176,000 ALL (537,600,000 USD) would reduce the total financial gap of the Strategy Action Plan to only 13,472,460,450 ALL or 14.5% of its total cost

- A selection process started for a national education expert that will develop Terms of Reference on training materials and school curricula (education programmes) in schools in line with EU guidelines in Albania, in close cooperation with NCPA and Ministry of Education.
- Assistance provided to NCPA on completion of Sendai Framework Monitoring in Albania. 1st meeting organized and a joint workplan prepared for the beginning of 2023 in order to complete the required steps and deliver the 2022 SFM Report as per required deadline by end of March 2023.
- 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 technical assistance and guidance of national and international experts. Furthermore, assistance provided to NCPA to engage with Technical Advisory Commission (TAC), an advisory body headed by NCPA which advises competences on topics related to disaster risk reduction. This year TAC meeting was focused on setting the priorities and prevention measures to disasters on different areas and during different periods of times based on the risks and country exposures. TAC is important part of the proposed DRR National Platform concept Report earlier developed, and it can be defined as a nationally owned and led forum of stakeholders.
- Information and awareness campaign has been organized, in collaboration with NACP and other donors/partners working on Civil Protection field, during the celebration of DRR international day at national scale involving 12 Prefectures and elementary schools in selected areas. This year DRR International day, focused on Early Warning System (EWS) was celebrate with a very mixed and various number of activities, by preparing a week programme including different levels of engagements and target groups. They included video messages to raise awareness, paintings work, talk shows at national TVs, open visits at IGJEO and presentation of the work of the most national important institution working with EWS.
- A significant result with positive effect of the RESEAL project support in the strengthening of CP system in Albania, is shown on the 2022 World Risk Report reflecting the progress of the country. For the time period 2011-2021, according to the World Risk Report, which calculates the disaster risk index from natural hazards due to earthquakes, cyclones, floods, droughts and sea- level rise based on exposure, and vulnerability (susceptibility and copping and adaptive capacities), Albania was constantly ranked in the first place in Europe. While according to the same 2022 annual report, Albania has an improvement of 21 places compared to 2021, being ranked among the first countries in Europe and 82nd in the world.[5]

At local level:

- Official approval by Lezha`s Municipal Council with the *Decision no. 33 date 04.04.2022* of the already prepared 3 local DRR documents namely the Lezha Municipality Disaster Risk Assessment, Local DRR Strategy and Local Civil Emergency Plan, as a fulfillment of municipality's main obligations regarding non-structural measures, stipulated in the law 45/2019.
- Pilot intervention in Fieri region started in August 2022, kick off high level meeting and other 2 technical meetings organized in Fieri Prefecture to launch the implementation and the

[5] In the time period 2011-2022 Albania's ranking in the world varied from 37th (2013-2014-2015)-61st (2019 and 2021), 60th in 2020, and 82nd in 2022, having a substantial improvement in ranking from 2021 to 2022 by 21 places. https://weltrisikobericht.de/weltrisikobericht-2022-e/

preparation of 6 local risks assessments (LRA) documents for 6 municipalities within Fieri region, namely Fieri, Divjake, Patos, Lushnje, Patos and Roskoveci. A team of 16 key and not key experts will support respective municipal staffs and established working groups to conduct EVCA and prepare LRA documents. Intermunicipal technical working group headed by Prefecture of Fieri established based on Fieri Prefect Order No. 31 date 04.11.2022[6]

- 6 introductory meeting in each of municipalities with Mayors and municipalities staffs conducted. 6 working groups per each of municipalities established based on Mayors respective Order below listed[7]:
    - Fieri: Mayor Order no. 782, date 10.11.2022
    - Lushnje: Mayor Order no. 279/1, date 08.09.2022
    - Divjaka: Mayor Order no. 367, date 05.12.2022
    - Patos: Mayor Order no. 175, date 10.11.2022
    - Mallakastra: Mayor Order no. 329, date 01.12.2022
    - Roskovec: Mayor Order no. 279, date 18.11.2022
- LRA Methodology presented and approved by local intermunicipal working group and NCPA experts. The approved methodology together with National Risk Assessment document will serve as a guideline for other regions and municipalities in the country.
- Several meetings with local communities conducted and interviews realized with focus on EVCA preparation and accurate data collection that will serve as the baseline information for the exposure and vulnerability for the risk assessment. Preliminary findings delivered on the consultancy progress reports of each municipality.
- A team of students and professors from Worcester Polytechnic Institute joined project`s experts to support on data collection and introduction of innovative methodologies for data collection and validation especially with gender and vulnerable groups. In cooperation with Prefecture of Fieri and Municipality of Patos, for 3 weeks more than 30 interviews, focus groups and games conducted by the WPI team with gender and vulnerable groups in Zharrza area, one of the most affected and exposed by technological risks, to collect field data and hear the voice of those most in need. Four innovative frameworks developed to analyze women`s perspective and role on DRR, namely Boudet`s Framework for Public Perception; Moser`s Triple Roles Framework; Intersectionality Framework and Fracking Environment Justice Framework have been successfully applied at Patos Municiaplity, Zharza area, with special focus on technological risk.
- ToR for the development of Local DRR Strategies and Action Plans prepared, shared and agreed with NCPA. Planned to launch procurement process by the end of December 2022 but due to UNDP internal management system changes (Quantum), procurement process postponed at the end of January 2023 and the work expected to start mid-March 2023 for a duration of 8 months, with high risk of limited implementation due to local elections on May 14th, 2023, in Albania.

In financial terms, by end 2022, against the project budget, the received funding has reached a level of 100%, while expenses and commitments represent 51% of the total project budget.

[6] Please refer to Annex 9_Output 2.3/\Local RA_Fier qark\Fier_RA\Deliverables 2_IDRA_docs\Municipal Orders/Prefect Order pg1&pg.2
[7] Please refer to Annex 9_Output 2.3/\Local RA_Fier qark\Fier_RA\Deliverables 2_IDRA_docs\Municipal Orders

1. Project Factsheet

Project Title & Number	**Resilience strengthening in Albania - RESEAL Project – ID 00118887**		
Official Start Date & Duration	01 June 2020	30 June 2023	36 months
Contributions	**Original Currency**	**USD Equivalent[1]**	**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 2022)	**988,462 (38%)**		
Unpaid Commitments (as of Dec 2022)	**341,585 (13%)**		
Target Groups	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: - 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	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.		
Implementing Agency	United Nations Development Programme in Albania (UNDP)		
Partners	– 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	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. 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. 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.		

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

	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. 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. 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.
Expected results	1. Strategic/ planning documents ✓ 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 ✓ Review and improvement of Civil Protection & DRR related legislation ✓ New building code according to Eurocode including national annexes prepared 3. Institutional support and coordination ✓ 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) ✓ 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 ✓ 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 ✓ 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.

2. Implementation Progress

Summary of Implementation December 2023	
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* *In use by the project office and NACP for further actions based on recommendations and findings*
Output 1.2: Establishment of National Platform for DRR supported	*Completed* *In use by the project office and NACP for further actions/activities based on recommendations and findings*
Output 1.3: New building codes according to Eurocode & national annexes prepared	*Planned for 2023*
Output 1.4: Support national capacity development in risk assessments and emergency planning	*Completed, delivered and endorsed by NCPA*
Output 1.5: National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan developed	*Completed, delivered and endorsed by NCPA*
Output 1.6: National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) formulated	*Ongoing process, at the final stage*
COMPONENT 2 Strengthen Governance-based Institutional Capacity and Management Committee	
Output 2.1: Seismic hazard monitoring strengthened	*Ongoing, at the final stage (testing of stations from IGJEO`s experts, expected to be finalized on the first part of 2023*
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	*Ongoing*
Output 2.4: Local DRR Strategies & Local Civil Emergency Plans (LCEP) supported	*Planned to start March 2023 (LDRRS) and October 2023* (LCEP)
COMPONENT 3 Sustain Albanian's Regional & International Cooperation	
Output 3.1: Cooperation with EUCPM and regional networking strengthened and sustained	*Planned for April 2023*

3. Project`s Output

3.1 Output 1.1: Capacity Assessment of DRR institutions carried out including the ones related to biological hazards (public health)[8]

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

Sub-activities (as per project document)

- A comprehensive framework and inclusive DRM Capacity Assessment including the ones related to biological hazards (public health) at all levels.
- DRM Capacity Assessment Report/Action Plan with recommendations for Capacity Development Plan in line with the National priorities, Sendai Frame for DRR and EU requirements.
- Implementation of the Action Plan for DRM System Capacity Development
- Build capacities throughout the process of local stakeholders on the methods and approaches for a DRM Capacity Development and action oriented DRR Strategic Document.

Status	*Completed*
Year of the contract	*2020/2022*
Consultancy	*Individual contract*
Contract milestones	
Milestones	***Deliverable***
Final Report	- Capacity Assessment on Disaster Risk Management System in Albania 2020[9] - Biological Risk Assessment Report[10] - 2022 - Trainings and workshops on capacity building and DRM knowledge delivered[11] - 2022
Methodology	*1. DRM stakeholders in the DRM CA process engaged;* *2. Existing DRM needs and capacities identified and assessed;* *3. DRM system capacity areas to address prioritized;* *4. DRM capacity development actions, specific activities targeted at building certain capabilities under implementation; and* *5. The results of each action continually evaluated and needs re-assessed.*
Process	*1. Major documentation and legal framework regulating DRM System in Albania reviewed and analyzed* *2. DRM System Stakeholder Analysis Conducted* *3. DRM System Capacity Assessment methodology and process prepared* *4. DRM CA Workshop delivered* *5. Data gathered analyzed with finding and recommendations (Report)* *6. Report presentation and Action Planning*
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 it's 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.
Scoring system	**SCORE** / **DESCRIPTION** **1** – Achievements are minor and there are few signs of planning or forward action to improve the situation. **2** – Achievements have been made but are incomplete, and while improvements are planned, the commitment and capacities are limited.

[8] Please refer to **Annex 1_Output 1.1** for deliverables and activities.
[9] Please refer to ***Annex 1_Output 1.1/ 1. Albania DRM System Capacity Assessment Report***
[10] Part of National Risk Assessment Report, findings and recommendations for biological hazards – Please refer to ***Annex 1_Output 1.1/ 4. Biological Hazard Specific Risk Assessment Report_Final***
[11] Please refer to ***Annex 1_Output 1.1/2. Sendai Framew._Monitoring 1st Meeting 23.11.2022 and 3. RA_Expert trainings_Capacity Buildings***

3	There are some institutional commitment and capacities to achieving DRR/DRM goals, but progress is not comprehensive or substantial.
4	The substantial achievement has been attained, but with some recognized deficiencies in commitment, financial resources or operational capacities
5	The comprehensive achievement has been attained, with the commitment and capacities to sustain efforts at all levels.

Progress accomplished

Based on the Capacity Assessment Report and recommendations on capacity building, the project has continued to support National Agency on Civil Protection (NACP) and other relevant actors, with a key role in the DRM system of the country. The focus was given the main priorities to increase national capacities. During 2022 several meetings and trainings with NACP staff conducted on risk assessment and DRM by increasing significantly the capacities especially for NCPA`s Risk and Strategy and Preparedness and Response departments.

- A comprehensive framework and inclusive DRM Capacity Assessment conducted ad prepared, including the ones related to biological hazards (public health) at all levels.
- DRM Capacity Assessment Report/Action Plan with recommendations for Capacity Development Plan in line with the National priorities, Sendai Frame for DRR and EU requirements, finalized and delivered to NCPA
- Capacities strengthened and improved throughout the process of local stakeholders on the methods and approaches for a DRM Capacity Development and action oriented on DRR Strategic Documents.

On this regard, one of the recommendations and findings of DRM Capacity Assessment was to prepare the stage for and facilitate the development of the new Disaster Risk Management of Albania for 2021-2030. It is an important and useful tool to support the process of preparation of National Risk Assessment Document and National DRR Strategy. Based on CA Report`s recommendations, several meetings and discussions with NACP were organized to discuss the following topics:

- ***Analysis of the results of the DRM Capacity Assessment***

The findings and recommendations of the DRM CA report have been shared and discussed with NCPA to better fit the circumstances of the country including involvement of key stakeholders of the DRM system. Inter-institutional meetings are seen as an important technical platform to analyze the results and address the recommendations. Inter-institutional working groups are established based on a Prime Minister Orders.

- ***DRM Capacity Development Action Plan***

As per CA report`s recommendations, DRM Capacity Development Action Plan prepared is an important document that will be an organic part of National DRR Strategy. NACP`s capacities on development of this document have shown significant gaps to be addressed. This topic will be addressed by the team of consultants that have already started to work on the preparation of National DRR Strategy and its Action Plan.

The project has continued during this year to support NCAP by increasing and strengthening its staff capacities on developing, preparing, assessing and planning DRR strategic documents. 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 during all processes of preparation and development of DRR strategic/planning documents.

- **Sendai Framework Monitoring Report for Albania**

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. The last report has been completed in 2018 by former civil protection directorate and from then no other progress reports has been delivered. First introductory meeting conducted with NCPA staff on required steps and required official data for the preparation of 2022 report and a follow up calendar jointly prepared to assist NCPA on completion and delivery of the 2022 SFM Report. The purpose of this meeting was to support and assist National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) in the operationalization of the global indicators to measure progress towards the achievement of the global targets of the Sendai Framework and relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. The last time that measuring of the implementation has been conducted was in 2018 with very limited capacities on conducting such exercise. A detailed presentation was prepared by RESEAL Project consultant Maksimiljan Dhima, as one of the specialists that has conducted similar exercise, on all targets and data required for the compilation and both teams discussed on UNDRR webpage access, needs and gaps On measuring implementation of the Sendai Framework in Albania.

3.2 Output 1.4: Establishment of National Platform for DRR supported[12]

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

Sub-activities (as per project document)

- Engage in consultations for building consensus and support in establishing a DRR National Platform
- Based on the capacity assessment and best available practices develop DRR National Platform as a multi stakeholder platform concept, objectives, structure, main functions, management modality and mechanisms based on built consensus and collaboration.
- Support submission for approval of the DRR National Platform

Status:	*Completed in March 2021/December 2022*
Duration of the contract:	*3 months*
Implementing partner:	*3 consultants, 2 Nationals and an international*
Contract milestones	
Milestones	***Deliverables***
Final Report	- *DRR National Platform concept Report*[13] - *1st Technical Advisory Commission (TAC) meeting supported*
Progress accomplished	

1. Support to Technical Advisory Commission (TAC)

After the preparation and delivery of DRR National Platform concept Report to NCPA and other relevant institutions in Albania related with civil protection, the project office, based on findings and the recommendation of the report, REEAL project has continued to support and strengthen national institutions part of DRR National Platform. Furthermore, assistance provided to NCPA to engage with Technical Advisory Commission (TAC), an advisory body headed by NCPA which advises competences on topics related to disaster risk reduction. TAC is important part of the proposed DRR National Platform concept Report earlier developed, and it can be defined as a nationally owned and led forum of stakeholders.

This year, TAC`s 2nd meeting was focused on setting the priorities and prevention measures to disasters on different areas and during different periods of times based on the risks and country exposures. 26 national, regional and local authorities and following are the topics discussed and all recommendations provided by TAC[14]:

Discussion topics:

- Setting priorities and prevention measures for an effective management of civil emergencies during the winter period 2022-2023;
- Monitoring, warning, alarm and information systems in place on DRR and assessment of needs and gaps in order to create a common platform on continues monitoring and exchanges of data and information;
- Pilot intervention with NCPA support to set up a Early Warning System and Hazards Monitoring
- Identification of training and capacity building needs and gaps of civil protection system at all levels and development of Training Programme for Civil Protection.
- Presentation of intergovernmental agreement for EUCPM membership. Benefits, obligations, next steps and follow up actions;
- Other Recommendations

Recommendations provided from TAC:

- Assess existing technical infrastructures owned by national and local institutions on hazards monitoring, early warning and alerting

[12] Please refer to **Annex 2_Output 1.4** for deliverables and activities.
[13] Please refer to ***Annex 2_Output 1.4/ 1. National Platform 4DRR***
[14] Minutes of Meeting of KTK, Nr. 1397/8 date 20.12.2022 - ***Annex 2_Output 1.4/2. Technical Advisory Committee_13.12.2022***

- List of ongoing and planned projects aiming to support and improve existing technical infrastructures owned by national and local institutions on;
- Knowledge sharing on new technics and technological tools that potentially might be applied on hazards monitoring, early warning and alerting
- All institutions must provide their needs for trainings and capacity building to NCPA, in order to include them on 2023 Civil Protection Training Programme

3.3 Output 1.6: New building codes according to Eurocode & national annexes prepared[15]

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:	Under implementation
Duration of the contract:	n/a
Implementing partner:	▪ *NCPA* ▪ *Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy* ▪ *Institute of Construction* ▪ *Polytechnic University of Tirana* ▪ *IGJEO*
Contract milestones	
Milestones	***Deliverables***
Baseline assessment on Eurocodes and national annexes in Albania	Preparatory work conducted and Draft ToR prepared[16]
Preparation of national annexes, with focus on Package 2.1 (Reinforced Concrete building)	n/a
Update National Guidelines for Eurocode implementation in Albania	n/a
Preparation of 4 sets of Designer Guides	n/a
Support regional-based trainings of engineers in collaboration with Ministry of Infrastructure, NACP and Prefectures	n/a
Progress accomplished	
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 PDNA[17] 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 prepared and ready to be published to start the required consultancy.	

[15] Please refer to **Annex 3_Output 1.6** for deliverables and activities

[16] Please refer to **Annex 3_Output 1.6** for deliverables and activities.

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

3.4 Output 1.7: Support national capacity development in risk assessments and emergency planning[18]

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	*Completed*
Duration	*November 2021- December 2022*
Implementing Partner	*5 national consultants* *6 international consultants*
Contract milestones	
Milestones	***Deliverables:***
Support a light version of the Multi Hazard Risk Assessment approval, through updating the national hazard/risk profile	- ***6 Thematic Hazards Assessment Reports*** *on six major risks in Albania as per Law 45/2019 prepared, delivered and endorsed by the NCPA* - ***National Risk Assessment Final Report, including a Consolidate Report and 6 thematic hazards reports, compiled and edited***[19]*. Sent by Ministry of Defense at the end of December 2022 for Council of Ministers official approval*
Provision of training on risk assessment and emergency planning to central stakeholders	Trainings and workshops conducted by national and international experts with NCPA staff, and all 6 working subgroups participants on preparation of each of hazards specific assessment reports.
Progress accomplished	

National Risks Assessment document is the main technical document leading to the preparation of the National DRR Strategy and after that on a detailed preparation of National Emergency Plan. On this purpose, 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 29.06.202, it was established the dedicated technical and political working group and divided into 6 technical subgroups for each of the risks as per Law 45/2019 requirements. A detailed programme on working groups meetings developed and in total 30 meetings organized with technical interinstitutional working groups and 1 meeting with political interinstitutional working group for the final approval. The document has been endorsed by NCPA and sent by the Ministry of Defense for approval of Council of Ministries. The project fully supported this process technically and logistically from the fists step till the last comment reflected accordingly. Following a detailed information on this process:

- 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.
- One political, 11 Deputy Ministers of respective ministries members, and 30 technical inter-institutional working groups meetings with 150 representatives from national institutions[20] organized as part of the process. A total

[18] Please refer to **Annex 4_Output 1.7** for deliverables and activities.
[19] Please refer to **Annex 3_Output 1.7/ 1. Output 1.10 National Risk multi-hazard**
[20] Based on Albanian Prime Minister Order no. 57 date 29.06.2021

number of 150 representatives of national institutions and NCPA staff trained and actively involved in the process, with 40 % gender-balanced participation. All meetings were coordinated and leaded by the NACP and technically and logistically supported by the RESEAL project.

