



2020/415-529/2

1 February 2023 – 25 July 2023

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INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

**EU FOR CIVIL PROTECTION AND DISASTER RESILIENCE  
STRENGTHENING IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

1 February 2023 – 25 July 2023



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***List of acronyms used in the report***

<b>AP</b>	Action Plan
<b>CA</b>	Contracting Authority
<b>CCA</b>	Climate Change Adaptation
<b>CD</b>	Conceptual Design
<b>CP</b>	Civil Protection
<b>CSA</b>	Climate Smart Agriculture
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DBP</b>	Design for Building Permit
<b>DPPI SEE</b>	Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South-Eastern Europe
<b>DRA</b>	Disaster Risk Assessment
<b>DRBC</b>	Drina River Basin Cooperation
<b>DRF</b>	Disaster Recovery Framework
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>ED</b>	Design for Execution of Works
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental impact assessment study
<b>EIB</b>	European Investment Bank
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUD</b>	Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia
<b>EWS</b>	Early Warning System
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
<b>FS</b>	Feasibility Study
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund
<b>GoS</b>	Government of Serbia
<b>GRP</b>	General Regulation Plan
<b>GSS</b>	Geodetic Survey of Serbia
<b>HQ</b>	Headquarters
<b>LMS</b>	Learning Management System
<b>LSG</b>	Local Self-government
<b>MAFWM</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
<b>MCTI</b>	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure
<b>MEI</b>	Ministry of European Integration
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoI</b>	Ministry of Interior
<b>MPI</b>	Ministry for Public Investment
<b>MRS</b>	Mountain Rescue Service
<b>MRSS</b>	Mountain Rescue Service of Serbia
<b>NAP</b>	National Adaptation Plan
<b>NAPA</b>	National Academy for Public Administration
<b>NDRMP</b>	National Disaster Risk Management Plan
<b>IPHS</b>	Institute of Public Health of Serbia “Dr Milan Jovanović Batut”
<b>OSCE</b>	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
<b>PD</b>	Preliminary Design
<b>PDNA</b>	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
<b>PDR</b>	Post-Disaster Recovery
<b>PIMO</b>	Public Investment Management Office
<b>PPS</b>	Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia
<b>PWMC</b>	Public Water Management Company
<b>RGA</b>	Republic Geodetic Authority
<b>RWD</b>	Republic Water Directorate

<b>SC</b>	Steering Committee
<b>SCTM</b>	Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities
<b>SEM</b>	Sector of Emergency Management, Ministry of Interior
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>TD</b>	Technical documentation
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>WG</b>	Working Group
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WMBC</b>	West Morava Basin Cooperation

## 1. Description

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1.1. Name of Coordinator of the grant contract:

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

1.2. Name and title of the contact person:

**Yakup Beris Pickup, Resident Representative**

1.3. Name of beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) in the Action:

**United Nations Development Programme**

1.4. Title of the Action:

**EU for Civil Protection and Disaster Resilience Strengthening in the Republic of Serbia**

1.5. Contract number:

**CRIS 2020/415-529/2**

1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period:

**1 February 2023 – 25 July 2023**

1.7. Target country(ies) or region(s):

**Republic of Serbia**

1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups<sup>1</sup> (if different) (including numbers of women and men):

Final beneficiaries of the Action are men and woman in Serbia affected by natural and man-made disasters. Target groups are civil protection units of general purposes, local self-governments of the Republic of Serbia, City of Kraljevo and West Morava River Basin Cooperation municipalities and cities, four Institutes for Emergency Medicine (Belgrade, Kragujevac, Nis and Novi Sad), two Institutes of Public Health (Belgrade and Nis), four Clinics for Infectious Diseases (Belgrade, Kragujevac, Nis and Novi Sad), Republic Geodetic Authority, 27 Fire and rescue units of the Ministry of Interior, Sector for Emergency Management, Mountain Rescue Service, civil society organisations.

1.9. Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7):

**Republic of Serbia**

## 2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

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### 2.1. Executive summary of the Action

Disasters affect Serbia's economic and environmental standing, diminish the country's development potential, pose a risk to social stability, and jeopardize EU investments. The effectiveness of the disaster risk management system relies on the adequate human, physical and financial capacities for planning, preparation, responding, and post-disaster recovery, as well as on proper vertical and horizontal coordination between all the relevant institutions. Over the past two decades, droughts, floods, exceptionally harsh winters, and other weather-related extreme events have caused major physical damage, financial losses, and even deaths, and at the same time, had significant impacts on the economy.

2019 Global Crisis Severity Index with an average score of 3.5 places Serbia in the group of medium-risk and rather stable countries. Although the applied INFORM methodology assesses Serbian vulnerability as moderately low, it still recognizes institutional and governance shortcomings (scored with 5.2) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) (5.7) as having undermining impact on the overall coping capacity. The critical problem of the Serbian Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management System is the fragmentation of the institutional framework, procedures, and insufficient capacities at the central and local level for adequate prevention, preparation, and response to disaster risk needs of the communities and population. **The Action** is designed to overcome the administrative hierarchy of institutions and to improve coordinated response and coherence of national and local policies and approaches. The holistic approach brings together continuous efforts of beneficiary institutions in establishing an all-encompassing and effective disaster risk management system and synergetic effect of well-coordinated and sequenced donor-funded initiatives. The Action shall contribute to effective management in emergencies by aligning civil protection, and disaster risk resilience approaches with the EU standards, thus enabling the realization and implementation of the **Sendai DRR Framework**. Improved disaster risk management system in Serbia will also bolster the national contribution to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. In designing the Action, both UNDP and beneficiary institutions applied a 360° whole-government and whole-society approach through community engagement and inclusion of the vulnerable groups. Implementation of the Action will have a significant impact on the improvement of capacities at the central and local level for preparedness and response in case of incidents and disasters through upgrading physical, social, and human capacities. It will improve institutional coordination at the horizontal and vertical levels, improve technical and operational capacities for prevention and reaction. Each of the activities, outcomes, and outputs responds directly to the specific needs and contributes to advanced cooperation across sectors and enables a faster, better coordinated, and more effective response to natural and man-made disasters.

Description of the specific activities and interventions proposed (purchase of equipment, construction of infrastructure, provision of services, and trainings) are developed based on the IPA 2019//Serbia/EU for Civil Protection Action Document.

**The overall objective of the Action** is to contribute to the reduction of vulnerability to disasters and increase the country's resilience to climate change. The overall objective is based on the identified gaps in the DRR sector, namely the limited technical capacities and weak cooperation between different stakeholders.

**The specific objective of the Action** is to put in place the capacities for emergency management and disaster risk resilience at the national and local level.

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 and first signs of infestation and declared the State of Emergency in the Republic of Serbia in March 2020, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia (EUD) as support to governmental efforts in combating COVID-19 outbreak and increase capacities of the health system accelerated contracting of the Project "EU for Civil Protection and Disaster Resilience Strengthening in the Republic of Serbia" and included an Emergency Clause<sup>2</sup> in the Contribution Agreement

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<sup>2</sup> This Action, by invoking this clause, also allows the necessary flexibility to respond to any emergency measures that demand urgent Action in the field of emergency management. In the form of an example, such measures can be aerial transport operations for delivering equipment/supplies or purchase of equipment in the context of national emergencies of any kind (e.g. natural disasters, pandemics, man-made and technological disasters). Upon agreement of the two contracting parties, the measures to be

(CoA) no. 202/415-529 was signed on 20 March 2020. The Contracting Authority (CA) and UNDP agreed to prioritize immediate response to medical supplies impediments whilst all the programmatic and budgetary implications to the implementation of the other activities have been jointly assessed and mitigated. Following the activation of the Emergency Clause as per governmental request for urgent airlifts of medical supplies, UNDP arranged, contracted, and successfully realized a total of fifteen (15) airlift operations and delivered 721 tons of critical medical equipment and supplies to Serbia in March, April and May 2020, thus contributing to a good initial response by the Government to the pandemic.

