

United Nations Development Programme



Annual Work Plan 2024

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 2024, the Project will focus reconstruction and extension of the Rudno Training Centre, delivery of remaining of water tanks vehicles for SEM, and finalization of the grant scheme activities.

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: Management:	2020-2024 Direct Implementation Modality

Estimated Annualized Budget:	\$ 1,958,080.70
Annual allocated resources:	\$ 1,958,080.70
Donor	
European Commission	\$ 1,958,080.70

Implementing Partner: UNDP

DocuSigned by:

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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's 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), Ministry for Public Investment (MPI), former Public Investment Management Office of the Government of Serbia (PIMO), Ministry of Health (MoH), and Ministry of European Integration (MEI) 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 Delivery of cistern trucks

In 2024, UNDP will deliver remaining 5 firefighting cistern trucks thus contributing to counteracting wild and forest fires and ecosystem preservation.

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 of Rudno Education Centre followed by equipping, furnishing, and overall technological upgrade. This implies (re)construction of the training facilities, accommodation rooms in compliance 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.

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.

IV. ANNUAL WORK PLAN

2024

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	Activity A.0.1 Establishment and coordination of the Decision-Making Process (Project Management)	X	X	X	X	UNDP	EU	71400 Contractual services -Individuals	10,000.00	Financial management and accounting system set up. Progress reports prepared as per the procedure. At least 5 press releases issued.
								74200 Audio Visual&Print ProdCosts	6,494.00	
								71600 Travel	5,000.00	
Indicator 1: Number of delivered cistern trucks Baseline: 2 Target: 7	Activity A.1.1 Procurement of cisterns trucks	X	X	X	X	UNDP	EU	72100 Company contracts	1,071,300.00	5 cistern trucks delivered.
Indicator 2: Extent of rehabilitation progress and operability status of Education Centre Rudno Baseline: 0 Target: 100%	Activity 2.1 Reconstruction of Rudno Training Centre							72100 Company contracts	678,187.96	Facility reconstructed and operational.
								72100 Company contracts	50,000.00	
Indicator 3: Number of the most relevant awareness-raising thematic areas identified and supported Baseline: 0 Target: 3	Activity A.2.4 Support to Civil Society Organizations involved in DRR		X	X	X	UNDP	EU	72600 Grants	9,000.00	At least 3 CSOs initiatives supported
Subtotal project cost									1,829,981.96	
GMS									128,098.74	
Total:									1,958,080.70	