- 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.
- 6 dedicated trainings on preparation of NRA document and lessons learn from the process has been conducted by national risks experts with NCPA staff to strengthen and improve national capacities on conducting similar process.
- 11 experts, 5 nationals and 6 internationals, contracted by the project involved in the process to provide the necessary technical assistance, on the preparation of 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 are planned to conduct 2 missions in the country to get better knowledge of national context, meet with key actors and conduct site visits on the areas with major exposure to the risk in Albania. Following it is the composition of 5 teams of experts as per their field of risk`s expertise:

As a part of RESEAL Project, the Government of Albania and UNDP embarked on conducting a countrywide disaster risk assessment process focusing on six major disasters outlined by Law 45/2019 adopted by Albania in 2019. The National Civil Protection Agency supported by UNDP and several donor organizations following the Law on "Civil Protection" produced the Albanian National Disaster Risk Assessment document, which consists of a consolidated Disaster Risk Assessment Report and the six Thematic Assessment Reports per major hazards. The Consolidated Disaster Risk Assessment Report is a synthetic report produced based on data and information provided in the six Thematic Reports. The main purpose of the synthetic consolidated report is to develop a practical document for the NCPA and other decision-making stakeholders in the country, which summarizes the main situation with concerning disaster hazards and recommendations developed to address these hazards. During the process of consolidation of 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. Administrative regions (qarks[21]) of Albania are considered the target units of the analysis. 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.

[21] The terms "region" and "qark" are used interchangeably in this report

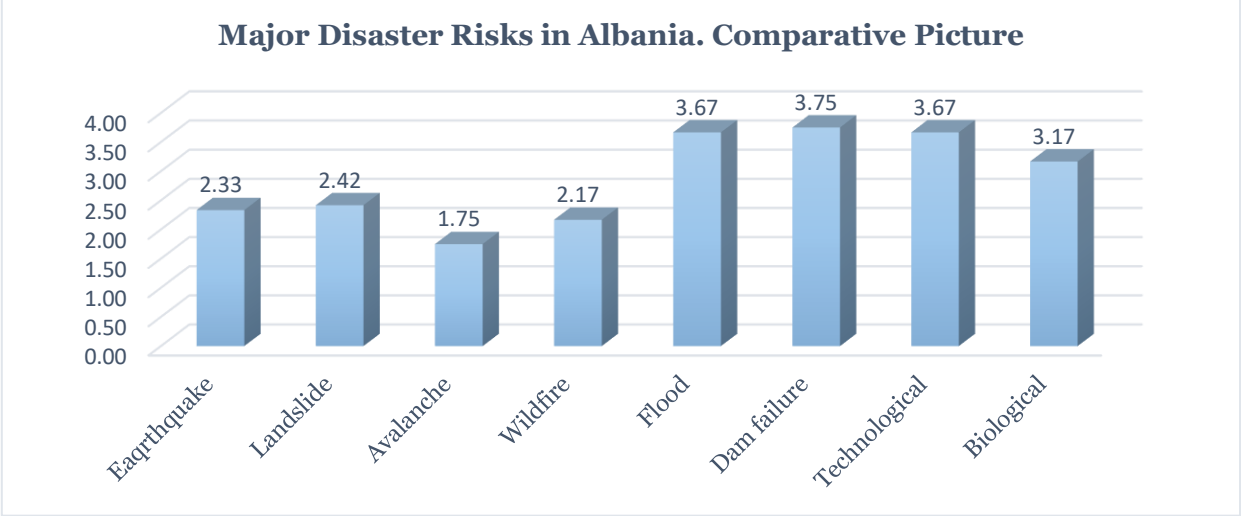


FIGURE 1. MAJOR DISASTER RISKS IN ALBANIA. COMPARATIVE PICTURE

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.

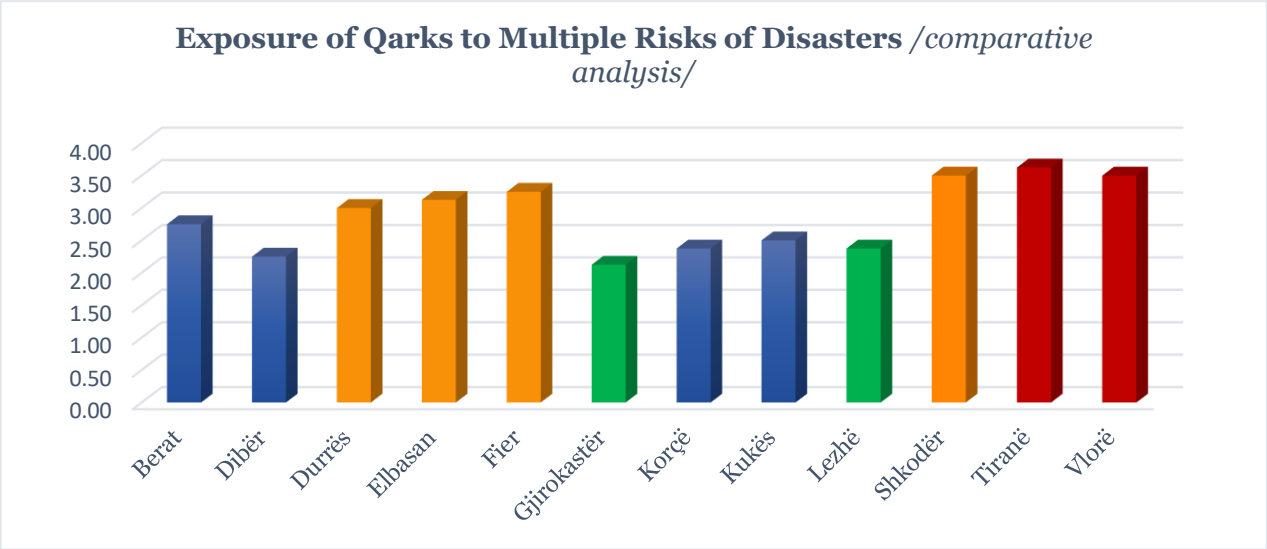


FIGURE 2. EXPOSURE OF QARKS TO MULTIPLE RISKS OF DISASTER IN ALBANIA

According to the comparative analysis of the regions for the risks presented in the six thematic reports, the most disaster-prone regions in the country include Tirana, Vlorë, and Shkodër (high risk), followed by Fier, Elbasan, and Durrës (high risk). Berat and Kukës (medium to high risk), Korçë, Lezhë, Dibër, and Gjirokastër (medium risk) are less risky in terms of eight major hazards.

The Consolidated report also discusses potential risk scenarios for the regions and suggests capacity-building measures in three directions, including mitigation of the risks, future Disaster Risk Management Strategy of the country, and the capacity for similar risk assessments in the future.

- **Multi-hazard, multi-risk assessment approach**

A multi-risk approach entails a multi-hazard and multi-vulnerability perspective. Complex and cascading events are distinguishable by their complexity, non-linearity, and, most often, their interaction with critical infrastructure, presenting a complex challenge for resilience. This reflects an evolution from the formerly adopted "toppling dominoes" analogy, implying a known trigger and traceable chain of sequential events leading to an identifiable end. The multi-hazard perspective addresses this challenge by focusing on the following major assumptions.

1. Different sources of hazard might be spread over territorial entities (e.g. administrative areas) which remain the spatial reference for risk management;
2. Complex risk - two hazardous events can also happen simultaneously, without any cause-effect relationship;
3. Cascading risk - one hazardous event can trigger another hazardous event, as a result of a domino effect.

Cascading hazards can be for instance a seismic event triggering landslides or an industrial explosion triggering a fire.
The six thematic reports prepared by six different teams of experts used different methods and evaluation systems. This fact represented the biggest challenge in the preparation of the consolidated report. The multi-risk methodology allowed addressing the issues related to the analysis of the huge volume of information and coming up with a synthesis of complex risk (multi-risk) for each region as described above. The evaluation of multi-hazard, the multi-risk situation has been considered a characteristic of the territory. A multi-risk approach should not be seen as a way to replace single-risk approaches but as a way to improve the understanding of the complexity of risks over a territory.
To develop a visual presentation of a multi-risk situation, an evaluation and scoring system for comparative analysis of qualitative assessments presented in the six thematic reports is suggested. For the assessment of disaster risk levels, a grade of 1 to 6 is applied. Based on the information from six reports and comparative scoring of risks applied, the total scoring and/or average scoring for each disaster risk of each qark are calculated. This way it was possible to make some comparative analyses and present visual pictures of disaster risk in each region.

The highest risk for disaster in Albania is connected with dams' failures, potential floods technological accidents and biological threats, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The relatively high level is explained by a high probability of occurrence of such events and the potential impact on the people and critical infrastructure. Potential earthquakes, landslides and wildfires are sources of medium risk of disasters, taking into consideration the level of probability of occurrence and potential impact. In terms of dams' failures, this phenomenon will cause a high-risk disaster if it occurs. It is important to highlight that the probability of large dam failure (dams for energy generation) is low as they are under permanent supervision and control by operators using them, as well as state instances where the National Committee of Large Dams is the main. Apparently, the disaster risk for each type of hazard is not distributed evenly throughout the country. The following analysis presents the distribution of disaster risks from major hazards.

- **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

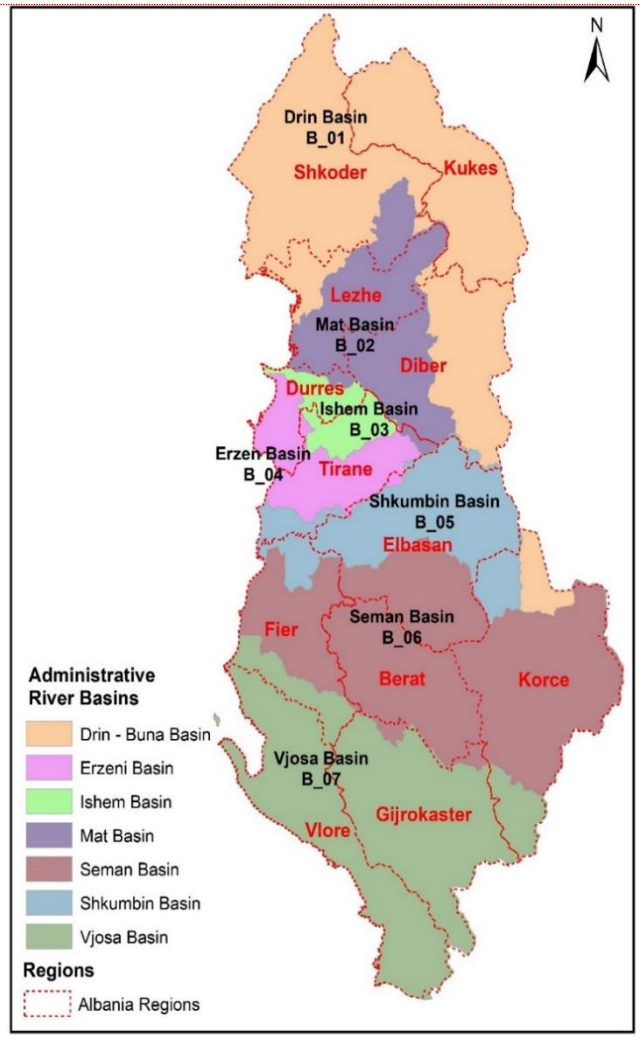


FIGURE 3 REGIONS AND ALBANIAN ADMINISTRATIVE RIVER BASINS

1. Flood risk

According to the Floods Hazard Specific Risk Assessment Report, the territory of the Republic of Albania can be subdivided into seven major water basins, as follows:

a) Drin-Bunë River Basin, with the centre in Shkodër;
b) Mat River Basin, with the centre in Lezhë;
c) Ishëm River Basin, with the centre in Durrës;
d) Erzen River Basin, with the centre in Tirana;
e) Shkumbin River Basin, with the centre in Elbasan;
f) Seman River Basin, with the centre in Fier;
g) Vjosa River Basin, with the centre in Vlorë;

Surface waters include rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and lagoons. About 150 small streams form eight major rivers in Albania. These include Buna (41 km), Drin (285 km), Mati (115 km), Ishëm (74 km), Erzen (109 km), Shkumbin (181 km), Seman (281 km), and Vjosa (272 km), which flow into the south-east-north-west direction towards the Adriatic Sea.

Three large lakes and 247 small lakes cover a total of 4% of the country. The three major lakes (Ohri, Prespa, and Shkodra) are trans-boundary.

Albania has about 626 reservoirs which are mostly built along rivers, and which have one storage capacity of 5.6 billion m3 used for irrigation, flood protection, and production of electricity. Approximately 97% of the total domestic production of electricity is generated by hydropower plants along the Drini, Mat, and Bistrica rivers. 50% of the land agricultural that produces about 80% of the agricultural product in the country is irrigated from these water sources.

Floods in Albania are quite frequent. And often they can cause a significant negative impact on the economy, housing, agriculture sector and critical infrastructures, such as roads, energy and water supply networks. Floods are potential triggers for complex and cascading risks, causing landslides and dams' failures. They can also ignite the outbreak of epidemics in communities and regions. Both natural phenomena and anthropogenic factors are triggers for potential floods in Albania.

Four qarks of Albania, including Berat, Fier, Shkodër and Vlorë, are considered to have an extremely high level of risk of floods. Durrës follows this group with a very high level of risk. Elbasan, Gjirokastër, Lezhë and Tirana scored medium for flood risk level. This picture demonstrates that the entire country is very prone to the risk of floods. As such, the future disaster risk management strategy should put a strong focus on building resilience throughout the country for such risks.

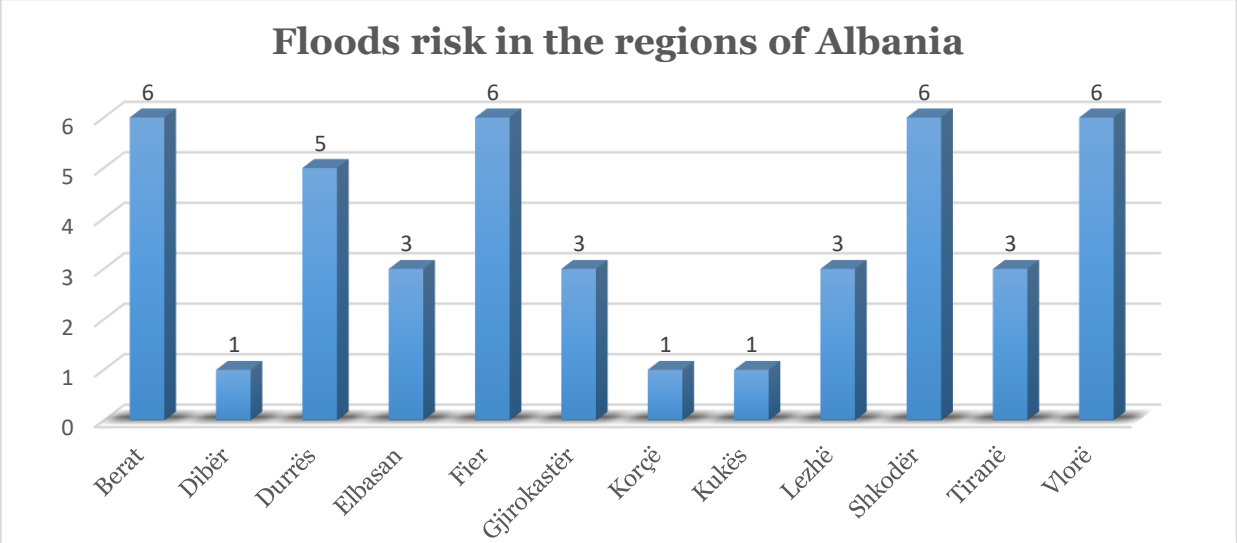


FIGURE 4: FLOOD RISK IN THE REGIONS OF ALBANIA

2. Landslide risk

Albania is a mountainous country with a large variety of geology and lithology. A significant part of the country is prone to landslide risk. Areas with a high density of population and buildings as well as rapid development for economic activity and/or tourism are often exposed to landslides or even secondary effects of landslides such as debris flows or surface erosion. Several landslides in recent decades are also related to construction activity mainly for hydropower plants and new highway connections.

Awareness building on institutional, administrative and research levels is essential for a better understanding of landslide risk. Bundling efforts and budgets of different institutions will lead to the building of a national risk mitigation network and ensure the cooperation of all parties involved. Technical seminars and training of the relevant personnel as well as the use of monitoring and alarm systems will allow for further preparedness for landslide hazards.

The landslide risk assessment for the regions of Albania is presented in Figure 5[22].