*The First Amendment to the Financing Decision came into effect in June 2020, and subsequently the Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Serbia and UNDP signed the Addendum no. 1 to Contribution Agreement on 6 July 2020. With this, additional funds in the amount of EUR 6.6 million partially replenished the airlift costs incurred in the COVID-19 emergency response. Even though the total project budget was increased from EUR 7,499,996 to a total of EUR 14,099,996.*

The COVID-19 induced emergency led to the exposure of the capacity gaps in the national disaster risk management system and its dependence on international assistance, proving once again the necessity of further enhancement of the disaster management system and institutional response, which are the primary objectives of this Action. UNDP managed to continue the implementation of envisaged activities in a defined timeframe and compensate emergency caused budgetary shortfalls due to timely amendment of the EU Financing Decision and allocation of the supplementary funding.

The location for the reconstruction of Ministry of Interior, Sector for emergency Management (SEM) building experienced several changes due to accessibility and property issues throughout the implementation of the Action, until finally set for Djordja Stanojevic bb, New Belgrade, and to a construction of an entire new building. Following a more detailed cost estimate of construction done by SEM in February 2022, unknown MoI/SEM co-financing situation, fluctuation of market prices, budgetary shortcomings and time constraints, and the fact that preliminary estimate for the construction, goes beyond the funds available within the Action, the SEM via Ministry of European Integration (MEI) sent an Official Letter /Explanatory Note to EUD/CA on 2 December 2022 with proposal for reallocation of funds envisaged for the construction of the building and the Central platform for real-time acquisition, processing, distribution of data from microcontroller stations towards the procurement of additional number of specialized firefighting vehicles.

The EUD approved the MoI/SEM request for reallocation of funding to procure an additional number of specialized firefighting vehicles on 19 January 2023, and UNDP submitted a request for Contract Addendum reflecting the changes in the Scope of the Action on 12 June 2023. The MEI and the EUD in parallel finalized the procedure for amendment of the Annual Action Programme 2019 and the Action Document 'EU for Civil Protection and Disaster Resilience Strengthening'.

*The Second Amendment to the Financing Decision came into effect, and subsequently the Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Serbia and UNDP signed the Addendum no. 2 to Contribution Agreement on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. With this, the activities of reconstruction and equipping the SEM facility, and the establishment of Central platform for real-time acquisition, processing, distribution of data from microcontroller stations funds are cancelled and budgeted funds in the amount of app. EUR 1.34 million reallocated for procurement of additional number of specialized firefighting vehicles. The Project implementation period is also extended for 6 months, until September 19<sup>th</sup> 2024.*

supported shall be prioritised with regard to other activities and any budgetary implications and funding shortfalls for the implementation of other planned activities shall be jointly assessed and mitigated. For this clause to be in effect, the prior agreement of the two contracting parties is absolutely necessary.

The intervention logic remains valid but with modifications to the log-frame matrix at the level of outputs and activities.

## 2.2. Results and Activities

Referring to the updated Log frame matrix, during the reporting period the Action has had a substantial level of achievement and positive impact of the results on the basis of corresponding current value of indicators from the updated log-frame matrix (please see 2.3 below). UNDP revised technical documentation for regional training centre for a phase construction, procured specialised firefighting cistern trucks, and continued the support to the development of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Methodology and the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy.

### Key project results in the reporting period are:

#### Infrastructure:

- **Review of the Concept Design, Design for Building Permit, and Execution of Works, for phasal upgrade of the Education Centre in Rudno completed and adopted.**

#### Procurement:

- **Successfully contracted procurement of 7 specialized firefighting cistern trucks for the SEM. Delivery will be completed by the beginning of July 2024.**

In the reporting period, UNDP applied the mitigation measures to ensure feasibility of the construction of the Rudno Training Centre by adjusting designs and scope of construction works to accommodate increase of construction market prices which go beyond the available Action financing. Thereof, UNDP revised the technical documentation to separate the construction in phases. The revised scope of works is agreed with beneficiary institutions and all the results are on a good path to meet the target value of indicators.



**Outcome: Serbian capacity for disaster management is improved sufficiently to establish a functioning system at national and local level**

*Activity A0: Establishment and coordination of the Decision-Making Process*

Planned:	Deliverables reached in the reporting period:
<p><b>SC established.</b> <b>Minutes from the SC meetings.</b></p>	<p>SC operational and convening on technical issues in reduced composition. Minutes from the Presentation of Rudno Training Centre Design, and the Meeting regarding the financing of the construction of the Rudno Training Centre project prepared and adopted. UNDP Project Team operational.</p>

The Steering Committee (SC) is operational, and UNDP has organized technical meetings to discuss and agree on the issues related to infrastructure component.

UNDP maintains daily communication with the beneficiary institutions securing that all the capacities and implementation arrangements are in place for the prompt reaction in the case of the emerging requests. The established UNDP Project Team remain fully operational and consists of Portfolio Analyst, Project Coordinator, Finance Associate, Procurement Associate, and Project Assistant and effectively facilitates the decision-making process. The Programme Specialist – Team Leader for Resilient Development and UNDP Serbia Operations perform oversight and quality assurance in line with positively pillar assessed UNDP procedures.

UNDP organised operational meetings, first the presentation of Rudno Training Centre Design on 16 March 2023, and meeting regarding the financing of the construction of the Rudno Training Centre on 10 May 2023, with the participation of the EUD, Ministry of Interior, Sector for Emergency Management, the Ministry for Public Investment, and with the participation of representatives of the City of Kraljevo due to the prevalence of the Education Training Centre in Rudno activities in the reporting period and beyond.

UNDP also organised a Steering Committee on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The representatives of EUD, MPI, City of Kraljevo and UNDP acknowledged a steady pace of implementation of the remaining activities and agreed on the way forward.

Quality, scope and time perspective of the results and activities were continually observed and conveyed to relevant national partners and the EUD through written and verbal reporting mechanism and on-spot monitoring and evaluation requirements. The Action gave specific attention to the estimation of impact on the target groups.

Please find in the table below an overview of outputs and activities completed in the previous reporting period as well as an activity planned beyond this reporting period:

Output	Related Activity	Status
<b>Emergency medical vehicles (Op. 1.2), and decontamination vehicles (Op 1.3) procured, delivered and used by the final beneficiary, protective uniforms sets delivered to medical teams (Op. 1.4)</b>	A1.2: Purchase of equipment and specialized vehicles for Institutes of Emergency Medicine	Completed
<b>Op. 1.5 Transport operations supported</b>	A1.4: Activation of the emergency clause and delivery of assistance	Completed
<b>Op. 2.2 Municipal servants and civil protection commissioners trained</b>	A2.2: Trainings for LSGs, civil protection units, NGOs and other	Completed

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	stakeholders involved in civil protection	
<b>Op. 2.3 Civil protection units equipped</b>	A2.5: Procurement of equipment for civil protection units	Completed
<b>Op. 2.6 Delivered mobile dams</b>	A2.5: Procurement of equipment for civil protection units	Completed
<b>Op. 2.7 Equipment and vehicles for Mountain Rescue Service of Serbia purchased, delivered and used by beneficiaries</b>	A1.2: Purchase of equipment and vehicles for fire protection and rescue teams and establishment of the Central Platform for real-time acquisition, processing, distribution of data from microcontroller stations A2.6: Procurement of equipment for MRSS	Completed
<b>Op. 2.8 Disaster Risk Register established and functional</b>	A2.7: Establishment of the Disaster Risk Register	Completed
<b>Op. 2.9 The most relevant awareness raising thematic areas identified and supported</b>	A2.4: Grant scheme Civil Society Organizations involved in DRR	Planned for September 2023
<b>Op. 3.1.1 Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management and submitted adoption to the GoS</b>	A3.1: Policy and knowledge products advancement	
<b>Op. 3.1.3 International Scientific DRR Conference organised to inform development of the civil protection learning curricula of the Faculty of Security Studies of the University of Belgrade</b>		Completed
<b>Op. 3.1.4 Performed ex-post evaluation of the Action Plan (AP) for National Disaster Risk Management Plan (NDRMP) for 2017-2020</b>		

