

United Nations Development Programme



Annual Work Plan 2023

UNDP

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

Country: Serbia

Expected CP Outcome(s):

Serbia adopts and implements climate change and environmentally friendly strategies that increase community resilience, decrease carbon footprint and boost the benefits of national investments

Expected Output(s):

Natural and human-induced risks effectively addressed

Narrative

Disasters affect Serbia's economic and environmental standing; diminish 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. The key 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 Project is designed to overcome administrative hierarchy of institutions and to improve coordinated response and coherence of national and local policies and approaches. The action shall contribute to the effective management in emergencies by aligning civil protection and disaster risk resilience approaches with the EU standards, thus enabling 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 2023, the Project will focus reconstruction and extension of the Rudno Training Centre, procurement of water tanks vehicles for SEM, finalization of the DRR Strategy and support to CSOs in mainstreaming disaster risk governance at the local level.

Programme Period:	2016-2020
Project Title:	EU for Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Resilience Strengthening in the Republic of Serbia
Award/Output Number:	00126724/00120703
Duration:	2020-2024
Management:	Direct Implementation Modality

Estimated Annualized Budget:	\$ 266,965.00
Annual allocated resources:	\$ 266,965.00
Donor	
European Commission	\$ 266,965.00

Implementing Partner: UNDP

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UNDP Resident Representative

I. BACKGROUND

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 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 DRR (5.7) as having an undermining impact on the overall coping capacity. The key 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 the synergetic effect of well-coordinated and sequenced donor-funded initiatives. The action shall contribute to the 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. An 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 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 and 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. This action complements the regional IPA Programme on flood prevention and forest fires risk management managed by DG ECHO and builds upon a number of ongoing activities funded by the EU, Swiss Cooperation, and the Government of Japan. Additional convergences with regional initiatives and programs will be taken into account during the implementation of this action. Such cross-sectoral, multi-dimensional, and dynamic understanding of resilience will have a valuable impact on national efforts in achieving some 25 disaster resilience targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda including building the resilience of the poor and their exposure to risks (target 1.5), strengthening capacities for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks (3.d), ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning (4) protection of water-restored ecosystems including forests (6.6), facilitate sustainable infrastructure development (9.a), increasing the number of cities and communities implementing integrated policies in line with Sendai Framework (11.5), improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction (13.3) and combating deforestation (15.3).

II. STRATEGY

The entire strategy including specific activities and interventions (purchase of equipment, construction of infrastructure, provision of services and training) are developed following the logic and requirements of the Action Document IPA 2019/Serbia/EU for Civil Protection.

To reduce Serbia' vulnerability to disasters UNDP will apply the result chain approach as presented in the following table:

IF	THEN	BECAUSE
If firefighting equipment and vehicles are procured, protective uniforms, equipment, and vehicles are delivered to medical institutions	Serbia's capacity for disaster management will be improved sufficiently to establish a responsive system at the national and local levels.	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, the 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

UNDP will work closely with the beneficiary institutions of the Project: Ministry of Interior, Sector for Emergency Management (SEM), Project Investment Management Office of the Republic of Serbia (PIMO), Ministry of Health (MoH), and Ministry of European Integration on increasing efficiency of emergency management, enhancing capacities of the civil protection structures, enabling risk-informed decision-making process and strengthening disaster risk governance through dialogue, cooperation, and partnership of public and civic sector in the DRR.

III. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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 levels.

The results of the actions are as follows:

Result 1.1 Delivered of cistern trucks

This activity was introduced after consultation with the EU Delegation and Sector for Emergency instead of the initially planned reconstruction of the Sector for Emergency Management Building. Since the beginning of the Project, SEM changed the location of the facility subject to re/construction three times. Due to the changes and an increase of the scope and volume of works (construction of more than 4,000 sqm facility instead of reconstruction of 2,900 sqm of the initially designated facility) along with the dramatic increase of costs on construction market exceeded the Project Budget. To date, SEM failed to complete the technical documentation for the construction of the facility and provide the necessary co-funding. Therefore, the SEM proposed a reallocation of the funds towards the procurement of water cisterns trucks. UNDP will conduct market research and assess the number of water cisterns vehicles that could be procured with the existing budget and proceed with procurements arrangements. Once delivered water cistern trucks will be put into use in counteracting wild and forest fires whose number increased by 23.5% in 2022 in comparison with the previous year and contribute to better protection of human lives, overall safety, and protection of biodiversity.

Result 2.1 Rudno Education Centre reconstructed

During 2021, the Project team has contracted and has been working closely with the responsible designer. To date, urbanistic and planning documentation has been completed, Design for Execution finalized and submitted to independent verification. In parallel, the City of Kraljevo progressed in resolving legal and property issues related to the construction plot. It is expected that all the prerequisites for the issuance of the building permit will be in place in Q1 of 2023. In parallel, UNDP will finalize the tender dossier and initiate the procurement of works.