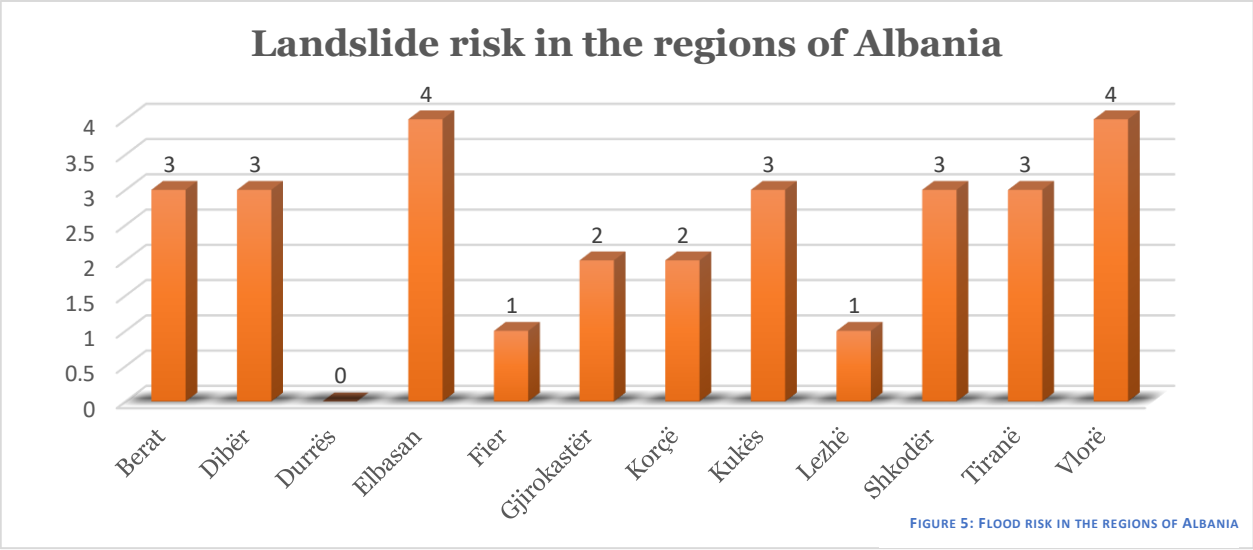


FIGURE 5: FLOOD RISK IN THE REGIONS OF ALBANIA

[22] Scoring from "0" to "1" does not mean that there is no risk for landslides in the mentioned regions. It simply outlines the relative level of such risk in the regions. This is the result of synthetic analysis conducted on the basis of information provided in the thematic report

The highest risk of landslides is registered in Elbasan and Vlorë regions. The medium level was observed for Berat, Dibër, Kukës, Shkodër and Tirana regions. A detailed analysis of the landslide risk situation in the country is presented in the Gravitational Specific Risk Assessment.

3. Wildfire risk

The forests in Albania have been shaped by fire for many years. Both the patterns of the forest we see today and the species of plants growing in these forests are a result of past fires and human impacts like grazing, logging etc. The Global Forest Watch data indicates that wildfires in Albania are the second main driver of forest loss in Albania with about 13503.4 ha. Wildfires pose a serious threat to valued resources and assets and for that reason, the wildfire threat must be considered. The official data from National Civil Protection Agency indicate that fires have spread from north to south, affecting forests, pastures, olive groves, orchards, vineyards and different buildings. Most of these valued resources and assets decrease in value when burned, especially when burned by high-intensity fires. The wildfire increasingly pose risk to the human settlements too. The relative scoring of wildfire risk in the regions of Albania is presented in Figure 6.

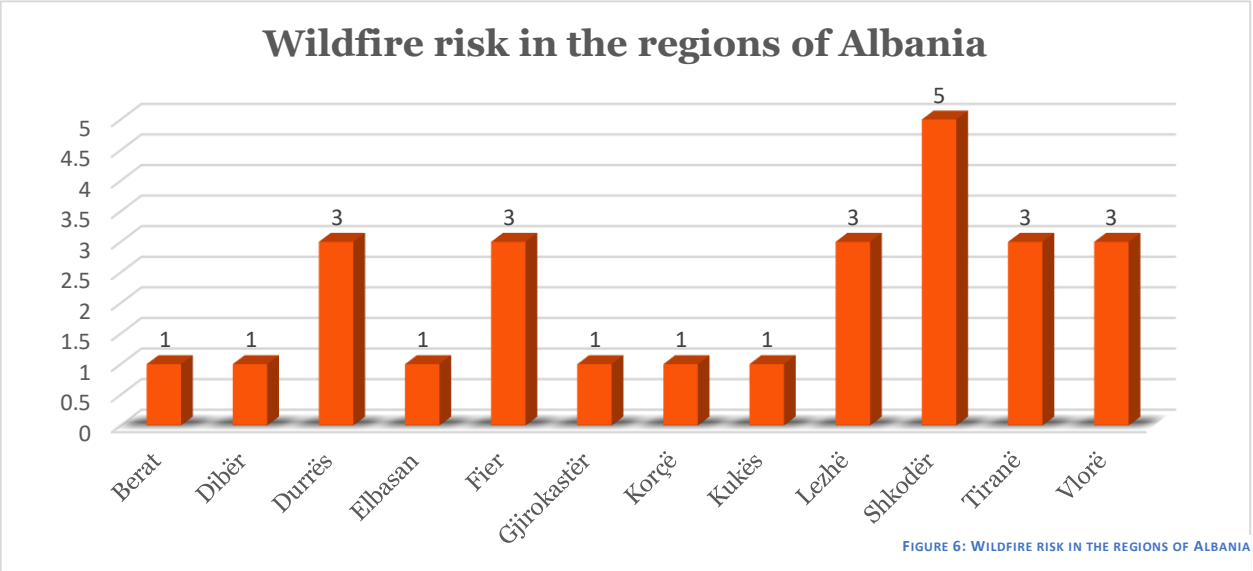


FIGURE 6: WILDFIRE RISK IN THE REGIONS OF ALBANIA

The highest level of wildfire risk is registered in Shkodër, with Durrës, Fier, Lezhë, Tirana and Vlorë having a pattern of increasing risk from medium to high. The details of the wildfire disaster risk in the country are presented in the Wildfire Hazard Specific Risk Assessment Report.

4. Earthquake risk

The whole territory of the country appears with a high seismic risk. Areas with high density and rapid development, especially those located in regions with significant seismic events or with weak soils (capital, coastal areas, tourist and historical centers, informal areas, economic corridors), appear to have very high seismic risk. For these areas, first, it is advised to focus attention and relevant initiatives on the improvement of the strengthening and preventive measures for the reduction of the existing risk and the preventive measures to prevent a possible further increase in seismic risk in the future.

Informal and voluntary construction, construction typologies proved to be highly vulnerable to seismic risk. Construction of dwellings and other buildings, major infrastructure and cultural heritage works are categories that should be subject to seismic safety assessments.

Full knowledge of key seismic risk factors such as hazard, exposure, and vulnerability, as well as initiatives for both design and standardization, is required to be prioritized by decision-making authorities and research institutions. It is also vitally important to ensure that a high level of seismic safety standards is observed during the construction process and future maintenance.

The relative scoring for seismic risk in the regions of Albania is presented in Figure 7.

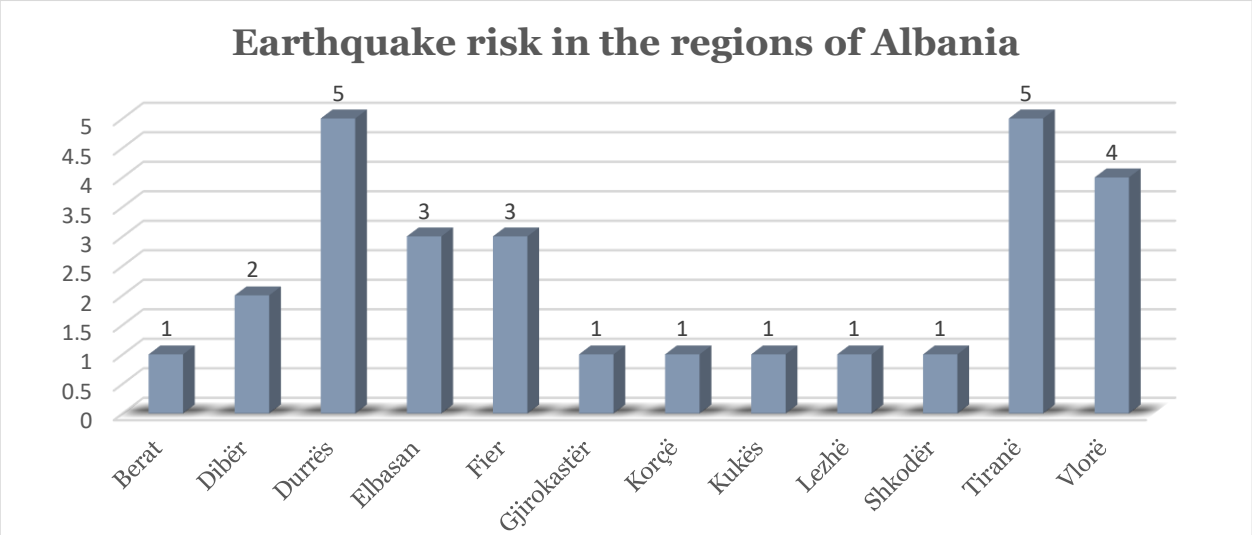


FIGURE 7: EARTHQUAKE RISK IN THE REGIONS OF ALBANIA

The highest earthquake risk level is observed in Durrës, Tirana and Vlorë, while Elbasan and Fier have increasing scores from medium to high levels of seismic risk. The details of the earthquake risk in Albania are presented in the Seismic Hazard Specific Risk Assessment Report.

5. Technological risk

The technological disaster risk is a result of the anthropogenic impact of the development of society. Technological (or techno-genic) disasters can be triggered by natural disasters and vice versa. Often, they are part of a complex and cascading risk of disaster in a given region or country. Considering the huge negative impact, they cause on society, the economy and the environment, technological disasters are the ones, which shall be considered seriously in the disaster risk management processes. The main technological hazards are connected with industrial pollution, toxic and radioactive waste, transport accidents, explosions in industrial facilities, and chemicals originating from the following economic sectors

- Production, transportation, storage and trade of oil and its by-products;
- The natural gas sector, including gas pipelines;
- The power/energy sector, including the generation of electric power and its transportation;
- The hazardous materials of previous industrial activity and stocks of military ammunition;
- The mining sector;
- The risks associated with the transport sector, including road, rail, sea, and air transport were not considered during the hazard specific assessment process;

The special consideration in Albania in terms of technological hazards is the old stocks of hazardous materials remaining from the past period. The relative scoring for technological risk in the regions of Albania is presented in Figure 8.

The highest risk of technological disaster is registered in the regions with high economic potential, including Durrës, Fier, Tirana and Vlorë. The rest of the country can be considered to have a medium level of technological risk. A detailed discussion on the factors impacting the technological risk in Albania is presented in the Technological Hazard Specific Risk Assessment Report.

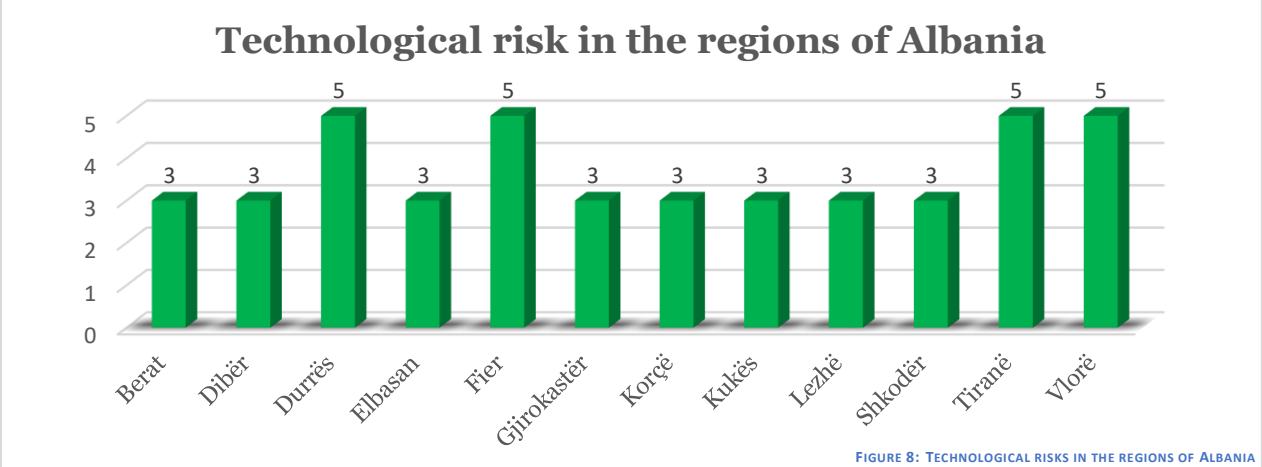


FIGURE 8: TECHNOLOGICAL RISKS IN THE REGIONS OF ALBANIA

6. Biological risk

Biological hazards are 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 through loss of livestock and crops, and may also cause damage and loss to natural resources, including endangered fauna and flora.

Biological hazards are of organic origin or conveyed by biological vectors, including pathogenic microorganisms, toxins, and bioactive substances. Examples are bacteria, viruses, 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.

While biological hazards also pose a risk to animals including livestock, and 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. The following biological hazards are considered a source of potential biological risk in Albania:

- 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.

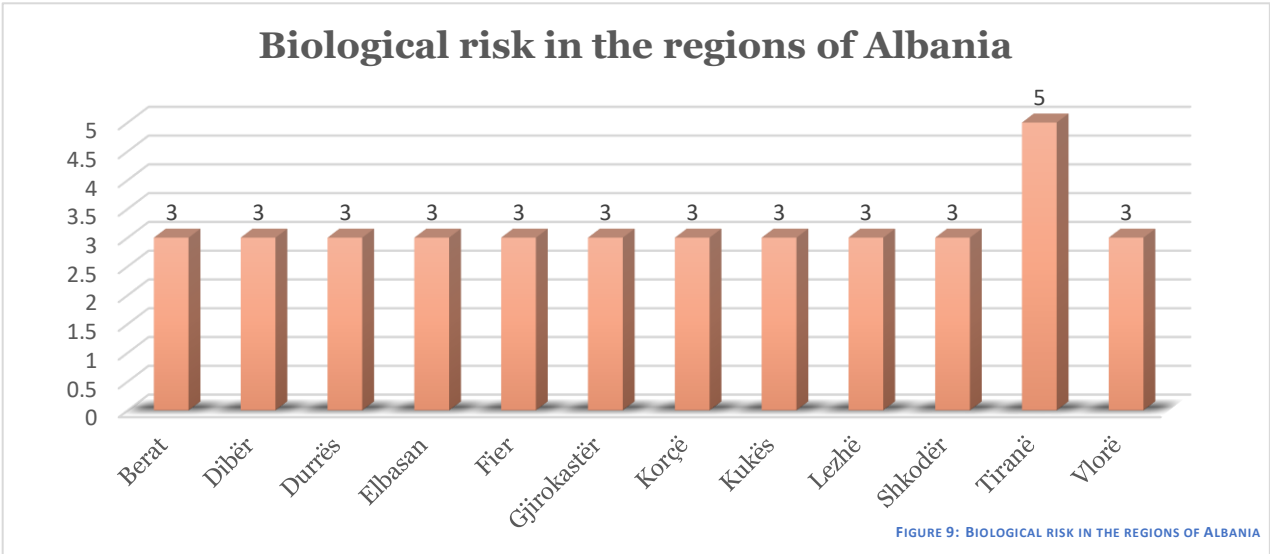


FIGURE 9: BIOLOGICAL RISK IN THE REGIONS OF ALBANIA

The relative scoring for biological risk in the regions of Albania presented in Figure 10 demonstrates that the biological risk is evenly distributed throughout the country with exception of the capital city of Tirana. The average level of biological risk in the country is medium, while the risk in Tirana can be considered pretty high. This is due to the higher density of the population and the high rate of traffic in the capital area. A detailed picture of the biological risk in Albania is presented in the Biological Hazard Specific Risk Assessment Report.

7. Dams' failure risk

The dams' failure risk in Albania, is of high-level. The risk of dams' failure is divided into two categories. Dams for energy production and agricultural dams. From the analysis of energy production dams' failures, it is noted that Shkodra is the riskiest qark, followed by Fier and Lezha. While the Elbasan, Berat Dibër and Vlora qarks have a smaller impact.

Besides the risks connected with the major dams, there are also risks connected with dams owned by municipalities. The recent studies of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development highlighted various technical and managerial problems connected with the maintenance of these structures. Economic activities and housing development done nearby the old dams created new hazards and risks for potential disasters. Many of these dams exhausted their limits of operations, however, are still in use. The further assessment of disaster risks at the local level must pay close attention to this phenomenon.

From the results obtained from the agricultural dams' failure, it can be noted that the Tirana qark is at a very high risk of floods caused by the agricultural dams' failure or those of water supply.

At average risk, are Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, and Korça, and at low risk are Berat, Dibra, Gjirokastra, Kukës, Lezha, Shkodra, and Vlora. The relative scoring of the dams' failure risk is presented in figure 10.

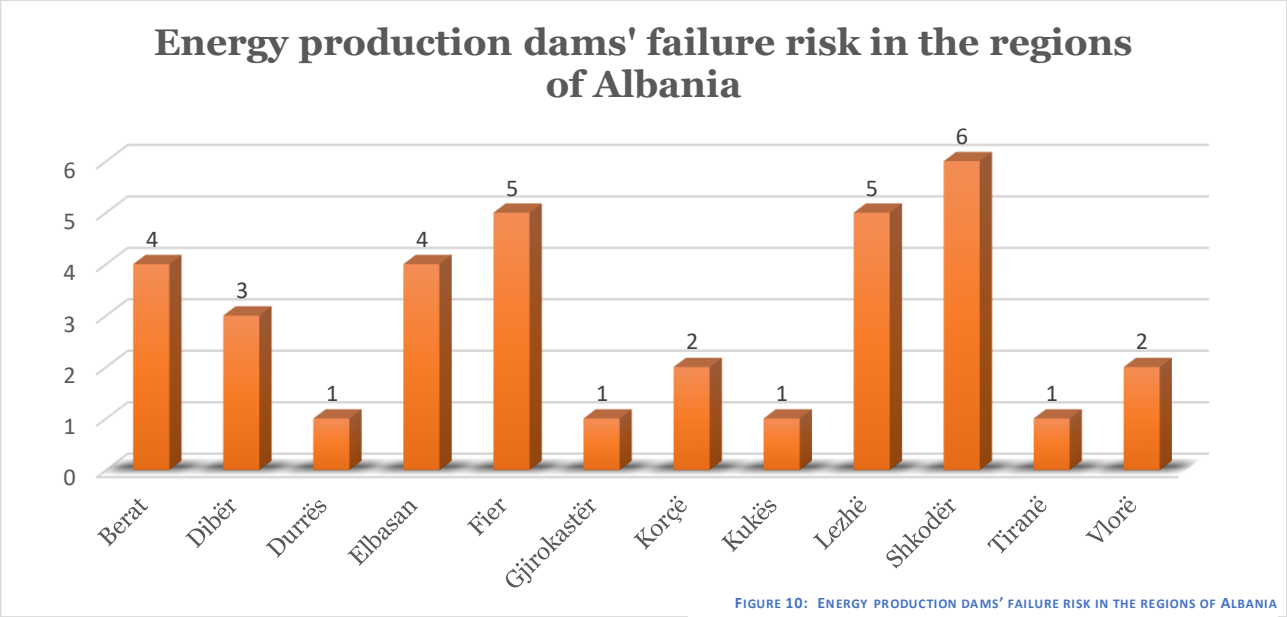


FIGURE 10: ENERGY PRODUCTION DAMS' FAILURE RISK IN THE REGIONS OF ALBANIA

The relative scoring of the risk of agricultural dams is shown in figure 11 below.