Please find in the table below an overview of outputs and activities implemented in the reporting period with their status at the end of the reporting period:

<b>Output</b>	<b>Related Activity</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Op. 1.1 Firefighting equipment and vehicles procured, delivered and used by the beneficiary</b>	A1.1: Purchase of equipment and vehicles for the fire protection and rescue team	Procurement completed and Contract signed. Delivery of vehicles in the period May-July 2024.
<b>Education Centre (Rudno) reconstructed (Op. 2.1) and (Op. 2.1.1) supplied with furniture and equipment</b>	A2.1: Reconstruction and equipping of the Education Centre with a training ground in Rudno	Steady Progress
<b>Op. 2.2 Municipal servants and civil protection commissioners trained</b>	A2.2: Trainings for LSGs, civil protection units, NGOs and other stakeholders involved in civil protection	Follow Up
<b>Highly experienced MRSS staff trained (Op. 2.4) and (Op. 2.5) number of trained floods' rescuers</b>	A2.3: Training of trainers for selected highly experienced MRSS staff	In the final phase of completion
<b>Op. 3.1.2 Damage Assessment Methodology and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy</b>	A3.1: Policy and knowledge products advancement	Steady Progress

## developed and submitted for adoption to the GoS

In the remaining of this Report is a detailed presentation of all outputs and activities implemented in the reporting period.

**Result/output1:** Firefighting equipment and vehicles procured, protective uniforms, equipment and vehicles delivered to medical institutions

### Op. 1.1 Firefighting equipment and vehicles procured, delivered and used by the beneficiary

#### *Related Activity: A1.1: Purchase of equipment and vehicles for fire protection and rescue teams*

<b>Planned:</b>	<b>Deliverables reached in the reporting period:</b>
<b>Firefighting equipment and at least 34 vehicles procured</b>	Contracted procurement of 7 fire and rescue water tender trucks.

UNDP in cooperation with SEM, developed technical documentation for procurement of 9 fire and rescue water tender trucks, avoiding any features which might be construed as limiting in terms of market conditions or specificities of potential bidders. UNDP launched the tender 3 March 2023. Following the process of tender evaluation, and approval of the Regional Advisory Committee on Procurement (RACP), UNDP signed a contract with the most successful bidder. UNDP exercised its right to vary the quantity of goods up to a maximum of 25% of the total offer at the time of awarding to finalise the procurement within the available budget, thus leading to procuring 7 instead of the envisaged 9 vehicles. Planned completion of delivery is July 2024.

**Status:** Completed pending delivery

To define and adjust technical characteristics to the need of the Sector for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior (SEM), UNDP has engaged external expertise (Specialized Firefighting Vehicles Consultant) and, jointly with the SEM defined necessary technical requirements. During the preparation phase, UNDP independent expert performed market research and identified 15 different models of chassis produced by different manufactures suitable for the requested overhaul. The expert also performed a price estimate by surveying most prominent manufactures and suppliers of the vehicles meeting the predefined technical requirements. The specificity of firefighting vehicles is they are produced and assembled in smaller series and are custom made on request, and provided technical specification tailored to the needs of the customer. Furthermore, the market fluctuation due to post-Covid turmoil in the automotives industry, the war in Ukraine have impediments to the supply chain, and the EU zone inflation has led to the increase of price of specialized vehicles. The average price of firefighting vehicles is mapped in quite a span going between EUR 142,000 – EUR 250,000 differing on the selection of chassis, upgrade and the diversity of specialised equipment.

UNDP developed technical specifications avoiding any limitations and ensuring implementation of the best value for money principle. UNDP launched the tender on 3 March 2023 enabling wide competition of national and international bidders.

Following the process of tender evaluation of 5 received bids, and an approval of the Regional Advisory Committee on Procurement (RACP), UNDP signed a contract with the most successful bidder for procuring 7 firefighting cistern vehicles. UNDP reserves the right to place the order for additional 2 vehicles at the contracted price at a later stage, subject to the availability of funds and mutual agreement of UNDP and the Contractor to amend the contract in such a way.

Delivery timetable of the entire vehicle flotilla is presented below:

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Tranche	No. of vehicles	Full delivery of vehicle	Training on operation and maintenance	Inspection upon delivery
1 <sup>st</sup>	2	17 April 2024	18 April 2024	19 April 2024
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2	15 May 2024	16 May 2024	17 May 2024
3 <sup>rd</sup>	3	28 June 2024	1 July 2024	2 July 2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>			

Finally, the UNDP observed procurement risks and respective mitigation measures in place are presented in the table below.

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation Measure</i>
Non-objective delays	Imposing penalties in case of additional non-objective delays occur. For contracts of high value such as this, UNDP has the mechanism of performance security through a bank guarantee in the amount of 10% of contract value that the Supplier submitted to UNDP following the contract signing.
Limitations to competitiveness and transparency	Successful implementation of UNDP quality assurance mechanism and the engagement of an independent expert Specialised Firefighting Vehicles Consultant being a Forensic Expert in the Field of Mechanical Engineering, leads to a competitive and transparent process.

**Result/output2:** Capacities for civil protection are improved, Education Centre in Kraljevo is reconstructed, furnished and equipped, local stakeholders and MRSS staff members are trained and equipped, the most relevant awareness raising thematic areas are identified and supported, Disaster Risk Register is established and functional.

### **Education Centre (Rudno) reconstructed (Op. 2.1) and (Op. 2.1.1) supplied with furniture and equipment**

*Related Activity: A2.1: Reconstruction and equipping of the Education Centre with in Rudno, City of Kraljevo*

#### **Planned:**

**Education Centre with training ground reconstructed.  
Sets of furniture and equipment purchased.**

#### **Deliverables reached in the reporting period:**

Pre- parcellation design implemented in cadastre. Revised Concept Design, obtained location conditions, submitted request to the Ministry in charge of construction for issuance of the Compliance Report of the revised Preliminary Design with previously obtained positive Decision of the Ministries Review Committee. Revision of Design for Building Permit is completed and under the review of the independent verification company.

**UNDP completed technical documentation to the level of the Design for Execution of Works and conducted an independent verification by January 2023. The City of Kraljevo adopted Rudno area General Regulation Plan in July 2022 reaching the major milestone for the feasibility of the Project. In**

**February 2023, the Property Directorate of the Republic of Serbia endorsed request for parcel unification and changing the land purpose from agricultural into construction site. The Pre-parcellation design was officially endorsed by the Urbanism Secretariat of the City of Kraljevo and on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2023, the responsible branch of the RGA implemented the change in the cadastre records. According to detailed BoQ, there is a lack of available funding for completion of the entire facility. Therefore, UNDP in agreement with the EUD, shall split the construction process in two functional phases. UNDP will perform the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of construction that will entail reconstruction of the existing facility. In consultation with the Ministry responsible for construction (MCTI), UNDP ensured technical acceptance of the reconstructed facility. UNDP will handover the entire design which also include extension of the facility to the City of Kraljevo for implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase pending the availability of funding.**

**Status: Steady progress**

On 16 March 2023, UNDP organized a presentation of the Rudno Training Centre Design with the participation of the representatives of the EUD, the MPI, the SEM, the City of Kraljevo, responsible Designer and the design verification company. UNDP followed with the consultation with beneficiaries, responsible Ministry and EU Delegation. Beneficiary institutions explored the possibility of the government co-funding, and once it was clear there is no sufficient resources for completion of the entire facility, following advice of the MCTI, UNDP and beneficiaries agreed to restrict the scope of works to the reconstruction of the existing facility, supportive infrastructure and landscaping. The agreement was reached at the meeting held on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It was also agreed that UNDP will complete the designs and obtain the permits for the extension of the building as well, giving the opportunity to local administration of the City of Kraljevo to swiftly implement the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of construction pending availability of funding.