UNDP shall conduct extensive reconstruction and partial extension of Rudno Education Centre followed by equipping, furnishing, and overall technological upgrade. This implies (re)construction of the training facilities, accommodation rooms, and a training ground compliant with contemporary training standards. In addition to the environmental protection-specific requirements deriving from the location and applicable environmental protection requirements, UNDP shall insist on the application of innovative eco-friendly technologies and materials. Works shall include the replacement of the existing fossil fuel heating system with the biomass system. Installation of an advanced wastewater treatment and denitrification system will prevent further soil contamination from an outdated septic tank. Furthermore, all the technologically obsolete materials used for the construction of the 50+ years old structure will be replaced and disposed of following the legal requirements. Introduction of the Energy Management System in Serbia and accompanying measuring devices (water meters, calorimeters, and electricity consumption measuring devices) as user-friendly energy and water consumption monitoring tools shall contribute to lowering the carbon footprint, effective cost control and overall financial and environmental sustainability of the action.

Rulebook on the content and manner of conducting professional supervision requires obligatory supervision of the works. Expert supervision refers to: preparatory works; construction works; installation of equipment and works performed during the construction of the facility. The company for the independent supervision of works, which can be neither the designing company nor the company which has performed the technical control, will be present at the construction site daily. Furthermore, UNDP will apply additional environmental impact level of control including preliminary assessment, verification of antipollution measures, waste management monitoring, and assurance of eco-friendly technologies application. Following UNDP's request, the City of Kraljevo shall appoint a beneficiary supervision focal point which will contribute to the compliance of the proposed solutions with the final beneficiary needs.

Result 2.4 Support to Civil Society Organizations involved in DRR

This activity aims to support civil society organizations in a participatory and transparent manner and enhance civic engagement in DRR. Priority areas of intervention shall include but shall not be limited to strengthening networks of civil society actors in DRR, awareness raising and civic participation in DRR activities and corresponding decision-making processes. UNDP will identify priority areas of intervention based on the in-depth capacity gaps assessment of the existing DRR practices and wide consultative process with grassroots, professional, minority, and women's organizations and community members. Based on the conducted assessment, UNDP will develop a Call for Proposal with clearly defined priority areas of intervention. Incorporation of the gender mainstreaming approach coupled with the SMART-based gender marker will be obligatory for all the applicants. Civil Society Organizations (hereinafter CSOs) offer myriad possibilities for introducing innovative and vulnerable groups-focused practices in DRR. A high level of community embedment and flexible organizational structure of CSOs create fertile soil for testing new approaches suitable for scaling up and replication. CSO's oversight potential and capacities in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and highly exposed community groups shall contribute to the design of the responses and coping mechanisms tailored to the local specificities and vulnerabilities.

This intervention is aimed at contributing to CSOs and citizens acting in a fast and focused way and to effectively supporting responsible entities in the case of disasters. The proposed activity should also strengthen disaster risk governance through dialogue, cooperation, and partnership of public and civic sectors in DRR.

Result 2.8 Policy support

Following official requests of the beneficiary institutions of the Project, namely Sector for Emergency Management and the former Public Investment Management Office (succeeded by the Ministry of Public Investments after the constitution of the Government of Serbia in October 2022) endorsed by the donor, UNDP supported the development of the new Post Disaster Needs Assessment Methodology, conducted Ex-Post Evaluation of the National Disaster Risk Management Action Plan, and rendered support to SEM for development of new Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, to replace expired one. During 2022, UNDP consultants rendered expert and technical support to the governmental Working Group for the development of the Strategy and accompanying Action Plan. It is expected Strategy will be ready for adoption in March 2023.

IV. ANNUAL WORK PLAN

2023

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIME LIMIT				PART RESP.	PLANNED BUDGET			EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
And indicators including annual targets	List activity results and associated actions	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Responsible party	Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount in US \$	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
Output 1: Established capacities for emergency management and disaster risk resilience at the national and local level Indicator 1: Number of delivered cistern trucks Target: 7	Activity A.0.1 Establishment and coordination of the Decision-Making Process (Project Management)	X	X	X	X	UNDP	EU	71400 Contractual services - Individuals	20,000.00	Financial management and accounting system set up. Progress reports prepared as per the procedure. At least 5 press releases issued.
								71600 Travel	12,000.00	
								64300 Staff Mgmt Costs	140,000.00	
								72400 Communic & Audio Visual Equip	3,000.00	
								72500 Supplies	1,500.00	
Indicator 2: Extent of rehabilitation progress and operability status of Education Centre Rudno Baseline: 0 Target: 100%	Activity A.1.1 Procurement of cisterns trucks	X	X	X	X	UNDP	EU	72200 Equipment and Furniture	0	7 cistern trucks contracted for delivery in 2023.
Indicator 3: Number of the most relevant awareness-raising thematic areas identified and supported Baseline: 0 Target: 3	Activity A.2.1 Reconstruction and equipping of the Education Centre with a training ground in Rudno	X	X	X	X	UNDP	EU	71300 Local Consultants	15,000.00	Technical documentation completed. Legal and property issues resolved. Works and supervision of works contracted.
								72100 Company contracts	0	
								72200 Equipment and Furniture	15,000.00	
Indicator 4: Number of policy documents supported Baseline: 2 Target: 3	Activity A.2.4 Support to Civil Society Organizations involved in DRR		X	X	X	UNDP	EU	72600 Grants	30,000.00	At least 3 CSOs initiatives supported
	Activity A.2.8 Support in the development of Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy	X	X			UNDP	EU	71300 Local Consultants	10,000.00	GoS adopted DRR Strategy fully aligned with the SENDAI Framework.
Subtotal project cost									249,500.00	
GMS									17,495.00	
Total:									266,965.00	