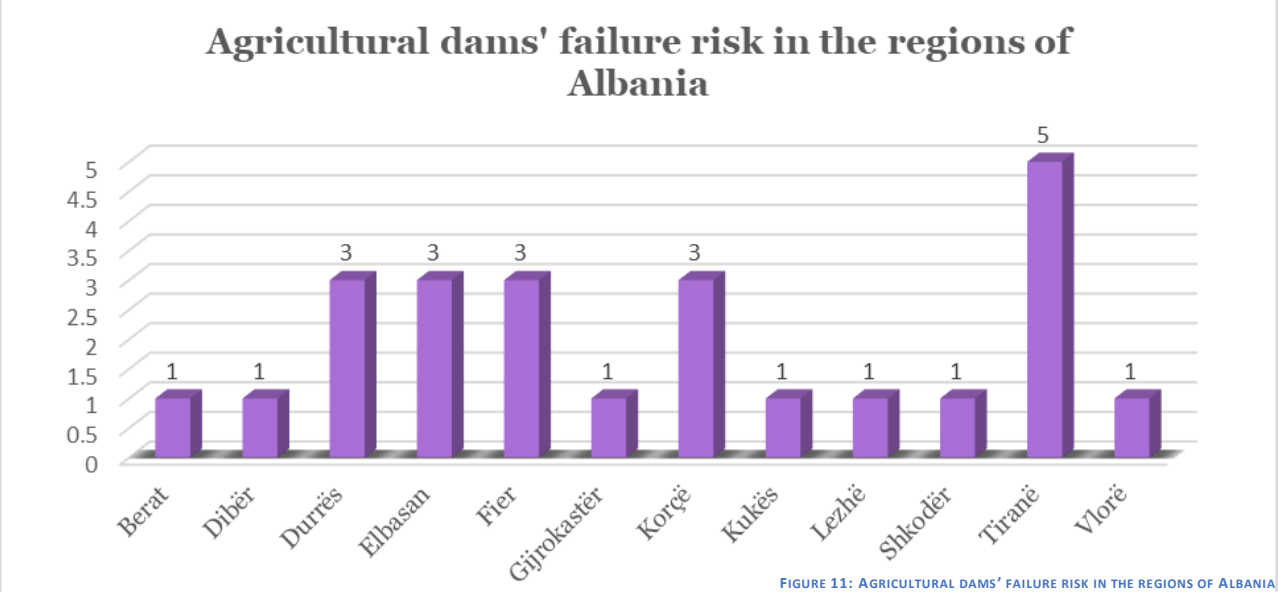


FIGURE 11: AGRICULTURAL DAMS' FAILURE RISK IN THE REGIONS OF ALBANIA

8. Avalanche risk

Avalanche Risk has a relatively low profile in the overall disaster risk picture of Albania. Nevertheless, for regions like Korçë, Kukës, Elbasan and Dibër it might have a serious and high impact, causing a cascading effect of disasters by destroying the major infrastructure, such as roads and power transmissions, and creating disruption of major services. As such, the risk of avalanches must be taken into account in preparing local and regional resilience-building plans.

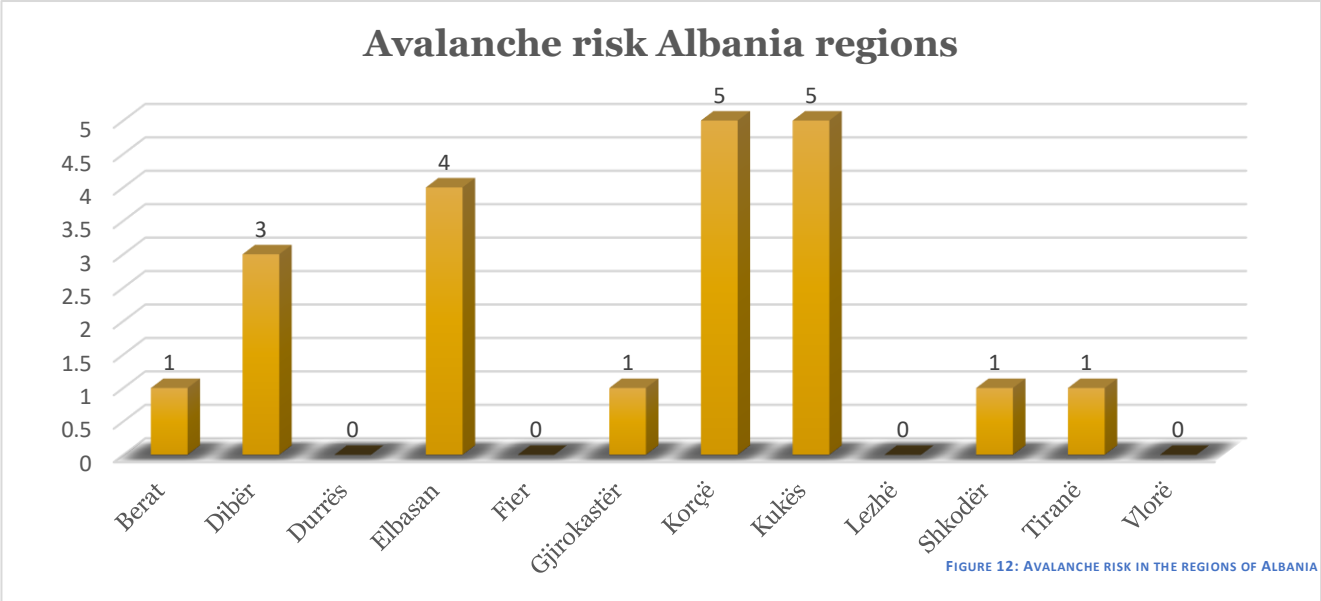


FIGURE 12: AVALANCHE RISK IN THE REGIONS OF ALBANIA

- **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 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 earthquakes 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
- 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.

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 defence personnel and the population on protection and self-defence measures.
- Poor participation of local communities in disaster risk management;

Comparative Analytical Table for Disaster Multi-Risk Assessment for the Regions of Albania

#	Region	Disaster risk levels								
		Earthquake	Landslide	Avalanche	Wildfire	Flood	Dam failure	Technologic	Biologic	Multi Hazard
1	Berat	1	3	1	1	6	4	3	3	2.75
2	Dibër	2	3	3	1	1	2	3	3	2.25
3	Durrës	5	0	0	3	5	3	5	3	3.00
4	Elbasan	3	4	4	1	3	4	3	3	3.13
5	Fier	3	1	0	3	6	5	5	3	3.25
6	Gjirokastër	1	2	1	1	3	3	3	3	2.13
7	Korcë	1	2	5	1	1	3	3	3	2.38
8	Kukës	1	3	5	1	1	3	3	3	2.50
9	Lezhë	1	1	0	3	3	5	3	3	2.38
10	Shkodër	1	3	1	5	6	6	3	3	3.50
11	Tiranë	5	3	1	3	3	4	5	5	3.63
12	Vlorë	4	4	0	3	6	3	5	3	3.50
		2.33	2.42	1.75	2.17	3.67	3,75	3.67	3.17	

3.5 Output 1.9: National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan developed[23]

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	***Abkons shpk company:*** *Team composition* - *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:

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. 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, and at the same time sent by the Ministry of Defense for Council of Ministers approval in December 2022. 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 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

[23] Please refer to **Annex 5_Output 1.9** for deliverables and activities

- Capacity building and learning by doing on DRR Strategy adoption at all levels and monitoring instruments provided

The process for the development of the NDRRS started in December 2021 coinciding with the final stage of preparation of the National Risk Assessment document and based on this document it was developed by following Sendai framework and EU Directives guidance as well as best practices in the region and Europe. The NDRRS is the first strategic DRR document development and will be the first one approved on this field. 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. Th NRA 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.
- A Team of consultants hired by the project to assist NCPA and dedicated working groups on the developing process of the strategy. 3 missions in the country by international consultants and several meetings for stakeholders' engagement conducted by the team of consultants and NCAP at national and local level.
- 4 IIWG meetings and 1 consultation meeting with all the other relevant stakeholders organized and conduced, by receiving all inputs and comments from everyone and reflecting them accordingly.
- The process followed the required steps for the official approval of the sectorial strategies, including at the beginning the approval of the NDRRS structure from SASPAC commission. The final draft was approved by the technical and political working groups and all the comments coming from government e-acts platform were reflected accordingly despite the fact that most of them came out of legal due date.
- 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

The Government of Albania, answering to the globally accepted obligations as part of the Sendai Framework, as a full member country of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EU CPM) and aspiring to become a future EU member state but most importantly wanting Albania to become a disaster resilient country, is strongly supporting the development of National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (NDRRS). Even though the preconditions in terms of existing national level framework and expertise were there it needs to be noted that the turning point directing changes in how the DRR system was perceived in Albania was the 26 November 2019

earthquake. It was then when the Government of Albania considered this major disaster as an opportunity to strengthen the overall DRR system, both in terms of capacity and strategic planning. This entire DRR strengthening process is something that the Government of Albania could be and is willing to internationally present as a best practice example.

Albania is vulnerable to a range of natural disasters. The main hazards affecting Albania are earthquakes, floods, forest fires and landslides. Other hazards include snowstorms, droughts, temperature extremes, epidemics, avalanches, technological hazards (eg, dam breaks), and windstorms.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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. 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. The Strategy addresses the most important hazards for Albania, in accordance to the National Risk Assessment (NRA).

- **Achievements and lessons learned from the implementation of the reform after the 2019 Earthquake**
  1. The establishment of NCPA finally provided sufficient administrative capacities at the central level alongside the broader responsibilities and competencies, thus transforming the agency into a leading, prestigious and comparable organization with all counterparts' European organizations.
  2. Increasing the administrative, technical, and financial capacity of the entire civil protection system is one of the main challenges that the NCPA will face in its journey in implementing the reform that began with the adoption of Law 45/2019. Increasing the financial capacities, based on the provisions of this law but not only, will in fact pose the biggest and most critical challenge that will determine the degree of success of the reform in its entirety.
  3. Activating the Civil Protection Committee alongside the Technical Advisory Commission is providing a combination of high-level decision-making cooperation and inter-institutional coordination with that of the technical level.
  4. The principle of subsidiarity and clear obligations for municipalities have increased their awareness of the crucial role they play in the DRR and CP. The financial capacities of the municipalities have increased as a result of the obligation to plan at least 4% of their total annual budget for the DRR and CP. However, there is still much to be done in this regard as a change of the organizational mentality is required, according to which, in emergencies, everything was expected from the central level intervention;
  5. Annual financial compensation funds of households with disasters-damaged dwellings have increased as the technical-scientific processing of documentation and registration of files in the (computer) has improved. Funds managed by the NCPA for structural projects of disaster prevention and rehabilitation have multiplied, as well as the role of NCPA in procurement, implementation, supervision, and hand overing by eventually increasing its role in the prevention and mitigation phase;

6. Intensive commitments in international agreements in various projects and programs in the field of DRR and CP which will be translated into benefits must continue as, inter alia, will enable funding to further strengthen the capacity of the CP system in the country;
7. Establishment of the inspection sector shall increase the controlling but also punitive skills of the NCPA. However, the provision of continuous control is needed, accompanied by the imposition of penalties on the offender, as appropriate;
8. The realization of membership in the EU, which constituted one of the major priorities of the NCPA, will also have to be accompanied by the TESTA link establishment for CECIS interconnection. This must also be accompanied by the establishment and completion of some EU modules to join the European Capacity of the Emergency Response (EERC);
9. By establishing of the Directorate of Preparedness and Coordination of Emergency Response, the NCPA operational capacities have increased significantly, as well as the early warning capacities. However, based on the current experience of disaster management, it is necessary to further increase the NCPA operational capacities that entail the strengthening of Regional Civil Protection Centers in ICT and other operational capacities;
10. Although activities related to education on DRR, public awareness, and training have increased and improved, these events need to be planned based on relevant awareness and training programs;
11. Strengthening the early warning system, integration of GIS data such as processing disaster risk information and disaster loss data through Desinventar;
12. Drafting the necessary legal basis and taking all other steps necessary for the full implementation of the unified civil emergency number 112 across the country;
13. Defining and inclusion in Law 45/2019 of the Civil Protection Volunteer Service in Operational Forces and the approval of DCM no. 667, dated 10.11.2021 “On the treatment of volunteers for their engagement in civil protection activities or in the disaster response and relief operations” have laid the foundations for the expansion of volunteering in the field of civil protection in the country. It is necessary ensuring the implementation of other measures needed to strengthen volunteering at all stages of the DRM;
14. Alongside the DRR and CP funds of ministries and municipalities, through the legal provision of article 66 of Law 45/2019 on the establishing of a solidarity fund used to cope with emergency situations, an additional financial instrument is established. However, the country needs a very comprehensive multi-sectoral approach to strengthening financial preparedness through adoption and then implementation of a disaster risk financing program which will have to be guided by MFE and strongly supported by the NCPA.
15. The NCPA should accelerate the work on completing the bylaws of Law 45/2019 as other documents such as SOP/SOG, guidelines, manuals, regulations, continuity of operations plans (COOP) and continuity of Government (COG) in the ministry and other security and protection institutions etc.
16. Entailing in law 45/2019 of chapter V "Protection of critical infrastructure and cultural heritage" is a first and important step for strengthening the resilience of critical infrastructure. However, a Law on Critical Infrastructure is necessary to be drafted the soonest possible which will transpose the EU legislation on critical infrastructure such as EU Council Directive 2008/114 of December 8, 2008. In addition, it is necessary for the NCPA to coordinate the work to carry out the assessment of the critical and public infrastructure resilience, based on which the neediest objects will be prioritized, their project will be designed, and the rehabilitation works will be carried out;

NDRRS Vision and Mission

- A safer, sustainable Albania, capable of reducing disaster risks and the effects of climate change, to prepare, cope and recover, integrated into all sectors with developed capacities to ensure prevention

of new risks and management of residual risk, all of which contributing to strengthening resilience and therefore to achieving society's sustainable development.

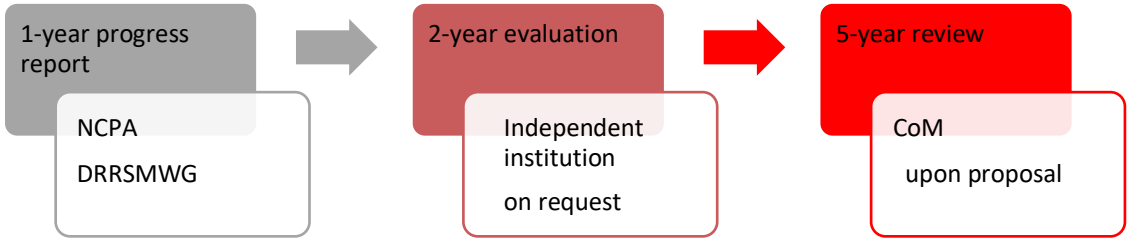
- To make coordinated efforts, ensure the cooperation and use of capacities and capabilities, technological, existing and new resources of all sectors and stakeholders, in order to protect the people's lives, livestock, property, cultural heritage, and the environment.
- To strengthen resilience at the national level through the establishment of effective, accountable, and comprehensive institutional structures of the civil protection system in order to increase preparedness and partnership for response, recovery and reconstruction.
- To strengthen community resilience by enabling, empowering, and supporting individuals, organizations, and communities to act for themselves and others, for the safety and well-being of all.

Strategic Objectives

a) To manage existing risks and prevent new risks.
b) To increase awareness, national knowledge and facilitate information exchange on disaster risk reduction and civil protection and creating resilient and sustainable communities with attention to people with disabilities, gender equality, and other vulnerable groups.
c) Enhancing response capacities through building resilient infrastructures, fostering comprehensive industrialization and fostering innovation.
d) To promote policy coherence and the regulatory framework related to disaster risk reduction.
e) To strengthen disaster risk management capabilities with the aim of membership in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EU CPM) in a short period of time, thus becoming an additional safety factor for the region and the EU.

Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING PROCESS



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

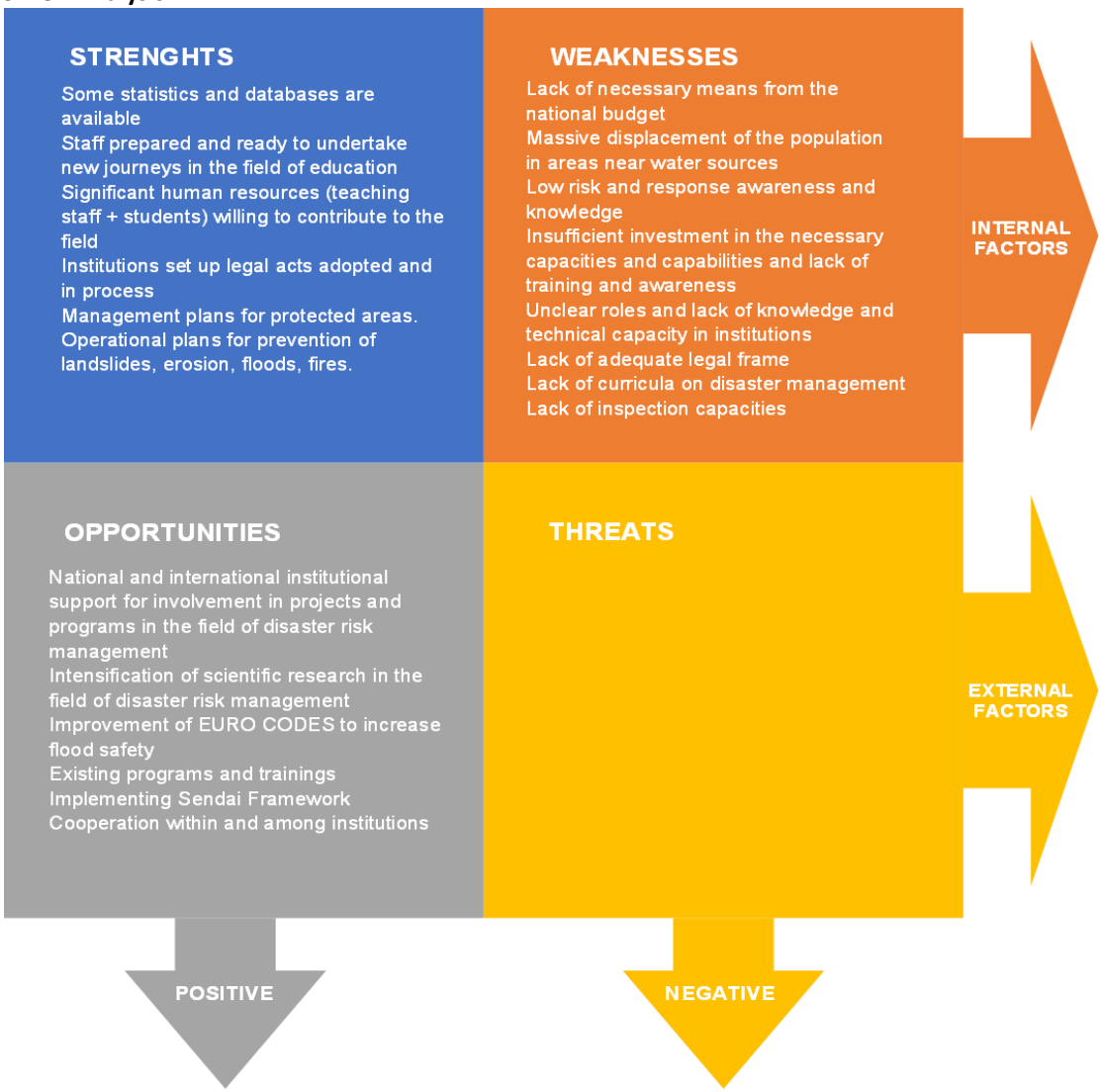
Cross cutting elements of NDRRS

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 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 impacts[24]
- Vulnerable groups and DRR

SWOT Analysis



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

[24] An excerpt from the Albania Revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)

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 2026. 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.