Therefore, UNDP revised the Concept Design and on obtained revised Location Conditions, followed by submission of the request to MCTI for issuance of the Compliance Report of the revised Preliminary Design with positive Decision of the Ministry' Review Committee, obtained in September 2022. According to the information provided by the MPI representative during the 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee, the MCTI will summon the Review Committee in the beginning of August 2023 for the issuance of the Compliance Report. In parallel, UNDP reviews revised Design for building permit for issuance of the building permit upon arrival of the Compliance Report.

While awaiting issuance of the building permit, UNDP will prepare the tender for execution of works which is to be launched in September 2023. Completion of works is expected in July 2024. In parallel, the City of Kraljevo shall invest some EUR 70,000 into construction of missing electric supply sub-station. Once the construction works are in the full swing, UNDP will launch the tender for furnishing and equipping the facility.

Due to revision and reapproval of technical documentation and reobtaining necessary permits, the plan for the finalisation of technical documentation and tendering and implementation of works had to be revised, and the overview of revised dynamics of reconstruction of the Rudno education centre is provided in the table below.

Phase	Status/Deadlines
Urban Development Design (UDD)	Completed, adopted and confirmed by the MCTI in 2021
Conceptual Design (CD)	Completed and revised
Location conditions – reissuance	Completed
Pre- parcellation design	Completed in January 2022
<b>Preliminary Design (PD)</b>	<b>Completed in January 2022, confirmed by the MCTI in September 2022,</b>

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	<b>compliance Report expected in August 2023</b>
Feasibility Study (FS)	Completed in January 2022
<b>Design for Building Permit (DBP) – revision</b>	<b>Ongoing, to be finalised in August 2023</b>
Environmental impact assessment study (EIA)	Completed in September 2022
Fire Protection Study	Completed in September 2022
Energy Efficiency Study	Completed in September 2022
<b>Technical Control of the DBP – redoing</b>	<b>August 2023</b>
<b>Design for Execution of Works (ED) including Preventive Measures Plan and the Main Fire Protection Design</b>	<b>Completed in December 2022, revision in August 2023</b>
<b>Independent verification of the Design and preparation of Tender for Works – redoing</b>	<b>August 2023</b>
<b>Issuance of Building Permit</b>	<b>August 2023</b>
<b>Construction Works</b>	<b>October 2023 – July 2024</b>
<b>Furbishing and Handover of the Facility</b>	<b>July 2024</b>

Table 1 - Overview of the Education Centre in Rudno upgrade dynamics

UNDP observed risk status and respective mitigation measures in place are presented in the table below.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure</b>
Delay caused by late response from the stakeholders and authorities during obtaining design approvals, and City of Kraljevo is slow in resolving location legal and property issues.	UNDP established close cooperation with all authorities having jurisdiction, to ensure receipt of all required approvals, permits and location conditions in due time, as well as facilitate the City of Kraljevo resolving location legal and property issues. Ministry for Public Investment has the responsibility to liaise with the MCTI, Property Directorate of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic Geodetic Authority ensuring no further delays in the issuance of the necessary documentation.
Project delay due to inadequate approach of the Contractors (technical design and works).	Regular meetings and monitoring of agreed timelines. Close cooperation and coordination of activities with Contractor. UNDP engaged in-house engineering capacities for monitoring of the implementation of the contract. Penalties shall be imposed if delays on behalf of the Contractor in the realization of the project occur.
Shortage of funding for the reconstruction due to significant increase of construction material and workforce prices.	UNDP agreed with CA/EUD to proceed with the partial reconstruction allowing partial technical acceptance.
Slow decision-making process due to reaching consent and agreement of various stakeholders both on technical and financing issues.	Established transparent and open cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, and driving decision making by holding regular meetings and facilitating stakeholder's responsiveness in direct contact.
Operational and maintenance costs responsibility and sources of funding not defined (sustainability risk)	City of Kraljevo and the Joint Service of the West Morava Basin Cooperation shall reach an Agreement of participating local self-government units for the establishment and functioning of the Civil Protection Training Centre in Rudno which will define the responsibility for managing and financing the operation and maintenance of the centre. The

Agreement shall be formally adopted by all participating LSGs, i.e. beneficiaries of the centre.
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### Highly experienced MRSS staff trained (Op. 2.4) and (Op. 2.5) number of trained floods' rescuers

*Related Activity: A2.3: Training of trainers for selected highly experienced MRSS staff*

**Planned:**

**11 highly experienced MRSS staff members trained to the level of instructor for the areas:**

- Helicopter Rescue trainings – 5 persons,
- Flood Rescue trainings – 4 persons,
- High Rope Rescue trainings – 2 persons.

**30 persons from MRSS for Rescue 3 Swift water and flood rescue technician trained.**

**Deliverables reached in the reporting period:**

Final Water rescue scheduled for October 2023.

In the reporting period a total of 22 (21 man and 1 woman) MRSS rescuers trained for High Rope Gondola Evacuation.

**Due to the availability of Rescue 3 Europe Instructor Trainers the final Water Rescue training is scheduled for October 2023.**

**Status: In the final phase of completion**

**Water Rescue Training** for 3 MRSS staff due to its complexity and composition of a number of sub-modules and training chapters is delivered through several training courses. As the final Rescue3 Instructor Course Training is specialised and demanding, the only location where it is feasible to carry out the training in Croatia is on the Cetina River, upstream of Omiš.

Due to the availability of Rescue 3 Europe Instructor Trainers the final Water Rescue training is scheduled for autumn 2023, after which 3 highly experienced MRSS rescuers will be awarded with Rescue 3 Europe Certificates.

In the period 23-25 May 2023, on Zlatibor, at the Ribnicko Lake, the MRSS certified trainers conducted Cable Car Evacuation training exercise for 22 MRSS rescuers (21 man and 1 woman) resulting with a total of 59 (53 man and 6 woman) trained rescuers.

*Creating a core of MRSS certified instructors in rescue operations for which the MRSS is recognized – high rope, helicopter rescue, and swift water rescue – will capacitate them to extend the number and response capacities of rescuers and attract young men and women in engaging in voluntarism and consequently impact the awareness on the safe and efficient response in emergencies throughout the population.*



Picture 1 - Cable Car Evacuation exercise at Zlatibor in May 2023

### 3.1 Policy and knowledge products advancement

**CA agreed to include in the scope of Action's support the national partners expressed need for support in developing Serbian PDNA Methodology, conducting ex-post evaluation of the Action Plan (AP) for**

***National Disaster Risk Management Plan (NDRMP) for 2017--2020 and developing new Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management for the period 2023-2030.***

**Planned:**

**4 Policy and regulatory documents developed**

**Deliverables reached in the reporting period:**

Refined proposal of the PDNA methodology endorsed by the WG of the Government of Serbia.  
Advanced Draft of DRR Strategy shared with Inter-Ministerial WG for Strategy development.