NDRRS Real financial gap calculation in ALL (by removing financial costs of 2 floods strategic projects no.1 and no.2)					
Total cost of strategic projects	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 Real financial gap calculation in ALL (by removing financial costs of 2 floods strategic projects no.1 and no.2 and 5 strategic projects supported by the WB)						
Total cost of strategic projects	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 %

- **Intervention Areas**

Key intervention areas are areas that, as analyzed by the Inter-sectoral Working Group, are of most importance and urgency in order to manage the highest-level risk in Albania. Each of the Key intervention areas includes a number of planned activities that will be, per hazard, listed in the Action Plan corresponding to the relevant time period. The summarized, approximate financial frame for the Strategy will be summation of each of the Action Plans financial frames respectively.

- **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 will officially join on 1.01.2023.

Communication

The NCPA as the coordinator of the process and the Government of Albania as the owner of the Strategy made sure all national processes and obligations regarding the consultations with other national institutions and local and governments as well as with the public are consulted during the adaptation process. All relevant stakeholders have been introduced to the draft Strategy prior to its adoption.

Following the adoption of the Strategy, it is of utmost importance to communicate its goals and purpose to the national institutions and to the public in order to raise awareness of the agenda in question. Communication is also crucial in developing a solid implementation base and ownership in all implementing institutions thus enhancing the implementation rate.

3.6. Output 1.11: National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) formulated[25]

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	*Ongoing*
Duration of the contract	*August 2022-April 2023*
Implementing partner	*2 International consultants and 2 national consultants*
***Progress* accomplished**	

The below sub activities performed:

- Inter-institutional working group for leading the revision of NCEP established based on the Prime Minister Order;
- 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

The existing National Civil Emergency Plan (NECP) was developed and adopted in 2004 through UNDP assistance but since hasn't been updated/revised. The NCEP will be developed through a broad consultation process and will serve 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 new National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) will be articulated in the context of the Action Plan of the DRR strategy and as agreed by the Agency and experts this process will start immediately after the approval of Risk Assessment document and National DRR Strategy.

Following the 2019 earthquake, a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) highlighted key areas of need for the newly designed National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA). An additional RESEAL capacity assessment and requirements from Law 45/2019, accentuated the need for:

I. A National Platform on DRR
II. Development of a National Strategy on DRR
III. Development of the National Civil Emergency Plan
IV. Development/ Update of Building Codes
V. Promote regional networking and EU Civil Protection Mechanism compliance
VI. Support risk assessment capacities and business continuity planning.

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.

[25] Please refer to **Annex 6_Output 1.11_** for deliverables and activities

The work has already started, and the preparation of NCEP process is ongoing. The inter-institutional technical working group established based on the Prime Minister Order no. 58 date 29.06.2021. The first 2 international experts missions conducted in the country and 2 technical inter-institutional working group (IIWG) meetings organized, as well as the first draft presented and shared for comments. A Tabletop exercises developed and conducted with participation of IIWG members, relevant partners/actors and stakeholders. The following steps have been completed:

- Establishment of the technical working group and 2 meetings organized. 2 missions of international experts conducted in the country and stakeholder engagement process at all levels to inform and discuss server meeting with regional and local authorities, stakeholders, private sectors;
- 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 exercise was conducted by engaging IIWG and other groups of interest
- NCEP structure and Management cycle approved by the IIWG and NCPA
- 1st draft prepared and ready to be shared for comments with IIWG and other relevant stakeholders

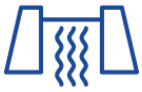
The team of consultants will assist the NCEP on comments process as per e-acts and law requirements and reflect them accordingly. The process has suffered a small delay due to huge load of data collected and inputs provided for the preparation of the NCEP. The final document is expected to be delivered by the end of April 2023 and officially approved by Council of Ministers within 1st half of 2023.

The National Civil Emergency Plan aims to:

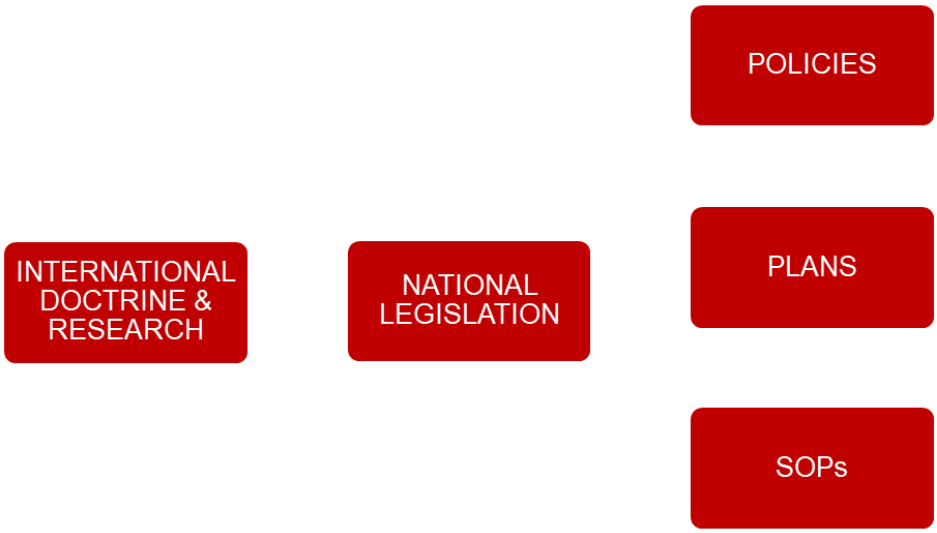
I. Assist the prevention, mitigation, response and recovery from any adverse impacts from emergencies and/ or disasters which may affect human life, property, cultural heritage, livestock, communities and the environment.
II. Provide conditions for public administrations, economic entities, and the population 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:

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

	Flooding
	Technological (Human/ Process induced)
	Biological
	Landslide
	Earthquake
	**Dam Failure**
	Wildfire
	Avalanche

- **Institutional and International Doctrine Linkage (PM)**



- **4 SECTIONS OF THE NCEP**

I.	**Section 1: Essential and Civil Protection Technical Information**
II.	**Section 2: Prevention and Mitigation**
III.	**Section 3: Preparedness**
IV.	**Section 4: Response**
V.	**Section 5: Recovery**
VI.	**Section 6: Training and Development**

PREFEKTI I QARKUT FIER

3.7. Output 2.1: Seismic hazard monitoring strengthened[26]

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	*Ongoing*
Duration of the contract	*August 2022 – February 2023*
Implementing partner	▪ *ArkIT – IT equipment* ▪ *Lunitek srl – Seismic Portable Stations* ▪ *Sara srl – Seismic kit Stations* ▪ *Sterkaj shpk – Civil works* *In cooperation National Agency on Civil Protection (NACP) and Albanian Institute of Geoscience (IGJEO)*[27]

***Progress* accomplished**

The backbone of the Albanian Seismographic Network (ASN), managed by IGJEO, are the broadband week 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.

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 is 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 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.

[26] Please refer to **Annex 7_Output 2.1_** for deliverables and activities
[27] **Annex 7** – IGJEO Seismic Equipment Needs assessment

- Joint meetings 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[28] was 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, as indicated below:

1. Location of 10 new seismic stations

No.	Municipality	Location	Code	Latitude	Longitude
1	Durres	Shkembi i Kavajes	DRSH	41.281286	19.521386
2	Malesi e Madhe	Razem	RZM	42.346478	19.548729
3	Librazhde	Stebleve	STB	41.325132	20.396866
4	Pogradec	Memelisht	*MEM*	40.937570	20.633998
5	Elbasan	Belsh	BEL	40.970885	19.912843
6	Vlore	Peshkepi	PES	40.467751	19.587529
7	Vlore	Palase	PAL	40.165804	19.623852
8	Permet	Permet	PER	40.228703	20.351509
9	Burrel	Burrel	BUR	41.602390	20.004360
10.	Maliq	Moglice	MOG	40.694808	20.443803

2. Location of existing 10 seismic stations

No.	Municipality	Location	Code	Latitude	Longitude
1	Shkoder	AC	SDA	420,506	194,963
2	Bajram Curri	AC	BCI	4,236,432	200,734,327
3	Puka	AC	PUK	4,203,891	1,990,194
4	Peshkopia	AC	PHP	4,168,478	20,439,627
5	Tirana	AC	TIR	4,134,732	19,863,145
6	Berati	AC	BERA	407,082	199,455
7	Korca	AC	KBN	4,062,308	20,785,844
8	Vlora	AC	VLO	404,686	194,955
9	Leskoviku	AC	LSK	401,499	205,987

[28] **Annex 7** – IGJEO Seismic Equipment Needs assessment

10	Saranda	AC	SRN	39,88	200,005

3.8. Output 2.2: Biological risk management with focus on prevention and preparedness used for medium to longer-term risk monitoring and evaluation[29]

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	*completed*
Duration of the contract	*December 2021- December 2022*
Implementing partner	• *Prof. Assoc. Dr. Ilir Alimehmeti – National Consultant* • *Prof. Dr. Melissa Perry - International consultants*

***Progress* accomplished**

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.

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.

[29] Please refer to **Annex 8_Output 2.2_** for deliverables and activities

The process of the preparation of the document steps as per following:

- 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 leaded 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

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**	**Midwifes**	**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%).

- 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.

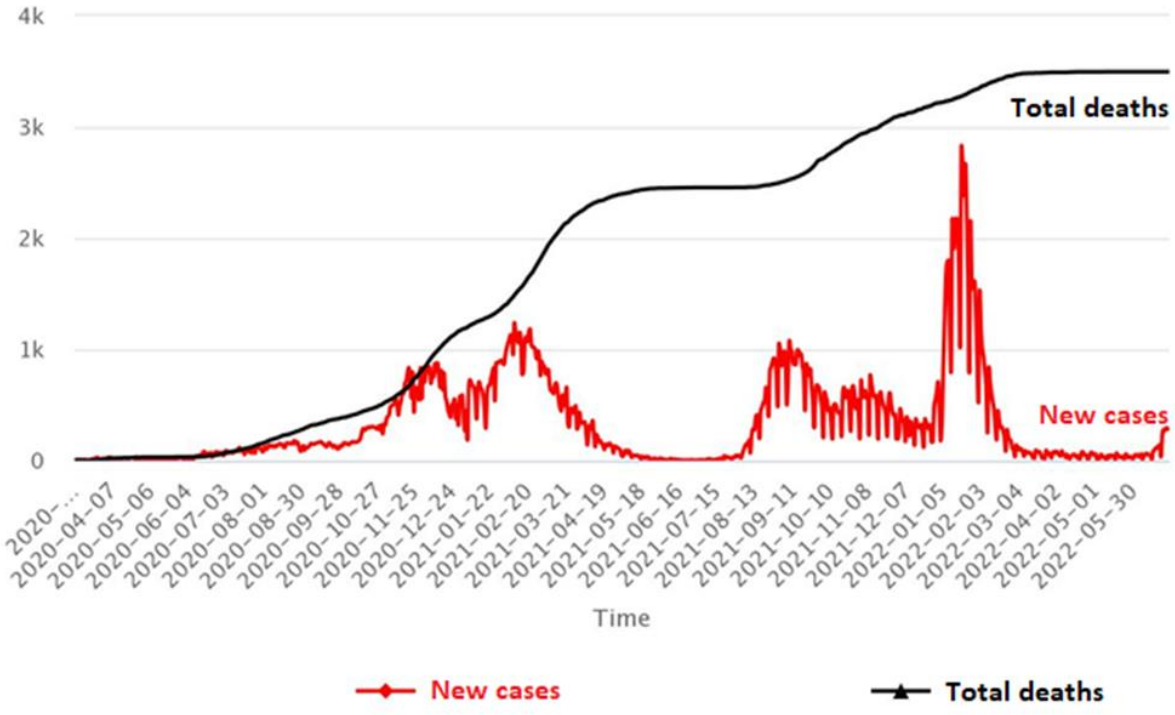
Infectious diseases	**2017**		**2018**		**2019**		**2020**		**2021**	
	N	**Incid./100000**	**N**	**Incid./1000000**	**N**	**Incid./1000000**	**N**	**Incid./10000000**	**N**	**Incid./1000000**
Viral hemorrhagic fever										
Hantan virus	8	2.8	3	1.0	4	1.4	2	0.7	8	2.8
CCHF	2	0.7	1	0.3	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
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

- *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 causalities 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.

Diagram of biological risk in Albania

	Catastrophic >50 casualties			Measles	Covid-19 antibiotic resistance	
	Very severe 20-50 casualties			Emergent and re-emergent diseases		
	Severe 10-20 casualties					
	Significant 5-10 casualties		HIV			
	Limited <5 casualties				Flu	Waterborn diseases
		Very unlikely <0.05%	Unlikely 0.05%-0.5%	Possible 0.5%-5%	Likely 5%-50%	Very likely >50%
	The scenario likelihood					

- **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 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 (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.

RESILIENCE STRENGTHENING
IN ALBANIA PROJECT
– RESEAL PROGRAMME
SUPPORTING ALBANIA'S
EFFORTS TO BECOME
A DISASTER-RESILIENT COUNTRY
TIRANA INTERNA
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CE
adria

3.9. Output 2.3: Local risk assessment for LGUs supported (11 affected municipalities and then the remaining ones)[30] & Output 2.4: Local DRR Strategies & Local Civil Emergency Plans (LCEP) supported (11 affected municipalities and then the remaining ones)[31]

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	*Ongoing – preparation of Local Risk Assessment documents*
Duration of the contract	*May 2021- April 2023*
Implementing partner	*IDRA and UTS01 consultancy* *- 16 key and not key experts on preparation of 6 local risk assessment documents for 6 municipalities within Fieri prefecture, namely Fieri, Lushnja, Divjaka, Patos, Mallakaster, Roskovec* *- Fieri Prefecture and Fieri, Lushnja, Divjaka, Patos, Mallakaster, Roskovec municipalities and NCPA*
***Progress* accomplished**	
Project implementation at local level started in August 2022 due to some changes and revision on the implementation approach proposed by the NACP at the end of the year. At a first moment, after continues discussion on the implementation at the local level, the NACP gave a tacit consent to proceed with replication in other 6 municipalities base on the prepared and clear selection criteria for the municipalities but by extending implementation timeframe to ensure that national documents have been finalized and approved prior the finalization of local 3 DRR documents for the selected municipalities. Meanwhile the project started the procurement process for the selected 6 municipalities, other consultations meetings was conducted with the NACP with the aim to ensure their active involvement and participation on project implementation at local level. During this time the NACP has requested to reconsider the selection criteria of the municipalities and took time to revise those criteria. Due to this new NACP `s approach the procurement process was cancelled, and a re-assessment process of selection criteria was conducted.	

[30] Please refer to **Annex 9_Output 2.3_** for deliverables and activities
[31] Please refer to **Annex 10_Output 2.4_** for deliverables and activities

At the end of the year, NACP proposed a new implementation approach on preparation of 3 main local DRR documents by involving both, 2nd and 3rd level of civil protection, meaning prefecture and municipality levels. The proposed approach, discussed with UNDP and agreed, takes into consideration the national process and its approach on preparation of national DRR documents, meaning establishing dedicated working groups per each of the local DRR documents at local level leaded by the Prefecture as well as establish working groups within each of selected municipalities. The proposed approach was focused on creation of a pilot case at prefecture level including its municipalities and replicate it further in other areas based and guided by the national process and approved DRR strategic /planning documents. As agreed, the local implementation is planned to start at the beginning of 2022 and will include preparation of local Risk Assessment document, local DRR Strategy and after that preparation of local Civil Emergency Plans for municipalities that are part of the same selected prefecture.

This was discussed and agreed during the Steering Committee meeting at the beginning of 2022, and after the SC approval the project team started the procedures for the implementation at local level. Following national processes and their lessons learn as well as Lezha pilot intervention, the work started for the preparation of local risk assessment documents for 6 municipalities within Fieri prefecture. The following steps were followed and progress up to date as per below:

- Selection of a team of consultant to support local government units on the preparation of Local Risk Assessment (LRA) documents. A consortium of companies, IDRA and UTS01, with 16 key and not key experts selected and started the work;
- One preparatory meeting with local authorities organized at Fieri Prefecture in cooperation with NCPA to inform on the pilot intervention and support to be provided;
- 2 kick off meetings in July and August 2022 at Fieri prefecture at political level with Mayors and technical level with head of civil protection at each of municipalities to present the work and the objective of the assistance;
- 6 introductory and 6 technical meetings at the respective municipalities with Mayors and municipal staffs to present more in depth and technically the work and assist on establishing dedicated working groups within municipality.
- One technical working group established at prefecture level with representatives of all municipalities based on the Prefect Order no.31 date 04.11.2022 and 6 working groups established per each of 6 municipalities based on Mayors Orders with municipal experts;
- The workplan and methodology for the preparation for the documents approved by respective working groups.
- 19 meetings with local communities, private sector and other subordinated institutions conducted up to date by the risks experts in all municipalities to discuss on specific risks and collect data on the field that will support the preparation of Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA).
- Preliminary findings and 1st draft prepared per each of municipalities, ready to be shared for the first tranche of comments.
- A team of students and professors from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) joined project experts to support and assist on data collection and introduction of innovative methodologies for data collection and validation especially with focus on gender and vulnerable groups. In cooperation with Prefecture of Fieri and Municipality of Patos, for 3 weeks more than 30 interviews, focus groups and games conducted with gender and vulnerable groups in Zharrza area, one of the most affected and exposed by technological risks, to collect field data and hear the voice of those most in need.
- WPI prepared and implemented four innovative frameworks developed to analyze women`s perspective and role on DRR, namely *Boudet`s Framework for Public Perception*; *Moser`s Triple Roles Framework; Intersectionality Framework* and *Fracking Environment Justice Framework* have been successfully applied at Patos Municipality, Zharza area.
- Delivery of the final report expected by the end of April 2023 is no other delays with affect implementation. High potential risk that the finalization of the work will be affected by upcoming local elections;

- 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.
- Training and education activities are ongoing for local capacities and communities and others are foreseen to be delivered for all stakeholders at regional and local level on DRR, DRM and preparation of DRR set of strategic/planning documents

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.

The work will focus on assessing coping capacities and risk assessment for each municipality for six main risks: earthquakes, floods, fire, landslides, pandemic and technological risk. More specifically, the team will:

- Evaluate the human capacities of each municipality to cope with the various disaster risks;
- Draft the risk assessment document for each municipality;
- Provide professional support in the establishment and operation of Civil Defense Commissions at the municipality level;
- Train the Civil Defense Commissions in all 6 municipalities of Fier district;
- Train and prepare Training of Trainers who will share their knowledge with the local staff of the municipalities in the future.

For the purpose of this project, the team of experts and actors involved will coordinate the activity with NCPA, the RESEAL project of UNDP and other institutions both in terms of using a unified approach in the drafting of documents and in updating data of a national nature and in incorporating instructions and suggestions obtained during the process.

At the end of the project, the expected achievements can be summarized as follows:

1. Municipalities 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 terms of increasing the local ability to recover through the use of a fruitful and integrated civil defense system;
2. GIS systems set up and functional in the municipalities with integrated data of analysis and project conclusions related to risk assessment and coping capacities;
3. 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.

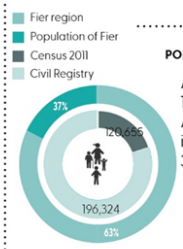
- **Municipality Profiles**

These profiles have been prepared on the bases of our contextual information and knowledge regarding these municipalities.

Municipality	**Fier**
Administrative Units	10 (Fier, Cakran, Mbrostar Ura, Libofshë, Qendër, Dërmenas, Topojë, Levan, Frakull, Portëz)
Villages	86
Region	Fier
Area	619.9 km²

GEOGRAPHIC POSITION

The municipality of Fier is bordered on the north by the municipality of Divjaka, on the east by the municipalities of Patos and Roskovec, and on the south by the municipality of Vlora. The capital of the municipality is the city of Fier.



NATURAL DISASTERS AND DANGERS

Landslide *Earthquakes* *Pandemic*
Floods *Soil Erosion* *Forests Fires*

AGRICULTURE

According to the Census classification, the Municipality of Fier has the city of Fier as a center of national importance, the administrative units Mbrostar, Center, and Portez as suburban units, and 6 local mixed field units (Cakran, Libofsha, Dërmenas, Topoja, Levan, and Frakull), which bear the main burden of agricultural development in the area of the municipality. An important place is also occupied by the cultivation of cereals (wheat, corn, rye), orchards, olive groves, viticulture, and livestock.

HEALTH

At the municipal level, Fier has a regional hospital, located in the city of Fier, with 12 health centers and 85 ambulances. Also, in the city of Fier, there is a polyclinic, a state pharmacy, three children's clinics, two maternity clinics, and 18 family doctor service centers. All other AUs have a health center, which manages the respective ambulances in the villages.

EDUCATION

The number of kindergartens in this municipality is relatively low. This is most evident in the AU of Roskovec, where there are reported to be only 2 functional kindergartens. Roskovec Municipality has only two general high-schools. As far as schools are concerned, 9-years schools are present in almost all the AUs in the municipality. Accessing them is difficult for children in rural areas.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE

The sewege system for the city of Fier was built in 1968–1980 and is combined with that of atmospheric water. In other units, there is generally no organized engineering system for the collection and disposal of water waste. In many cases, their removal is done by means of individual pits in the yards of houses and open drainage canals. From the data obtained from the water supply and sewerage companies that provide the drinking water supply in the Municipality of Fier, it is evident that the entire territory of the municipality does not have very good coverage with the water supply and sewerage service.

ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

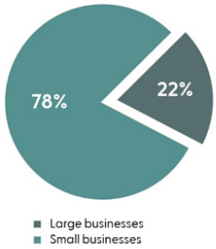
In the Municipality of Fier, the main urban roads are only 11 km (which merge mainly in the city of Fier), while the largest number of local roads is 2964 km, which are located in the suburb of the city and in the territories of other administrative units.

ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Hydropower continues to be a major source of energy not only for household consumers but also for businesses, industries, and institutions. Alternative energy sources such as the sun, wind, and geothermal energy are used very little, but the potential that this area has to use these energies is great.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Focusing on local economic development, it can be said that about 78% of businesses registered in the Municipality of Fier are small businesses, while the rest, 22%, are large businesses. The administrative units of Fier, Fier Center, Mbrostar, and Portez lead the way in having the largest number of businesses.



POPULATION

According to the 2011 Census, in the territory of the new municipality, 120,655 people live, while in the civil register there are 196,324 people. According to the census, the population density is 194.6 inhabitants/km², while according to the civil register, the density is 316.70 inhabitants/km².

PROTECTED AREAS AND NATURAL MONUMENTS

Protected areas, although some of them are not administered by the Municipality of Fier, are located on the border with this municipality and affect development. Natural monuments are Seman Dunes, Black Pines, the Crown of the Old Seman River, and the Raps of the road Fier-Vlora.
Protected areas are Karavasta Lagoon, Levan Forest, Narta, and the Vjosa wetland system.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Municipality of Fier after the 90s had a spontaneous urban development with new areas of informal and irregular construction where they dominated the entire space of the city in the suburbs. The city-forming arteries and the main orienting elements of the urban form and development of the city until today are the roads Tirana-Vlora and Seman-Patos, which intersect in the city center almost at the same point as the Gjanica River. The urban entrance corridor from Tirana ends at the central boulevard of the city, which defines the most built urban space and where land uses tend to be mixed. The urban structure of the city is presented with several types of typologies, created by the combination of elements of the road system with buildings and urban spaces during the evolution of the city.

TOURISM

Fier has developed archaeological and cultural tourism. The Apollonia Archeological Park, with 45 thousand visitors per year, remains one of the most popular destinations.

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE CANALS

The Municipality of Fier has about 1367.5 primary and secondary irrigation and drainage canals. The primary irrigation canals are (228.6 km), where 82.4 km (36.1%) are functional, 117.6 km (51.4%) are semi-functional, and 28.6 km (12.5%) are non-functional. The secondary irrigation canals (465.3 km) are: 118.8 km (25.5%) functional, 206.4 km (44.4%) semi-functional and 140.1 km (30.1%) non-functional. The primary drainage canals are (223 km): 217.5 km (97.6%) functional, 1.8 km (0.8%) semi-functional, and 3.6 km (1.6%) non-functional. The secondary drainage canals (450.6 km) are: 437 km (97%) functional and 13.6 km (3%) semi-functional.

AGRICULTURAL AND PROTECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

In view of the tradition and experience of the community as well as the favorable natural conditions, agrobusiness appears as one of the most potential development sectors for the city of Fier.

Municipality	**Lushnja**
Administrative Units	11 (Lushnjë, Allkaj, Bubullimë, Hysgjokaj, Golem, Dushk, Karbunarë, Ballagat, Fier Shegan, Kolonjë, Krutje)
Villages	85
Region	Fier
Area	372.72 km²

GEOGRAPHIC POSITION

The municipality of Lushnja is bordered on the north by the municipalities of Rrogozhina and Peqin, on the east by the municipality of Divjaka, on the south by the municipalities of Fier and Roskovec, and on the west by the municipality of Belsh. The capital of the municipality is the city of Lushnja.

NATURAL DISASTERS AND DANGERS

Landslide, Earthquakes, Pandemic, Floods, Soil Erosion, Forests Fires

AGRICULTURE

In terms of economic growth, the municipality of Lushnja continues to be the country's main promoter of agricultural development, despite the fact that the city of Lushnja already has a business and service-oriented economy. This municipality presents the greatest potential for agricultural development, as 77% of the Myzeqe area is used for agricultural purposes.

TOURISM

The Lushnja area has all the "resources" to offer a lot to tourists, whether local or foreign. If we start with antiquity, not far from the city rises the medieval Monastery of Ardenica, where culture and antiquity intertwine throughout the structure of the church, turning it into an impressive architectural ensemble. The Municipality of Lushnja offers many opportunities for relaxation and entertainment for nature lovers.

EDUCATION

In the municipality of Lushnja there are 33 kindergartens, 55 9-years schools, and 14 high schools. Because of the larger population density, the city of Lushnja has the highest concentration.

HEALTH

The health service sector in the municipality of Lushnja is covered by a regional hospital, which is located in the city of Lushnja. This municipality has 21 ambulances, 33 health centers, and two maternity hospitals.

ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

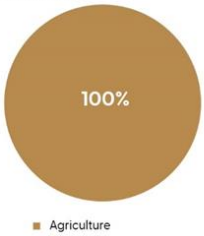
In terms of road infrastructure, the municipality of Lushnja is strategically placed between two large port cities, Durres and Vlora. This region is traversed by Corridor VIII and the Blue Corridor.

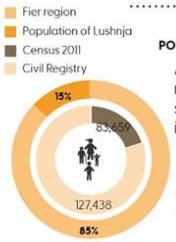
ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Hydropower remains a significant source of energy for households, as well as businesses, industries, and institutions. Alternative energy sources such as the sun, wind, and geothermal energy have a very low rate of usage, but their potential is considerable.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Approximately 6% of families in the municipality of Lushnja get social assistance. The family's primary source of income is self-employment, with the majority of the population working in the agriculture sector.





POPULATION

According to the 2011 Census, the municipality of Lushnja has a resident population of 83,659 inhabitants, while the Civil Registry shows a population of 127,438 inhabitants. The area of the municipality is 372.72 km² and population density is 341.91 inhabitants / km².

PROTECTED AREAS AND NATURAL MONUMENTS

In the municipality of Lushnja there are 9 cultural monuments of the first category and 5 natural monuments. There are no protected parks or reserves. Among the most important cultural monuments we can mention: the Fountain of Congress, the Museum of the Congress of Lushnja, the Church of Saint Mary, the Bridge of Lunga, etc. While among the monuments of nature we mention: Maple of Zonja, Karbunare thermo-mining spring, Cypress of Manastiri, etc.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The city of Lushnja is bordered on the east by the Myzeqe plain, on the edge of the Darsia hills. The city is divided into eight neighborhoods. Along the main boulevard, lies the large city park. There are also green areas inside the neighborhoods. The north-south highway passes near the city. From here begins the most important road east, Berat-Skrapar and beyond.

AGRICULTURAL AND PROTECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Lushnja has 13 vegetable and fruit gathering and export sites. In this municipality, there are 2610 solar greenhouses, making it the municipality with the most greenhouses in the country. The orchard industry is very important since it represents a valuable potential for agricultural development in the municipality.

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE CANALS

The Municipality of Lushnja has about 416.1 primary and secondary irrigation canals. The primary irrigation canals (92.6 km) are 89 km (96%) functional; the rest are semi-functional. The secondary irrigation canals (323.5 km) are: 152 km (47%) functional, 82.9 km (25.6%) semi-functional, and 88.5 km (27.4%) non-functional for various reasons, mainly uncleaned and filled with inert.

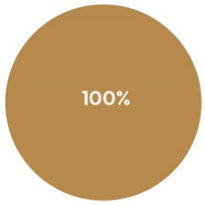
WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE

The water supply and sewerage services in the municipality of Lushnja are currently covered by two joint-stock companies: UK Lushnja sh.a, which has under its administration the city of Lushnja and the administrative unit Dushk, and UK Lushnja for the administrative units Shegan, Allkaj, Krutje, Dushk, Kolonja, and Bubullima. The other administrative units of Karbunara, Hysgjokaj, Ballagat, and Golem are considered "white areas" in which the water supply is administered by the administrative unit itself. Currently, in the municipality of Lushnja, there is no system for wastewater treatment, which is discharged raw into the receiving water facilities near Lushnja.

Municipality	**Roskovec**
Administrative Units	4 (Roskovec Kuman Kurjan Strum)
Villages	14
Region	Fier
Area	118.01 km²

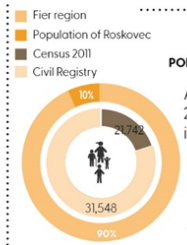
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The direction "Economic Development" affects the entire territory of the municipality. The Municipality of Roskovec today has an economy driven by agriculture, but the addition of links in storage, production, and storytelling will change the balance in favor of the industrial sector and services.



GEOGRAPHIC POSITION

The municipality of Roskovec is bordered on the north and west by the municipality of Lushnja, on the south by the municipality of Mallakastra, on the east by the municipality of Ura Vajgurore, and on the west by the municipality of Patos. The capital of the municipality is the city of Roskovec.



POPULATION

According to the 2011 Census, the new municipality of Roskovec has 21,742 inhabitants, while in the Civil Registry the registered population is 31,548.

NATURAL DISASTERS AND DANGERS

Landslide *Earthquakes* *Pandemic*
Floods *Soil Erosion* *Forests Fires*

PROTECTED AREAS AND NATURAL MONUMENTS

The Municipality of Roskovec has a natural monument called "Keneta e zeze". The swamp covers an area of tens of hectares. It is a unique ecosystem within the Roskovec area.
The drying up of the swamps to turn them into agricultural land decades ago also included the "Keneta e zeze" in Roskovec, but its inexhaustible resources forced the authorities of the time to abandon this process. Instead, the "Keneta e zeze" began to be used to fill Kurjan Lake. Water was pumped to the reservoir and from there to agricultural lands for irrigation. Now the municipality of Roskovec is studying an intervention to make Keneta e zeze" visitable by promoting it as a rare natural resource.

AGRICULTURE

Olives, fruits, and vineyards are the most cultivated crops, relying primarily on the farmer's labor and personal instruments. The weather conditions in Roskovec are generally good for the production of a wide range of agricultural crops. Agricultural areas can be used twice a year on average. The quantity of water reserves generated by Lake Kurjan make the Roskovec area one of the top agricultural locations in the country.

TOURISM

The municipality of Roskovec has potential in rural tourism, mainly the Kurjan administrative unit. Tradition, cuisine, history and business, intertwine quite well in the diverse nature of Roskovec, turning this municipality into a potential with special agritourism values.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The city of Roskovec has an area of about 1000 ha and its urban area is about 25.7%. There are two neighborhoods in the city's urban area. The Municipality of Roskovec is located between the provinces of Mallakstra and Lower Myzeqe.

EDUCATION

The number of kindergartens in this municipality is relatively low. This is most evident in Roskovec AU, where there are reported to be only 2 functional kindergartens. Roskovec Municipality has only two general high-schools. As far as schools are concerned, 9-years schools are present in almost all the AUs in the municipality. Access to them is difficult for children in rural areas.

AGRICULTURAL AND PROTECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Land fragmentation is linked to ineffective agricultural product management, a lack of mechanisms and technology in agriculture, standards that are frequently out of step with international market demands, and, as a result, a lack of jobs and income from agriculture.

HEALTH

The Municipality of Roskovec addresses the needs of its citizens through health centers and ambulances. Citizens should go to other municipalities, mainly to the municipality of Fier, which is even closer.

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE CANALS

The Municipality of Roskovec has about 154.5 primary and secondary irrigation canals. The primary irrigation canals are 38 km (100%) functional. The secondary irrigation canals (323.5 km) are 116.5 km (100%) functional.

ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

In terms of road infrastructure, the secondary interurban axis SH73 is important in the municipality of Roskovec's road network, whereas the rest of the roads are local, with a few exceptions in the city of Roskovec where there are secondary urban axes.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE

In terms of water supply, the municipal sewerage system has proven to be problematic. Several urban centers in the municipality of Roskovec have been identified as needing a wastewater treatment facility.

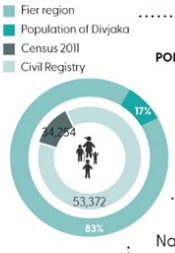
ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Roskovec is supplied with electricity from the Matke and Jagodine substations. Matke substation has the following feeders: Feeder F2 U Drize (S330), (10KW), Feeder Ngjeqar, NGJ (5331) (10KV), Feeder Strum,STR (5333) (10KV), Feeder Roskovec,ROS (5332).(10KV)

Municipality	**Divjaka**
Administrative Unit	5 (Divjaka, Tërbuf, Grabjan, Gradisht and Remas)
Villages	36
Region	Fier
Area	309.58 km²

GEOGRAPHIC POSITION

This municipality is bordered on the north by the municipality of Rrogozhina, on the east by the municipality of Lushnja, on the south by the municipality of Fier and on the west by the Adriatic Sea. The municipality has a north-south extension while the roads are mostly in the east-west direction.



NATURAL DISASTERS AND DANGERS

Floods
Erosion *Pandemic* *Forests Damage*
Earthquakes *Urban waste* *Drainage failure canals*

AGRICULTURE

The agricultural land area is 20,460 hectares. The main crops grown in Divjaka are wheat, corn, potatoes, vegetables, fodder, etc. The whole area has high quality land, offering great productivity of agricultural products and becoming the main economic element of the municipality.

TOURISM

Tourism-related economic activities are concentrated mostly in the Divjaka beach area, and they serve a daily tourism demand of about 10,000 tourists during the summer season.
There is a great diversity of habitats, natural and cultural potentials in the area, which offers a wide range of tourist options such as beach, water sports, safari, rural tourism, mountain tourism, cultural tourism, and climbing. The natural and ecological values of the Divjaka-Karavasta National Park, the cultural heritage, the agricultural traditions and the rural landscapes, constitute unused values. The Divjaka-Karavasta National Park is Albania's biggest non-coastal wetland, consisting of four lagoons with an area of over 5000 ha including sand dunes and the river delta.

EDUCATION

There are a total of 66 educational institutions in the municipality of Divjaka: 31 Kindergartens, 28 9-year schools, and 7 high schools.

HEALTH

In the Municipality of Divjaka serve 6 health centers, 1 polyclinic, 28 ambulances. In total, there are 19 doctors and 68 Nurses. Many of these facilities need to be rebuilt and furnished with basic services.

ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

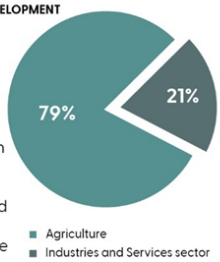
The infrastructure system of the Municipality of Divjaka includes 416 hectares. Main interurban roads are 14 km, secondary interurban roads are 89.4 km, main urban roads are 0 km, secondary urban roads are 177 km, and local urban roads are 33.5 km.
In the hilly and southern villages, the access is low.

ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Divjaka receives power energy from two substations: Bicukasi, which serves the town of Divjaka and the neighboring villages, and Gradishta, which serves the area between the "Pushimi i Shoferit" and Kryekuq. Divjaka contains around 15 electric cabins that are powered by overhead lines and have a voltage of 10/04 KW. The 10 KW voltage cable line is just 600-700 ml in length. In all, the city has around 200 clients. The village's electric cabins are mostly pillar air with a voltage of 10/04 KW, with just around 6 masonry cabins.
The problem is the supply of the beach with special feeder.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Divjaka Municipality is well-known for its agricultural productivity.
Agriculture provides income to 97% of households, with the remaining 3% working in CSO-s or receiving remittances. Various economic activities in the Municipality of Divjaka record a total of 582 businesses, with more than 90% of them classified as small businesses.
All businesses in this area are mostly oriented on the agricultural and livestock sector.
In this municipality, 6.7% of the population are unemployed or 1600 people, where 4.7% of the population are active in the agricultural sector.



POPULATION

Divjaka Municipality is part of the areas with low population density. According to the census, the population density is 110 inhabitants/km² while according to the civil registry the density is 172.40 inhabitants/km².

PROTECTED AREAS AND NATURAL MONUMENTS

Natural monuments in Divjaka - Karavasta National Park include Kulart island near the Shkumbin River's estuary and Pelican island in the lagoon's northwest. Divjaka - Karavasta National Park has been classified as a "National Park" with a large size and is classified as a protected area in category II.
Since 1995, the Divjaka-Karavasta National Park area has been classified as an area of national importance under the Ramsar Convention.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The density of urban areas with residential units in Divjaka Municipality is low, but it is widespread. The building of low-density houses is of high quality. The City of Divjaka, in especially, is a populated area that is currently well-formed in terms of infrastructure and spatial organization.

AGRICULTURAL AND PROTECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

The insufficient and non-standardized number of points of supply, processing, collection, trade, sanitary, and quality control, as well as the low level of technology and agrotechnical used, do not provide the appropriate terrain for competitive and modern production efficiency in the domestic and international markets.
The coastline and the Lagoon provide opportunities for the development of the fishing and fish farming sectors. Although the fisheries business has shrunk in recent years owing to international rules, the fish farming activity provides the possibility for economic development.

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE CANALS

There are 17 reservoirs on the territory of the Municipality of Divjaka (there are 4 functional reservoirs and 13 non-functional).The primary irrigation canals are 47.7 km (100%) functional. The secondary irrigation canals (217.5 km) are: 205.5 km (94.5%) functional, 12 km (5.5%) partially functional.

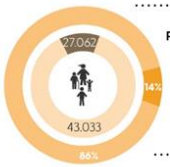
WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE

Divjaka generates an average of 1.1 million m³ of water per year, which is more than enough to fulfill water needs, through 9 mechanical lifting devices. The water supply network is 68 km, including a primary network of 10 km and a distribution network of 58 km. They serve around 30,000 people with drinking water, and there are 6,200 registered customers, with 6,000 of them fitted with usage meters. Sewage is not treated and causes considerable difficulties, lack of sanitation for individual septic tanks, lack of sewerage in certain sections of the urban areas. Totally we have about 19,000 m³/day of wastewater.

Municipality	**Mallakastra**
Administrative Unit	9 (Aranitas, Ballsh, Fratar, Greshicë, Hekal, Kutë, Ngraçan, Qendër Dukas, Selitë)
Villages	41
Region	Fier
Area	329.19 km²

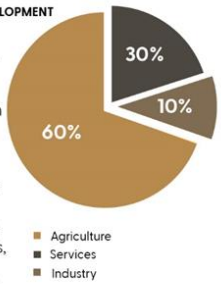
GEOGRAPHIC POSITION

The new municipality is bordered on the north and west by the municipality of Fier, on the south by the municipalities of Selenica and Memaliaj, on the east by the municipalities of Poliçan and Berat, and on the north by the municipalities of Patos and Fier. The main center of the municipality is the city of Ballsh. The Mallakastra area is hilly with a prevailing altitude of 200-300 meters above sea level, while the highest point in the province is the peak of Shëndëlli at 712 meters.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ballsh Refinery is the main economic activity of the area with several hundred employees, especially in the urban area of the municipality.
The Municipality of Mallakastra today has an agricultural-oriented economy. The culture and tradition of the local population are another important territorial element that favors the development of the tourism sector and the diversification of the economic activity of local farmers. Cultural monuments, the historical role of the area, cult monuments, folklore, and local handicrafts constitute an important force in the development of tourist products related to local culture.



POPULATION

According to the census, the population density is 82.45 inhabitants per km², while according to the civil registry the density is 130.72 inhabitants per km².

NATURAL DISASTERS AND DANGERS

Earthquakes *Erosion* *Pandemic*

PROTECTED AREAS AND NATURAL MONUMENTS

Oak of Kalenja, Maple of Vodica, Oak of Cfirit, Maple of Ballsh, Oak of Ngraçan, Oak of Lavdan, Nuts tree of Hekal, Oak of Lapulec, Maples of fiesta/Poçemi, Oak of Çerril, Maples of Çorrush mountain range, Cave of Bat, Povla thermal springs.

AGRICULTURE

The area of Mallakastra Municipality has a hilly-plain relief in which about 2/3 is a hilly area and 1/3 is a plain area, which lies partly on the banks of the Vjosa River (plains of Çorrush, Kuta, Hekal, Mollaj, and Rromes), as well as around the banks of the river Gjanica (Metoh, Aranitas, Panahor, Ballsh, Drenovo, Visoka, and Belishovo)
Surfaces planted with wheat have been constantly falling due to the difficulty of harvesting as they are small and steep areas typical of Mallakastra.
Other crops are fodder plants for livestock, mainly alfalfa for underwater soils and hassles for non-irrigated soils. The cultivation of vegetables is done for the family needs of farmers, but also for trade in areas where there is a possibility of greater irrigation, mainly in the villages around the town of Ballsh such as Hekali, Drenova, Aranitasi, Lavdani, Panahori, and other villages.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

For the most part, the expansion of the urban area has maintained a constant line over the years, distinguishing the centers of the administrative units and the town of Ballsh as the areas with the highest concentration of population and the territory that has undergone the greatest change in the urban area. The town of Ballsh and Dukas are the territories where the largest concentration of informal settlements has taken place. The urban system in the Municipality of Mallakastra is significantly affected by the oil-bearing area.

TOURISM

The Municipality of Mallakaster has a high potential for rural and natural tourism combined with cultural tourism, mainly in archeological areas and parks.

AGRICULTURAL AND PROTECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

There is a lack of a complete valuation of assets and properties in agriculture by land categories.
Land fragmentation is associated with unproductive management of agricultural products, a low level of mechanization and technology in agriculture, standards often not in line with the demands of international markets, and, consequently, employment and insufficient income from agriculture.

EDUCATION

Mallakaster Municipality area has 3 secondary schools, 40 9-year schools, and 29 kindergartens. According to the data of the municipality, the average number of students per class is not high compared to schools in larger cities such as Tirana. There is no vocational school in the Municipality of Mallakaster.

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE CANALS

The Municipality of Mallakaster has about 228.5 km of primary and secondary irrigation and drainage canals. The primary irrigation canals are (98.2km): 8.3 km (8.4%) functional, 32.4 (32.9%) km semi-functional, and out of function 57.6 km (58.7%). The secondary irrigation canals (66.5km) are: 1km (1.5%) functional, 7.6 km (11.4%) semi-functional, and 57.9 km (87%) non-functional.
The primary drainage canals (24.5km) where 11.3 km (46%) functional, 6.0 km (24.5%) semi-functional, and out of function 7.2 km (29.5%). The secondary drainage canals (39.2 km) are: 8.6 km (21.8%) functional, 23.9 km (60.9%) semi-functional, and 6.8 km (17.3%) non-functional.

HEALTH

In the area of Mallakaster Municipality, the primary service to the population is provided by the health center (1 central health clinic) and some smaller health centers. For more specialized treatments, residents' needs are provided by the Fier Regional Hospital and the Gjirokastra Hospital.

ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

Mallakastra area has a total of 452.9 km of roads, of which about 88.7 km are regional-rural roads. The condition of road infrastructure in this area is very difficult and this makes the lives of citizens more difficult, but also increases significant costs of maintaining the rest of the infrastructure, such as schools, health centers, and water supply/sewerage.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE

In the urban area, the service of drinking water supply is available to more than 90% of the population, while it is only available to about 30% of the rural population. The duration of the water supply service is on average over 10 hours/day. The main sources of water supply are the Pocem springs, while water supply systems are branches that are supplied by the TEC pressure piping system through maneuvering wells.

ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Mallakastra is supplied with electricity from 3 substations: TEC-Ballsh Point Distribution (10 Feeders); Drenove Substation (2 Feeders); Pocem Substation (5 Feeders). All feeders that supply Mallakastra have a voltage level of 6 KW, and a total reconstruction of the network and electrical cabins must be done. The electricity network for street and public lighting is heterogeneous, and the coverage with this service mainly includes the city area and some special tourist areas.

Municipality	**Patos**
Administrative Unit	3 (Patos, Rruzhdie, Zharëz)
Villages	18
Region	Fier
Area	82.5 km²

GEOGRAPHIC POSITION

The new municipality of Patos borders on the north and west with the municipality of Fier, on the south with the municipality of Mallakastra, and on the east with the municipality of Roskovec with an area of 82.5 km². The average height of the hills is 200-300m above sea level, which comes down to Patos at a height of 59 m above sea level and continues further in the direction of the Myzeqe plain.

NATURAL DISASTERS AND DANGERS

Erosion *Floods* *Earthquakes* *Pandemic*

AGRICULTURE

The climatic conditions of the Patos municipality area are favorable for the development of many agricultural crops such as cereals, olive groves, vineyards, and other fruits. The area of the new municipality has an agricultural land area equal to 5,990 ha, of which 46.7% has a field character and 53.3% lies on low hills. In the municipality of Patos, it is calculated that 60 ha of orchards with about 30,000 fruit tree roots and 1400 ha of olive groves with about 51,000 olive roots. The areas of agricultural land in the administrative units of Patos and Zharrëz are, respectively, 2434 ha and 2457.1 ha.

TOURISM

Patos has a lot of potential for rural tourism because of its great natural and cultural values.

EDUCATION

Currently, the Municipality of Patos has 1 high school, 2 united high schools (high school and 9-year), 6 9-years schools, 5 lower cycle schools, 14 kindergartens, and 1 nursery. The total number of students attending public and non-public schools in the area is 3,384. About 5% are residents with higher education, 30% with secondary education, and about 65% with a 9-years education. The average number of students per class is 21 (for the city of Patos it is 22, while for the administrative units it is 20). In 9-years compulsory education, the participation of men is 50.5%, while women are 49.5%. In high school attendance, women dominate with 53.7%, compared to 46.3% (men).

HEALTH

In the area of Patos Municipality, the primary and advisory service to the population is provided by the health center (1 central health clinic) and some smaller health centers in all suburban neighborhoods of the city, some private dental services, and a pharmacy, while the hospital service is provided by a small hospital with 20 beds and maternity hospital with 10 beds.

ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

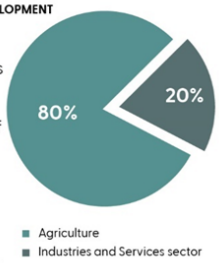
The Municipality of Patos has a total of 274.1 km of roads, of which 179.3 are regional roads and 94.8 are rural roads.The territory of the municipality is crossed by a modest national road network, where two national roads dominate: Old SH4, Fier - Visoka, of category C; SH73, Curves of Patos - Velemishtë (Berat), of category C.

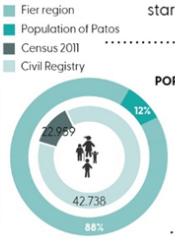
ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Patos is supplied with electricity from the Patos substation with the respective feeders. All feeders that supply Patos have a voltage level of 6 KW. The feeders that supply the city of Patos are the feeders coming out of the Patos substation.
Patosi has a 35/6 KW electrical substation equipped with 4 transformers with power 5.6 MVA, 5.6MVA, 5.6MVA and 3.2MVA.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Municipality of Patos today has an economy oriented to agriculture. Patosi and Ruzhdia have as their main economic sources the cultivation of olives and the trade of its by-products, which are favored by the hilly relief of this area. Despite the contributions of the hydrocarbon extraction sector, agriculture remains a very important sector for the economic development of the area, increasing economic well-being and providing a source of local income. Furthermore, it is the private services sector that provides income for the urban area, and in recent years, tailoring businesses have started their activities in this local unit.





POPULATION

According to the civil registry data, the population density of Patos is 518 inhabitants per km², while according to the census, the population density is 278.3 inhabitants per km².

PROTECTED AREAS AND NATURAL MONUMENTS

There are no environmentally protected areas or monuments in the Municipality of Patos.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Patos municipality has a very low residential density and a territory over 50% natural, metabolic flows are fragmented. Centralization takes place where there is currently a concentration of residents and public structures. The territory of Patos has many natural potentials, both in production and in human resources, cultural, and traditional values, but the use of these potentials and flows is truncated by the lack of infrastructure and investments.

AGRICULTURAL AND PROTECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Despite the contributions of the hydrocarbon extraction sector, agriculture remains a very important sector for the economic development of the area, increasing economic well-being and providing a source of local income. The maintenance and further development of the system of drainage canals (dams) that would protect the area from floods in the winter season remains problematic.

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE CANALS

There are a total of 125.65 km of secondary and terciary irrigation canals and 164.08 km of secondary and terciary drainage canals.
The designed underwater surface is 2100 ha. Three irrigation schemes are used: Kurjanit reservoir, Zharrez reservoir, and Belina electric pump.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE

Patos Water Supply and Sewerage uses groundwater resources, through which it produces an average of 2.8 million m³ of water per year through 2 free-flow systems and 4 pumping station. The entire volume of water produced is thoroughly estimated.
Patos Water Supply and Sewerage manages a water supply network of 89 km, of which 27 km is the main network and 62 km is the distribution network. The company provides a drinking water supply service for 26.35 thousand inhabitants and has 5,845 registered customers, of which 1,843 customers are equipped with consumption meters.

Main Objective - Establish and implement a standard for Municipal DRR framework with focus on Risk Assessment in Fieri District, to be easily replicated in all municipalities of Albania

Specific Objectives	Component
Obj.0 To establish a strong project management structure, build a 'team-work' approach and engage stakeholders	**C0 –Mobilization and Preparatory Phase**
Obj.1 To support and conduct Municipal Risk Assessment in 6 selected Municipalities	**C1 - Municipal Risk Assessment**
Obj.2 To revitalize the MCPC structures in Municipalities of Fieri District and increase their capacities in regard to DRR framework	**C2 – Capacity Building**

Main Result – Municipal Disaster Risk Assessment conducted, setting the stage for the Disaster Risk Assessment Strategy & Civil Emergency Plans. Local capacities to deal with DRR, enhanced.

*Defining **results** for each **component***

C0 - Mobilization and Preparation	**R.0.1** The project runs smoothly; relevant actors are engaged and all cross-cutting project components are covered.
C1 - Municipal Risk Assessment	**R.1.1** Municipalities equipped with consolidated framework and necessary knowledge on disaster risks exposed to, vulnerabilities and capacities to cope with. **R.1.2** GIS-capable Information systems in place at local level (selected municipalities) to help with diagnostics, planning and decision making on DRR.
C2 - Capacity Building	**R.2.1** MCPC structures formalized and in place. **R.2.2** MCPC capacities in regard to DRR framework increased.

REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
PREFEKTI I QARKUT FIER
REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
PREFEKTI I QARKUT FIER

3.10. Output 3.1: Cooperation with EUCPM and regional networking strengthened and sustained[32]

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	*Ongoing*
Duration of the contract	*December 2022- September 2023*
Implementing partner	*International Consultant*

***Progress* accomplished**

The Sendai Framework outlines seven global targets to be achieved between 2015 and 2030; target F relates to '…enhancement of international cooperation through adequate and sustainable support to complement the national efforts to reduce disaster risk.' This is particularly the case with the countries like Albania, where the level of risk and vulnerabilities is high(est) and coping capacities are limited. Albania can greatly benefit through improved data and knowledge sharing with EU scientific monitoring and forecasting & warning structures, on impeding events, such as floods and forest fires (EFAS, EFFIS). The objective of this activity is to support Albanian civil Protection system achieving the technical capacities to meet the membership requirements to EUCPM.

Based on progress in the civil protection field the last 3 years and continue efforts and commitment form National Civil Protection Agency to increase national capacities to copy with DRM, on June 13th 2023 Albania addressed the official request for full membership to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) and on November 18th, thanks also to the significant progress done with the national DRR strategic/planning documents, Albanian government and the European Union signed, during an official visit of European Commissioner for Crisis Management Mr. Janez LENARČIČ in Tirana, the agreement on full participation and membership of Albania in the EUCPM. The agreement will enter into force on January 01, 2023.[33]

RESEAL project will continue to provide technical assistance to the NCPA by conducting a compliance analysis for membership to Union Civil Protection Mechanism of Albania, capacity building to enhance awareness on UCPM, and deliver training on UCPM legislation, implementing rules and overall procedures. The procurement process is ongoing, and the consultancy is expected to be finalized by the end of September 2023.

ENP-CP Indicator Dashboard					
Category	**No**	**Element**	**Available Indicators**		**UCPM Compliance [yes/partly/no]**
Prevention	1.	Risk Management	9		**0/0/0**
	2.	Peer Reviews	4		**0/0/0**

[32] Please refer to **Annex 11_Output 3.1** for deliverables and activities

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

		3.	Prevention and Preparedness Missions	3		0/0/0
		4.	Prevention and Preparedness Projects	3		0/0/0
	Preparedness	5.	Coordination and Communication Center	12		0/0/0
		6.	Early Warning Systems	6		0/0/0
		7.	Knowledge Network	4		0/0/0
		8.	Training Programme	6		0/0/0
		9.	Programme of Exercises	5		0/0/0
		10.	Programme of Lessons Learnt	5		0/0/0
		11.	Exchange of Experts Programme	4		0/0/0
	Response	12.	Response Coordination Framework	5		0/0/0
		13.	Host Nation Support	8		0/0/0
		14.	Capacities & Experts	7		0/0/0
		15.	Logistics and Transport Support	3		0/0/0
			Sum:	84		

4. Communication and Visibility[34]

The project hired a communication consultant that is assisting project implementation and its activities. A 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. The project applies a policy of its branding and identity with all partners and service providers implementing the project activities.