**UNDP supported development of the policy framework in the DRR area in Serbia by developing PDNA methodology, conducting Ex-Post Evaluation of the NDRMP Action Plan, and drafting the new Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management for the period 2023-2030.**

**Status: Completed**

As a complementary process to the improvement of the National DRR System, the Action is supporting the development of policy and planning framework in the Civil Protection, DRR and Post-Disaster Recovery areas in the Republic of Serbia.

In the process of development of the **new Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Methodology** of the Republic of Serbia which will replace the existing one, used since 1987, which uses historically outdated terminology and formulations, and does not distinguish between damage and loss, UNDP in cooperation with the Ministry for Public Investment (MPI) organized a Workshop for the finalisation of the Methodology for Disaster Loss and Damage Assessment in Vrnjacka Banja on 27-28 February 2023. This Workshop brought together representatives from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), the Ministry of Interior – Sector for Emergency Management (SEM), the local administrations of Kraljevo and Vrnjacka Banja, and MPI and UNDP, to work on finalising the Methodology with annexes. The new PDNA Methodology will enable a more accurate and efficient damage assessment by providing optimized templates, instructions, and guidelines for damage assessment in local self-governments to ease data collection in short timeframe during crises, harmonised with the DesInventar methodology (Disaster Information Management System).



Picture 2 - Workshop for the finalization of the Methodology in Vrnjacka Banja, 27-28 February 2023

Within reporting period, the Sector of Emergency Management consolidated consultants' inputs and produced the advanced draft of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management Strategy for the period 2023-2030. Although, it was initially planned to start the public debate in May 2023, extreme weather events which lead to the declaration of emergency situation on more than 1/3 of Serbian territory, delayed the entire process. By the time of submission of this Report, the Sector of Emergency Management shared the advanced draft of the Strategy and accompanying Action Plan with Inter-Ministerial Working Group for comments and possible contributions. Following public debate, which is expected in mid-September 2022, UNDP will engage an international DRR consultant to support SEM in finalizing the proposal for GoS adoption.

*Policy and knowledge product support provided an evaluation of the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of DRR measures, and developed a new strategic and operational framework which shall enable permanent improvement of the National DRR system, and swift recovery needs assessment, as well as generating professional in these field both from academia and from the expert community.*



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**2.3. Logframe matrix updated**

IF	THEN	BECAUSE
The firefighting equipment and vehicles procured, protective uniforms, equipment and vehicles delivered to medical institutions	Serbia' capacity for disaster management will be improved sufficiently to establish responsive system at national and local level.	More efficient data collection and processing, information-based decision-making, effective emergency responses and full application of the safety protocols are enabled
Capacities for civil protection are improved, Education Centre in Kraljevo is reconstructed, furnished and equipped, local stakeholders and MRSS staff members are trained and equipped, the most relevant awareness raising thematic areas are identified and supported, Disaster Risk Register is established and functional		Operational, technical and human capacities of the front-line emergency responders are enhanced, disaster risk governance strengthened, and risk-informed decision-making process enabled

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	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (2020)</i>	<i>Current value</i>	<i>Target (2024)</i>	<i>Source and mean of verification</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
<i>Impact (Overall objective)</i>	To contribute to the reduction of vulnerability to disasters and <sup>3</sup> increase the country's resilience to climate change.	Degree of compliance with EU requirements and practices in the area of prevention, preparedness and response to disasters ( <i>Civil Protection Mechanism, Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction</i> )	Legislation aligned; Serbia is a member of the Civil Protection Mechanism	Serbia is able to provide assistance to other countries through the Civil Protection Mechanism	Training centre operational and capacities of civil protection and fire and rescue units enhanced	SEM report on response in emergencies EU evidence on Serbia contribution to the Civil Protection Mechanism	<i>Not applicable</i>
<i>Outcome (s) (Specific objective(s))</i>	Serbian capacity for disaster management is improved sufficiently to establish a functioning system at national and local level	Serbian disaster management system is established and functional in municipalities	5 municipalities	128 <sup>4</sup>	60	SEM reports on implementation of the Law on Natural and other Hazard Risk Reduction and Emergency Management at the local level	The Government remains committed to the implementation of the Sendai Framework
<i>Outputs</i>	<b>Result / output 1:</b>  Op. 1.1 Firefighting equipment and vehicles procured, delivered and used by the beneficiary  Op. 1.2 Emergency medical vehicles procured, delivered and used by the final beneficiary	Number of delivered equipment sets and vehicles  Number of vehicles  Number of vehicles	0  0  0	27 firefighting vehicles <sup>5</sup> (on track)  12 ambulance vehicles (completed)	34 vehicles  12	Project progress report SEM reports  Implementation progress report MoH report	Adequate and appropriate human, technical and financial resources ensured. Stability of local self-government administration and leadership

<sup>3</sup> In contributing to the achievement of the overall objective and following the logic of the Action Document, outputs of UNDP implemented action shall work in synergy and build upon results of FAO realised activities focused on the improvement of capacities for disaster resilience and climate smart agriculture on the national and local level.

<sup>4</sup> Since the start of the implementation the Action in cooperation with SEM achieved greater engagement and responsiveness of LSG thus resulting in exceeding 2024 target already in the middle of the project implementation. The responsibilities solely in the mandate of LSGs (e.g. developing DRR plans) goes beyond the source of verification envisaged in LFM. The number in the table reflects the number of LSGs with prepared Risk Assessments and Rescue and Protection Plans (128).

<sup>5</sup> The logic of the action initially entailed procurement of 30 ATV and firefighting vehicles, different types of firefighting equipment and uniforms. In preparation for initiation of this activity, the SEM request for prioritising procurement of the 27 vehicles for counteracting forest fires. During the implementation of the Action SEM requested the allocation of funds envisaged for SEM HQ facility towards the procurement of additional fire and rescue tender trucks. In accordance with the written endorsement of the Contracting Authority, UNDP accommodated SEM requests.

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1 February 2023 – 25 July 2023

	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (2020)</i>	<i>Current value</i>	<i>Target (2024)</i>	<i>Source and mean of verification</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
	Op. 1.3 Decontamination vehicles procured, delivered and used by the final beneficiary	Number of sets	0	2 vehicles for decontamination <b>(completed)</b>	2	SEM and/or Government reports Cargo Handover Protocols	No frequent staff turnover. Established local administration units for DRR Engaged local civil protection units of general purpose  <i>Emergency that required transport operations as emergency measure</i>
	Op. 1.4 Protective uniforms sets delivered to medical teams			75 protective uniform sets <sup>6</sup> <b>(completed)</b>	75		
	Op 1.5 Transport operations supported	Number of flights	0	15 (721 tons) <b>(completed)</b>	15 (721 tons)		
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Result/output 2:</b>						
	Op. 2.1 Education Centre reconstructed	Rehabilitation progress and operability status	0	50% <b>(on track)</b>	Rehabilitated and operational 100%	Project progress report SEM and MPI reports usage permit Supervising Organ Reports UNDP Construction site monitoring reports	
	Op. 2.1.1 Education Centre supplied with furniture and equipment	Number of delivered sets	0	0 <b>(on track)</b>	5		
	Op. 2.2 Municipal servants and civil protection commissioners trained	Number of trained local servants	500* <i>(*MPI records)</i>	1,626 <b>(completed)</b>	1,400	Implementation progress report SEM and MPI reports	
		Number of delivered items	0		900 sets		

<sup>6</sup> Due to the significant increase of cost of medical equipment caused by the pandemic, and the budget restrictions for the latter procurement, following the approval from the Ministry of Health, the UNDP exercised its right to vary the quantity of goods up to a maximum of 25% of the total offer at the time of awarding in order to finalise the procurement within the available budget thus leading to procuring 75 sets instead of the envisaged 100. UNDP reserves the right to place the order for additional 25 pieces at the contracted price at a later stage, subject to the availability of funds and mutual agreement of UNDP and the Contractor to amend the contract in such way.

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	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (2020)</i>	<i>Current value</i>	<i>Target (2024)</i>	<i>Source and mean of verification</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
	Op. 2.3 Civil protection units equipped	Number of staff trained to instructor level	0	900 sets <b>(completed)</b>	11	Implementation progress report SEM and MPI reports	
	Op. 2.4 Highly experienced MRSS staff trained;	No of trained flood rescuers (women/men)	0	16 <b>(on track)</b>	30 (22/8)		
	Op. 2.5 Trained floods' rescuers;	Number of delivered sets	0	69 <sup>7</sup> (62/7) <b>(on track)</b>	1	Implementation progress report SEM and MPI reports	
	Op. 2.6 Delivered mobile dams;	Number of vehicles and sets of equipment delivered	0	1 <b>(completed)</b>	3 vehicles 10 equipment sets		
	Op. 2.7 Equipment and vehicles for Mountain rescue service of Serbia purchased, delivered and used by beneficiaries;	% of coverage of the territory of the Republic of Serbia	0%	3 vehicles 10 equipment sets <b>(completed)</b>	50%	Implementation progress report SEM and MPI reports	
	Op. 2.8 Disaster Risk Register established and functional	Number of the most relevant awareness raising thematic areas identified and supported	0	50% <b>(completed)</b>	3		
	Op. 2.9 The most relevant awareness raising thematic areas identified and supported;			0 <b>(in preparation)</b>			
	<b>Result/output 3:</b>						
	Op. 3.1.1 Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management.					Implementation progress Report  Report on work of the GoS	
	Op. 3.1.2 Developed Methodology for Post-Disaster Risk Assessment;	Number of policy documents/knowledge products supported	0	4 <b>(on track)</b>	4		

7 The MRSS instructors trained 10 rescuers for Water Rescue (9 men and 1 woman), with the participation of MRS of Sarajevo, Brcko District and Tara rangers, as well as 59 rescuers for High Rope Gondola Evacuation (53 man and 6 woman).

25 July 2023 (EU for Serbia Resilient to Disasters – Interim Narrative Report)

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	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (2020)</i>	<i>Current value</i>	<i>Target (2024)</i>	<i>Source and mean of verification</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
	Op. 3.1.3 Organized International Scientific DRR Conference to inform development of the Faculty of Security Civil Protection learning curricula;  Op. 3.1.4 Performed ex-post evaluation of the Action Plan (AP)						

List of the contracts (works, supplies, services) above € 60 000 awarded for the implementation of the action during the reporting period

No.	Contract Value	Contract Award	Contract Type	Contractor's Name	Description of Activity
1	EUR 1,341,726 <sup>8</sup>	Open international Competition. Invitations to Bid (ITB).	Contract for Goods	Vatrosprem proizvodnja doo Beograd	Procurement of 7 fire and rescue water tender trucks for Sector of Emergency Management of the Republic of Serbia

<sup>8</sup> The Contract value amounts USD 1,497,300. For the purpose of the report the EUR/USD currency exchange applicable on date of recording the last prefinancing installment in UNDP accounting system has been applied. The exact contract value in EUR will be calculated upon receiving the last prefinancing instalment since the costs will be partially covered by the both tranches, and converted by applicable exchange rates.

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**Activity Matrix**

<p><b>ACTIVITY A0:</b> Establishment and coordination of Decision-Making Process</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY A1.1:</b> Purchase of equipment and vehicles for fire protection and rescue teams</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY A1.2:</b> Purchase of equipment and specialised vehicles for Institutes of Emergency Medicine (Op. 1.2, Op. 1.3 and Op. 1.4)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY A1.4:</b> Activation of the emergency clause and delivery of assistance (Op. 1.5)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY A2.1:</b> Reconstruction and equipping of the Education Centre in Rudno (Op. 2.1 and Op. 2.1.1)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY A2.2:</b> Trainings for LSGs, civil protection units, NGOs and other stakeholders involved in civil protection (Op. 2.2)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 2.3:</b> Training of trainers for selected highly experienced MRSS staff (Op. 2.4 and Op. 2.5)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY A2.4:</b> Grant scheme Civil Society Organizations involved in DRR (Op. 2.9)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY A2.5:</b> Procurement of equipment for civil protection units (Op. 2.3 and Op. 2.6)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY A2.6:</b> Procurement of equipment for MRSS (Op. 2.7)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY A2.7:</b> Establishment of the Disaster Risk Register (Op. 2.8)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY A.3.1.1:</b> Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management (Op. 3.1.1)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY A3.1.2:</b> Development Methodology for Post-Disaster Risk Assessment (Op. 3.1.2)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY A3.1.3:</b> Organizing International Scientific DRR Conference to inform development of the Faculty of Security Civil Protection learning curricula (Op. 3.1.3)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY A3.1.4:</b> Conducting ex-post evaluation of the Action Plan (AP) for National Disaster Risk Management Plan (NDRMP) for 2017-2020 (Op. 3.1.4)</p>	<p><b>Means:</b></p> <p>Project team, per diems, travel costs, equipment purchase, rent of office, vehicle costs, office consumables, external services, constructions/works</p> <p><b>Costs</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Human resources: EUR 592,932</li> <li>2. Travel costs: EUR 17,000</li> <li>3. Equipment: EUR 4,681,795</li> <li>4. Local office: EUR 21,600</li> <li>5. Other, services: EUR 367,047</li> <li>6. Other: EUR 7,497,193</li> </ol> <p>Indirect costs: EUR 922,430</p> <p><b>TOTAL ELIGIBLE COSTS:</b> <b>EUR 14,099,996</b></p>	<p><b>Assumptions</b></p> <p>Political and economic stability and government commitment to improvement of disaster risk resilience</p>
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**2.4. Updated action plan for the future activities of the project<sup>9</sup>**

Activity	Year 4						Implementing body
	Half-year 2						
	Month 7	8	9	10	11	12	
<b>Execution Activity 0</b> (Establishment and coordination of Decision-Making Process)							UNDP
<b>Preparation Activity 1.1</b> (Purchase of equipment and vehicles for the fire protection and rescue team)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 1.2</b> (Purchase of equipment and specialised vehicles for Institutes for urgent medical care)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 1.4</b> (Activation of the emergency clause and delivery of assistance)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.1</b> (Reconstruction and equipping of the Education Centre with a training ground in Rudno)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.2</b> (Trainings for LSGs, civil protection units, NGOs and other stakeholders involved in civil protection)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.3</b> (Training of trainers for selected highly experienced MRSS staff)							UNDP
<b>Preparation Activity 2.4</b> (Grant scheme for Civil Society Organizations involved in DRR)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.5</b> (Procurement of equipment for civil protection units)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.6</b> (Procurement of equipment for MRSS)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.7</b> (Establishment of the Disaster Risk Register)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 3.1</b> (Policy and knowledge products advancement)							

<sup>9</sup> This update action plan is developed in line with the guidelines in the reporting template and covers the financial period between the interim report and the next report, reflecting only the activities planned for this financial period.