4.1 RESEAL Project Communication Activities

The National Media Communication consultant contributed to implementing and promoting the project activities organized during the period of August - December 2022. During the rating period, the project has used various communication tools/means to promote its activities and raise awareness on civil protection in Albania. All activities have been accomplished in coordination with the project management, UNDP Comms Team and NCPA.

Main activities carried out by the communication consultant:

- On August 18th, 2022, the national communication expert participated in several meetings with UNDP Communication officer & NCPA staff to discuss visibility and promotion of project activities and coordinate upcoming events with NCPA.
- In August, the national communication expert drafted, reviewed, and finalized the project communication plan of activities 2022 – 2023, in coordination with the project management & NCPA
- The national communications expert reviewed and suggested additional changes to improve the new NCPA webpage supported by the project, in coordination with NCPA and the webmaster
- In September 2022, the national communications expert proposed and prepared the DRR week calendar of activities and respective agendas, in coordination with NCPA and RESEAL management
- On September 21st, 2022, the national communications expert accompanied by NCPA staff, organized a field visit in Fier to prepare the DRR event and coordinate the children painting exhibition with schools of Fieri region. Meetings with the Prefect of Fieri and the director of DRAP.
- Coordinated the DRR week events, meetings with Albanian Public Television for the TV show on DRR day & prepared the ToRs for the video messages in coordination with NCPA
- On November 9th, 2022, the national communication expert attended the meeting with NCPA & RESEAL to coordinate upcoming events as per the communication plan delivered. It was agreed on the 2023 calendar using photos/drawings from the DRR Day 2022 exhibition in Fier prefecture.
- The national communications expert coordinated NCPA participation at the Albanian Public Television TV Show to speak about the latest flooding in Albania. NCPA was represented by Robert Hysenllari Director of the Directorate of Preparedness and Coordination of Emergency Response. He explained the situation with floodings, the level of risk, measures taken and institution's role and response.
- Meeting and coordinating with IDRA & WPI representatives on the upcoming events for preparing the risk assessment in Fieri Prefecture including women and vulnerable group representation. Preparing the field trip in Patos and meeting with Fier prefecture representatives.
- On December 1st 2022, the national communication expert attended the field visit in Zharez accompanying WPI students while meeting community representatives especially women. The field visit aimed at documenting the work carried out by WPI and promote it through a blog at the UNDP Albania Medium platform. Several interviews with students and women were conducted and transcript. The field visit was documented through photos and videos. The communication expert prepared social media posts for UNDP channels.
- A separate meeting with Fier prefecture representative was carried out to coordinate the media training session with local journalists in Fier.
- During December was prepared and designed under the guidance of the communication expert the 2023

[34] Please refer to **Annex 12_Communication and Visibility** for deliverables and activities

project calendar with photos/drawings from the DRR Day exhibition. A careful selection of photos in high resolution was conducted while the design process was followed out, making sure UNDP visibility guidelines were respected (Annex 1).

- In coordination with NCPA, the national communication expert prepared and delivered the media training concept and agenda with local and national journalists. Four training sessions will be organized during the first part of 2023, three with local journalists and one with national journalists covering civil protection topics in Albania's media. Several meetings were carried out with NCPA discussing on training materials, i.e. case studies, exercises, and extending the invitation for other institutions like AMA and the Information and Data Protection Commissioner
- Prepare and draft social media posts from the project activity on WPI findings on women and vulnerable communities participation in decision making & disaster risk management planning
- Drafted & delivered stories for UNDP social media channels on RESEAL activities.
- Contacted Albanian Telegraphic Agency and published one story.
- Drafted the official letter for the Ministry of Education
- Prepared the exhibition information for schools in Fier
- Coordination meetings with NCPA on DRR week
- Translated and transcript DRR Video Messages. Work with the video editor on the visibility requirements
- Translated and add Albanian subtitles for the animated video on early actions used during the information sessions.
- Prepared the information on DRR Day for the RTSH journalist, meeting with the TV Show presenter Blerta Tafaj.
- Recorded video messages @ Tirana Municipality, @Kryqi i Kuq @Albanian Fire Protection & Rescue Service, @ UNDP Albania, @Institute of Geosciences. Work with video editor on video editing and visibility requirements.
- Prepared posts for video messages in Social Media as per UNDP Albania comms team requests for the activities of the DRR week
- Prepared press releases for the activities in Fier & at the Institute of GeoSciences and coordinated both events with NCPA and media
- Attend the inter-institutional technical working group 1st meeting in Fier district & Painting exhibition. Prepare Social media stories and coordinate with local media.
- Celebrated DRR Day @IGJEO. Edit interviews, prepare stories for Social Media & coordinate with Media
- Prepared possible questions for the invitees @ RTSH TV Show. Attend the live TV Show "Publikisht" at the RTSH Premises and coordinate with the TV Show editor in chief.

RESEAL COMMUNICATION PLAN

No.	ACTIVITIES	MONTHS 2022-2023											Deliverables/ Targets
		AUG '22	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN '23	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
	Launching events & project activities ➢ National Civil Emergency Plan ➢ Promoting investments-field trips ➢ Risk Assessment reports ➢ Annual Educational Programme (2023)												Media presence, articles & news produced Social media posts Visibility materials produced
	Celebrating **International Day of Disaster Reduction** **Theme-early warning** - One-week campaign of events												Media presence, articles & news produced Social media posts

	- Open day @NCPA - Video messages (director, experts, volunteers) - Field visits - Info package (press release, info sheets.) - Social media updates - Media presence													Visibility materials produced
	Communication training sessions of the National Civil Protection Agency`s communication staff (central & local) - Media & Social media management training - Interview skills & PR													2 training sessions prepared and delivered for 10 participants
	Media Training & Press trip ➢ Media training on disaster risk reduction & Civil Protection in Albania ➢ Press trip - Media Info-package (branded folder, info sheets, brochures) - Certificate awarding ceremony													5 TV news/articles published 2 social media published
	Promote **project activities** on national & local media - Articles - Interviews - TV shows													
	Prepare **short video messages** - Climate change impact in Albania													2 video messages produced
PUBLICATIONS & VISIBILITY														
	Info sheets, leaflets, posters													
	Success stories													3 success stories/articles published on UNDO Website & Social Media
	Update Social Media Channels													1 post/week
	Contribute to UNDP publications (website, Medium...)													publications prepared & delivered
	Update UNDP project sub-page													Twice / year
	Support NCPA comms staff													Improve news content, communication campaign design
	NCPA bi-monthly newsletter													5 newsletters designed, produced and delivered to 200+ e-mail addresses
	Disaster Prep Tips visuals/info sheets													Tips for each risk
	Games for kids, activity books													Education games
	Project final TV documentary													Prepare and broadcast RESEAL project final TV documentary
AWARENESS Campaign 1														
	2-months Information & Awareness Campaign on Disaster Risk Reduction in Albania. ➢ Launching on October 13th - The International Day of Disaster Reduction													X people reached X articles published 1 TV show

	- Activities @ schools – develop an info session module - Social media campaign - Visibility (video messages, info graphs) - TV show on DRR in Albania - Monitoring & evaluation													X Social Media posts published
INFORMATION Campaign 2														
	Information & Awareness Campaign on Civil Protection in Albania - Activities @local level - Information packages (fact sheets, publications) - Visibility (video messages, info graphs) - Media - Monitoring & evaluation													X people reached X articles published X Social Media posts published

4.2 RESEAL on Media & social media

Facebook:

- https://www.facebook.com/PNUDSHQIPERI/posts/pfbid02upGcvMQYwQpaNCMDgrhX89qMkegKCmeKaHQk8zANCGbWG79RPvQatYecLZaUt9K3l
- https://www.facebook.com/PNUDSHQIPERI/posts/pfbid02SwJ8pWCrJbTXsSbmvSqv1mYdouJNAk53TGvGiWzMA1U7NgsLQE6QgchHMDWqsn89l
- https://www.facebook.com/PNUDSHQIPERI/posts/pfbid0ngb2gDmS6rqV4Gu4isypMEGN9wxsNrjxFWbARhMxpzK6xt9p8tYX8yA8L8sHAM72l
- https://fb.watch/guDFxzzsFt/
- https://fb.watch/guDDOlom6x/
- https://fb.watch/guDCgRkXf4/
- https://www.facebook.com/PNUDSHQIPERI/posts/pfbid02D99QeCEi7943FjZqsYjdtHrsdK4BwPhdUYhuVa6KyptoaQmPLWedhttPTxEoH9TUl
- https://www.facebook.com/PNUDSHQIPERI/posts/pfbid0TXqgKeDSuXQhfg5fkQnEh2dqDyeYVdsNNeDTCWVTCsvxtKdMnb5yEHz9UgYJ4JzCl

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

Twitter:

- https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1563143125476179976
- https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1574741972182396929
- https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1580618140328677376
- https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1580571295195856896
- https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1580499907722743808
- https://twitter.com/SwedeninAL/status/1580494126268567554
- https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1580125086136225793
- https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1580131963364839424
- https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1580137171373412353
- https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1580135244082352128
- https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1604896608960843781
- https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1604898280386793478

- https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1599411326060990466
-

RESEAL in Media

- ATA: Plan i ri Kombëtar për Emergjencat Civile - ATSH - (ata.gov.al)
- FAX News: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tu0uMSzFULY
- Apollon TV : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4Tle_94Zvk
- ATA: https://ata.gov.al/2022/10/13/10-stacione-te-reja-sizmike-pjese-e-mbeshtetjes-te-undp-per-shqiperine/
- RTSH: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LalPHjtbSEs
- RTSH TV SHOW: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9tiDtiLSq4&t=94s

4.3 Educational and awareness activities with focus on Disaster Risk Reduction. Celebration of DRR International Day – Week activities 10-14 October 2022

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION DAY 2022 IN ALBANIA
Early warning and early action for all

Partners:

- Ministry of Defense and National Agency on Civil Protection (NCPA)
- Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth and Educational Regional Directorates in 12 regions.
- Donors and Regional authorities (Prefectures, Municipalities, Rescue and Fire Protection Service, State Police Department, Local NGOs etc.)

Rationale:

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 13 October as International Day for Disaster Reduction to promote a global culture of disaster reduction. The 2022 edition takes place during the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, which will conclude at a High-level Meeting of the General Assembly in May 2023 with a political declaration. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the progress being made toward preventing and reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, economies, and basic infrastructure in line with the international agreement for reducing global disaster risk and losses, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted in March 2015. The Sendai Framework has seven global targets and 38 indicators for measuring progress on reducing disaster risk and losses. These indicators align the implementation of the Sendai Framework with the Paris Agreement on climate change towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
In 2022, the International Day was focused on **Target G** of the Sendai Framework: "Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030." #EarlyAction #EarlyWarning #DRRDay

Background on Early Warning:

The primary goal of the Sendai Framework is to avoid creating new and reduce existing risk. But when that is not possible, people-centred early warning systems and preparedness can enable early action to minimize the harm to people, assets, and livelihoods. It is not enough for an early warning system to correctly identify an incoming hazard. It must also ensure that the populations and sectors that are at risk can receive the alert, understand it, and most importantly, act on it.

Hence, an early warning must trigger early action that is well prepared and tested. In the case of fast-moving hazards, this sometimes means evacuating and seeking appropriate shelter. Early action could also include prepositioning relief items and other measures that can help reduce and avert a disaster.

To accomplish this, early warning systems must be:

a. Multi-Hazard: they are designed to detect different hazards that may occur alone, simultaneously, or cascade.
b. End-to-end: the system covers the entire range, from hazard detection to action, which includes providing understandable and actionable warning messages.
c. People-centered: this means designing the systems with people in mind, to empower them to act on time and in an appropriate manner to reduce potential harm.

Activities in Albania:

To raise awareness and mobilize action around these calls, together with our partners, a series of activities were prepared, supported and conducted during the week of 10-14 October 2022, taking place in 12 regions of Albania organized in cooperation with National Agency on Civil Protection, partners, Ministry of Education and regional and local authorities. Specific audiences targeted through organizing tailored events with a particular focus on youth and students as the most important players with active role on DRM.

Activity 1:

Info sessions on "From early warning to early action: inspiring & empowering next generation in Albania" with children of 9th grade schools, in 12 regions of Albania, aiming to share information and raise awareness on the urgency to achieve this target. Through presentations tailored for the target audiences, video-messages, and leaflets in partnership with local authorities, the objective was to contribute on raising awareness on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation solutions, as well as empowering children and young people, so they are prepared and be able to contribute on mitigation and preparedness phases.

Activity 2:

Short video messages highlighting key messages in line with IDDRR 2022 key messages (*see below*) tailored per Albanian context, from representatives of NCPA, Albanian Fire Protection & Rescue Service, RESEAL Project, Volunteers, Local Government, Albania Armed Forces, National Emergency Center and Police produced. Videos shared on NCPA, UNDP and their partners social media channels.

Activity 3:

Talk show "Publikisht" on Albanian Public Television . Participation in the prime time Talk Show, aimed to put on the spotlight Risk Reduction issues and the need for early actions among a broader audience. Representatives from the NCPA, RESEAL project, Albanian Fire Protection & Rescue Service, Volunteers, Local Government, Albanian Armed Forces, National Emergency Center & Police discusses about coordination of early meassures among relevant agencies, access to warning information, emergency preparedness and disaster response plans, donors contribution as well as challenges.

Activity 4

On October 12th, 2022 in Fier was organized the first meeting of the inter-institutional technical working group with the responsible institutions for civil protection in Fier district. High level participants from MoD, NCPA, UNDP, SIDA and Local Government attended and delivered key messages. Media invited to cover the event.

In a separate event, prior to the 1st working group meeting, participants were invited to the exhibition and the awarding ceremony of the regional poster competition among 9th grade schools of Fier and the exhibition "From early warning to early action", covering the IDDRR 2022 theme.

Activity 5

On 13th of October (International Day for Disaster Reduction) representatives from the NCPA and RESEAL project visited IGJEO premises to discuss on importance of IGJEO on management of EWS and the ongoing support of RESEAL project on renewing and adding new seismic strong stations. Key messages recorded and shared with national media from NCPA.

These activities brought up experiences and shared efforts that UNDP RESEAL project is putting, jointly with other national and local authorities, as well as with developing agencies, for tackling DRR and climate change.

KEY MESSAGES

Social media hashtags: #EarlyAction #EarlyWarning #DRRDay

Value of early warning:

- Early warning saves lives.
- Early warning by 24 hours can cut the ensuing damage by 30 per cent.
- Climate change is causing more frequent, extreme, and unpredictable climate-related hazards, making investment in early warning more urgent than ever.

Investment:

- Early warning systems must be multi-hazard, end-to-end and people-centered
- Investing US$ 800 million in early warning systems in developing countries would avoid losses of $3-16 billion per year.

Leaving no one behind:

- At-risk communities must be made aware of the true risks they face, how their early warning system functions and be ready to act on its warnings.
- We must customize early warning systems for different groups to meet their specific needs.
- To reduce harm and speed up recovery, early warning systems should trigger anticipatory actions, such as the expansion of social safety nets.
- Countries must engage, listen to, and empower groups with special needs. Countries must ensure that all vulnerable people including older persons and persons with disabilities are not left behind when warnings are issued.

4.4 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

RESEAL Project
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The project team has been invited and participated on Europe Week activities in Shkodra, Vlora and Tirana. During fairs organized in these cities, team presented the project progress, its objectives and ongoing and planned activities.

4.5 Supporting the development of NACP official webpage

National Agency on Civil Protection official webpage www.akmc.gov.al is active and published after the official approval from AKSHI. During the approval process the webpage was further improved with the assistance of the project communication consultant that provided some additional useful suggestions to make it user-friendly, more interactive and facilitate access for all. AKMC Instagram official page is active and in use by the NCPA communication staff.

In addition, the communication department of NCPA has been supported with communication equipment as a Canon photo video camera and a drone DJI Mini 2 based on the official request of the NCPA.

5. Provisional Expenditures (as of 31 Dec 2022)

RESEAL Project	Total Budget Jun 20- Jun 23	Total Expenditures Jun 20 - Dec 21	Expenditures Jan - Dec 22	Commitments Jan - Dec 22	Total Expenditures + Commitments Jun 20 - Dec 22	Realization vs budget in % Jun 20 - Dec 22
PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND RUNNING COSTS						
1. Human Resources	240,067[35]	41,861	84,770	-	126,631	53%
2. PR Communication staff and Visibility	94,374[36]	1,928	20,483	20,019	42,430	45%
3. Travel	11,880	125	1,923	-	2,048	17%
4. Equipment and supplies	58,500	6,290	5,250	-	11,540	20%
5. Office running costs	102,000	5,686	13,592	5,311	24,589	24%
6. Other Project Management (conf/workshops, audit, evaluation, translation, etc.)	40,000	4,407	25,796	-	30,203	76%
Total project management and running costs	**546,821**	**60,297**	**151,814**	**25,330**	**237,441**	**43%**
PROJECT ACTIVITIES						
OUTCOME 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	25,000	-	3,795	-	3,795	15%
Output 1.6: New building codes according to Eurocode developed	200,000	-	-	-	-	-
Output 1.7: Support national capacity development in risk assessments and emergency planning	240,000	-	230,381	-	230,381	96%
Output 1.9: National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan developed	200,000	-	159,660	-	159,660	80%
Output 1.11: National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) formulated	160,000	-	67,689	33,300	100,989	63%
SUBTOTAL Outcome 1	**825,000**	**-**	**461,525**	**33,300**	**494,825**	**60%**
OUTCOME 2 - Strengthening disaster preparedness capacities at all levels						
Output 2.1: Seismic hazard monitoring strengthened	134,410[37]	-	50,852	6,198	57,050	42%

[35] Contribution 225,000 SWE+ 15,067 POR
[36] Contribution 70,000 SWE + 24,489 POR
[37] Government of Portugal contribution

Output 2.2: Biological risk management with focus on prevention and preparedness used for medium to longer-term risk monitoring and evaluation	45,000	-	-	-	-	-
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	-	190,755	219,454	410,209	49%
SUBTOTAL Outcome 2	**1,019,410**	**0**	**241,607**	**225,652**	**467,259**	**46%**
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	-	-	32,000	32,000	100%
SUBTOTAL Outcome 3	**32,000**	**0**	**0**	**32,000**	**32,000**	**100%**
Subtotal Project Activities / Outputs	**1,876,410**	**0**	**703,132**	**290,952**	**994,084**	**53%**
Total Project Activities	**2,423,231**	**60,297**	**854,946**	**316,282**	**1,231,525**	**51%**
UNDP Management Fee	**193,858**	**4,824**	**68,396**	**25,303**	**98,522**	**51%**
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	**2,617,089**	**65,121**	**923,342**	**341,585**	**1,330,047**	**51%**

6. Updated Work Plan

ACTIVITIES PER OUTPUT		2023										
	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												
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)												
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												

7. 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 (11 affected municipalities and then the remaining ones)
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 2022