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Year 5							
Activity	Half-year 1						Implementing body
	Month 1	2	3	4	5	6	
<b>Execution Activity 0</b> (Establishment and coordination of Decision-Making Process)							UNDP
<b>Preparation Activity 1.1</b> (Purchase of equipment and vehicles for the fire protection and rescue team)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 1.2</b> (Purchase of equipment and specialised vehicles for Institutes for urgent medical care)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 1.4</b> (Activation of the emergency clause and delivery of assistance)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.1</b> (Reconstruction and equipping of the Education Centre with a training ground in Rudno)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.2</b> (Trainings for LSGs, civil protection units, NGOs and other stakeholders involved in civil protection)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.3</b> (Training of trainers for selected highly experienced MRSS staff)							UNDP
<b>Preparation Activity 2.4</b> (Grant scheme for Civil Society Organizations involved in DRR)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.5</b> (Procurement of equipment for civil protection units)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.6</b> (Procurement of equipment for MRSS)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.7</b> (Establishment of the Disaster Risk Register)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 3.1</b> (Policy and knowledge products advancement)							



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Activity	Year 5						Implementing body
	Half-year 2						
	Month 7	8	9	10	11	12	
<b>Execution Activity 0</b> (Establishment and coordination of Decision-Making Process)							UNDP
<b>Preparation Activity 1.1</b> (Purchase of equipment and vehicles for the fire protection and rescue team)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 1.2</b> (Purchase of equipment and specialised vehicles for Institutes for urgent medical care)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 1.4</b> (Activation of the emergency clause and delivery of assistance)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.1</b> (Reconstruction and equipping of the Education Centre with a training ground in Rudno)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.2</b> (Trainings for LSGs, civil protection units, NGOs and other stakeholders involved in civil protection)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.3</b> (Training of trainers for selected highly experienced MRSS staff)							UNDP
<b>Preparation Activity 2.4</b> (Grant scheme for Civil Society Organizations involved in DRR)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.5</b> (Procurement of equipment for civil protection units)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.6</b> (Procurement of equipment for MRSS)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 2.7</b> (Establishment of the Disaster Risk Register)							UNDP
<b>Execution Activity 3.1</b> (Policy and knowledge products advancement)							

### 3. Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other Cooperation

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#### Cooperation and Partnership

There is an excellent relationship and strong cooperation established with the state authorities, at national and local level, and this is crucial in mitigating implementation risks, and facilitating addressing the needs of the beneficiaries in the changing circumstances throughout the implementation of the Action.

Partnership with the **Ministry of Interior, Sector for Emergency Management (MoI/SEM)** is based on technical guidance related to procurement and delivery of vehicles and equipment and involves direct contact between UNDP designated staff and engaged specialised consultants with the departments of the SEM whose subsidiaries have been end recipient of the procured assets. Related to the reconstruction of SEM facility the coordination has been operationalised through an established cooperation and mechanism of regular meetings between the EUD, SEM, UNDP and contracted designer. Related to the development of the Disaster Risk Register, SEM chairs the Disaster Risk Register Working Group tasked to establish the Disaster Risk Register by defining priority risks and corresponding data sets, ensuring data acquisition and integration in the Register, and assure its continuous enhancement, upgrade and risk data update.

EU and UNDP supported the development of the new Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management for the period 2023-2030 and an accompanying Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy through engagement of two experts and participating in high-level workshops and working groups for the development of the Strategy and cooperating with the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)** and the **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**. Namely, once completed UNDRR will assess the level of Strategy alignment with the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. OSCE supported the Strategy development process through engaging methodology expert training the members of the GoS Working Group on the requirements for developing strategic documents in accordance with the provision of the Law on the Planning System and accompanying methodology defined by the Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia (the PPS Methodology).

UNDP participating in the Disaster Risk Register Working Group both at operational and high-level also established cooperation and strong partnership with the member institutions and organisations data holders (SEM, MPI, Republic Geodetic Authority (RGA), Geological Survey of Serbia (GSS), Public Water Management Company (PWMC) 'Srbijavode', Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Republic Water Directorate (RWD), Ministry of Mining and Energy, Seismological Survey of Serbia). SEM is a crucial partner in designing and implementation of training activities and developing accompanying guidelines and handbooks, and therefore is playing important role in all consultations, preparatory workshops, design, rollout and entire implementation of the training component.

**Ministry for Public Investment (MPI, former Public Investment Management Office of the Government of Serbia – PIMO)** acts as the main facilitator of the Action components targeting local level capacities but also in gaining political support at national level, being the institution responsible for public investment in local and national infrastructure, as well as by its expertise and lead role in support related to DRR and recovery processes. EU and UNDP supported the process of development of the new Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Methodology in Serbia lead by the MPI by engaging experts and organizing meetings and workshops. A strong partnership between UNDP and MPI is established through frequent and continuous direct consultations by exploiting synergetic effects and avoiding overlaps with other ongoing assistance, liaising with the national and local level authorities in facilitating their response, as well as being a key partner in the design and implementation of local level training component.

As of 2014 devastating floods, UNDP has supported, based on different modalities, the forming of 4 basin cooperation of local self-governments which share same or similar group of hazards in order to jointly plan their preventive and disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures and emergency response in a holistic and a synergetic manner, thus enabling resource sharing and an integrated reaction to disasters. The largest support has been focused on the **West Morava Basin Cooperation (WMBC)** which serves as an example of best

practice in Serbia, and in the region. In these endeavours UNDP has established strong partnership with **Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM)** through their functional networks in the areas of civil protection and DRR, and the MPI (former PIMO) as the lead governmental counterpart in these areas but also in disaster recovery and harmonisation with the Sendai framework and UN/EU standards. Through this continuous support more legal possibilities have sprung to establish a more coherent and formalised inter-municipal cooperation leading to a WMBC agreement and the establishment of a joint service for the whole West Morava basin in Krusevac. The partnership with the municipalities of the WMBC at national level is coordinated in cooperation between UNDP and MPI, and at local level UNDP has established cooperation twofold. One is in direct contact with the focal point from the municipality being responsible for the tasks of civil protection (political level appointees or civil servants). The other is through the Civil Protection Department of Kraljevo, being the coordinator of the WMBC joint actions. This partnership mechanism is functioning well and has greatly contributed to adequate acceptance, storing and maintenance of procured assets at local level, preparation of infrastructure related activities and participative development of quality training material and handbooks. The SCTM civil protection network coordination mechanism achieved increased engagement of local actors in the initial phase.

The cooperation and partnerships UNDP has established through this Action, as well as through previous and other linked endeavours have created an incentive for future similar cooperation, primarily related to civil protection and disaster risk reduction, such as the **Drina River Basin Cooperation (DRBC)**.

The Action supported the establishment of Disaster Risk Register as an interactive and interoperable system aligned with the EU INSPIRE Directive and the EU Initiative to Enhance Data Interoperability, in whose development the UNDP built upon the results of the World Bank funded project ‘**Scaling Up Resilient Infrastructure**’ which proposed business and technical architecture. The same WB project prepared technical specifications and procured hardware components, thus leaving the space the Action to focus on quality software development and enhanced data acquisition. Also, complementarity of the Action with the project ‘**Designed efficient emergency support system 112 for the Republic of Serbia**’ is being ensured through established communications with the project team implementing the 112 Project from defining the Risk Register outline and all phases of its development. Crucial partnership in the pioneering endeavour of establishing the Disaster Risk Register and its further update, enhancement and upgrade, UNDP achieved with the Republic Geodetic Authority (RGA) through established cooperation and mechanism of regular meetings between UNDP, SEM, RGA, other national stakeholders and the Contractor.

The established Risk Register contains risk data on landslides, earthquakes, wildfires, floods, climate change data and infrastructure damage assessment, as well as through connection with DRIS data on potential risks at the local level, including the existing Municipal Disaster Risk Assessments and SEM endorsed Rescue and Protection Plans. The LSGs updates DRIS on a regular basis with newly adopted protection assessments and plans, building upon the basis of documents entered by MPI and produced within the Government of Japan funded training programme. The Register contains Damage Assessment data interlinked with DESINVENTAR Geoportal and the development of Damage Assessment Reports requires a rather complex methodological approach aligned with PDNA (EU, UNDP and the World Bank Post Disaster Needs Assessment Guidelines) and an effective horizontal and vertical coordination. Therefore, the Government of Serbia has established the inter-ministerial Working Group tasked to develop the Damage Assessment Methodology. The UNDP Crisis Bureau and DRR Unit funded the initial development of the Methodology implemented by UNDP Serbia, and the Action supported the drafting of the general methodological approach, sector specific guidelines, and manuals, procedures, forms and templates for implementation of the Methodology in Serbia, at national and local level.

The intervention ‘**EU for Enabling a More Responsive Healthcare System**’ financed by IPA funds for the year 2021 started in February 2023 and is building upon the results of the Action, particularly the National Disaster Risk Register information system and data on natural hazards and is upgrading it to include public health risks. In the implementation of this new intervention UNDP and the World Health Organization (WHO) established a strong partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Institute of Public Health



Implemented by  
UNDP

of Serbia (IPHS) “Dr Milan Jovanović Batut”, including them already from the preparatory phase of the intervention in the established mechanisms of managing and updating the Register and cooperation with SEM.

In order to achieve synergy with the project ‘**Advancing medium and long-term adaptation planning in the Republic of Serbia – NAP**’ project funded by Green Climate Fund (GCF) and implemented by UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), the Action coupled the curricula developed within this project with the local level training curricula (Activity 2.2) in order to enhance the training scope with related topics. The two projects are cooperating on their progress in order to interlink and streamline training related outputs. Additionally, while preparing PDNA methodology for Serbia the Action took into account the Ecological Damage and Climate Change Impact Assessment developed within the CCA project, and the results of the **PDNA rollout II project** “Strengthening Capacities for Post Disaster Needs Assessment And Recovery Preparedness” funded by UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub related to specific guidelines/annexes concerning critical infrastructure damage assessment – citizen homes and apartments, public facilities and hard infrastructure (roads, bridges, water objects, etc.) for each hazard – flood, earthquake, hail, and storm, as well as the Guideline for Agricultural Post Disaster Needs Assessment at Municipal level in Serbia developed in cooperation with FAO. Also, in the period 20-22 June 2022 in Belgrade, UNDP organised a 3-day workshop on the application of the use and application of the PDNA and Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) methodology and approach within the “Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South-Eastern Europe” (DPPI SEE), aiming to strengthen recovery capacity in the region of Europe and Central Asia and to support the implementation of DPPI SEE Strategic Development Plan 2021-2025 in context of enhancing its Disaster Management Training Program and its Analytical component by establishing a pool of experts from DPPI SEE member countries and thus ensure long term sustainability through their support to in-country trainings and capacity-building in DPPI SEE member states and strengthen recovery capacity in the region.

As part of the IPA 2019 funded action ‘EU for Civil Protection and Disaster Resilience Strengthening’ the **FAO** is implementing a component related to support to institutional and local capacity in agriculture sector for enhancing resilience to climate change and introduction of **Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)**. As this intervention entitles coordination between sectors, stakeholders, organizations, and institutions, it will build upon the coordination and collaboration mechanisms developed and DRR networks established within the Action, thus improving engagement of LSGs and raising the interest of farmers and their readiness to participate in demonstration of CSA practices and application of DRR in the agricultures sector, consequently creating ownership and commitment from national and local stakeholders for joint CSA action. Also, the lessons learned within the Action in creation of training curricula will lead to a set of well formulated training courses. Finally, the Action will consult the FAO in identifying and designing thematic areas to be promoted in awareness raising campaigns to achieve maximum synergetic effect.

UNDP is as of December 2022 implementing the project ‘**EU for the Green Agenda in Serbia**’ financed from the funds of IPA 2020, supporting Serbia in implementing Green Agenda for the Western Balkans through encouraging "green" transformation of the economy and society. UNDP is implementing this 4-year EU initiative with total worth EUR 8 million in cooperation with Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Government of Switzerland. The Project aims to set high environmental standards to improve environment and quality of life, boost business investments and innovation, bringing EU experiences and expertise, and create an inclusive dialogue and broad participation of different parts of society on concrete solutions to improve water, waste management and air quality. This is especially important also due to the Serbia EU accession process and the opening of Cluster 4 on the Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity in December 2021. An integral part Chapter 27 on the Environment and Climate Change of Cluster 4 is risk management, the core subject of intervention of the Action.

In the period November 2022 – March 2023, UNDP implemented the ‘**Mapping of confluences of second-order water streams on selected micro-location in Drina River Basin, Republic of Serbia**’, project



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financed by the UNDP Crisis Bureau, in cooperation with the PWMC “Srbijavode”, Faculty of Geography of the University of Belgrade, and Drina River Basin Cooperation of municipalities. The project identified suitable micro-locations in the Drina River Basin for setting up the Early Warning System (EWS) at second order water sources, developed guidelines for its establishment, technical specification for data acquisition and measuring devices, and system specifications for the data acquisition, distribution and early warning software, all in the aim of ensuring wide dissemination of this knowledge product and its replication across and among river basins.

#### 4. Visibility

UNDP has no objection to this Report being published on the EuropeAid web page.

During the reporting period, UNDP in cooperation with the EU Delegation, ensured the visibility of the EU support to Serbia by presenting the activities and achieved results on project website on [#EUzatebe platform](#), and via social media.

Finally, the visibility of the donor is achieved by branding procured vehicles and equipment which are frequently used during emergency interventions as well as in visual representation at workshops, training and meetings and the use and distribution of visibility material in these events.

Increased response efficiency at local level thanks to the EU support to the West Morava River Basin was visible in the response to heavy rains causing severe floods in 62 LSGs in May and June 2023 and the efficient use of mobile dams in, protection of critical infrastructure and the procured uniforms in response operation and terrain sanitation and disinfection.



Picture 3 - Setting up mobile dams to protect the critical infrastructure in the City of Cacak, June 2023



Picture 4 - Serbian firefighting team in action in Nea Anchialos, wide area of the City of Volos, Greece

Effectiveness and quality performance in inaccessible terrain of firefighting vehicles procured within this Action was proven once more combatting, right alongside the Greek colleagues, the severe forest and wildfires throughout Greece in the second half of July. Serbian 38 specialized firefighters and 14 forest fire vehicles shown great vigilance in placing under control the fire spread in a challenging and an unfriendly terrain.

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UNDP has also promoted achievement of the Project during UN regional and global events. In the period 16-18 May 2023, UNDP organized International Conference on Urban Resilience and Earthquake Preparedness in Skopje, North Macedonia. The aim of the Conference was to inspire action and propose policies to enhance the resilience of cities worldwide. The conference brought together a record number of representatives from 19 countries, national institutions, city officials, international organizations, academia, policymakers, civil society, the private sector, as well as individual influencers.



Picture 5 - Presentation of the City of Kraljevo, International Conference on Urban Resilience and Earthquake Preparedness in Skopje, May 2023



Picture 6 - RGA presentation of the Disaster Risk Register, High Level Event, International Conference on Urban Resilience and Earthquake Preparedness in Skopje, May 2023

The three-day conference entailed a High-Level Event followed by the 'Disaster Risk Reduction Community of Practice and Crisis Preparedness and Response Training for Europe and Central Asia. During the High-Level Event, representatives of the Republic Geodetic Authority of Serbia presented the Disaster Risk Register. Representative of West Morava River Basin shared experiences and local approaches for achieving community resilience highlighting the importance and impact of equipment and knowledge product developed within the Action on decreasing the adverse impact of natural disasters in West Morava River Basin. During the two-day Community of Practice event, representatives of UNDP Serbia have also promoted the project results featuring EU support and complementarities among soft, infrastructure and equipment-based components in increasing preparedness and aligning national policy with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Name of the contact person for the Action:

Yakup Beris, UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Serbia

DocuSigned by:  
Signature: Yakup Beris  
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Location: Belgrade

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